



INVESTMENT

POLICY

Macoupin COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**The Honorable
Wilma J. Cox
Treasurer
Macoupin County, Illinois**

INVESTMENT POLICY

**Wilma J. Cox
Treasurer
Macoupin County**

Investment Policy

It is always prudent for any public unit to have an Investment Policy in place for the purpose of safe guarding funds, equitably distributing the investments and maximizing income of the governmental unit. The following policy is adopted for the Macoupin County Treasurer's office.

Scope of Investment Policy

This Investment Policy applies to the investment activities of all funds under the jurisdiction of the Macoupin County Treasurer. This Investment Policy will also apply to any new funds or temporary funds placed under the jurisdiction of the Macoupin County Treasurer. The Illinois State Statutes will take precedence except where this policy is more restrictive wherein this policy will take precedence.

Objectives

The Purpose of this Investment Policy of the Macoupin County Treasurer is to establish cash management and investment guidelines for the stewardship of public funds under the jurisdiction of the Macoupin County Treasurer. The specific objectives of this investment policy will be as follows:

1. Safety of principal.
2. Diversity of investments to avoid unreasonable risks.
3. The portfolio shall remain sufficiently liquid to meet all operating costs which may be reasonably anticipated.
4. The highest interest rate available will always be the objective of this policy combined with safety of principal, which is left to the discretion of the Macoupin County Treasurer, which includes whether or not the Macoupin County Treasurer will require collateralization of any deposits.
5. In maintaining its investment portfolio, the Macoupin County Treasurer shall avoid any transaction that might impair public confidence in the Macoupin County Treasurers office.
6. The Macoupin County Treasurer will give consideration to the financial institutions positive community involvement when consideration is given to the financial institution to be used as a depository.
7. All funds will be invested for a period of one day or longer, depending on the requirement for the disbursement of funds.
8. All funds shall be deposited within two working days at prevailing rates or better in accordance with Illinois State Statutes.

prevailing rate or better?

Responsibility

All investment of funds under the control of the Macoupin County Treasurer is the direct responsibility of the Macoupin County Treasurer. The Macoupin County Treasurer shall be responsible for all transactions and shall establish a system of controls of the activities of all subordinates who are directly involved in the assistance of such investment activities.

Accounting

All investment transactions shall be recorded by the Macoupin County Treasurer or the Macoupin County Treasurer's staff. A report will be generated, at least monthly, listing all active investments. This report will be made available to the Macoupin County Board and Macoupin County Treasurer.

Financial Institutions

The Macoupin County Treasurer will have the sole responsibility to select which financial institutions will be depositories for Macoupin County Treasurer funds.

The Macoupin County Treasurer will take into consideration security, size, location, condition, service, fees and the community relations involvement of the financial institution when choosing a financial institution.

At no time will the Macoupin County Treasurer investments exceed 65% of the financial institutions Capital and surplus.

All financial institutions having any type of financial relationships; deposits, investments, loans, etc. are required to provide a complete and current "Call Report" required by their appropriate regulatory authority each calendar quarter within 30 days of the "Call" request date.

Investment Vehicles

The Macoupin County Treasurer will use investments approved for governmental units as set forth in the most current issue of the Illinois Revised State Statutes including Securities Exchange Commission registered and AAA rated by Moody's and Standard & Poor's mutual funds consisting of U. S. Government Treasuries.

Collateral

It shall be the discretion of the Macoupin County Treasurer to determine whether or not collateral will be required of financial institutions receiving funds from the Macoupin County Treasurer. At all times the Macoupin County Treasurer will require that deposits in excess of 35% of the capital and surplus of a financial institution will be collateralized. The Macoupin County Treasurer may request collateral for any part of deposits in financial institutions when the Macoupin County Treasurer determines it to be in the best interests of safeguarding the funds on deposit.

When collateral is required, 110% of the deposit will be required. Only the following collateral will be accepted:

- U. S. Government direct securities
- Obligations of Federal Agencies
- Obligations of Federal Instrumentalities
- Obligations of the State of Illinois
- Obligations of the County of Macoupin
- Obligations of municipalities located within the County of Macoupin,

subject to acceptance by the Macoupin County Treasurer
Acceptable Collateral as identified in the Illinois Revised State Statutes for use by the Treasurer of the State of Illinois.

Investments shall be made with judgement and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the possible income to be derived.

The above standard is established as the standard for professional responsibility and shall be applied in the context of managing the Macoupin County Treasurer's portfolio.

