

A G E N D A
HARDEE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009 9:00 AM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
107 EAST MAIN STREET, WAUCHULA, FLORIDA

Council: **John Barlow-Chairman**
 Joe Albritton -Vice Chairman Mike Manley John O’Neal
 Marcus Shackelford Jama Abbott Paul Samuels
 Nancy Craft Lory Durrance Jim See
 Keith Davis Rick Knight Lavon Cobb

Director William Lambert
County Attorney Ken Evers

Chairman Barlow – Call to Order.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:
Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Copy of Minutes provided

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES AND PAGER

DIRECTOR REPORT– Bill Lambert

Tab 1

Airport report:

At this time Mosaic and Van Fleet continue to disagree on the exercise of the option agreement. Legal proceedings imminent.

Other sites in the area are being considered at unknown location by unknown investors.

The State D.O.T. aviation report is moving to final draft. This report does a good job, for the most part describing our region. The Introduction is as follows:

INTRODUCTION

In the Continuing Florida Aviation System Planning Process (CFASPP), the Central Florida Region includes Polk, Hardee, Highlands, and DeSoto Counties. The region is referred to as “Florida’s Heartland.” It is experiencing an influx of residents, especially retirees, who want Florida’s subtropical weather without the high costs and dense urbanization of Florida’s sprawling metropolitan areas.

Between 1970 and 2007, the population of Central Florida more than doubled, and it is expected to increase by an additional 47 percent between 2008 and 2035, as shown in Figure 1. However, the region’s recent growth has been unevenly distributed and has been characterized by an overabundance of low-value residential development rather than an economically sustainable mix of businesses, factories, and upscale as well as affordable housing. Hence, despite recent growth, several counties in the region have been designated by the state as Areas of Critical Economic Concern.^[1]

EDC Agenda

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December 8, 2009

NHIL report: They have not abandoned plans and continue to indicate a desire to move forward but with some delays. Financing has become an issue. They will be in attendance to address the EDC on Tuesday. I still believe this company is an excellent fit for Hardee County and with our support can grow significantly. I do not know the length of the discussion but they are expected to be at the meeting by 10:00 am. I have schedule financial institutions and engineering thereafter. To meet with them.

Nayadiesel (Jeruz Energy) is still excited about opportunities in Hardee County. We continue to work with them.

Solar continues to be the most time consuming and active of all projects. The Chinese are awaiting travel Visa approval and are expected to be here after the holidays in the first two weeks of January if all goes well. This venture has a domestic entity put together by Dick Kanter and David Lo. The Chinese entity is a large national Chinese company called CETC. The IDA is having the Forestwood Building appraised in order to contemplate purchase option subject to lease option to the solar company.

Other projects related to energy/alternative energy projects abound.

- Element Power-Solar
- Seminole-Solar
- Invenergy-Solar
- Unnamed Combined cycle power plant – 2 projects
- E-cane cellulosic ethanol
- Switchgrass cellulosic ethanol

The “Inland port” project around Lake Okeechobee did not yet get a FHREDI endorsement, though it appears inevitable. I like the Sebring airport better than the southern locations and frankly we don't have a chance in Hardee County. The CSX terminal near Bartow will have a greater impact for us. If the Glades County/Hendry County/Palm Beach County site gets the nod it could preclude us from successfully recruiting a cargo airport because of the “Inland Port's” impact on freight logistics. Time is of the essence if the impact of the southern location reduces or changes airfreight dynamics.

Mosaic Agreement: It is hoped permits will be issued late this month or early in January.

Broadband: Rapid Systems is developing plans in conjunction with the IDA to pursue implementation of broadband in the event we Federal grant from the stimulus money is not awarded.

Fossil tourism theme: committee continues to meet and great progress is being made.

Landfill: developer delayed hearing until January.

USF Polytecnic: hope to have the learning center decided upon this month. The old drivers license building is the primary site being considered with the IDA assisting with the rent in the amount of \$6000/year. Total rent is \$12,000/year.

MARKETING REPORT

Tab 2 IB Reporting Presentation: Casey Dickson

FINANCE REPORT- Mike Manley, Sarah Pelham

Tab 3 Finance Report

Copy of Monthly Financial Report provided.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Motion to approve financial report.

COUNTY ATTORNEY KEN EVERS

OTHER BUSINESS

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

ADJOURN

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE APPOINTMENT TIMES MAY BE ADJUSTED AS DEEMED
NECESSARY UNLESS IT IS AN ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING.**

Hardee County Economic Development Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2009

Attendees: John Barlow – Chairman, Joe Albritton – Vice Chairman, Marcus Shackelford, Nancy Craft, Keith Davis, Mike Manley, Jama Abbott, Lory Durrance, Rick Knight, John O’Neal, Paul Samuels, Jim See, Lavon Cobb

Absent: None

Staff: Bill Lambert, Casey Dickson

Guest: Chet Huddleston, Cheryl Sharp, Ken Evers, Donald Samuels

Meeting was called to order by Chairman John Barlow at 9:00 am.

Minutes: A motion was made by Nancy Craft and was seconded by Marcus Shackelford to approve the October 13, 2009 minutes. Motion approved.

Agenda: A motion was made by Marcus Shackelford and seconded by Rick Justice to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Director’s Report

Legislative Delegation: Bill Lambert led a discussion regarding the Legislative Delegation meeting on December 1st. A meeting was held with Representative Baxter Troutman on October 22nd to discuss what the EDC would be requesting at the Delegation Meeting – changes to the severance tax bill and support for alternative energy legislation.

NHIL Update: NHIL has had some setbacks with their current projects. However, they are still continuing with the project in Hardee County. However, there may be a three to six month delay.

Fossil Committee: A brief update was given by Bill Lambert and Casey Dickson regarding process made with the fossil committee. The members are researching other museums and communities who have the same type of amenities that this committee is striving for.

Airport Update: Process is still being made by Van Fleet in regards to the development of a cargo airport. Bill will continue to monitor.

Heartland Property and Casualty Insurance: Joe Albritton reported that they have met with several potential investors all of which were very positive. They are continuing to pursue the company.

Jeruz Energy: A PowerPoint presentation was made by Jeruz Energy, a company wishing to put in a plant next to our current and possible landfill which will convert trash in to diesel and methane gas. Bill will continue to pursue.

CETC: Brief update given by Bill Lambert on the solar plant. Bill is continuing to work with Dick Canter and the Chinese affiliates for possible business development.

USF Polytech: USF is wishing to open a learning center and possible business incubator. The EDC is working with Main Street Wauchula. In order to locate here the EDC might have to subsidize rent for a period of time. The general consensus of the board was to move forward with the project.

Broadband Grant: The awards should be given in December for the grant. However, Bill plans to file an application to the EDA for the monies to start the project in the event the grant is not awarded.

Budget Presentation

Budget FT 2009-200 was represented as requested at the previous meeting. Motion to accept the budget as presented was made by Lavon Cobb, 2nd by Paul Samuels. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Report

Finance Report: A motion was made by Rick Justice and seconded by Paul Samuels to accept the Financial Report. Motion approved.

Other Business

Nancy Craft asked for an update on FHREDI. Bill let the board know that Commissioner Bobby Smith has resigned from the board and they are in the process of finding a replacement. As reported by Bill, the status quo continues at FHREDI. No other major developments to report.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Marcus Shackelford and seconded by Rick Knight to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned.