

Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 19th, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.

Minutes				
PRESENT				
Members	From	Ex-Officio	From	Others
Andy Rogers	Industrial Appointee	William Fleming	Marlboro Electric Coop	Brandinika Ritter
David Johnson	District 6	Stuart Ames	Duke Energy Progress	Ron King
Randall Malichi-Vice Chairman	City of Bennettsville	James Quick	Wallace Water	Dan McNiel
Ken Harmon	District 4	Jason Steen	Chairman of County Council	Jim Haynes
Fred Thomas	City of Bennettsville	Bobby Brock	Mayor of Blenheim Marlboro Water	
Ken Stroman-Secretary/Treasurer	District 5	Dr. Helena Tillar	Superintendent of Marlboro County School District	
LC English	District 1			
Charles Paul Midgley-Chairman	District 3			

ABSENT			
Members	From	Ex-Officio	From
<i>Vacant</i>	Industrial Appointee	Heath Harpe	Mayor of Bennettsville
<i>Vacant</i>	District 7	Dr. Ron Bartley	President of NETC
Luke Johnakin	District 2		
Frankie Frazier	District 8		

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

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley

INVOCATION – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley

DINNER - DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Ron King – October, November, December 2015 Recap

October

Recruitment

Two new Prospects this month.

Thirteen (14) Active Prospects out of Eighteen (18) were contacted this month. No adjustments.

Two prospect site visits this month by two entities.

Met with one SC Commerce new manager at County Tour.

Retention & Expansion

Had eight (8) contacts with four (4) our industries this month.

Arauco (CPB) expansion structure is occupied. Land Development deal is progressing slowly (attorneys).

CAAC Building is in litigation and has no new developments.

ABB Baldor is downsizing and re-structuring to @ 70 employees. Employees and Plant Manager terminated.

Workforce Development

Some new Incumbent Worker Grants will be utilized in Marlboro County to upgrade existing employee skills. Dr. Ron Bartley & I will host a presentation to the Industrial Council about the Bennettsville Industrial Training Center November 18th.

NESA Grant for upgraded signage for our industrial properties is approved.

Other

Held our monthly MCEDP Meeting with Parker Poe attorneys in attendance and presenting their complex relationship to the county.

I95 Gateway Industrial Park board meeting was held and progress is being made on the new Park Entrance Road construction, also discussed planning efforts.

November

Recruitment

One new Prospect this month.

Twelve (12) Active Prospects out of Nineteen (19) were contacted this month. No adjustments.

Two prospect site visits this month by two entities.

Phone contact with old inactive project, outcome uncertain to re-open.

Retention & Expansion

Had seven (7) contacts with five (5) our industries this month, plus an Industrial Council Meeting of @ 20 attendees.

Arauco land Development deal is dead, due to current MDF market conditions.

CAAC Building is in LOI stage for re-acquisition by CAAC.

ABB Baldor has completed down-sizing, but rumors persist.

Workforce Development

Domtar and Mohawk to get grants for Incumbent Worker Training.

Dr. Ron Bartley & I made a presentation to the Industrial Council about the Bennettsville Industrial Training Center November 18th; over 20 in attendance.

NESA has offered to match and new ITC Funds up to \$100,000 through June 2016.

Product Development

All certification data is completed with final approvals to happen in November-December timeframes.

Boro Site Water system installation is re-started with some unknown obstructions to be re-engineered.

We picked a concept for new-consistent signage at all sites with Tyson Signs of Conway. Procurement process is being determined.

NESA Grant monies for upgraded signage for our industrial properties is received.

Potential offer for Winn Dixie Building is eminent.

Other

No monthly MCEDP Meeting due to Thanksgiving week.

I95 Gateway Park board meeting was held and progress is being made on the new Park Entrance Road construction, also discussed planning efforts.

I95 Gateway Park board meeting was updated on HF potential to expand again.

Attended the Annual SC Commerce ED meeting in Columbia. New details of 2016 programs reviewed - little change.

Met with several representatives of SC Power-Team about their programs for local support.

December

Recruitment

One new Prospect this month.

Ten (10) Active Prospects out of Twenty (20) were contacted this month. No adjustments.

Three prospect site visits this month by two entities.

Foreign Site visit in early December. No further contact expected until next year.

Retention & Expansion

Had minimal contacts with our industries this month.

Arauco will add 43 with current expansion - they will do a JDC application to recoup some capital.

CAAC Building is still in LOI stage for re-acquisition by CAAC. Actual sale delayed until 2016 due to individual schedules.

Marley's expansion approved, now the work of making it happen comes.

Workforce Development

Arauco's new HR director is seeking assistance on identifying available skilled employees.

Attended NESA Year-end ED Meeting; discussed workforce commitments and will get update from DEW early 2016. New project incentives reporting 2017.

NESA has offered to match and new ITC Funds up to \$100,000 through June 2016.

Product Development

More certification data is required with McCallum Sweeney finishing their review.

Boro Site Water system installation is held up by weather issues related to water drainage.

New industrial sight signage will get started in January.

BiLo Shopping Center auction failed to meet minimum, so there will be another try in early 2016.

Domtar is interested in moving dried pulp to Reliance by Rail if certain financial concerns are met.

