

Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership (MCEDP)  
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 15th, 2017 - 5:00 pm

Minutes				
PRESENT				
Members	From	Ex-Officio	From	Others
Frankie Frazier-Secretary/Treasurer	District 3	Jason Steen	Chairman of County Council	Ron Munnerlyn
Fred Thomas	City of Bennettsville	Joe Kinney	Mayor of Clio	Brandinika Ritter
Bill Jennings	Industrial Appointee	Dr. Kyle Wagner	President of NETC	Charles Paul Midgley Jr.
Luke Johnakin	District 2	Heath Harpe	Mayor of Bennettsville	Matt Haynie
Ken Harmon	District 4			Mamie Legette
Andy Rogers	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	Stuart Ames	Duke Energy Progress
		William Fleming	Marlboro Electric Coop
		Dr. Helena Tillar	Superintendent of Marlboro County School District
		Bobby Brock	Mayor of Blenheim Marlboro Water

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Randall Malichi called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm with a welcome and acknowledgement of the three newest board members. He also blessed the food.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Luke Johnakin of Marlboro County School District (MCSD) discussed the mentoring program. MCSD has been looking at the situation regarding mentorship efforts. It is not a school district program. He disseminated some information to the board members. Mr. Johnakin relayed that kids listen to kids more than they listen to adults. He predicted that 10 years from now most classroom instruction will be by computer and virtual teachers. This will eliminate jobs. There is a question of why not slow this process down. It will take the initiation of an international pact to do so. Most technologically advanced countries will not do anything to slow it down. Robots will continue to become humanoid like devices. Since the funds for the program are limited there is a question of how to do it. Mr. Johnakin asked how the county can afford not to do it. He would like to promote peer to peer learning in a positive way so they can move ahead in a positive way. He said the previous director leaned heavily on industry and that industry understands the benefit of the program. He invited the board members to the annual Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) night at the high school on May 24th. STEM has become a buzz word for students being selected to take advantage of higher learning opportunities. He is asking for this program to fall under the

umbrella of economic development efforts. Dr. Wagner stated that NETC partnered with the Duke Foundation to acquire funding to support a STEM program in Cheraw. Mr. Harmon asked who sponsors the program and Mr. Johnakin stated there is nothing official for the program in place at this time. Mr. Munnerlyn recommended if the program gets to a point of spending money that Mr. Johnakin present a budget for Board consideration.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Mr. Munnerlyn provided a *Vocational Training Center Update* reporting that there was a program held at the Winn Dixie building to present area industries with the latest developments. Dr. Wagner disseminated dual enrollment handbook information to the Board to show what is going on with the program. He stated the project is on hold until the State approves moving forward on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The project then goes up for bidding around the end of July with construction to begin on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Wagner showed the Board a sample of the program that would be offered at the facility. They will be changing mechatronics to industry technology. Mamie Legette with SC Works was present at this board meeting because SC Works will be placed inside the training center in order to combine services. The goal is to be in the building and operational by Christmas 2017. If the project is finished early the construction workers gets a bonus for doing so. Dr. Wagner outlined the new design for the building. Bill Jennings asked if high school graduates were being targeted. Dr. Wagner stated that all high school students and their parents are receiving direct mailings with information about the training center. Ken Harmon asked the lowest age group that the training center would serve. Dr. Wagner said it currently serves at the 11<sup>th</sup> grade level but he is working on a proposal to serve at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level. Mayor Harpe asked if the current SC Works facility will still be operational and the answer was that it will be relocated into the training center.

Mr. Munnerlyn addressed *Vice Chairman & Secretary/Treasurer Vacancy* and noted there is no longer a vacancy for secretary/treasurer because Frankie Frazier is back on the Board. Jason Steen recommended Andy Rogers as Vice Chairman and Ken Harmon seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved Andy Rogers to hold the position of Vice Chairman. Ken Harmon stated he felt there was a need to formally reapprove Frankie Frazier as a Board officer. Mr. Harmon made the motion to approve Frankie Frazier as Secretary/Treasurer and Randall Malichi seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved Frankie Frazier to hold the position of Secretary/Treasurer.

Mr. Munnerlyn addressed plans for a *Passenger Train Ride*. The County owns a short line railroad and they are at a renegotiation point. Mr. Munnerlyn wants to take current and potential customers on a tour of the County rail. He is moving in a direction of having an event once a quarter that could benefit its attendees. He was hoping to do it before it gets hot, but the train ride may have to be postponed it to a later time.

Mr. Munnerlyn noted it is time to establish an *Industry Appreciation Day Committee* for September and asked for anyone interested in serving on the committee to let Brandi Ritter. He desires to build on past success but, would also like input for future success. He asked the Board to relay their interest to Brandi Ritter.

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested establishing a *Separate Checking Account for Edge Funds*. He noted the funds are currently sitting in the Board's operating account; but, desires to get the Board's approval to clearly designate the Edge funds. He spoke to the CW Love Foundation and Mr. Love expressed his interest in continuing to fund the program. Mr. Johnakin inquired about the current balance and Brandi Ritter provided them with the information. Ken Harmon moved to establish a separate checking account for Edge funds and Luke Johnakin seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the separation of the Edge funds from the operating account.

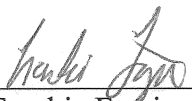
**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Mr. Munnerlyn reported that there had been three prospect inquiries and one site visit since the last Board meeting. One of the inquiries was for an existing industry looking for warehouse space. Mr. Munnerlyn has been utilizing his contacts to generate leads. He is also trying to recruit

manufacturers from the Northeast. Recently, he was provided a very good and solid lead. He stated his plans for Destination Marlboro are still in motion. He reiterated the difficulties, but highlighted that the industrial park is the County's greatest asset. In the past the industrial park was a prominent option and he is trying to get it back to this status via a cleanup project that is currently underway. The County currently has about 150 acres in the industrial park available for use. It has water, sewer, gas, and electricity so it is ready for industrial use. Mr. Munnerlyn has been working on the County budget. He reviewed the budget and the revenue in detail with the Board. During a work session presentation to the County Council he informed them that he had found a way to better the County's financial situation. Councilman Jason Steen spoke to the fact that the County having good employees is partially a result of rendering the employees a good wage. Mr. Munnerlyn asked the Board if they would like to continue having food available during board meetings. Mr. Harmon recommended no longer having food provided at the evening board meetings. There were no objections.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Chairman Randall Malichi made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ken Harmon seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm.

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

6-21-17  
Date

  
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Frankie Frazier, Secretary

***Mission Statement***

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