Security Controls

Only the Macoupin County Treasurer should be authorized to establish financial accounts for the office of Macoupin County Treasurer. At all times either the Macoupin County Treasurer, singly or two, jointly, of two or more signatories as designated by the Macoupin County Treasurer should be authorized to sign on financial accounts of the office of the Macoupin County Treasurer. ***Authorized signatories should NOT be permitted to reconcile bank accounts at any time.***

End of Policy

Adopted this 1st day of October, 1998.

Wilma J. Cox
Wilma J. Cox
Treasurer
Macoupin County, Illinois



Renewables & Technologies



Advancing Practices in Illinois Counties

Energy Procurement • Performance Contracting
Infrastructure & Information Technology • Facility Improvements
Wind and Geothermal Energy

A new era of renewable energy is dawning. Local governments have recognized that a wide-ranging shift towards sustainable energy systems is required. Communities will not be viable without this fundamental structural change.

The focus of this workshop is to increase communication and advance practices of renewable energy development in Illinois counties. Engage with other local government representatives and develop a sound understanding from sustainable energy experts and the most advanced entities on how to implement sustainable energy options.

April 17, 2008

Holiday Inn • Collinsville, Illinois

Presented by

**Johnson
Controls**





Renewables & Technologies



Is your county committed to energy efficiency?

Among the many challenges facing elected officials is affordable energy service. Using renewable energy and being energy efficient is smart. Many local elected officials are now looking into clean energy programs for their communities. If you are a part of this forward-thinking group, you will probably want to attend this workshop.

We have partnered with Johnson Controls to raise awareness of the technical, economic and political solutions available to improve energy efficiency in local government. Experts in the renewables sector will provide a dynamic exchange of information and ideas to assist you in developing affordable, practical and sustainable energy projects and policies for your county.

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to join us in Collinsville. I am certain that this workshop experience will be enriching for us.

Sincerely,

James E. Bohnsack
IACBMC President

Registration Information

Pre-registration is required by Friday, April 11, 2008 to assure meal reservations. Registration fee includes admission to all education sessions, conference materials, meals and refreshment breaks.

Cancellation Policy: Refund of registration fee, less an administrative fee of \$10.00 will be made if notice of cancellation is received no later than Friday, April 11, 2008. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after that date or for failure to attend. Substitutes will be allowed.

Hotel reservations: Conference participants are responsible for their own hotel reservations and cancellations. Parking is available on site at the hotel.

Questions? Contact Claudia Pruitt at (217) 528-5331, e-mail ilcounty@gmail.com or Kelly Murray at (217) 528-5331, e-mail iacbm@msn.com.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Holiday Inn Collinsville

100 Eastport Plaza Drive • I-55/70 at Illinois 157 (Exit 11)
Collinsville, Illinois 62234
(618) 345-2800
www.hicollinsville.com

Johnson
Controls



Johnson Controls, Inc. is a *Fortune 100* global market leader in integrating technologies, products and services that redefine the relationship between people and their surroundings. By understanding the changes that effect how we live, work and travel, we help create smart environments that are more comfortable, efficient, safe, and sustainable. We are a global leader in automotive experience, building efficiency and power solutions with over 136,000 employees in more than 1,000 locations serving customers in 125 countries. Founded in 1885, the company is headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

For more information visit www.johnsoncontrols.com.

AGENDA

Thursday, April 17, 2008

8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast • 9:30 a.m. Opening Remarks

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
Opening Remarks

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Performance Contracting: An Instrument of Change (Case of Peoria County)

Today local governments are being asked to do more with fewer resources. Hear from local county executives on how to perform facility improvements without draining capital reserves. Performance Contracting procurement process improves county infrastructure by focusing on lowest Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) instead of lowest first cost/lowest bidder approach. Significant funding sources can be found by eliminating energy and operational inefficiencies.

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. (Break)

10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Energy Savings: County Infrastructure Meets Information Technology

Information Technology can and already does transform how the business of local government gets done. Experts will discuss best practices and how integrated networks and wireless communication between county employees as well as county assets (buildings, vehicles, equipment) can improve productivity, lower operating costs, provide better service to constituents as well as extend life of the buildings and equipment. Best of all, improvements can help fund the project easing financial burden of already stretched budgets.

