

Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership (MCEDP)
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 18th, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.

Minutes				
PRESENT				
Members	From	Ex-Officio	From	Others
Frankie Frazier	District 8	James Quick	Wallace Water	Brandinika Ritter
Fred Thomas	City of Bennettsville	Stuart Ames	Duke Energy Progress	Jim Haynes
Charles Paul Midgley-Chairman	District 3	Jason Steen	Chairman of County Council	Dan McNiel
Randall Malichi-Vice Chairman	City of Bennettsville			
Ken Harmon	District 4			
David Johnson	District 6			

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	Heath Harpe	Mayor of Bennettsville
Ken Stroman-Secretary/Treasurer	District 5	Bobby Brock	Mayor of Blenheim Marlboro Water
Andy Rogers	Industrial Appointee		
LC English	District 1		

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley

INVOCATION – Ken Harmon

WEBSITE PRESENTATION – Brandinika Ritter noted a primary change is that agendas and minutes are public with the financial reports now being stored at the MCEDP office. Video testimonial placement on the website is forthcoming upon their completion.

DINNER – INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jim Haynes – June 2016 Recap

The county audit has begun and they are paying special attention to the county side of economic development. Jim suggested that the partnership do the same. Chairman Midgley asked if the auditor would review the partnership funds and it was noted that an audit would not occur. Brandinika interjected that she had a discussion with the auditor and he felt that the partnership operation is running smoothly enough that an audit was not needed. Chairman Midgley said at a minimum he would like for the executive committee to review the financial records in the near future. Jim reported there is one client that is active from last month. He is working on the approval of state incentives for this project. No new clients have been established to date. Chairman Midgley asked what the protocol is if MCEDP has a newly interested prospect inquiry. Jim said that MCEDP has all of the information on hand for existing projects. As for new clients, Jim and Brandinika would

handle the process of site visits and answering questions that they have. Brandinika noted that Ron King gave her a Property Inquiry Form prior to his retirement that could be used for initial questions to prospective clients. Jim noted MCEDP is moving forward as if nothing has changed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A motion was made by Ken Harmon and seconded by David Johnson to approve the June 2016 minutes with a correction that Mark Bunch is the Marlboro County High School Principal. The board unanimously agreed to approve the June 2016 minutes after said correction.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The June 2016 financial report was circulated. Brandinika Ritter noted that this was the end of fiscal year with the membership drive currently underway. Chairman Midgley asked if any money had been spent on Industry Appreciation Day (IAD). Brandinika reported that the casino and putt putt deposits had been made, but would not be reflected in the June 2016 report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chairman Midgley asked Brandinika Ritter to provide the board with an update on Industry Appreciation Day. She reported that the committee has been making a lot of progress on planning and had received really good input on how to get things done this year. The goal has been to change things up and initiate renewed interest in this event. Events such as casino night and 9-hole putt putt golf has been added. Chairman Midgley expressed a concern about the use of local vendors for the event. Brandinika explained at length that she is completely supportive of county businesses; however, since they are limited in number there are businesses outside the county to consider when providing quality services and cost comparisons. It was noted that businesses outside the county have MCEDP memberships and are given equal consideration for use by the IAD committee. The focus this year is being placed on the casino night; therefore, costs are being cut elsewhere namely in promotional gifts and t-shirts.

OTHER REPORTS – David Johnson reported for *Town of McColl* that they have not made any progress in securing a new bank.

James Quick reported for *Town of Wallace* that the old school had been demolished making the new school visible from the highway.

Ken Harmon reported for *City of Bennettsville* that city council will meet July 19th at 6:30pm to discuss a dog ordinance that has raised public concern. Mr. Harmon is not sure if the ordinance is going to pass as it is currently written. Everyone in the county has to pay \$25 for each dog under the current ordinance.

Jason Steen reported for *Marlboro County* that they have advertised for applicants to fill the county administrator position. Interviews have been initiated so that by the end of the year a new administrator will be in place. County council intends on filling the administrator position prior to beginning the search for an economic development executive director. At least three people are due to retire this year. The new E-911 director is Steve Akers.

Marlboro County Schools - None

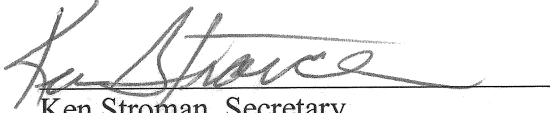
UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – Junior Leadership Bennettsville is in its 8th year of classes and Ken Harmon made a motion for MCEDP to support it with a \$500 donation. Frankie Frazier seconded the motion. The board unanimously agreed to support Junior Leadership Bennettsville with a \$500 donation.

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

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.