R-2012-0307

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH

THE BLACKHAWK HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the six counties of Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside form one regional community, with a citizenry bound together geographically, socially, and economically, and is served by many units of local governments; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of the concept of cooperation among local governments, while retaining local jurisdiction, is the best solution for dealing with regional challenges beyond individual capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the six counties seek to authorize a regional organization in accordance with Section 5-14001 of the Counties Code, 55 ILCS 5/5-14001; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the aforementioned counties to organize Blackhawk Hills Regional Council, hereinafter referred to as the Regional Council, based on cooperation and to seek, through mutual agreement, solutions to mutual challenges for the benefit of all citizens, to provide an opportunity for all units of local government in the six county region to cooperate in the solution of problems, and to develop policies and plans that are common and regional in nature; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Council that is being created pursuant to this Resolution previously existed as Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation & Development, not as a regional planning commission authorized by the Counties Code, but as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, which has been designated as an organization exempt from certain taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in consideration of the covenants herein contained, the OGLE County Board agrees:

1. That upon agreement of any five of the six aforementioned county governments, there is formed the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council under the authority of "An Act to authorize regional councils of public officials and private regional organizations" adopted by the 76th Illinois General Assembly.

2. That voting representation in said Regional Council shall consist of three persons from each county:

a. One representative of each County Board becoming a member of said Regional Council who shall be a member of said County Board chosen by said County Board.

b. One representative of each county Soil and Water Conservation District appointed by said Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

c. One member from each county selected from the county at-large, together, and in concurrence by said County Board and the Soil and Water Conservation District. Extensive due diligence must be demonstrated that this selection is from the following: a private sector representative, or executive director of chamber of commerce, or representatives of institutions of post-secondary education, or workforce development groups, or labor groups, or elected representatives from a city or village located within the said county, or employees of a unit of State or local government.

3. Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council's by-laws will be amended to encompass the Regional Council's conduct in accordance with this resolution and Section 5-14001 of the Counties Code, 55 ILCS 5/5-14001.

4. That the Regional Council may apply, accept, and administer funds, grants, gifts, and services from any unit of government or its instrumentalities and from private or civic sources.

5. That the Regional Council shall make an annual report to the member county governments.

6. That the Regional Council has the power and obligation to: (a) study such area governmental problems common to members of the Regional Council as it deems appropriate, including but not limited to matters affecting health, safety, welfare, education, economic conditions and regional development; (b) promote cooperative arrangements and coordinate action among its members; and (c) make recommendations for review and action to the members and other public agencies that perform functions within the region. All such powers are advisory in nature.

7. That the Regional Council shall employ such staff, and consult, retain and contract with such experts, as it deems necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OGLE County Board adopts this resolution on this 21ST day of MARCH, 2012.

ATTEST:

_____ _____

County Board Chairman County Clerk

OGLE County

BLACKHAWK HILLS

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

DATE:	February 29, 2012
TO:	County Board Chair and Board Members
FROM:	Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation & Development Council
RE:	Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

Dear County Board Chair and Members:

As most of you are aware, Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) has been exploring ways to utilize its regional designation as a means to leverage additional resources for our six county area. After the federal government eliminated RC&D program funding, we saw an opportunity to re-evaluate our structure and determine what we could do to better serve our region, organized as a regional council.

For years, we have actively participated in the Illinois Association of Regional Councils, although not as a regional council. With some changes in funding structures at the state and federal level, regional councils are playing a larger role in distributing program funds. As these structures continue to evolve, our area would be able to more effectively respond to those changes and assist communities in locating and applying for governmental and other sources of funds.

Our operation will continue to serve its constituencies by applying for and administering grants, supporting the region's comprehensive economic development strategy, and providing access to federal dollars through the economic development district. We will continue to work to solve social and environmental challenges, by studying regional needs and providing advice which enhances our region's communities. The regional council designation will ultimately allow us to more effectively seek state and federal funds set aside for regional councils and related entities.

