

Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership (MCEDP)
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 21st, 2017 - 5:00 pm

Minutes				
PRESENT				
Members	From	Ex-Officio	From	Others
Ken Harmon	District 4	Jason Steen	Chairman of County Council	Ron Munnerlyn
Fred Thomas	City of Bennettsville	Joe Kinney	Mayor of Clio	Brandinika Ritter
Luke Johnakin	District 2	Dr. Kyle Wagner	President of NETC	
Andy Rogers- Vice Chairman	Industrial Appointee			
Keith Cheek	District 7			
Randall Malichi- Chairman	City of Bennettsville			
Joan Johnakin	District 5			
Lorenza McRae	District 8			

ABSENT			
Members	From	Ex-Officio	From
LC English	District 1	James Quick	Wallace Water
<i>Vacant</i>	District 6	Heath Harpe	Mayor of Bennettsville
Bill Jennings	Industrial Appointee	William Fleming	Marlboro Electric Coop
Frankie Frazier- Secretary/Treasurer	District 3	Dr. John Lane	Superintendent of Marlboro County School District
		Bobby Brock	Mayor of Blenheim Marlboro Water
		Stuart Ames	Duke Energy Progress

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Randall Malichi called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm with a welcome. Ken Harmon gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The June 2017 minutes were reviewed by the Board and no one had any questions. Joe Kinney made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Lorenza McRae seconded the motion. The Board unanimously agreed to approve the June minutes.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER UPDATE – Dr. Wagner had a meeting where the State system approved the whole training program on all three levels. The paperwork has been submitted for the Library and the lease agreement has been done between the Foundation and the College. Insurance is the only issue that needs to be addressed in order to move forward. Purchasing equipment for the building is already in motion. NETC is hiring two specific trainers that were requested by Arauco. Dr. Wagner requested the Board approve an expenditure of \$58,000 for equipment. Welding booths have already been purchased and the center will eventually house thirty total welding booths. A digital sign is on order with an expected arrival for the end of August. CDL program was submitted to the State and initially was approved, but then someone discovered it is a State law that CDL training cannot occur within 1500 feet of a DMV. A waiver has been submitted requesting that CDL training be offered by the center via a removal of the law. NETC is in

partnership with the high school for a program called Northeastern Young Scholars. Forty students will start their college classes in the 9th grade and by Christmas 40 more students will be added to the program. NETC approached the CW Love Foundation and they offered \$61K in support to start the program. There is the potential for doubling the number of students next year. A full time recruiter and a part-time dual enrollment specialist have been assigned to Marlboro County. Mr. Harmon asked who was working these assignments and Dr. Wagner said he would have to get him the names. He noted that they are working with the high schools and at local events to get programming information out to the community about the center. He also noted NETC should be able to get some good bids for the project as he has already had 5 companies contact him to place a bid. Ken Harmon made a motion to spend \$59,254 to purchase Electric Motor Controls Level 1 (\$24,476) and Basic Hydraulics/Pneumatics Level 1 (\$34,778). Andy Rogers seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the equipment purchase.

OLD BUSINESS – Ron Munnerlyn discussed *Industry Appreciation Day* noting that a committee had been established with less people than in the past and that the committee met to discuss the event's details. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that paper invitations would be mailed out this week. It is a casual event at the Hinson Farm in Clio with a pig picking and sides to highlight agribusiness. Brandi Ritter has been working on it hard with the help of an event checklist. Close to the event date Mr. Munnerlyn will be calling on the Board and others to promote the event. There will be a beer cart on the golf course this year because not having one last year was an issue.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Munnerlyn discussed supporting *Belles in Boots* and the consensus was to promote industry related activities.

Mr. Munnerlyn addressed *Local Purchasing Preference* and expressed his desires to equal or level the playing field for local businesses when making purchases. He noted that the County imposes a 10% local preference up to \$10K. Ken Harmon made a motion to establish a 10% local preference up to \$10K and Luke Johnakin seconded the motion. Mr. Johnakin asked about the County Council's local purchasing preference and Mr. Munnerlyn read the details of it to the Board. Mr. Harmon amended his motion to reflect the Board abiding by the County's purchasing policies. Luke Johnakin seconded the amended motion and the Board unanimously approved adopting the County's purchasing policies.

Ken Harmon interjected new business and mentioned promotion of the 7th Junior Leadership Bennettsville class. He made a motion for the Board to continue its support with a \$500 donation. Joan Johnakin seconded the motion. Wagner said last year NETC randomly drew names and gave \$250 scholarships for the STEM program. The Board approved unanimously to donate \$500 to Leadership Bennettsville 2017.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mr. Munnerlyn reported that the rail tour was well received and was better than he had imagined. The rail car was the perfect size with a great configuration. The purpose was to support new and existing industry. The last ride of the day involved Jason Steen, Andy Rogers, and two high-ranking people at the Department of Commerce. Mr. Steen and Mr. Rogers both felt it was a very good meeting. Mr. Munnerlyn hopes to get new sites and build up the County's economic development program. He would like to possibly do the rail tour again either annually or biannually to get more people involved. It cost the rail company approximately 2K a day at approximately 6K in total. Dr. Wagner said he took some video back to the campus and approached the rail company. There is a 21st century marketing program being established at NETC.

Mr. Munnelryn provided an update on prospect activity. Since the last Board meeting he has had 3 serious inquiries and two visits. Baldor building is a hot commodity right now. Two of the three prospects are no longer considering the County. One had concerns of not close enough to an interstate or international airport.

The other prospect feedback is still pending from NESAs. Feedback helps to identify what the County needs to work on. Prospects often question what a county has available and where their employees would live.

Mr. Munnerlyn addressed the cleanup and image of the community. The newly revamped image committee met and discussed their focus being the gateways of the community as they need the most and quickest attention. Discarding the poker house trailers at the entrance of McColl would help greatly. The County needs a new highway department person to get involved, because the grass is touching the road signs now. The County may have to purchase a bush hog and hire someone to cut the grass. Harmon said there is a possibility for the highway department to give the money they use to cut the grass to the County to handle cutting the grass directly.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the County Council passed a solid waste fee of \$40 that will be applied to every dwelling of the County in the unincorporated areas of the County to generate \$300K. One idea was to place public education in the schools. There is currently no real recycling program. Mr. Munnerlyn would like to establish convenience centers and enforce the laws that are in place. There is only one litter control person that can only do so much. Jason Steen said the number one Council complaint is cleaning up the County.


Mr. Munnerlyn noted that Board membership packets had been mailed out.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – Ken Harmon asked why District 6 still has a vacancy on the Board. Mr. Munnerlyn's response was that Verd Odom has not assigned anyone and said he would ask him again about choosing someone to fill the vacancy. Mr. Harmon noted the need to amend the agenda to reflect the Interim Superintendent.

ADJOURNMENT – Ken Harmon made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Andy Rogers seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.

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

12-19-2017
Date


Frankie Frazier, Secretary

Mission Statement

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