

Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership (MCEDP)
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 29th, 2017 - 8:00 a.m.

Minutes				
PRESENT				
Members	From	Ex-Officio	From	Others
Frankie Frazier	District 8	Jason Steen	Chairman of County Council	Ron Munnerlyn
Fred Thomas	City of Bennettsville	Dr. Helena Tillar	Superintendent of Marlboro County School District	Brandinika Ritter
Bill Jennings	District 3	Dr. Kyle Wagner	President of NETC	Charles Paul Midgley Jr.
Luke Johnakin	District 2	Bobby Brock	Mayor of Blenheim Marlboro Water	
Ken Harmon	District 4	Joe Kinney	Mayor of Clio	
Andy Rogers	Industrial Appointee			
LC English	District 1			
Randall Malichi-Chairman	City of Bennettsville			

ABSENT			
Members	From	Ex-Officio	From
<i>Vacant</i>	Industrial Appointee	James Quick	Wallace Water
<i>Vacant</i>	District 7	Stuart Ames	Duke Energy Progress
David Johnson	District 6	William Fleming	Marlboro Electric Coop
<i>Vacant</i>	District 5	Heath Harpe	Mayor of Bennettsville

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Randall Malichi called the meeting to order and he welcomed the new board members at 8:02 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approval of November and December 2016 minutes was postponed to the next Board meeting since board members were not provided minutes to review prior to this meeting.

Ken Harmon blessed the breakfast.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The February 2017 financial report was circulated. Executive Director Ron Munnerlyn informed the Board that he would work with Mr. Weaver to have a better format for the financial report. He also noted there is still about 30K in Edge program funds being reflected in the operating account. He hopes to have the Edge funds placed into a separate account in the future.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Munnerlyn reported that the *Vocational Training Center (Winn-Dixie)* project was going in a new direction. Dr. Wagner discussed the latest details and noted that the House had approved the funding for the State portion of the project. The Senate approval is still pending to move the center from one building to another. He plans to meet with NESA in April because they donated money to the project. Decisions have been made regarding the programs planned for the training center. The architect has been working with engineers, but there are limitations as to what can be done at present since the building has not

been secured officially. The architect has been working on doing an asbestos inspection and an electrical analysis on the building to ensure it has enough power to support the planned programs. The architect and engineers feel that the building has plenty of power. Dr. Wagner hopes to have an idea by the end of April as to when construction can begin. As soon as the building is turned over to NETC they plan to start building classrooms immediately. Ken Harmon motioned to publicly support the movement of the training center from the old Eastside School to the old Winn Dixie building. LC English seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Luke Johnakin asked if there would still be a visible tie between NETC and the Marlboro County School District (MCSD). Dr. Tillar responded in the affirmative.

Chairman Malichi noted that there is a *Vice-Chairman vacancy*, but it will not be filled at during this meeting. Mr. Munnerlyn noted that Mr. Stroman was Vice-Chairman, but was ineligible for reappointment due to expired term. The Executive Committee will meet to discuss recommendations for the Vice-Chairman vacancy and present the recommendation at the next Board meeting.

Ron Munnerlyn noted that the County Council has approved the first of three readings on the training center and that they are working on acquiring official ownership of the library. The library is technically titled to NETC in a formal fashion. The Council and the County intend to expand the back area for library functionality. Mr. Munnerlyn asked if anyone had any questions regarding the tech school and there were no questions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mr. Munnerlyn provided the Board with an *Activity Report*. He reported there were 8 prospect inquiries and 3 prospect visits. There has been a flurry of activity surrounding the Baldor building in Clio. Binswanger was chosen as a realtor for the building. It is a very feasible facility for a heavy industrial company. One of the Baldor prospects is inactive and the other is active. The toilet paper company that wants placement in the industrial park does not have the money to get up and off the ground at this point and time. Mr. Munnerlyn met with their finance team to review their readiness for the project. Regarding the former Carolina AAC project the County had a speculative building with Marlboro Electric Cooperative that they gave to the company in 2009, but the project did not progress forward. The owner, Chuck Paterno, is now trying again for a cinder block company. County Council has approved the first reading of incentives, but are a bit apprehensive. Mr. Munnerlyn desires a ribbon cutting instead of a groundbreaking for this endeavor. He insisted that Mr. Paterno make sure the building was in good shape prior to having a third reading of approval for this project. The Board had no questions regarding Mr. Munnerlyn's activity report.

Mr. Munnerlyn expressed that he would be having a *Confidentiality Agreement* signed by everyone on the Board in the near future.

Mr. Munnerlyn addressed *New Directions & Initiatives* for MCEDP. He plans to re-direct meetings from a social to a business focus. Examples he provided were having discussions about the Inland Port and I-73 so everyone understands what these projects mean for the County. Dr. Wagner has an architect he is working with and he wants everyone on the Board to understand the steps so that they will have integral involvement. Dr. Tillar said she would like MCSD representatives involved in the training center discussions. SC Works has a new representative for the PeeDee region. Dr. Wagner desires to invite SC Works in to provide a presentation of their services.

Mr. Munnerlyn reviewed a PowerPoint presentation with the Board outlining *New Directions & Initiatives* for MCEDP. He has some remedial work to do before he can progress forward. It is no secret that there are some debatable issues within the County. The CDC has a quality of life index and people look at that when they decide if they are trying to move to the County. Dr. Tillar expressed having a concern with the fact that education was viewed as an issue. She stated that the MCSD has been rated and that the numbers are not nearly as bad as portrayed. She reported per the data things have improved and the MCSD is in compliance with national standards. She also said that people are happy to know that the MCSD is accredited. Dr. Tillar asked

Mr. Munnerlyn to visit the schools so that he could see what is going on with the MCSD. Mr. Munnerlyn said that he wants to support MCSD progress, but that their situation is not at its best. Mr. Steen spoke to the County issues saying that no one should take offense regarding the issues. Dr. Tillar expressed that she preferred to highlight the positives of the County. Mr. Munnerlyn agreed with her, but he stated he would not be comfortable saying that education is up to par. He outlined other issues within the County and how the County could best address these issues. Mr. Harmon asked for a hard copy of the PowerPoint presentation. He said that the County has the manpower and talent to get everything done that Mr. Munnerlyn proposed. He challenged the Board to pledge themselves to get involved and support the initiatives. Dr. Wagner said he talked his daughter into moving to the County because it's a great area to raise a family. Mr. Kinney highlighted some of the positives of the County.

Mr. Harmon asked when the next Board meeting was scheduled. Mr. Munnerlyn expressed that he would like to continue quarterly meetings, but desires to establish regular focused work meetings. Mr. Harmon motioned to have quarterly meetings, but to have monthly Monday at 5pm meetings as well. Mr. Johnakin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Thomas said promoting positive things makes the negativity go away. Mr. Jennings mentioned healthcare being the biggest concern right now. He said the County has to show via action how things can be better. Mr. Malichi said that it is all about momentum. Dr. Tillar said allowing negativity to come into play holds back the entire community. Mr. Brock said Marlboro Water is successful today due to plans similar to the ones that Mr. Munnerlyn proposes. Mr. Munnerlyn said he wants to move forward and that he hopes everyone can move forward together. Mr. Brock said another thing that works is prayer. Mr. Harmon said the biggest problem is apathy.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - Chairman Randall Malichi said that in the interest of time the *Mentoring Program* discussion would be postponed to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Randall Malichi asked for a motion of adjournment. Motion to adjourn made by Ken Harmon and seconded by LC English. Meeting was adjourned at 9:28am.

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

6-21-17
Date



Frankie Frazier, Secretary

Mission Statement

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