

Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 21st, 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
Ken Harmon	District 4	Jason Steen	Chairman of County Council	Ron King
Charles Paul Midgley- Chairman	District 3	James Quick	Wallace Water	Dan McNeil
Randall Malichi- Vice Chairman	City of Bennettsville			
Luke Johnakin	District 2			
Fred Thomas	City of Bennettsville			

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 Stroman- Secretary/Treasurer	District 5	Stuart Ames	Duke Energy Progress
David Johnson	District 6	Heath Harpe	Mayor of Bennettsville
LC English	District 1	Dr. Ron Bartley	President of NETC
Frankie Frazier	District 8		

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley

INVOCATION – Ken Harmon

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

February

Recruitment

No new Prospects this month.

Fourteen (14) Active Prospects out of Seventeen (17) were contacted this month. Six (6) projects were closed.

Two are complete (POPZ and Marley), three are not moving forward (Arauco & Arauco 2 & Beef Feedlot) and one was awarded in Georgia.

Two Prospect Site visits this month.

All but two prospects are willing to build facilities.

Retention & Expansion

Possible tie in industry to Domtar for Pulp Supply.

CAAC Project is about to recommence, with vendors giving new quotes to complete.

Marley's expansion work is underway with many permanent employees already on board and A/C estimated to be completed by end of May.

IPP of South Carolina and Trailer Baron are both still hiring welders.

Workforce Development

ITC renovation work to be bid week of 3-14.

Boeing held a student information recruiting session at the high school which highlighted their need to get STEM education and work skills knowledge.

Dr. Ron Bartley and I met with NESA grant committee to discuss a match for local ITC Funds through June 2016.

Product Development

We have sent information about McColl waste Water Treatment capacity data required for McCallum Sweeney finishing their review.

Boro Site Water system line installation has been completed and "landscaping" should be completed in the first quarter.

New industrial sight signage contract has been awarded and Bennettsville Permits applied for.

Other

Met with and assisted with a Promise Zone Application (federal grant initiative) for Marlboro, Lee, Darlington, Chesterfield and Dillon Counties.

195 Gateway Park board meeting was delayed until March.

Monthly MCEDP meeting was highlighted by Dr. Bartley's update on the ITC progress.

Brandi has started the Economic Development Institute for new persons involved in ED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Ken Harmon made a motion to approve the January and February 2016 minutes as presented and Randall Malichi seconded the motion. The board unanimously agreed to approve the January and February 2016 minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The February 2016 financial reports were circulated and it was noted that travel expenses were mainly comprised of Brandi Ritter's SCEDA Institute training and Dr. Carolyn Prince's Rural Summit.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Ron King reported for the *Sites & Buildings* committee that sites that are being certified are continuing to draw interest. CW Love is certified and Reliance Trading is in the process of certification. Interest in the properties is not enough to be moved to prospect status but at least there is request for information for them. Two people have also inquired about the Industrial Park site. A lot of people are looking for spec buildings and wondering when there will be one available. Five new signs were approved by the marketing committee and have since been ordered. King is in the process of ordering solar lighting for the signs as well. The signs can be viewed at speeds of 60 miles per hour.

Ron King reported for the *Image & Marketing* committee that they are improving the MCEDP website again. It currently isn't viewed well on a portable device and now Google is allowing for better compatibility. It was recommended that we add video testimonials about workforce and quality of life in Marlboro County. A few

people have volunteered for quality of life, but the committee is looking for someone besides Andy Rogers to do some manufacturing video. A 60 to 90 second video is more powerful than any information that could be put on a webpage. Ron King is impressed by the MyWebsiteGuys skillset and capabilities. They do a lot of work in Rock Hill, Charlotte, and economic development in the Carolinas.

Ron King reported on behalf of Dr. Ron Bartley for *Workforce & Education* that Dr. Bartley has resigned and his last day is June 30th. Dr. Bartley has offered to be available to continue to work on things if he still needs to be of assistance. The week of April 7th is when the work is expected to be approved to begin on the training center. MCEDP is planning to do a training center event on May 17th from 4pm to 7pm. Ron King proposes that the MCEDP board honors Dr. Bartley's years of service during the training center event. Dr. Bartley will provide a center update at the event. The hope is to have the event occur at the training center location.

OTHER REPORTS – Ken Harmon reported for the *City of Bennettsville* that BDDA working with the city on the first reading of the budget for next year.

James Quick reported for *Wallace Water* that they are still working on water projects. Ron King added that the new school opening event was well organized and executed. Its existence gives the county the most modern facility in the state. It is a great representation of Marlboro County and a great opportunity for kids to get a better education.

Bobby Brock reported for the *Town of Blenheim & Marlboro Water Company* said they have some new signage.

Jason Steen reported for *Marlboro County* that recreation project is looking at swimming pools and moving forward. They are starting the recreation in Bennettsville and then moving into other cities/towns. The hope is to have some information about it in the next month for distribution to the public.

NETC - None

Marlboro County Schools - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – Luke Johnakin on March 28th is having a second annual STEM at the high school. Boeing's contribution is allowing the elementary-middle school students to be heavily involved this year.

ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley asked for a motion of adjournment. Motion to adjourn made by Randall Malichi and seconded by Fred Thomas.

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

4-18-16
Date


Ken Stroman, Secretary

Mission Statement

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