

***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

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.