We would appreciate your support in enacting this resolution so that we can better provide these services and more easily obtain funding for the region's communities.

Respectfully,

William J. Tonne, D.D.S.

William J. Tonne, D.D.S.
Blackhawk Hills RC&D, Council President

102 East Route 30, Suite 3 • Rock Falls, IL 61071 • Phone: 815-625-3854 • Fax: 815-625-3831
www.blackhawkhills.com

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Regional Council Structure Comparison.....

Regional Boundaries

- Boundaries will remain the same as they have been since the 1970's
- Counties of JoDaviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside, and Lee

Council Representation

- Council Representation from each County will remain the same to fulfill Federal requirements of the Economic Development District
- 18 members; 6 county board appointed, 6 SWCD appointed, 6 members at large

County Cost Share

- County cost shares will remain the same as they always have been, to maintain the Economic Development District Annual Planning Grant
- Each County's share is based on population

Services Offered

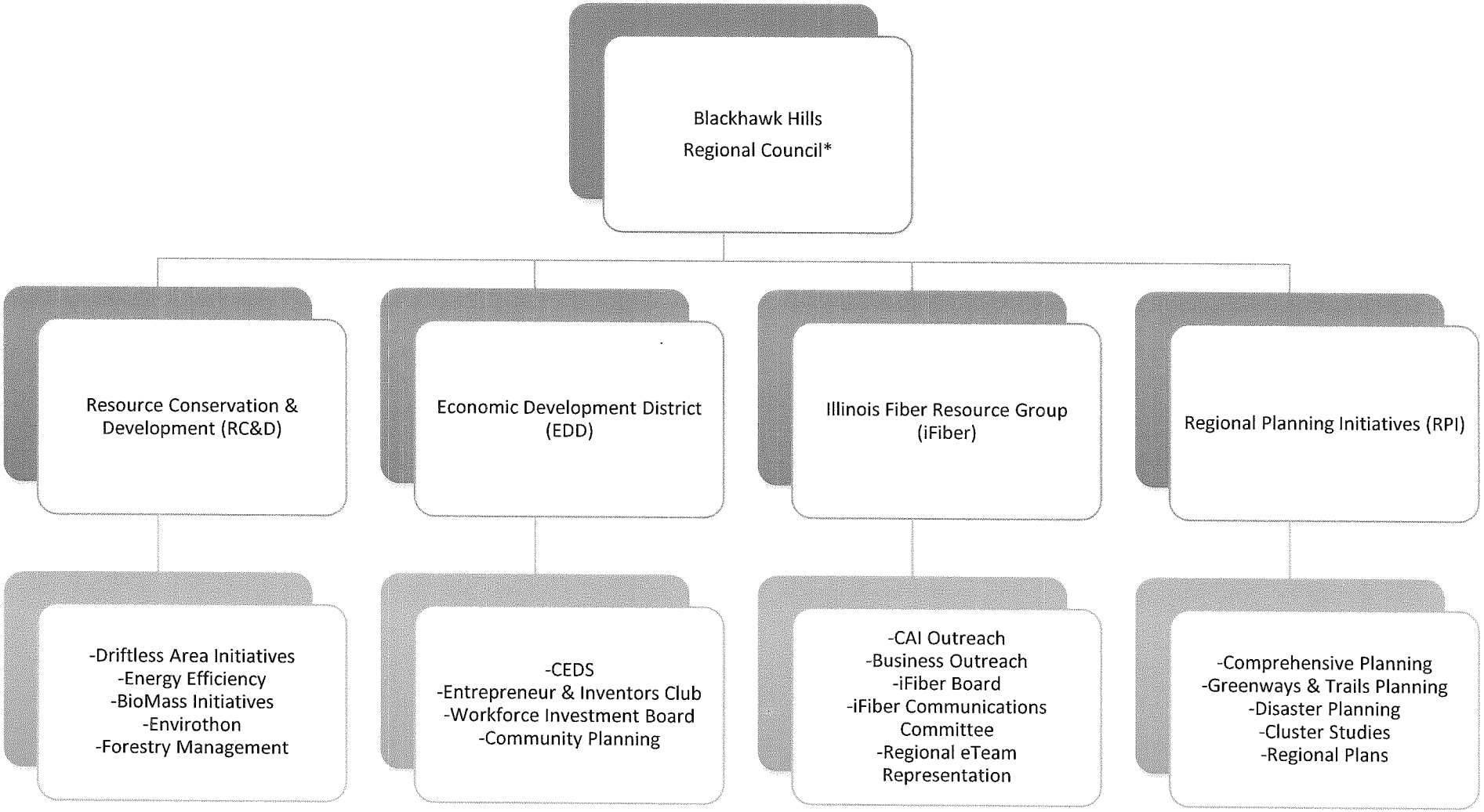
- All existing services will remain in place; RC&D, EDD, iFiber
- We will be able to expand our services to include a variety of Regional Planning Initiatives (RDI) at no additional cost to the Counties

