

Natural Resources Economic Development Board Meeting
Monday, December 18, 2023 5:30 PM
Carbondale Main Street, 121 S. Illinois Ave. Carbondale, IL 62901

Call to Order

(5:30pm)

Present: Legan, Maxwell, McMorrow-Hunter, Mulholland

Absent: Layne

Approval of Minutes

Legan commented that the November meeting minutes would need to be approved at the January NRED meeting.

Communication

Legan commented that Tracy Hauser would no longer be on the NRED committee for personal reasons. He also reported that he was in communication with an SIU student (Rebecca Kagaris) who has a sociology background but is in the forestry department. Legan mentioned that she may be attending future NRED meetings.

Reports

I. 2023-645 GIS

No update given.

Old Business

II. 2023-646 Bike Path Plans

Legan began a discussion concerning the two bike path plans that he had hoped NRED could help update in the future. He suggested that revising and updating the plans would take more time and effort than NRED would be able to provide. This then sparked a lengthy conversation regarding funding and potential grant programs that NRED could be applying for. Legan mentioned that Maxwell and himself would be on a call with a potential consulting firm that could help NRED with funding. McMorrow-hunter commented that there were USDA Rural Business development grants available. Maxwell commented that the Southern Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization (SIMPO) had been working on a bike map and she questioned where they were in that process.

III. 2023-647 Recreation Survey

Legan commented that he was pleased to have the final survey results. He mentioned that there were more responses than was originally thought and that he was surprised by the overwhelming number of people who were in favor of tourism. Legan commented that he was

on the agenda for the County Board meeting the following evening and asked if anyone wanted to attend with him to briefly discuss the survey and answer questions that might come up. He mentioned that the big takeaways from the survey were the need for awareness, access, and upkeep. This led the committee to begin a lengthy discussion concerning the next steps the NRED committee would be taking, including proposed projects, potential strategic planning, and funding. Legan commented that the best thing NRED could do as a committee was to be a catalyst to help line up funding and put the players in place to do the work that would be needed. The committee agreed. McMorrow-Hunter suggested that the committee put together a possible strategic plan before the next meeting, which would be a starting point for the committee. The committee agreed it would help with prioritization even though it would be preliminary.

New Business

IV. 2023-648 Approval of Payroll Expenses

No payroll expenses were presented to be approved.

V. 2023-649 Approval of Miscellaneous Expenses

A motion was made by Mulholland, seconded by McMorrow-Hunter, to approve Greg Legan's mileage expenses. The motion carried by unanimous vote. A motion was made by McMorrow-Hunter, seconded by Maxwell, to approve Blake Mulholland's reimbursement expense. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The committee had a brief discussion of whether Carrier had been assigned his duties and whether he had submitted any payroll expenses. Legan commented that he would reach out to him and follow up.

Good and Welfare

Maxwell commented that she had recently seen a Facebook posting from "Hiking with Shawn". She noted that he was working on a trails guide and added that maybe NRED could reach out to him and help support his endeavors.

Adjourn

(6:20pm)

A motion was made by Mulholland, seconded by Maxwell, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.