12:00 Noon Lunch Buffet

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Wind and Geothermal Energy: Harnessing the Power of Nature

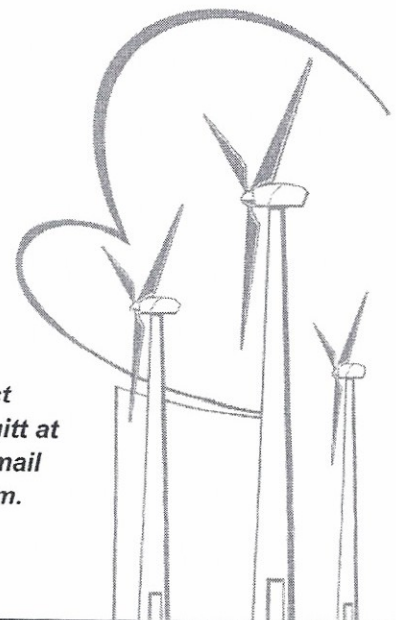
Your county has the power to choose renewable sources of energy such as wind or geothermal energy. Wind power and geothermal can enhance your community's independence and contribute to local economic development while reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Learn about the wind project in Geneseo, Illinois and how other local governments have successfully harnessed the power of nature.

2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Procuring Energy in a Deregulated Market: The Coles County Case

Energy Aggregation is a valuable service that residents and small businesses look for from their local governments to achieve savings on electricity costs. This session will help you understand electricity purchasing in a deregulated environment and the opportunities and benefits for counties that have the expertise and organizational capability to create a vehicle to maximize savings in a deregulated marketplace.

(Adjourn)

Questions? Contact
Claudia Cipolla-Pruitt at
217-528-5331 or e-mail
ilcounty@gmail.com.



RENEWABLES WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-Registration is required by April 11, 2008.

Name _____ County _____

Title/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

☐ **\$30.00 per person**

☐ **\$20.00 per person** for two (2) or more registrants from the same county/agency. To receive the group rate, all registrations must be submitted together.

☐ Payment enclosed for _____ registrant(s) @ _____ per person (includes meals)

☐ I will pay on April 17, 2008. (Registered participants that fail to attend will be invoiced)

Special Needs: ☐ Dietary _____

Make check payable to Illinois Association of County Board Members and mail with registration form to:

Illinois Association of County Board Members • 413 West Monroe • Springfield, Illinois 62704

(217) 528-5331 • (217) 528-5562 Fax • iacbm@msn.com

Illinois Association of County Board Members

413 West Monroe

Springfield, Illinois 62704

April 17, 2008 • Collinsville, IL

**Renewables
& Technologies**

Advancing Practices in Illinois Counties





February 11, 2008

Ms. Michele Zippay
Macoupin County Clerk
201 East Main
P.O. Box 197
Carlinville, IL 62626-0197

FILED

FEB 20 2008

Michele Zippay
MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

**RE: Proposed Telecommunications Tower Facility – 265' Self-Support Tower
Mt. Olive
TCNS ID: 34933
2644 E. Frontage Road
Staunton, Macoupin County, IL 62088
Latitude/Longitude: N 39° 2' 17.7", W 89° 44' 57.8"**

Dear Ms. Zippay,

Our client, American Tower Corporation, is proposing to construct a 265' self-support style telecommunications tower and associated equipment compound at the location noted above. Please consider this correspondence an invitation to Macoupin County to comment on the possible effects the proposed project may have on sites or structures of historic significance.

Attached is a documentation package pertaining to the proposed telecommunications tower site. As part of our research, RESCOM has also contacted the Macoupin County Board Chairman, the Macoupin County Historical Society, and Native American Tribes with possible interests in the area, seeking comment on the proposed tower. Finally, a public notice seeking comment from members of the public will run in the Macoupin County Enquirer-Democrat on February 21, 2008, and February 28, 2008.

