

Natural Resources Economic Development Board Meeting
Monday, March 25, 2024 5:30 PM
Carbondale Main Street, 121 S. Illinois Ave. Carbondale, IL 62901

Call to Order

(5:30pm)

Present: Legan, Apgar, Maxwell, McMorrow-Hunter, Mulholland

Absent: Layne

Approval of Minutes

I. 2024-276 Approval of February 26, 2024 Minutes

A motion was made by McMorrow-Hunter, seconded by Maxwell, to approve the February 26, 2024, minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Communication

Reports

Old Business

II. 2024-277 Bike Path Plans: Antero Group

Maxwell mentioned to the board that there is a new grant from the Federal Highway Administration for recreational bike and pedestrian paths, that is due June 17th. She commented that she had been talking with Mitch Burdick, Jackson County Highway Engineer, regarding the grant and that she was looking into applying for it or for planning funding through SIMPO.

III. 2024-278 Recreation Survey: Next Steps

Legan commented that the NRED Recreational Survey had been distributed widely and that he was waiting for the one-page summary to arrive before asking the County to place it on the website.

IV. 2024-279 IDNR/NRED Memorandum of Agreement

Legan commented that he had worked with Assistant State's Attorney, Joni Bailey, to re-purpose the original MOU to meet the needs of the NRED board. He noted that he had attended the county's Real Property Committee to ask for permission to send the document to Springfield to have it looked over and approved, then have it returned for a final vote to the County Board. Legan commented that the MOU would give NRED a framework to sit down at least twice a year and talk about how the County may be able to help departments such as Burning Star or Giant City with potential projects.

V. 2024-280 Recreational Bus Route

No update was given. Legan noted he would have more information after his April meeting with Jackson County Mass Transit.

New Business

VI. 2024-281 Approval of Payroll Expenses

No expenses were presented for approval.

VII. 2024-282 Approval of Miscellaneous Expenses

No expenses were presented for approval.

VIII. 2024-283 Touch of Nature Trails Recreational Activity Review

Maxwell commented that Touch of Nature was the Outdoor Education Center for SIU and that they had used the Wildlife department to do research on mountain bike trails. She noted the data that had been gathered and commented that it had been used to apply for a recreational trails program grant through IDNR.

IX. 2024-284 Shawnee Park and Climate Alliance

The NRED Board had a long discussion of the management of the Shawnee National Forest and expressed their concerns about a proposed forest management plan while discussing the revenue derived from tourism. The board came to no conclusions nor were any decisions made regarding the topic.

Good and Welfare

Legan commented that he would not be able to attend the April meeting on the 22nd. The board discussed and decided to move the meeting to the 29th of April, so everyone could attend. McMorrow-Hunter mentioned she would be forwarding information regarding Carbondale's Community Leap program to the NRED members.

Adjourn

(6:17pm)

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