Resource Availabilty

- Currently we access funds from programs associated with the EDA, USDA, DCEO and DofE
- We would be able to access a variety of additional funds from IDOT and others who channel funds through Regional Councils

Blackhawk Hills Identity

- Our mission, vision, goals and presence will remain the same, conducting programs and services as we always have
- Only change would be in name to reflect our official status as a Regional Council for recognition at the State and Federal levels
- Our new name would be "Blackhawk Hills Regional Council"



*Council is not limited to these activities. All proposed activities will be considered.

Illinois Regional Planning Agencies

BHRC&D
Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development District
102 East Route 30, Suite 2
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071
815/625-3854

BBRPC
Boone-Belvidere Regional Planning Commission
Boone County Courthouse
601 North Main
Belvidere, Illinois 61008
815/544-5271

NCICG
North Central Illinois Council of Governments
110 North Main Street
Princeton, Illinois 61356
815/875-3396

CMAP
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606
312/454-0400

BI-STATE
Bi-State Regional Commission
1504 3rd Avenue
P.O. Box 3368
Rock Island, Illinois 61204
309/793-6300

KCRPC
Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission
189 East Court Street
Kankakee, Illinois 60901
815/937-2940

WIRC
Western Illinois Regional Council
223 South Randolph
Macomb, Illinois 61455
309/837-3941

CCRPC
Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
1776 East Washington
Urbana, Illinois 61802
217/328-3313

TCRPC
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
211 Fulton Street, Suite 207
Peoria, Illinois 61602
309/673-9330

McCRPC
McLean County Regional Planning Commission
211 West Jefferson Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701
309/828-4331

TRRC
Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials
P.O. Box 827
Quincy, Illinois 62301
217/224-8171

LCRPC
Logan County Regional Planning Commission
529 South McLean Street
Lincoln, Illinois 62656
217/732-8835

SSCRPC
Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission
200 South Ninth Street, Room 212
Springfield, Illinois 62701
217/535-3110

MCRPC
Macon County Regional Planning Commission
141 South Main Street, Room 501
Decatur, Illinois 62523
217/424-1466

MCRPC
Morgan County Regional Planning Commission
345 West State
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650
217/243-9404

CCRP&DC
Coles County Regional Planning and Development Commission
651 Jackson, Room 309
Charleston, Illinois 61920
217/348-0521

WCDC
West Central Development Council
116 South Plum, P.O. Box 260
Carlinville, Illinois 62626
217/854-9642

SCIRP&DC
South Central Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission
120 Delmar Avenue, Suite A
Salem, Illinois 62881-2000
618/548-4234

