

Natural Resources Economic Development Board Meeting
Monday, December 2, 2024 5:30 PM
Carbondale Main Street, 121 S. Illinois Ave. Carbondale, IL 62901

Call to Order

(5:30pm)

Present: Legan, Maxwell, Mulholland, Apgar, Carrier, Brown

Absent: McMorrow-Hunter

Approval of Minutes

I. 2024-1016 Approval of September 23, 2024, Minutes

After a discussion of what defines a navigable waterway, a motion was made by Brown, seconded by Mulholland, to approve the September 23, 2024, Minutes. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Communication

Reports

Old Business

II. 2024-1017 IDNR/NRED Memorandum of Agreement

Legan commented that there was no update on the IDNR/NRED Memorandum of Agreement and that he would touch base with Calvin from IDNR to see what the status was.

III. 2024-1018 Boat Ramp and Park-Turkey Bayou

Legan commented that he was supposed to speak with Chad Deaton, which had not happened. He noted that he would be having that conversation before the next NRED meeting.

IV. 2024-1024 Recreational Bus Route

Legan reported that there has been some movement with the proposed recreation bus route. He commented that he had a meeting with Jackson County Mass Transit, and they are definitely interested in the project. JC Mass Transit would like to get the project up and running as a test somewhere around the time the multimodal center building opens in Carbondale. Legan commented that it would be nice to see this happen before the students leave at the end of the spring semester. The board discussed possible routes and stops and expressed their excitement for the project to be back on the table.

V. 2024-1025 SI Regional Bike Trails

Legan commented on a Zoom call he participated in where it was mentioned that there was a

proposed bike trail that could potentially move north into Jackson County from Union County. The board discussed the possibility and their willingness to help with the project in any way. Carrier commented on the nonprofit consulting agency that proposed the plan and discussed the need for a regional version of the NRED Board to help with boundary issues. Legan commented that he felt SI Now would be a great umbrella organization to help with the different challenges being faced.

New Business

VI. 2024-1019 SI Outdoor Weekend

Legan proposed a Southern Illinois Outdoor Weekend campaign to attract visitors for hiking, climbing, kayaking, and other outdoor activities. He commented that he felt it would be best to choose a specific weekend to help sell and promote the event. The board discussed the potential for a social media campaign which could help connect various events. The board also discussed branding the campaign with signage in Jackson County and surrounding areas. Legan commented that the weekend campaign could be used as a potential focal point for future marketing efforts in the County.

VII. 2024-1020 Approval of Miscellaneous Expenses

There were no expenses to approve.

Good and Welfare

The board discussed possibly re-imagining the Jackson County bike plan, which was last updated in 2002 to add a fresh perspective and the potential for a regional plan involving multiple counties. The board also discussed focusing on Jackson County first and possibly expanding the project to include multi-use trails. The board agreed to discuss the bike plan update in more detail at the next NRED meeting. Legan commented that he wanted to give the County Board an NRED update at their January Board meeting.

Adjourn

(6:30pm)

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