

Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership  
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 15th, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.

Minutes				
PRESENT				
Members	From	Ex-Officio	From	Others
Andy Rogers	Industrial Appointee	Bobby Brock	Mayor of Blenheim Marlboro Water	Brandinika Ritter
David Johnson	District 6	Heath Harpe	Mayor of Bennettsville	Ron King
Charles Paul Midgley-Chairman	District 3	Dr. Ron Bartley	President of NETC	
Luke Johnakin	District 2			
Ken Stroman-Secretary/Treasurer	District 5			

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
Ken Harmon	District 4	Stuart Ames	Duke Energy Progress
Randall Malichi-Vice Chairman	City of Bennettsville	James Quick	Wallace Water
LC English	District 1	Jason Steen	Chairman of County Council
Fred Thomas	City of Bennettsville		
Frankie Frazier	District 8		

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS** – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley

**INVOCATION** – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley

**DINNER - DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Ron King – January 2016 Recap

**January**

**Recruitment**

No new Prospects this month.

Thirteen (13) Active Prospects out of Seventeen (17) were contacted this month. Three (3) projects were closed.

One prospect site visit this month.

All but two prospects are willing to build facilities.

**Retention & Expansion**

ABB-Baldor is working OT to make up for the recent layoffs coupled with higher order input.

Working on possible rail transport of International Pulp for Domtar.

CAAC Building was purchased by Probitas (Chuck Paterno) from Arbor One during January.

Marley's expansion was fast tracked by the City and all legal closing work is complete. They should be operational by end of May.

IPP of South Carolina and Trailer Baron are both hiring welders.  
H&H is re-opened under new ownership and is already busy with ongoing work.

### **Workforce Development**

Curriculum taskforce for the ITC has been established with most MC industries involved.  
Attended NESA Year-end board reporting meeting; all counties were represented and reported activity, except Darlington.  
Dr. Ron Bartley and I are meeting with NESA grant committee to discuss a match for local ITC Funds through June 2016.

### **Product Development**

We have received a one-month extension to get all of the waste water certification data required for McCallum Sweeney finishing their review.  
Boro Site Water system installation has solved the water drainage issues and should be completed in the first quarter.  
New industrial sight signage contract has been awarded.

### **Other**

Met with FCI management at community board event. They have manpower available for gov. and Non-profits.  
I95 Gateway Park board meeting reviewed HF project completion and estimated tax revenues for 2016 and 2017.  
MCEDP Website upgrades for Mobile Display capability and dramatic change to property presentation awarded to Rock Hill firm.  
Brandi and I attended a workshop on South Carolina's new marketing effort called "Just Right". It combines all SC entities that have marketing efforts.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley noted that there was no quorum and approval of the January 2016 minutes was deferred to the March 2016 board meeting.

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

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Ron King reported for *Sites & Buildings* committee that Duke in past two years has had a site pre-certification program. CW Love and the land next to Reliance trading building are being worked on. Someone may be interested in certifying a site close to I-95.

Ron King reported for *Image & Marketing* committee that they have an initial visit with the website group scheduled for Tuesday, February 23rd. They will take a look at each property and areas around Marlboro County. They will be storyboarding what is occurring around Marlboro County and making the website mobile friendly.

Dr. Bartley reported for *Workforce & Education* that they have not met in the past few months. The only hurdle they have for approvals is the public school approval because they still own the building being renovated for the training center. Ron King interjected necessary renovations include electrical, plumbing, masonry, roof work, interior painting, and welding. The old locker room section roof will also be raised because is not high enough.

**OTHER REPORTS** – Mayor Heath Harpe reported for the *City of Bennettsville* that there is nothing new going on with the city right now. Budget deliberations will occur on February 16<sup>th</sup> with a workshop scheduled after the city council meeting.

Bobby Brock reported for the *Town of Blenheim & Marlboro Water Company* they had nothing new to report.

David Johnson reported for the *Town of McColl* that they are doing just fine.

Ron King reported for *Marlboro County* that they met last week and discussed beginning the budget process. The county has every intention of applying to raise taxes to the maximum allowed 0.012% which will generate \$3500 across the entire county. State legislature has no plan to give cities and counties any more money than it did last year even though there is a surplus windfall this year. The county side of the budget was always supported by industries using the railroad revenue.

Dr. Bartley reported for *NETC* that they have been asked to lead a promise zone application. Any groups going after federal funds would benefit from this designation. It is rare for any groups in any counties or any groups in any region to have the designation. There are only are only two areas designated across the nation and NETC would like to work on this area becoming the third. They are in the third and last round of applications at present. It carries significant benefits to assist five counties. It helps any nonprofit or federal organization in getting assistance with grants and bonus points get attached to grant applications.

Ronald King reported for *Marlboro County Schools* that Dr. Tillar in her absence asked that it be announced that the dedication and ribbon cutting for the new Wallace school will be Sunday February 28, 2016 at 3:00 pm. and everyone is invited to attend.

Ron King mentioned Lisa Frazier is up for her first parole opposed, neutral, or in favor. Ron plans to say in favor, because part of her parole is restitution.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

#### **NEW BUSINESS** – None

**ADJOURNMENT** – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley asked for a motion of adjournment. Motion to adjourn made by Bobby Brock and seconded by Luke Johnakin.

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

4-8-16  
Date

  
Ken Stroman, Secretary

#### ***Mission Statement***

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