

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

Minutes				
PRESENT				
Members	From	Ex-Officio	From	Others
Ken Stroman-Secretary/Treasurer	District 5	Dr. Ron Bartley	President of NETC	Brandinika Ritter
Ken Harmon	District 4	Stuart Ames	Duke Energy Progress	Ron King
Charles Paul Midgley-Chairman	District 3	James Quick	Wallace Water	Caleb Polston
Randall Malichi-Vice Chairman	City of Bennettsville	Heath Harpe	Mayor of Bennettsville	
Luke Johnakin	District 2			
David Johnson	District 6			
LC English	District 1			
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
Fred Thomas	City of Bennettsville	Jason Steen	Chairman of County Council
Andy Rogers	Industrial Appointee	Bobby Brock	Mayor of Blenheim Marlboro Water

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley

INVOCATION – Ken Harmon

DINNER - DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Ron King – March 2016 Recap

March

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 underway with many permanent employees already on board and A/C already delivered & will definitely be completed by end of May.

IPP of South Carolina and Trailer Baron are both still hiring welders.
Harbor Freight will expand again at the I95 Gateway park location. Details to follow.

Workforce Development

ITC renovation work bidding delayed again to April.
Brandi and I are conducting an update to our County Wage & Benefits Survey from 2013-2014. We are canvassing Emergency Medical practices and needs.
We are organizing an Industry Training Center Event for May 17th.

Product Development

New signs being installed at 5 locations in early April.
Boro Site Sprinkling restoration be evaluated as next "water" step.
McColl Sewer Capacity rating is still an issue for C. W. Love Certification.

Other

New General Accounting Standards call for reporting of all incentives, including retroactive to 1995.
Proposed 2016-2017 budget and capital requests submitted in March.
Monthly MCEDP meeting was held and normal business transacted.
Brandi will complete ED101 at commerce in April.
Met with A&R RR about upgrade to track from POPZ to Tatum (@4miles).
Met with Johnny Brown of PDCOG about Federal funds to finish widening and paving 38N from Hwy 9 to Hwy 79.
He thinks it will be approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Ken Harmon made a motion to approve the March 2016 minutes as presented and David Johnson seconded the motion. The board unanimously agreed to approve the March 2016 minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The March 2016 financial reports were circulated and there were no items of note.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Ron King reported for *Sites & Buildings* that the signs are finished. The older signs were repurposed for placement on three properties. There has been some interest in the BI-LO store and the Fred's store for retail. Interest in retail has been picking up for many economic developers within the area. There is no commercial real estate presence. Ron has access to the BI-LO store for prospects. There have been more inquiries for land to build industrial buildings on. There are about 100 buildings available across the state, but they are not quite tall enough to meet specified requirements. Some of the old mills are being repurposed into apartments and lofts. More than 80% of the state's inquiries involve requests for buildings. The database for inquiries is not available on a local level. Spec building placement on rail is important because 11% of the new manufacturing buildings in the U.S. require rail.

Dr. Ron Bartley reported for *Workforce & Education* that as soon as the engineer releases the plans for the renovation of the facility he will disseminate the information. On May 17th they will be having an event out at the site to show some of the types of training equipment that will be used. Things are still in their early stages and nothing has been renovated yet. A groundbreaking ceremony is also being considered for the 17th. They are working on short term training with Sherrie Chapman for existing industries. They are also working in-house on a two year degree processing program to serve most of the industries in Marlboro and Chesterfield counties. There is a one year approval process so the goal is for the new degree program to be in place by Fall 2017. The wage survey Ron King is working on will provide some of the data required to justify a need for the program.

OTHER REPORTS – Mayor Heath Harpe reported for the *City of Bennettsville* that he hopes for the budget process to be finished on April 19th. There have been no big changes.

James Quick reported for *Wallace Water* that they are still doing some extensions. There are two to three more to be done. Once the old school gets torn down people will be able to see the new school from the road.

Dr. Ron Bartley reported for *NETC* that the graduation is scheduled for May 20th at Cheraw High School at 10:00am. There is an honors program event week of April 18th starting at 6:30pm in the auditorium for students that have done well making President's Lists and Dean's Lists. On May 6th at 7:00pm the ceremonies for special disciplines will occur.

Marlboro County – None

Stuart Ames reported that the election process has been slowing things down. People are deciding whether they want to make a move now or whether they want to wait until January. People are at a point and time where they are not making a lot of decisions or a lot of movement with existing industries and expansions. It is more of a time for new industries.

Luke Johnakin reported for *Marlboro County Schools* that STEM is scheduled for May 12th from 5-7pm. He is interested in setting up a compensation program for middle aged or high school kids and asked the board for their input. He hopes to have the board's financial support for the endeavor. Stuart Ames interjected that the manufacturer association is really pushing student education in preparation for quality employees.


UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – None

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

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

6-20-16
Date


Ken Stroman, Secretary

Mission Statement

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