

Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership  
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes  
**Monday, June 20th, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.**

| Minutes                         |                       |             |                                  |                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| PRESENT                         |                       |             |                                  |                   |
| Members                         | From                  | Ex-Officio  | From                             | Others            |
| Ken Stroman-Secretary/Treasurer | District 5            | Heath Harpe | Mayor of Bennettsville           | Brandinika Ritter |
| Fred Thomas                     | City of Bennettsville | Stuart Ames | Duke Energy Progress             | Ron King          |
| Charles Paul Midgley-Chairman   | District 3            | Bobby Brock | Mayor of Blenheim Marlboro Water | Jim Haynes        |
| Randall Malichi-Vice Chairman   | City of Bennettsville |             |                                  | Dan McNeil        |
| Andy Rogers                     | Industrial Appointee  |             |                                  |                   |
| David Johnson                   | District 6            |             |                                  |                   |
| Frankie Frazier                 | District 8            |             |                                  |                   |

| ABSENT        |                      |                   |   |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| Members       | From                 | Ex-Officio        | From  |
| <i>Vacant</i> | Industrial Appointee | William Fleming   | Marlboro Electric Coop                            |
| <i>Vacant</i> | District 7           | Dr. Helena Tillar | Superintendent of Marlboro County School District |
| Luke Johnakin | District 2           | Jason Steen       | Chairman of County Council                        |
| Ken Harmon    | District 4           | James Quick       | Wallace Water                                     |
| LC English    | District 1           | Dr. Ron Bartley   | President of NETC                                 |

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS** – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley

**INVOCATION** – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley

**DINNER - DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Ron King – May 2016 Recap

**May**

**Recruitment**

Two new Prospects this month.

Ten (10) Active Prospects out of Eleven (11) were contacted this month. Six (6) projects were closed.

Two Prospect Site visits this month.

All but two prospects are willing to build facilities.

Decisions delayed on several projects due to perceived Q1 slowdown.

**Retention & Expansion**

Second possible tie in industry to Domtar for Pulp Supply.

CAAC Project is about to recommence, with vendors giving new quotes to complete. (no change)

Marley's roof work is complete with many permanent employees already on board.

IPP of South Carolina and Trailer Baron are both still hiring welders.

Baldor is losing employees quicker than imagined.

## **Workforce Development**

ITC renovation work bidding in June.

Brandi and I are conducting an update to our County Wage & Benefits Survey from 2013-2014. We are canvassing Emergency Medical practices and needs.

Completed an Industry Training Center Event for May 17th with @ 65 in attendance at a rainy event on the actual ITC Site.

## **Product Development**

New signs installed at 5 locations with solar lighting to be completed in June/July.

Boro Site Sprinkling restoration be completed in June.

Both C. W. Love and Reliance Trading Property still have open issues, relating to legal issues, gas transmission and sewer capacity.

## **Other**

New General Accounting Standards call for reporting of all incentives, including retroactive to 1995.

2016-2017 budget and capital requests Approved as submitted. MCEDP Budget prepared for June meeting.

Monthly MCEDP meeting was skipped for ITC event.

Brandi completed very informative ED101 at SC Commerce.

Met with A&R RR about upgrade to track from POPZ to Tatum (@4miles).

Federal funds to finish widening and paving 38N from Hwy 9 to Hwy 79.

## **Five Year Statistics**

Marlboro County has lost almost 1500 residents (*1050 employed*), increased in labor participation rate, decreased in unemployment, and increased in high school graduation rate.

Marlboro County now owns 6 buildings which is an increase of four including Baldor. Many have rail access now. \

MCEDP office had four prospects but this number has risen to an average of fifteen annually with a current number of twelve.

Currently 32.8% of Marlboro County jobs are in the manufacturing sector.

INA Bearing is the largest Marlboro County employer.

In South Carolina, rural counties have not been getting the same attention as larger counties. Marlboro County is now getting considered for some of the bigger projects because of having better properties to show. The Baldor plant should be inhabited by a new company by the end of the year.

Marlboro County now has a relationship with existing industry and is available for them in efforts to keep them in the county.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 2016 minutes as presented. The board unanimously agreed to approve the April 2016 minutes.