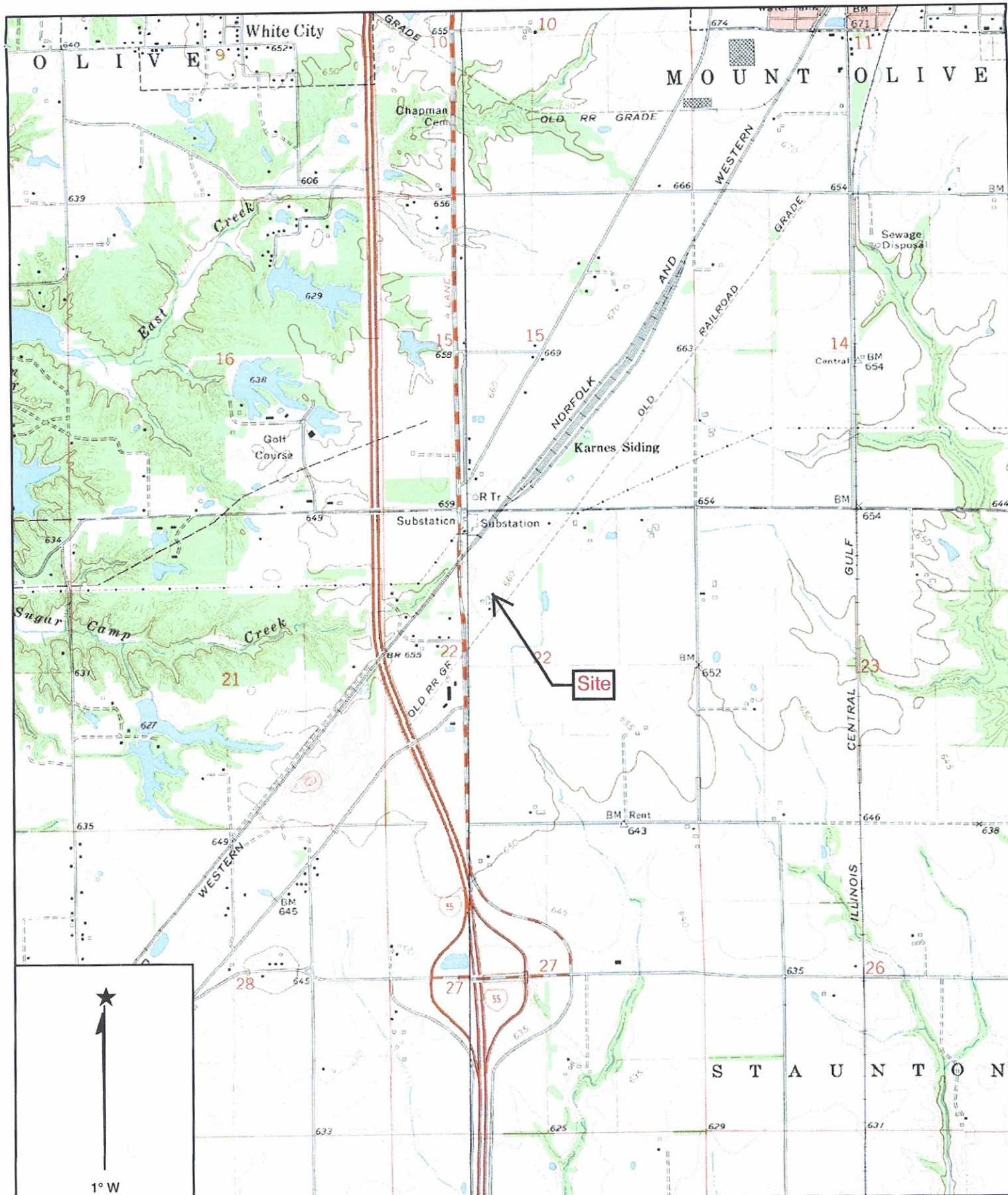
Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our Traverse City, Michigan office at (231) 947-4454. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
RESCOM Environmental Corp

Tyler McClellan
Project Manager
tyler.mcclellan@rescom.org

Enclosures

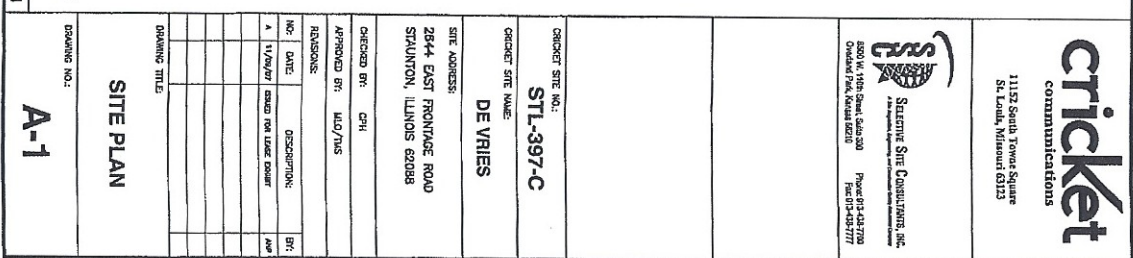
cc: RESCOM file 0801045
Macoupin County Board Chairman
Macoupin County Historical Society