Other

Held a very successful MCEDP Christmas Drop-in, with over 60 individuals in attendance. Several MCEDP Board members were present.

I95 Gateway Park board meeting was cancelled for December.

Jason Steen and Steve English re-opened H&H Manufacturing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – James Quick made a motion to approve the August and October 2015 minutes as presented and Randall Malichi seconded the motion. The board unanimously agreed to approve the August and October 2015 minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The October, November, and December 2015 financial reports were circulated. Ron King relayed that MCEDP was financially in good condition for the fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Ron King reported for *Sites & Buildings* committee that work has been done on property signage for the last 6 months. New solar spotlight equipped signs are being placed at primary industrial sites. The dimensions will be 6 foot wide and 12 feet high so that they can be read by someone passing at 60mph. The NESA match grant is 25K to 25K that Marlboro County contributes. Existing signs will be moved to other properties to get them re-lettered. Locations with the most activity and promise will receive the new signs. New updated signs and lights are needed at the Industrial Site as well and is being worked on.

Ron King reported for *Image & Marketing* committee that they have worked the last 6 months on updating the MCEDP website. The website will not aesthetically change. The current web host is incapable of making the

changes desired. One example is that they are not able to display the site correctly on a mobile device. The new web host will be able to handle mobile capability. The goal is for the site to look more like commercial real estate website with a four page brochure summarizing what you would want by using a picture. There is a trend nationally for people doing site selection to use less and less consultants with more in house people being utilized. Ken Stroman and others on the committee have had several sessions and narrowed it down to the company with the best offer and cost.

OTHER REPORTS – Mayor Heath Harpe reported for the *City of Bennettsville* that all of the city email addresses have been updated. The computers were switched to Microsoft 360 software. The city is finalizing budget details. The traffic circle is progressing and after the one at Highway 38 is finished the one at Oakwood will begin. It was noted that there is not enough space in the traffic circle for trucks to travel. Ron King interjected that the two roundabouts will be the smallest roundabouts throughout the state. The average center circle is 90 feet and the circle at Highway 38 is 60 feet; therefore, it is shorted by space to drive within the circle. Mayor Harpe said the city had no say in the size, but they were told just had to move the utilities. Scotland Healthcare Medical Complex opened up in December and celebrated their grand opening on January 9th. The Cookout project is moving along on a quick time table.

David Johnson reported for the *Town of McColl* that First Citizens is pulling out so they will no longer have a bank in town.

Bobby Brock reported for *Town of Blenheim & Marlboro Water Company* that they had their first Christmas Bazaar. Church choirs came in to sing and every dance person in the school came to dance. It was a very successful day and the town hopes to do it annually. The town had flags set up and Christmas decorations taken down.

James Quick reported for *Wallace Water* that Wallace Motor Company has opened up. The furniture business went out of business but opened back up. Bill Wallace Road cost quite a bit of money but water will be looped all around with the work due to begin the start of next week.

Jason Steen reported for *Marlboro County* that the online GPS for property mapping will become available to view from home and that this is a big improvement for the residents. It should be online by the end of next week to the public for access. The county has the animal shelter up and operating sufficiently. They have found homes up north for most of the dogs. In the last couple years Marlboro County has been working on getting everything for the fire departments to class 5. Every fire department within the county is currently at class 5 rating right now. The county invested in 2K-3K gallon tankers so that the amount of water necessary is readily available. Blenheim, Clio, and Wallace have new tankers now. Moving from a Class 10 to a Class 5 means a lot of savings for the county.

Dr. Helena Tillar reported for *Marlboro County Schools* that activities are moving along well on the Wallace project. There was a meeting to discuss the plans for entering the new building as of February 1st. Once the transition is complete they will begin demolition of the old building. The goal is to keep kids safe during the process as it takes place. They are hoping that there is no asbestos in the old school. A grand opening is being planned and formal invitations will be sent out. It is a 21st century school unlike any of the other schools in the county. The cafeteria is more like a café with booths and bistro tables. The children decided on their own furniture. The school is equipped with a patio, library/media center, and single restrooms. Gang style restrooms are only available by the auditorium. The school district is always working to enhance safety. In November they equipped all of the schools and every classroom with telephones. The high school has campus monitors in the parking lot for an extra layer of supervision between the hours of 7am and 11pm. The kids were very accepting of the extra supervision. Dr. Tillar reported receipt of a 3.5 million dollar TAP grant for teacher incentives to help them become better teachers. Teachers, principals, assistant principals that meet their targets

receive financial incentives. Last month \$700,000 was paid out in incentives. Some examples of criterion targeted for incentives include bench mark scores, state standardized test scores, and attendance. The school district was also selected for a \$20 million grant across 5 years for the high school. It focuses on preparing students for college. The school district just had an external financial audit with the report given last week at the board meeting. The 3rd year in a row the district has received the highest rating of all clear. The district is in compliance with all state and federal regulations regarding the money. In the area of Work Keys the district is above average when compared to the state's average scores. It is board member appreciation month and they are being thanked regularly for their involvement. Bobby Brock said the basketball court is being used fully every night so traffic has increased in Blenheim. They are moving forward with the ball fields in Blenheim by working with the architects. The work on the ball fields in Wallace will begin as soon as old school is demolished.

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 LC English.

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.