

Natural Resources Economic Development Board Meeting
Monday, April 29, 2024 5:30 PM
Carbondale Main Street, 121 S. Illinois Ave. Carbondale, IL 62901

Call to Order

(5:30pm)

Present: Legan, Maxwell, Mulholland, Apgar, Brown

Absent: McMorrow-Hunter

Approval of Minutes

I. 2024-380 Approval of March 25, 2024, Minutes

A motion was made by Maxwell, seconded by Mulholland, to approve the March 25, 2024, Minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote with Brown abstaining.

Communication

II. 2024-381 May NRED Meeting Date

The committee discussed the May NRED meeting date as it landed on the Memorial Day holiday. The committee came to the consensus to cancel the May NRED meeting and reconvene on June 24th.

Reports

Old Business

III. 2024-382 Bike Path Plans: Antero Group

No update was given this month.

IV. 2024-383 Recreation Survey: Next Steps

The committee discussed the Outdoor Recreation Survey with new member Brandon Brown. The discussion included a brief background and the data that came from the survey. Legan commented that the NRED committee was working on determining ways to be a catalyst to help with things that have been identified as potential needs for the recreation sites in the county, which will in turn help promote outdoor recreation and tourism.

V. 2024-384 IDNR/NRED Memorandum of Agreement

Legan commented that he was waiting on the attorneys in Springfield for a response, noting that the Jackson County Assistant State's Attorney had already reviewed and suggested changes.

VI. 2024-385 Recreational Bus Route

Legan discussed the proposal of a dedicated bus line or bus route on weekends that would help promote recreational sites in the county. He commented that he had not heard back from the director of the Jackson County Mass Transit, but would hopefully have an update at the next meeting.

New Business

VII. 2024-386 Approval of Payroll Expenses

There were no payroll expenses to approve this month.

VIII. 2024-387 Approval of Miscellaneous Expenses

The committee had a brief discussion regarding approving a full year's subscription of the AI app they were using to record their meetings. A motion was made by Mulholland, seconded by Maxwell, to approve a full year's subscription for the AI app used for meeting recordings and minutes. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

IX. 2024-388 SI Now Outdoor Recreation Working Group

Maxwell updated the committee on the SI Now Outdoor Recreation working group, which was an outgrowth of an outdoor recreation summit held in February. Legan commented that SI Now was wanting the county and the city of Carbondale to take a leadership role in moving forward with this outdoor recreation working group. Maxwell commented that the group was interested in setting goals and creating a working plan to get things moving forward. She also mentioned a similar plan she had been approached about by a consulting firm 5 years ago. Legan mentioned that he had approval from the County Chair for NRED to help with the regional initiative. The committee discussed the working group and what types of plans could be created.

Good and Welfare

The committee discussed the solar eclipse and the impact it had on the area.

Adjourn

(6:18pm)

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