Name: MT OLIVE
 Date: 1/18/2008
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 02' 17.7" N 089° 44' 50.2" W
 Caption: Mt. Olive / Contour Interval: 10'
 Issued: 1974 / NOT Revised
 S 22 / T 7N / R 6W

7 CORN FIELD



SELECTIVE SITE CONSULTANTS, INC.
a.k.a. Aquaplan, Aquaplaning, and Translocation Dating Services Company

8350 W. 140th Street, Suite 300
 Overland Park, Kansas 66210

Phone 913-424-7700
 Fax 913-424-7777

22644 EAST FRONTAGE ROAD
STAUNTON, ILLINOIS 62088

DATE:	DESCRIPTION:	B
11/08/07	ISSUED FOR LEASE DOCUMENT	A

SITE PLAN

CONCLUSIONS

A-1

**SUBJECT PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPHS
MT. OLIVE, IL**



Photograph 1 – View of subject property, facing north.



Photograph 2 – View of subject property, facing east.



RESCOM Environmental Corp. • Traverse City, MI 49686

**SUBJECT PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPHS
MT. OLIVE, IL**



Photograph 3 – View of adjacent property, facing north.



Photograph 4 – View of adjacent property, facing east.



RESCOM Environmental Corp. • Traverse City, MI 49686

**SUBJECT PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPHS
MT. OLIVE, IL**



Photograph 5 – View of adjacent property, facing south.



Photograph 6 – View of adjacent property, facing west.

ADDITIONAL SITE INFORMATION

Project Name	Mt. Olive
Project Address	2644 E. Frontage Road, Staunton, Macoupin County, IL 62088
Topographic Map	Mt. Olive Quadrangle, USGS 7.5 Minute Topographical Map, Issued: 1974, Revised: None
Property Description	Latitude/Longitude: N 39° 2' 17.7", W 89° 44' 57.8"
Legal Description	Tax Parcel ID: 0-1-000-135-00
Project Description	Proposed construction of a 265' self-support style telecommunications tower and a 75' x 75' equipment compound.
Access Road Description	Proposed installation of a 20' wide access road and utility easement, to connect with the existing gravel drive to the south.
Additional Structures Description	None.
Utility Lines Description	Connections to be made to the nearest power and telco providers.
Impact Statement	Ground disturbance is expected within the proposed tower compound and along the utility easements.
Present Land Use	Agricultural field.



**Macoupin County Inter-Agency Meeting
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 9, 2008 - 9:00 a.m.
The Job Center/WCDC Conference Room**

The Macoupin County Inter-Agency Group met on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, at the Job Center/WCDC Conference Room, located at 116 South Plum Street in Carlinville. President Regina Byots presided. She welcomed all the attendees and commented on the large turn out. Since there were so many new faces, President Byots spent just a few minutes talking about the purpose of the Interagency Meeting. Individuals from various human service agencies, faith based organizations, and local government from across the county come together quarterly to share information on their services and programs. Each attendee is given a few minutes to address the group and briefly review their programs and services.

Judy Bates jbates@roe40.com Ms. Bates, Director of the Alternative Education Center, Regional Office of Education introduced Ms. Kerry Moore, a new staff member at the Center. She informed the group of the two main programs offered at the Alternative Education Center. The GED Preparation Program provides programs for individuals ages 16 and over who are seeking their GED; and the Safe Schools Program which provides an alternate setting for at-risk youth.

Paula Robinson probinso@uiuc.edu Ms. Robinson represents the U of I Extension Office in Carlinville. She informed the group of a Parenting Class that will be taught at their office in Carlinville. The classes will begin on January 16, 2008, at 6:00 p.m.

Janie Ashworth janieashworth@frontiernet.net Ms. Ashworth took a few minutes to present a brief summary of the Carlinville Our Town Hospitality Welcome Wagon program. This is a volunteer program that greets new residents to the community, newlyweds, and families that have a new baby. The welcome baskets contain gifts, as well as information about the various services and resources offered by the agencies within Macoupin County.

Shannon Dixon Ms. Dixon is the Manager at Morse Farm, which is the supportive living center located next to the old Wal-Mart Store in Carlinville. The center provides apartment style living to individuals 65 years of age and older. Currently all apartments are full and a waiting list has been developed for interested seniors.

Luetta Weichert luetta@carlinvillesouthern.org Ms. Weichert reported for the Carlinville Baptist Church. She informed the attendees of two groups that meet at the Church, i.e., the Divorce Care group which meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm; and the Grief Share Group that holds their meetings on Thursday night from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.