**FINANCIAL REPORT** – The April and May 2016 financial reports were circulated. Ron King noted on the balance sheet that First Citizens has about 60K of EDGE funding in it for technical college assistance. Membership and sponsorship funds are primarily what covers the partnership budget from year to year. It was proposed to have a secondary audit occur on the partnership bank accounts. It was also proposed to open a separate bank account to separate EDGE funds from partnership funds. Ron King reviewed the 2016-2017

budget proposal. Ken Stroman made a motion to approve the 2016-2017 budget as presented and David Johnson seconded the motion. The board unanimously agreed to approve the 2016-2017 budget.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Ron King reported for *Sites & Buildings* that he will make sure the board is disseminated detailed information prior to his retirement on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ron King reported for *Image & Marketing* that the new website is in its last phases and due to be finished by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ron King reported for *Workforce & Education* that the committee has consolidated their proposed bid. Dr. Bartley will be available to the board for a few more months after he retires. Stroman brought concerns before the board to have architects make a visit to explain the nature of their invoices. King stated that Debbie Cheek is to arrange a meeting with the architects prior to the July board meeting.

**OTHER REPORTS** – Mayor Heath Harpe reported for the *City of Bennettsville* that he will be attending annual meetings in the near future and hopes to network making lots of contacts. There will be a fireworks show at Lake Paul Wallace July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. The Lake Wallace Authority is planning a ski show with beach music. There have been concerns recently about people not using the lake because of alligators. The SC Department of Natural Resources is unable to resolve these alligator issues at the lake.

Bobby Brock reported for the *Town of Blenheim* that they have cleaned up the sidewalks and are still cutting grass. Brock wishes they had an ordinance in place for tearing down houses. The land owners all live in other states. Letters have been written to them about lot cleanup to coordinate providing them with assistance, but they are having very little response. There are twelve acres of land with no agreement with the school because of contamination. Brock has been working to try to get some industry or stores on site. They are now working on a \$2 million convenience store in phase one and a dollar store or fast food restaurant in phase two. It's a \$5 million project over the next five years. The town has conveyed the land over to the new owner. This will add something between Bennettsville and I-95. They have been working on a stoplight there for a few years now, but have met with much difficulty. Oak River has requested a stoplight in Blenheim as well.

David Johnson reported for *Town of McColl* that Verd Odom won the election for county council to replace Ken Allen who opted not to run again. There is one new house inside the city limits since tornadoes last came through.

*NETC* – None

Jim Haynes reported for *Marlboro County* that the budget was approved with no millage increase. The county had better ISO ratings due to money spent in the last few years. The county is supposed to get money from state legislature for running some of the programs that the county has in place. There was only an increase of less than 50K in funds to the county, but an increase nonetheless. Someone was hired in December that handles lawns and they are now looking much better than they have in the past.

Ron King reported for *Marlboro County Schools* that Mark Bunch, past principal of a middle school in Cherokee County, will be the new principal of Marlboro County High School.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

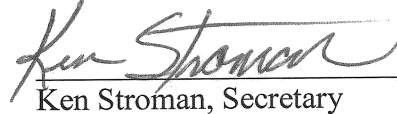
**NEW BUSINESS** – Marlboro Chamber formally requested the MCEDP become a member of their organization. Ron King recommended the board becoming a member. Ken Stroman made a motion for the board to become member of the Marlboro Chamber and David Johnson seconded the motion. The board unanimously agreed to become a member of the Chamber for \$250.

Ron King's last day will be July 1<sup>st</sup>. Jim Haynes and Brandi Ritter will be handling matters in the interim along with assistance from Ronald Carter of NESAs. Carter will primarily assist with addressing prospect matters.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley asked for a motion of adjournment. Motion to adjourn made by Randall Malichi and seconded by Ken Stroman.

*We have complied with all notifications requirements for this meeting as contained in the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.*

8-15-16  
Date

  
Ken Stroman, Secretary

***Mission Statement***

***Providing the resources to enhance economic growth and the quality of life in Marlboro County.***