

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

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Board Approves Project Requests, Plan of Work

The *Historic Hoosier Hills Board of Directors* approved three new project request at their meeting November 26 and completed a very full agenda of other business.

A request to partner with Hoosier Heartland RC&D to plan and conduct a one-day conference on specialty crops and alternative agriculture was approved for assistance. The conference will be set for mid-to-late February at the Holiday Inn Columbus (IN) and will be designed to introduce farm families in southeastern Indiana and central Indiana to the “Ways to Grow” Program offered by Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. The program has helped over 100 farm families in southeastern Indiana since 1998 to investigate and develop new farm enterprises of high value crops and products. Hoosier Heartland is interested in the program as one tool to help local farmers produce more cash income and help counter the financial pressure to sell off farmland for development around Indianapolis and in surrounding counties.



The Board also approved two projects of the Southeastern Indiana Forage and Livestock Association – one is to develop a program in this area that would produce high-quality beef and pay a premium to producers who participate and meet standards for quality. Since there are other programs in the state and nation doing this, the Board is looking at which ones achieve what they want and will look at partnering and offering the programs here.

The other project is to create a website which will match southeastern Indiana hay sellers with hay buyers – the Forage Board would not serve as a broker, but simply give growers a place to list their name, e-mail, phone number and type and amount of hay for sale. Prospective buyers would contact the seller direct.

In other business, the Historic Hoosier Hills Board approved their operating budget and Plan of Work for 2002. They also set Monday, March 25 as the date for the Historic Hoosier Hills Annual Meeting. It will be held at the Southeast Career Center in Versailles with a catered dinner.

They also agree to sponsor and host two workshops this coming year with Dr. Jerry Musich – one will be on writing Effective Grant Proposals, and one on Best Practices for Nonprofits. The Board had hosted a workshop this year on Best Practices which was well received by those in attendance. Dates are not set for the 2002 workshops yet.

Date Set for Tri State Farm Marketing Conference



Monday and Tuesday, March 11 and 12, are the dates for the Tri State Farm Marketing Conference to be held at the Holiday Inn Airport in Florence, Kentucky. The conference is designed to bring specialty crop growers from Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio together to learn of program as assistance available to them, and to establish opportunities for market sharing (lengthening the marketing season) between states.

The conference is being planned and sponsored by many partners in the three states, including the cooperative extension services of Purdue, Kentucky and Ohio State; the Kentucky Commodity Growers Cooperative; Historic Hoosier Hills and the "Ways to Grow" Program; Eagle RC&D in Kentucky and Miami Valley RC&D in Ohio; the Commissioners of Agriculture of Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio; USDA Rural Development; USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service in Indiana; Indiana Farm Bureau; and others. More details and registration information will be available in January and will be announced in local newspapers.

Funds for the Future... the Historic Hoosier Hills Endowment Fund

You Can Increase the Quality of Life in Your Community!

This is the last of a series of columns about charitable giving. I hope they have encouraged many of you to increase the quality of life in the place where you have lived and worked and raised a family. How? By taking into consideration the following:

Endowments: You will live forever in your community if you establish an endowment in your county's community foundation. Investment income from the endowment will be used to make grants that benefit your community now, and forever. Endowments help area charities continue their essential programs, and address current and future community priorities.

Gifts of stock: Cash makes a great charitable donation, but using stock to make a gift may be of more benefit to you. Stock that has increased in value will generate capital gains that will be taxed if you sell it. If you donate it, no capital gains taxes will be incurred and you receive a tax deduction for the full amount of its current value.

Charitable gift annuities: Income-producing gifts may be right for you. As an example, a charitable gift annuity will provide you (or your designee) lifetime income, with the charity of your choice receiving the remaining funds upon your death. In the current economic climate, the interest rates for charitable gift annuities are very favorable. See your county's community foundation for more information about this.

Life insurance: Life insurance would make a great deferred gift for a charity. You could name a charity as the beneficiary of a policy, or you could make the charity the owner of the policy. Either way, there are tax benefits with this sort of gift as well.

Bequests: Perhaps now is not the right time for you to make a sizeable donation to your favorite charity. Perhaps the best thing for you to do is to leave something to the charity in your will. You can direct a specific amount, or a percentage of your estate to your charity. Two of the best kinds of

bequests to make, bequests that will reduce estate taxes, are savings bonds and gifts from IRAs or other types of pension funds. And you don't have to have your will rewritten to include a charity-you can do it with a simple codicil. See your attorney and tax advisor for more information about this.

Planning: Strategic, well-thought-out giving benefits you and impacts your community. What are your areas of interest? What charities address them the best? Would your spouse and family members want to share this planning with you? You will find this process deeply gratifying, and strengthen your community as well.

Your community needs you: There are many worthy national and international causes, but you are more likely to see and feel the impact of your gifts if you invest in charities close to home.

I have enjoyed writing these columns and thank Gary Conant and Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D for the opportunity to 'spread the word' about philanthropy. (And do remember that the columns were for information only. Please consult your lawyer or tax preparer for professional advice.) Please let Gary or me know if you have any questions about these topics, or want to discuss them further. We would be more than happy to talk with you!

**Happy Holidays,
Louise Markel**

P.S. Indiana community foundations are participating in Lilly Endowment's GIFT V-"Building Self-Reliance" initiative. Now is a good time to endow gifts, because qualifying donations could be matched by a grant of equal or, in some cases, double value. Contact your county's community foundation to find out more about this wonderful challenge!

Louise is the President/CEO of the Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County. The Foundation is located at 410 Mulberry Street in Madison. Its mailing address is PO Box 306, Madison IN 47250-0306 and its phone number is 812/265-3327.

Historic Hoosier Hills wishes to express our sincere appreciation to Louise and to the Community Foundation for their support with this series of articles through 2001. All issues of the newsletter, and all twelve articles on giving, can be accessed at the Historic Hoosier Hills website at www.hhills.org.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from the RC&D Council and
Staff of Historic Hoosier Hills!!

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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 – (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