Paula Campbell paula@mcphd.net Ms. Campbell updated the group on several new programs and activities being presented by the Macoupin County Health Department. A Teen Survivor Program for boys ages 11-14 will be held on February 16, 2008; Breast and Cervical Cancer Program is looking for individuals to register (must be 40 years or older); and a Prostate Screening Program is looking for individuals. Please contact the Macoupin County Health Dept. for more information. She also provided information on the Anti-Meth Coalition which will be hosting a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament on March 29, 2008.

David Hopper dhopper@mcphd.net Mr. Hopper, of the Macoupin County Public Health Department, discussed the Prostate Screening Program, the Smoke Free Act, and the Freedom From Smoking Course. The Health Department is responsible for helping enforce the Smoke Free Act. The Americorps Volunteers will be hosting a presentation entitled “Road to Reality” on April 21, 2008, which is intended for teens and their parents. This program will address the dangers of alcohol. Contact the Macoupin County Public Health Department for more information on all of these programs.

Dan Hauter Daniel.hauter@illinois.gov Mr. Hauter of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services discussed the many changes at the DCFS office including investigation, foster care, the reunification initiative, and the 24 point safety checklist. He answered numerous questions from the attendees.

Donna McLeese dmcleese@girardschools.org Ms. McLeese, a member of the Girard School System, discussed the Early Childhood Program. This program is intended to serve two age groups of children 0-3 and 3-5, and provides food, shelter, and clothing to help stabilize the families.

Molly Ondrey Mollyo@macmhc.org Ms. Ondrey, a representative of Locust Street Center, discussed several programs including the SASS (Screening, Assessment, and Supportive Services) for at-risk teens; the Elder Abuse Program, the Recovery from Depression Program.

Stephanie Gill Locust Street Center Ms. Gill of the Locust Street Center discussed the Youth Transition Program that is intended to help teens ages 16-18 with behavior disorders and anger management through life skills training and counseling.

Donna Mitchell dmitchell@aginglinc.org Ms. Mitchell, of Area Agency on Aging discussed the services provided to local agencies across Macoupin County who work with elderly. Some of the agencies that receive funding are Locust Street, Illinois Valley Economic Development Corp., and Macoupin County Public Health. Various programs were discussed, including the Care Giver Program, Nutrition Program, Legal Services, Health Screening, Employment Services, Medicare Part D, the ICARE Program, etc. For more information call 1-217-787-9234.

Marilyn Lowe mlope@mcphd.net Ms. Lowe represents Macoupin County Safe Families Domestic Violence Program. She announced the receipt of a health care grant to provide programs on dating violence, healthy relationships. On April 9, 2008, a Stop Sexual Assault Workshop will be held at Blackburn.

Carol Little carollittle@yahoo.com Ms. Little, a representative of Lincoln Land Community College, updated the group on the GED Classes in Virden and Girard, and several ESL and Literacy programs she is coordinating. For more information call 1-800-666-8325.

Tom Spears thomass@ilafl-cio.org Mr. Spears, representing the Illinois AFL-CIO as a field representative, provided an update on several dislocations in Macoupin County, i.e., the Crown II Coal Mine, Monterey Coal, and Accu-Data. The AFL-CIO provides peer outreach to the workers and helps with job search, re-employment services, and training alternatives.

Paul Perrine and Mike Katchmar mcatchmar@gmail.com These individuals were introduced to the group and they are working with displaced workers from various closings in Macoupin County.

Mike Sherer msherer2@hotmail.com Mr. Sherer represents the Job Center and West Central Development Council. He reported that a Job and Career Fair was being planned for February 21, 2008, and workers from the two coal mines were being invited to attend. A special grant to provide employment and training to the affected workers has been submitted to the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Donna Smith dmsjobs@yahoo.com Ms. Smith, an employee of the Job Center, reported on the recent influx of individuals visiting the Office for help with their job search, resume preparation, and internet use.

Joe Broers ivedc@frontiernet.net Mr. Joe Broers reported for Illinois Valley Economic Development Council. He passed out several brochures on the Energy Assistance Program and outlined the various components of the program and eligibility requirements. The LIHEAP Program (Low Income Home Energy Assistance) is designed to assist eligible low-income households pay for winter energy services. He discussed the Weatherization Program, the Ameren Give Back Program, and the REACH Grant. He passed out information brochures and asked interested individuals to call IVEDC at 217-39-4431 for more information.

Shelby Binney sbinney.ivedc@yahoo.com Ms. Binney, a new employee at IVEDC, was introduced to the group. She will be working with the Head Start Program.

