

***Hardee County Economic Development Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2009***

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

Absent: Lory Durrance

Visitors: Casey Dickson, Grady Johnson, Fred Ford

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

Minutes: Motion was made by John Barlow and seconded by Joe Albritton to approve the March 10, 2009 minutes with the addition of Nancy Craft to the attendees list. Motion approved.

Agenda: A motion was made by Rick Knight and seconded by John Barlow to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

**Director's Report**

Project Status Report:

**Airport:** Fred Ford spoke about his continued research. Fred recently traveled to Miami and heard the Latin Airline Association and the CEO of LAN give a presentation. They said it takes 4 days to move through MIA.

Fred mentioned that are several airports that are vying for the spot. John Reed has noticed Mosaic that he intends to execute the option.

Fred said he should have his report complete in 60-90 days.

**Heartland Property and Casualty Insurance:** Joe Albritton gave an update on his insurance proposal. They are still moving forward, but have a lot to overcome still. They are still working with the state as well as still looking into reinsurance.

Joe mentioned that when start up begins they will outsource to Texas while staff is being assimilated here.

Veritest: This is an oral drug testing facility and manufacturing company. They are looking to bring a manufacturing facility to Hardee County. The drug tester is not legal here yet, but would like to get it into the prison system for trial testing. They will fit nicely with the pharmaceutical company in the fact that NHIL uses some unique ways in preventing salmonella.

NHIL: Pharmaceutical Company interested in setting up complex in Hardee County. They specialize in natural products. They have found a compound in Dunkin grapefruit (seed) that suppresses salmonella. Looking to move them into the Commerce Park. Awaiting their business plan.

Project W: Bill Lambert stated they are moving forward with Phase 1 of the proposal.

Synagro: On hold because of internal issues. Their large supplier is rebidding.

Verinium: egrass. Not a lot of jobs created but will be an alternative for the ag industry.

Hameltronics: Still working with them they need to finalize the agreement. They are still meeting with School Board as well as hospital officials.

ALF: Still moving forward at this time.

## **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 Dana English to accept the Financial Report. Motion approved.

There was no other business to come before the board. John Barlow motioned for the meeting to adjourn seconded by Rick Knight. Meeting was adjourned.