

***Hardee County Economic Development Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2009***

Attendees: Rick Justice-Chairman, John Barlow-Vice Chairman, Jama Abbott, Lavon Cobb, Marcus Shackelford, Keith Davis, Joe Albritton, Lory Durrance, Rick Knight, Mike Manley, Bill Lambert, Ken Evers, Sarah Pelham

Absent: Paul Samuels, Dana English

Visitors: Casey Dickson – Chamber of Commerce

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Justice at 9:00 am.

Minutes: Motion was made by John Barlow and seconded by Jama Abbott to approve the December 9, 2008 minutes. Motion approved.

Agenda: Addition to agenda, Director's report Item B Prayer Forum.

Director's Report

Review of Economic Development Presentation to BCC on January 16, 2009: Bill gave an overview of the presentation that will be made to the BCC on January 16, 2009. This is a starting point to form a working relationship with the commission as well as to involve the cities, schools and law enforcement to begin coming up with a strategic plan for the County. Bill stated we can be both agriculture and have industry. We have EDA money which is unique to us as well as the Mosaic agreement. The presentation is open to the public. The Chamber will be involved with this and hope to involve the Builders Association at some point as well. All board members are encouraged to attend.

Item B Prayer Forum: The Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring a Business Leaders Prayer Forum at the Chamber/EDC Office on Monday January 26. All Business Leaders in the community are welcome to attend. This is a chance to pray for the businesses for the upcoming year, pray for our economy and pray for our Nation's leaders. Peter Joudry will be giving a motivational speech at the beginning.

Lee County Letter: The County Commission has requested that a letter be sent regarding the litigation with Mosaic. Bill brought it before the board. There is still a question of who will sign the letter.

Fred Ford's Contract: This is an IDA issue and will be discussed during that meeting.

Marketing Report

Loop Net Report: The board reviewed the attached Loop net report in the packet.

Finance Report

Finance Report:

Motion was made by John Barlow and seconded by Marcus Shackelford to accept the Financial Report. Motion approved.

There was no other business to come before the board. Meeting was adjourned.