Don Albrecht daalbrecht@frontiernet.net Sheriff Albrecht began his report by presenting an overview of the Macoupin County Sheriff's Office which is a clearinghouse for all Macoupin Services, including basic law enforcement and providing support to local, State and Federal police departments. The Sheriff's Office operates on a \$3 million budget and has about 50 employees. He introduced Mr. Bart Hassard, 2nd in Command, and commended him for carrying out his duties with pride and diligence. Besides general law enforcement, the Sheriff's Department is an integral part of the 911 System, the Anti-Meth Coalition, the County Jail with 40-60 inmates, prisoner pick-up and transportation, Crime Stoppers, and Operation Snowball.

Bart Hassard hassard8@hotmail.com Chief Deputy Hassard spoke about the many services and responsibilities of the Sheriff's Department. He has been on the job for over 14 years and has been involved with almost every aspect of the position.

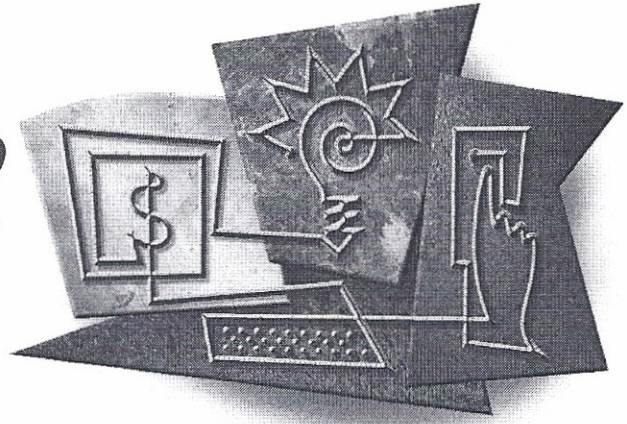
Vicki Lubrant Vicki.lubrant@west-central.org Ms. Lubrant reported for the Job Center and West Central Development Council. Several staff have been working with the State of Illinois on the new IllinoisWorkNet website that is being launched statewide. She passed out information on the portal and reported that this website has many links to jobs, human service agencies, career information, and businesses. The Job Center and WCDC will be seeking partners (agencies, libraries, schools, etc.) to help promote the portal and to possibly become site coordinators. She encouraged the attendees to take a few minutes, log on, and surf the site.

Reggie Byots regina@teamhousingcenter.com Ms. Byots of the Macoupin County Housing Department announced that currently all available units are full and there is a waiting list for eligible residents at all sites. Applicants must undergo a criminal background check prior to being approved for low-income housing. She answered questions from the group with regard to credit counseling and the Village at Morse Farms.

Ms. Byots suggested that we take some time at the next meeting to update the Macoupin County Service Directory. Copies will be available and changes, corrections, etc., should be given to Vicki Lubrant. It was also decided that we should look at the calendar and schedule our meetings for the upcoming year. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., at the Job Center/WCDC, 116 South Plum Street, Carlinville. The group will meet again on July 9th, and October 8th, 2008.

Grantline

A resource to assist county officials in locating federal, state and foundation grants available to enhance Illinois communities.



A member service of the Illinois Association of County Board Members

March 2007

Counties eligible for federal assistance to improve rural road safety

The Rural Safety Innovation Program was announced recently in the Federal Register and is a \$15 million program aimed at local rural road owners, including counties, who want federal assistance to improve rural road safety.

This program is an opportunity for local rural road owners to improve rural road safety through infrastructure and technological approaches using up to \$15 million in available funds. The Rural Safety Innovation Program is geared toward entities responsible for rural roads and highways such as counties, towns, townships and tribal governments partnering with the State Departments of Transportation to submit applications for rural safety projects.

Rural Safety Innovation Program

Over 3,000 counties and more than 16,000 towns and townships vary widely in their ability to design and implement safety countermeasures on rural roads.

The goal of the Rural Safety Innovation Program is to improve rural road safety by assisting rural communities in addressing highway safety problems and by providing rural communities the opportunity to compete for project funding to address these problems. The program will encourage States and rural communities to develop creative, locally crafted solutions to roadway safety problems, document their efforts and outcomes, and share the results with other communities across the country.