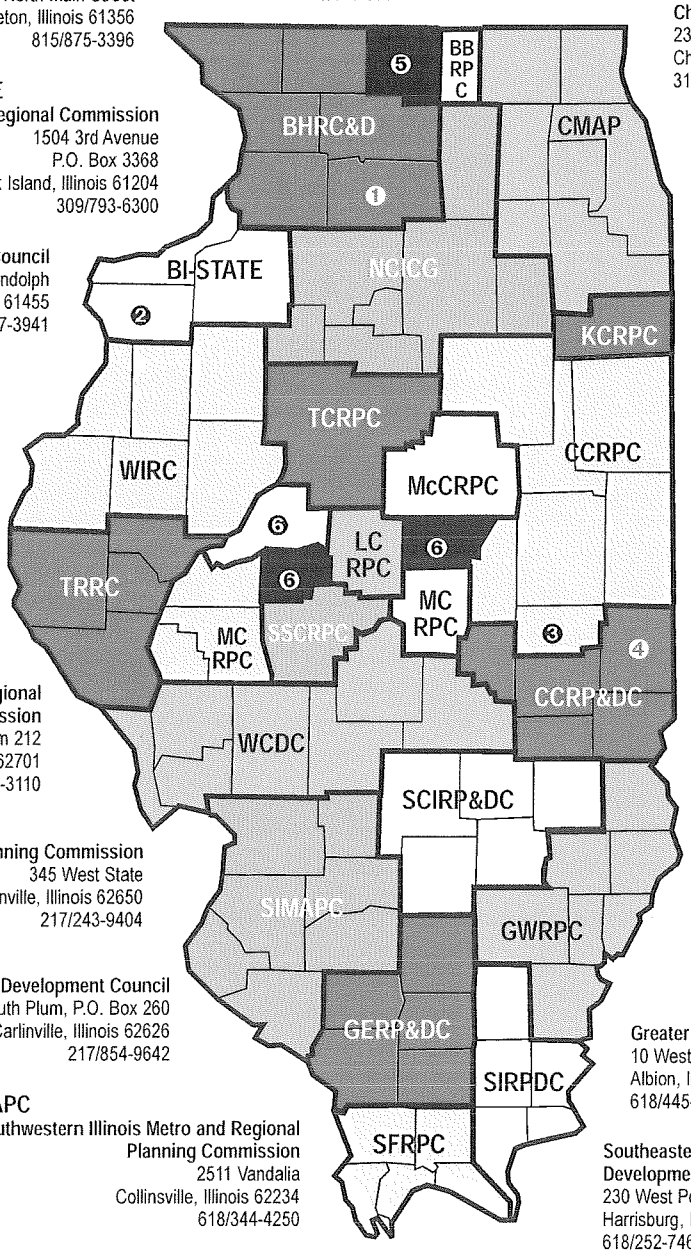
SIMAPC
Southwestern Illinois Metro and Regional Planning Commission
2511 Vandalia
Collinsville, Illinois 62234
618/344-4250

GWRPC
Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission
10 West Main, P.O. Box 209
Albion, Illinois 62806
618/445-3612

SIRPDC
Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission
230 West Poplar Street, P.O. Box 606
Harrisburg, Illinois 62946
618/252-7463

GERP&DC
Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission
608 East College, P.O. Box 3160
Carbondale, Illinois 62902-3160
618/549-3306

SFRPD&DC
Southern Five Regional Planning District and Development Commission
219 Rustic Campus Drive
Ullin, Illinois 62992
618/634-2284



1. North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG) provides contractual services to Lee County within BHRC&D.
2. Majority of services to Mercer County provided by Bi-State Regional Commission. Solid waste planning and secondary services provided by WIRC.
3. Coles County Regional Planning and Development Commission (CCRP&DC) provides secondary contractual services to Douglas County within CCRPC.
4. Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) provides secondary contractual services to Edgar County within CCRP&DC.
5. Winnebago County has a Planning and Economic Development Department.
6. Mason County, Menard County and DeWitt County have no designated regional planning commission.