

Macoupin County Inter-Agency Meeting
MINUTES
Wednesday, April 9, 2008 - 9:00 a.m.
The Job Center/WCDC Conference Room

The Macoupin County Inter-Agency Group met on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at the Job Center/WCDC Conference Room, located at 116 South Plum Street in Carlinville. Vice-President Janie Ashworth presided. She welcomed all the attendees and thanked everyone attending. She then introduced Ms. Veta Sanders-Thompson and Dr. Terry Leet from St. Louis University who were visiting the area to introduce the National Children's Study. They presented a slide show that outlined the national study and discussed the guidelines for participation. Macoupin County was selected as a site because of its rural location. The study is to begin in the year 2010. They are hoping to get 100,000 study participants across the nation from the 79 metropolitan areas and 26 rural areas selected. An estimated 1,000 pregnant mothers will be asked to volunteer. Volunteers will be asked to complete health examines, complete surveys, take part interviews, allow their children to be screened, and continue with follow-up for 25 years. Compensation will be given to those that take part in the study. There was a lengthy question and answer period. More information will be forthcoming.

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.

Kelly Wilson of Lewis and Clark Community College reported on the GED Program and classes that are planned at the Macoupin County Center.

Don Albrecht daalbrecht@frontiernet.net Sheriff Albrecht reported on the changes that are being made due to the financial situation in the County. He stated that because of numerous coal mine closing and other economic issues, many administrative changes will be necessary.

Jenny Zigler Macoupin County Sheriff's Office She reported that she is the new administrative coordinator and has been working on getting the Macoupin County Courthouse on the National Register. If successful, this designation could mean additional grant funds for the county.

Bart Hassard hassard8@hotmail.com Chief Deputy Hassard commented on the information exchange and thanked the group for all the updates.

Jennifer DeLong Carlinville School Birth-3 Program reported on the various activities that she is involved with as administrator of the pre-school program. The month of April is designated as the Month of the Young Child and they have been organizing several events including an Early Childhood Parade to be held on April 18.

Wanda Hammand Macoupin County Probation Ms. Hammand briefly updated the group on the financial crisis at the County level.

Jeanie Hicken Safe Families Ms. Hicken updated the group on several upcoming events, including a Family Conference to be held at the Methodist Church on May 13, 2008, from 4:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. The topic of discussion will be domestic violence.

Mike Sherer msherer2@hotmail.com Mr. Sherer represents the Job Center and West Central Development Council. He reported on problems with funding levels and the increase in dislocated workers who lost their jobs due to area mine closings. He also reminded the attendees to visit the new Illinois website for job search and local events, Illinois Work Net www.illinoisworknet.com

Melinda Hopper and Shelby Boente Illinois Valley Economic Development Corp. These ladies represent IVEC and updated the group on several new programs. They discussed the REACH Program the assists individuals with budget billing for their utility bills, the LIHEAP Program (Heating Assistance program) and the Head Start Program for children ages 3-5.

Larry Pfeiffer Regional Office of Education Mr. Pfeiffer updated the group on several grants and programs. The Even Start Program is being eliminated, however, work is being done to try and restore it. They recently submitted the Truancy Grant and the area principals are preparing Teacher Mentoring Grants.

Kathy Stiles IMPACT, Inc. , Alton She reported on the programs and services provided at IMPACT. Their main services are to assist with and provide necessary tools to assist those individuals with disabilities live independently.

Donna McLeese Girard Schools Ms. McLeese updated the group on various statistics on the homeless population, birth to age 3 and age 3-5.

Marilyn Lowe Safe Families Ms. Lowe informed the group of a performance to be held on sexual assault.

Jacqueline Myers Dept. of Human Services Ms. Myers updated the group on several items including the hiring of a new Administrative Assistant, information on Earned Income Credit, All Kids insurance program, the issue of human trafficking, and the caseload numbers for Macoupin County

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., at the Job Center/WCDC, 116 South Plum Street, Carlinville.
(Mark your calendar for October 8th, 2008 --- the Fall Meeting Date)

700 East Elm Street
Carlinville, IL 62626
(217)854-3473



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mcdd@frontiernet.net
www.cmcdd.net

May 8, 2008

Michele Zippay
County Clerk
Macoupin County Court House
Carlinville, IL. 62626

Dear Ms. Zippay,

The Macoupin Center for the Developmentally Disabled would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the first installment paid to us through the Macoupin County Mental Deficiency Funds. This funding is financially vital for our Center to continue to help serve individuals with developmental disabilities in Macoupin County. These funds will be used to help cover the operating expenses for our Center.

