

Jill Kenyon

#23-103

From: Travis McGlasson
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 10:57 PM
Subject: ILWW/Port District Funding

All (I put all of the board members in BCC so we don't have an OMA violation via a "reply all"),

Sorry for the late email on this. I'd like for the board to consider approval of a funding request that is being made to the board on behalf of the Heart of Illinois Regional Port District (HOIRPD) in support of the Illinois Water Way Commission.

You may remember a few months ago that we had representatives from the HOIRPD in attendance to provide us an update on the Port's activities. One of the initiatives that had been worked on is the creation of the Illinois Water Way commission which combines the HOIRPD with several of the ports to the north that are served by NCICG in order to create a group to better support lobbying efforts and development along this part of the Illinois River. The law creating the group was a bipartisan piece of legislation created by Senator Koehler and supported by several other local legislators. It was passed unanimously by both houses earlier in the year before being approved by the Governor.

It's the intent that in next year's state budget there would be ongoing funding to support the efforts of the ILWW. However, in order to begin the important work of the group until that can happen, the port groups have asked the local counties to consider supporting the group at a rate of \$1 per person. For Marshall County, that would be \$11,742. Fulton County has already approved their \$16,800 and counties including Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford are considering the same funding levels based on population but they aren't taking up their budget approvals until a bit later in the year.

If you remember from the presentation by Bob Sinkler, our part of the Illinois River is one of the busiest stretches of inland port area in the country but funding to support both recreational as well as commercial projects are often overshadowed by other waterways with less traffic like the upper Mississippi River. The goal of creating the ILWW is to address that disparity and ensure that the Illinois River can support the growing recreational and commercial needs of our region and drive more money into this area in doing so.

If possible, I'd like to propose we add this to the budget conversation tomorrow for your consideration. I am happy to discuss this more during the meeting tomorrow.

Thanks,

Travis

10-ayes
1-opposed
1-absent