

Natural Resources Economic Development Board Meeting
Monday, August 26, 2024 5:30 PM
Carbondale Main Street, 121 S. Illinois Ave. Carbondale, IL 62901

Call to Order

(5:30pm)

Present: Legan, Apgar, Mulholland, Maxwell, Brown

Absent: Carrier, McMorrow-Hunter

Approval of Minutes

I. 2024-710 Approval of July 22, 2024, Minutes

A motion was made by Maxwell, seconded by Mulholland, to approve the July 22, 2024, Minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Brown asked for clarification on BHA (Backcountry Hunters and Anglers) and the board had a brief discussion on BHA's main focus, which is public access to public lands, including that in Illinois, if the access laws do not sync with federal access laws, one could potentially be trespassing if they are on a navigable waterway, unless it has been designated as such by IDNR. There was also a discussion regarding getting the word out to citizens but at the same time not making it an issue with landowners.

Communication

Reports

Old Business

II. 2024-711 IDNR/NRED Memorandum of Agreement

Legan commented that he had contacted Calvin at IDNR regarding the memorandum, but that it still had not been sent to their legal team for review. Legan noted he would wait a couple of more weeks before reaching out again.

III. 2024-712 Recreational Bus Route

Legan began a discussion about Jackson County Mass Transit and the Saluki Express. The board discussed potential funding for a weekend recreational bus route and Legan's upcoming conversations with Jackson County Mass Transit Director Sean Freeman. Legan noted that he was hesitant about asking to add more work to an already short-staffed team, but that he was confident that NRED would be able to help with this particular proposal. The board continued the discussion, commenting that the route (which they hope will go out to Touch of Nature) could possibly be funded by sponsorship and student fees.

New Business

IV. 2024-713 Moving Forward

Legan asked the board what they would like to work on moving forward. Mulholland mentioned the Turkey Bayou Boat Ramp and its potential dangers to boaters. The board discussed this topic and the park district's role in public access, the challenges faced by landowners, and the need for better communication for landowners. Other projects mentioned were a piece of property owned by the county and its potential for development, GIS and the county's website, of which Legan commented he would follow up on with the county's IT department, and bike paths, including the Saluki Greenway.

V. 2024-714 Approval of Miscellaneous Expenses

No expenses for this month.

Good and Welfare

The board discussed the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, its benefits, and the potential for joining.

Adjourn

(6:08pm)

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