

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

Phone 812-689-6410 ext. 5 www.hhhills.org Fax 812-689-3398



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Annual Meeting Focuses on Awards, High Speed Rail Service

The Board of Directors of Historic Hoosier Hills held its Annual Meeting on Monday, April 23 at the Reservation Restaurant in Milan with about 60 in attendance. **Dennis Hodges**, Vice President of the Indiana High Speed Rail Association, presented a program on the high-speed rail service proposed for Indiana, and specifically for southeastern Indiana. This is part of an eight-state initiative in the upper Midwest, with a goal of beginning service within a decade. Southeastern Indiana would have two lines – one from Indianapolis to Louisville and one from Indianapolis to Cincinnati, then connecting to the hub at Chicago. However, unless our region makes its desires known, the service does not include stops between those cities. Part of the goal of this program was to inform more people in southeastern Indiana of the potential for tourism and economic development, and the need to get our regional interests represented in the planning phase.

The Board presented awards to the Outstanding Individual and to the Outstanding Project. They also presented two Tenacity Awards to individuals who exhibit persistence and determination over a long time to accomplish a project or goal.



*Outstanding Individual went to **Jim Casper**, Field Coordinator for the “Ways to Grow” Program. Jim has been field coordinator since the program started in 1998 and has grown with the program. He initially worked with 27 farm families, but expanded to over 100 as the program developed through three years. Jim went far beyond the “call of duty” in providing service to program participants and in representing “Ways to Grow” at many conferences, workshops, and meetings over the three years. Jim is a resident of Dearborn County.*



*Outstanding Project Award went to the Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership for its remarkable accomplishments in the short two years they have been in existence. Chairman **David Lee** and Vice chair **Louis Munier** accepted the award on behalf of the committee. The group has over 40 members, is well organized and has collected over 60 oral histories of past residents and former JPG employees, some with the help of a Hanover College History Class. They have secured numerous artifacts from individuals and from the Department of Defense that were a part of the proving ground when it was in operation. Most recently, they developed a concept design of the museum and visitor center which is their ultimate goal, and they secured a commitment from the Jefferson County Commissioners for acreage at the Kreuger Lake Property to site the museum facility.*

In other business, the Board approved sponsoring a workshop for non-profits in southeastern Indiana in partnership with QFIT – Quality for Indiana Taxpayers. QFIT is based in Indianapolis and offers a series of training programs and resources for new and existing non-profit organizations to help them improve and strengthen their operations. The Board also approved assistance and support for a five-county Leadership 20/20 Program and for a three-county Grazing Lands Program involving Clark, Scott and Jefferson Counties.

They also appointed John Thompson to an At-large Director position on the Historic Hoosier Hills Board.

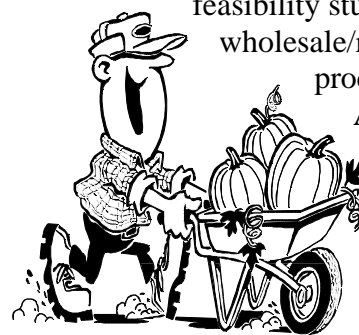


*A Tenacity Award was presented to Historic Hoosier Hills Treasurer **Raymond West** for his 15 years of service as organizational treasurer and bookkeeper, and for his excellent funds management that has generated interest income for the Board averaging almost \$500 per month.*

*State Representative **Cleo Duncan** was recognized as the second Tenacity Award recipient for her long-standing efforts on behalf of the Versailles State Park Inn Project Committee. She was unable to attend since the Legislature was still in session.*

Historic Hoosier Hills Awarded Rural Development Grant

USDA Rural Development has announced the award of a \$50,000 Rural Business Opportunity Grant to Historic Hoosier Hills to help fund a feasibility study for the proposed wholesale/retail marketing and processing facility at Austin, Indiana. The



facility will be designed to help farm families in southern Indiana who are producing specialty crops and products. The facility will include wholesale distribution for fresh produce, value-added packaging, an on-site retail farmers market, and a small business incubator for crafts and other rural-based businesses. It will include leased space for value-added processors on the wholesale side, direct market opportunities for a range of value-added products from southern

Indiana producers, and retail market space for tourism, entertainment, crafts, produce and food items. The project is being carried out through the Southern Indiana Rural Development Project (SIRDP) in partnership with the Austin Rural Enterprise Community Board, Scott County Economic Development Corporation, and the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service.

Funds for the Future...

The Historic Hoosier Hills Endowment Fund

Why endowment funds are important to charities

*By Louise Markel, Executive Director
Community Foundation of Madison and
Jefferson County*

The Community Foundation recently learned that it will receive 90% of an estate in excess of \$1 million through a bequest. The bequest specifies that an endowment be established in the Foundation that will benefit four area charities. This widow and her husband had lived modestly and saved for a rainy day. They also cared very much about the causes the named charities serve. Apparently the deceased wanted to do what they could to ensure an ongoing income for these charities. Maybe this is something you are considering, too.

The Historic Hoosier Hills Endowment Fund in the Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County provides HHH RC&D with an established, stable, source of annual income. (Or any charity's endowment fund in any community foundation. Every county in the State of Indiana is served by a community foundation, by the way.)

HHH RC&D provides essential services to this area. People rely on it for a variety of services. Donors to the endowment want to be sure that HHH has some financial stability in the future. They understand that the annual grants from the endowment are an important part of HHH's cash

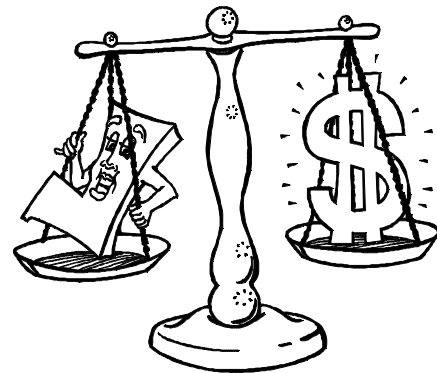
flow and that this permanent pool of assets generates income that will grow over time.

If you have been thinking about how you could forever help HHH, consider its endowment and talk to your family and legal or tax advisors about your wishes. Maybe you can afford to endow a gift now, maybe you need to rewrite your will, or maybe both!

Whatever you decide to do, we hope that decision includes the future of HHH and of other charities that you care about.

For more information about the Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County, Inc., call Louise Markel, President/CEO at 812/265-3327, or stop in at the Foundation's office at 410 Mulberry Street in Madison.

P.S. Remember that if you don't have a will, you have no influence over your belongings after death, no matter what your charitable intentions might be.



The Historic Hoosier Hills Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326 W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720 5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council meets on the 4th Monday of every other month. The Executive Committee meets on the 3rd Friday of every other month that the Council does not meet. All meetings are open to the public. Anyone wishing to attend will certainly be welcome.

area, and to properly develop, utilize, and conserve our natural and human resources.”

Vision Statement:

“Workable economic climate in harmony with natural resources developed to their full potential for a higher quality of life.”

Officers & Staff

Council President – Lilian Carmer
1st Vice-President – (vacant)
2nd Vice-President – William Corning
Treasurer – Raymond West
Secretary – Barbara Corning
RC&D Coordinator – Gary Conant
RC&D Assistant – Phyllis May
Proposal Writer – Barbara Jachimiak

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

Mission Statement:

“Serve as a catalyst to empower local people to solve the overall economic and natural resource problems of the