OGLE COUNTY BOARD RESOLUTION 2009-0703

Resolution for support of Blackhawk Hills RC&D –
NIU Broadband Grant Request

WHEREAS, Ogle County is a participant of the Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council;

WHEREAS, Blackhawk Hills RC&D intends to submit a grant application for broadband development funding for Northwest Illinois to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogle County Board allocates a one-time contribution of $1,000.00 to assist with the funding needed to assemble the grant application by NIU. This one-time allocation is to be funded out of the Long Range Planning Fund.

Presented and approved by the Ogle County Board on July 21, 2009.

Attest:

_____
Rebecca Huntley, County Clerk

_____
W. Ed Rice, Chairman

BLACKHAWK HILLS

Resource Conservation and Development
Jo Daviess • Stephenson • Carroll • Ogle • Whiteside • Lee

June 18, 2009

Dear Chairman Rice,

Blackhawk Hills RC&D intends to submit a grant application for broadband development funding for Northwest Illinois to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture. As a part of the national stimulus efforts under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture have been allocated an aggregate 7.2 billion dollars to spur the growth of broadband services and infrastructure throughout the nation.

The Blackhawk Hills RC&D Council in cooperation with the Regional Development Institute at Northern Illinois University (NIU) and the TriRivers Health Network are partnering to develop a regional plan, consistent with the goals of the stimulus package, which seeks to bring or increase broadband services to unserved and underserved areas of the United States. The stimulus plan also encourages regional partnerships and we will invite the private sector providers to participate in this effort.

The Regional Development Institute at NIU will be providing technical assistance in the grant application process.

We are asking each of the six counties in our area for a resolution supporting this project. We are also asking that each county commit $ 1000 dollars for this project to assist with the funding needed to assemble the grant application by NIU. Many details are yet to be determined by the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture regarding the process for securing broadband stimulus funds, but we expect further information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks and months. We will keep you advised beginning with the County Board Chairs meeting on June 30th.

We know the application process will be competitive and we are anticipating support from many sectors of the region including county government, law enforcement, municipalities, health care, utilities, education, libraries, businesses and current providers of broadband services.

We ask you to consider our request at your next meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any question you may have regarding this important regional and national initiative.

Sincerely,

William J. Tonne, Ph.D.

Dr. William Tonne, Blackhawk Hills RC&D President

enclosure

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