We are extremely fortunate and grateful for your continued support to our Center. We appreciate everyone's time and efforts to help serve citizens with developmental disabilities, and in doing so, helping our community.

Sincerely,

Angie R Little, Financial Administrator
Macoupin Center for the Developmentally Disabled

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MAY 09 2008

MICHELE ZIPPAY
MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK

June 12, 2008

Chairman of the Board
Macoupin County
21480B Route 4
Carlinville, IL 62626



Dear Chairman:

This is to advise you that AmerenIP will be trimming trees in and around the Carlinville area in the near future. Enclosed are maps and common addresses of the areas affected. AmerenIP is mailing a notice to customers affected by the tree trimming work. We are also providing a public notice in the newspapers covering your area.

Our qualified line clearance trimmers will trim trees that could interfere with electric lines that run from pole to pole. This free service is necessary to minimize the likelihood of power outages and safety hazards.

If you have any questions about the tree trimming work to be done, please call **1-800-755-5000**, or visit our website at:

http://www.ameren.com/environment/adc_ev_VegetationHome.asp

Affected customers and property owners may address their concerns about the proposed work in the manner specified on our website. You may also call the Consumer Services Division of the Illinois Commerce Commission at 1-800-524-0795.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tobie Grover".

Tobie Grover
Regional Manager
AmerenIP - Division V

enclosure



Illinois Traction System Trail Committee, Inc.

"Connecting Communities – One Trail at a Time"

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June 25, 2008

Subject: Railroad Property

Mr. George Camille
Norfolk Southern Corporation
212 S.2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Mr Camille:

The other members of the ITS Trail Committee Board of Directors and I continue to field questions from the general public regarding the progress of the ITS Trail project. People are truly excited about this project, especially now that the Worden to Staunton trail will be completed soon. In answering their queries, we always indicate that through the Macoupin County Board, our fiscal sponsor, we have applied for grant monies and are working on other funding. We also advise that until we receive a positive response from the Norfolk Southern regarding the sale of the abandoned ITS corridor property, we are unable move forward, even when funding is available.

While we realize it takes time for Norfolk Southern people to analyze the situation and make a decision, it has been over six months since you, Nelson Grman and I looked at the proposed alignment. At that time you indicated your desire to have a decision to release the property within a month or so and have preliminary discussions completed by the end of the first quarter.

We're sure you're doing everything you can to move this process forward. We simply want to offer the following observations for your people to consider. (All distances are approximate.)

- The abandoned ITS corridor south of Staunton has been sold to Madison County Transit and a trail on that property is nearly completed.
- The abandoned ITS corridor just north of the Staunton city limits was sold several years ago to Livingston Pipe and Tube, Inc.
- Norfolk Southern owns the corridor from the northern edge of the above property for a distance of approximately 6,290 feet. On this segment, there is a bridge crossing Cahokia Creek, which would most likely require replacement before being used for trains.
- The next 1,300 feet of corridor were sold to a private owner in 1996.
- Immediately north of this property, a private owner is paying taxes

on a 20 foot wide roadway across the corridor.

- The next 9,885 feet are owned by Norfolk Southern.
- The next 5,250 feet were deeded to the City of Sawyerville in 1990 at no cost to them.
- The remaining 2,800 feet are owned by Norfolk Southern.
- From just south of Sawyerville to Central Avenue in Benld, a distance of around 11,000 feet, the abandoned ITS corridor is immediately adjacent to the existing Norfolk Southern line which was used for a coal train from the Monterey Mine north of Gillespie until the mine was recently closed. The tracks are currently being used to store railroad cars.

Our point in making these observations is that we can see no viable use for the property that we, on behalf of the Macoupin County Board, are asking to purchase. There does not appear to be a contiguous corridor for future development of a railroad line on this property and more importantly, there is an existing usable railroad which at some locations is immediately adjacent to the abandoned corridor. Where it is not adjacent, it is, at its furthest distance, within approximately 3,500 feet of the usable line.

We hope these points are helpful in making a final decision. An update on the process will be greatly appreciated, so we can better answer the many inquiries we receive. If you feel it would be helpful, we welcome the opportunity to meet with a representative of the Norfolk Southern Industrial Development Division to inspect and discuss the property in question.

If additional information is needed, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely



Jarid Ott, Executive Director
Illinois Traction System Trail Committee
618.635.3150 (H), 618.779.6261 (C)

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www.its-trail.org **info@its-trail.org**