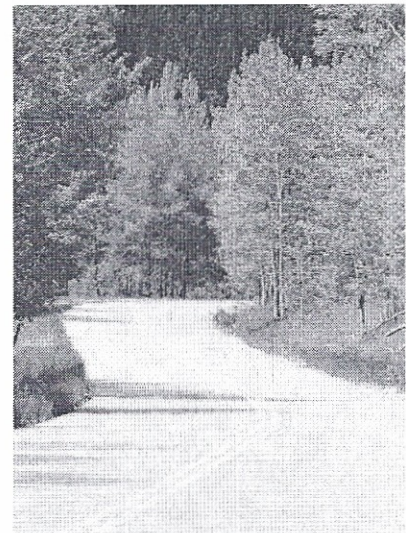
Through the Rural Safety Innovation Program, the Department aims to heighten awareness and interest in rural safety issues, and promote the benefits of rural safety countermeasures which can reduce rural crashes and fatalities nationwide. By providing technical assistance and best practice guidance from the program we will give States and rural road owners better tools to improve road safety in their communities.

Primary Objectives of the Rural Safety Innovation Program are to:

- Improve safety on local and rural roads with innovative approaches in which rural communities develop and design local solutions to their roadway safety problems.
- Provide best practices and lessons learned on innovative safety technologies to assist local and rural road owners and operators in the development and implementation of infrastructure-based rural safety countermeasures that complement behavioral safety efforts.
- Promote national awareness and interest in addressing rural safety issues.
- Promote the use of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies to improve safety on rural roads.

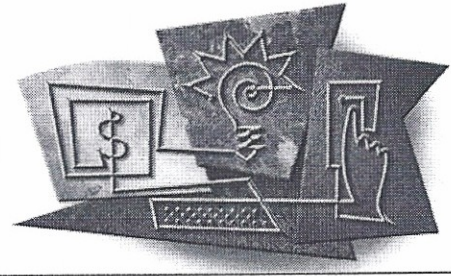
Application Process

Applications must be received by April 14. Those applicants selected will be invited to submit more detailed project proposals. The program and application process are described in the Federal Register notice. The contact for questions is John Dewar in the Office of Safety, 202-366-2218 (john.dewar2@dot.gov).



Information about this program can be accessed at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-3716.pdf>



Renewable Energy Assistance

USDA announced it is accepting applications for FY 2008 to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements for agriculture producers and rural small businesses in eligible rural areas. Funding will be available in the form of grants, guaranteed loans, and combined guaranteed loans and grant applications. For FY 2008 there is about \$15.9 million in funding for competitive grants and \$205 million in authority for guaranteed loans.

There will be two competitive grant cycles. The first deadline is **April 15, 2008**. Applications that are not funded in the first competition will automatically be considered under the second competition. Grant applications in the second cycle are due no later than **June 16, 2008**.

For information contact Molly K. Hammond at 217-403-6210.

IDOT accepting applications for Transportation Enhancement Program

IDOT is now accepting applications for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). **Applications will be accepted for this competitive program until May 5, 2008.** ITEP funded projects are designed to improve the quality of life in Illinois by promoting alternative transportation, such as bike/hike trails. ITEP is a reimbursable program that is funded by a 10 percent set aside of the federal Surface Transportation Program. Project sponsors may receive up to 80 percent reimbursement for project costs. The remaining 20 percent is the responsibility of the project sponsor.

In order to qualify for funding, a project must relate to surface transportation, and must qualify as one of 12 eligible activities listed below:

- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Historic preservation
- Rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities
- Landscaping and scenic beautification
- Scenic & historic highways scenic easements
- Transportation museums
- Outdoor advertising control
- Safety education for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Rails-to-trails corridor preservation
- Archaeological planning and research
- Mitigation for roadway runoff & wildlife connectivity
- Scenic or historic highway programs



Any local government with taxing authority is eligible to apply. Local matching funds are required and work must begin on the projects within one year. Visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/opp/itep.html> to download an application form, or contact the Department via e-mail at itep@dot.il.gov.

Will County Receives Certified Local Government Grant

Will County has been selected to receive a Certified Local Government grant from federal funds made available through the state for local historic preservation projects. Communities that have achieved Certified Local Government status under the National Historic Preservation Act were encouraged to apply for \$92,263 in grant funds that are available this fiscal year through the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. These federal funds are specifically earmarked for local grants in the areas of public preservation and development. Will County plans to conduct an intensive historic structures survey of rural properties in Joliet and Channahon townships with its \$20,000 grant. This is part of an ongoing project to survey and identify landmark structures in rural Will County.

Only Certified Local Governments may apply for the grants. Those communities that have achieved this status are listed at www.Illinois-History.gov/ps/clgs.pdf.