

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

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Aurora – Lawrenceburg Trail Ready for Construction Phase

Members of the Aurora – Lawrenceburg Trail Project met October 29 to review final engineering plans for construction of the non-motorized recreational trail through Aurora. The trail group began meeting in 1996 and has worked diligently with the City of Aurora and Historic Hoosier Hills to locate the trail route, secure easements, produce an engineering design for the trail construction, and secure funding. The City of Aurora has



been instrumental in the group's funding success with a \$1 million Transportation Enhancement Act Grant through the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), and an additional \$450,000 in grants for trail development.

The planning review produced few questions or changes for the design engineers. The next step is to secure INDOT approval of the design plans and land acquisition documents. The committee hopes to be ready to advertise for bids in April, and start

construction by summer of 2003, according to **Judy Ostendorf**, committee member and Main Street Aurora Executive Director.

The Aurora – Lawrenceburg

Trail is one of Historic Hoosier Hills' earlier project committees, adopted by the Board of Directors in May of 1997.

For more information, contact Judy at Main Street Aurora at (812) 926-1100 or e-mail her at mainstaur@seidata.com.

Madison Youth Cultural Center Project “Graduates”!

The first project committee to “graduate” from under the Historic Hoosier Hills non-profit umbrella is the Madison Youth Cultural Center. The group formed in 2001 to provide youth in Jefferson County a positive atmosphere to showcase who they are



and express themselves through creative avenues. They have worked on a dance, an art show, and a music festival,

according to **Nancy Gruner**, Treasurer and adult advisor. They came under the Historic Hoosier Hills umbrella in January of this year, and have already secured their own 501(c)3 status. Once a committee secures its own 501(c)3, they cannot remain under the Historic Hoosier Hills non-profit status. At their request, the Executive Committee released the Madison Youth Cultural Center. We wish them much success in their future plans!!

Tenth RC&D in Indiana Files Application

The Greater Wabash River RC&D Council has filed an application with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for authorization as Indiana’s tenth RC&D area. Benton, Tippecanoe, Carroll, Clinton, and Howard Counties make up the new proposed RC&D Area. The ninth RC&D, White River, was authorized last year – it is comprised of

Jackson, Washington, Lawrence and Orange Counties, and borders Historic Hoosier Hills on the west. Northwest Territory RC&D in northwestern Indiana was authorized two years ago. The interest in creating new RC&D’s is a tribute to the existing Councils – local people see the success and value in having a locally directed multi-county non-profit corporation to help them “make things happen”. Each RC&D is its own non-profit corporation and 501(c)3, and is guided by a local Board of Directors. USDA supports authorized RC&D’s by providing a Coordinator, part-time Assistant, office space, and some supplies. No federal dollars go to the Councils – each is responsible for providing its own sources of operating and project funds.

The success of the RC&D Program is in the dedication and commitment of its volunteer members – those who serve on the Boards and those who work in the many individual committees to carry out projects that improve the quality of life and standard of living in their respective RC&D areas.

Switzerland County Forestry Field Day

The Switzerland County SWCD and Historic Hoosier Hills Woodland Committee sponsored a Woodland Field Day on Saturday, October 26 at the Donald Ellis Farm in Ohio County. About 35 attended the field day where



resource professionals addressed a number of topics and answered questions. Consultant Foresters **Dan Meisberger** and **Joe Schuerman**, Extension Forester **John Siefert**, and District Forester **Darrell Breedlove** led the group on a tour of the Ellis woodlot to discuss the how and why of forest management; marking, selling and harvesting timber; and timber stand improvement. There was a lot of concern for potential drought damage to timber from this past summer and Joe Schuerman told the woodland owners what to watch for. District Wildlife Biologist **Ed Guljas** led a second tour to highlight the wildlife benefits of managed woodlands.

Forestry and the New Farm Bill

Purdue Extension Forester **John Siefert** presented the most recent information on forestry provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill to members of the Historic Hoosier Hills Woodland Committee and guests at the November committee meeting. Jack covered guidelines adopted by the USDA – NRCS State Technical Committee in late October on cost share rates and practices which will be covered by various program provision within the Farm Bill. These

include: Tree Planting; Containerized Stock (for very wet sites or sites subject to frequent flooding); Direct Seeding; Forest Stand Improvement; Forest Stand Improvement for Invasive Species Control; and Forest Trails and Landings. The last two are new practices. Cost share



rates may vary by program but seem to be around 75%. These practices will generally be offered through the Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP), through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and through the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) which is a new program of the 2002 Farm Bill. Jack stressed that it is important for woodland owners to attend the county Soil and Water Conservation Districts' locally led meetings and ask that forestry be included as a priority in the EQIP Program for the county.

Happy Thanksgiving

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.

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 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 – Kelly Misamore
2nd Vice-President – William Corning
Interim Treasurer – William Corning
Secretary – Barbara Corning
RC&D Coordinator – Gary Conant
RC&D Assistant – Phyllis May
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