

Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership (MCEDP)
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 15th, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.

Minutes				
PRESENT				
Members	From	Ex-Officio	From	Others
Frankie Frazier	District 8	Heath Harpe	Mayor of Bennettsville	Brandinika Ritter
Fred Thomas	City of Bennettsville	Stuart Ames	Duke Energy Progress	Jim Haynes
Charles Paul Midgley- Chairman	District 3	William Fleming	Marlboro Electric Coop	Matt Haynie
Luke Johnakin	District 2	Bobby Brock	Mayor of Blenheim Marlboro Water	
Ken Harmon	District 4			
Andy Rogers	Industrial Appointee			
Ken Stroman- Secretary/Treasurer	District 5			

ABSENT			
Members	From	Ex-Officio	From
<i>Vacant</i>	Industrial Appointee	James Quick	Wallace Water
<i>Vacant</i>	District 7	Dr. Helena Tillar	Superintendent of Marlboro County School District
Randall Malichi- Vice Chairman	City of Bennettsville	Jason Steen	Chairman of County Council
David Johnson	District 6		
LC English	District 1		

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS – Chairman Charles Paul Midgley welcomed Matt Haynie of Marlboro Electric Co-op. William Fleming expressed that he would like Matt Haynie to attend MCEDP board meetings in his place.

INVOCATION – Ken Harmon

DINNER – INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jim Haynes – July 2016 Recap

He reported that there has been one new contact since the last board meeting for the Delta Mills site, but it was a third party entity for a company. The County is putting together for a second reading the FILO ordinance for Project Custom. The first reading was done by County Council a couple months ago and about three weeks ago the owner called to say he was ready to move forward. It is a fifty-five million dollar investment with over one hundred twenty-five employees if it comes into fruition. They seem to be ready to move, but there is a question about whether it will actually occur. Once the paperwork is completed it will go before County Council for a second and third reading of the ordinance. The day to day process of running the MCEDP office has been left up to Brandinika Ritter to handle. Mr. Haynes reported receiving one new contact and one continuing contact that may develop into something for the future. County Council has hired an economic development director/administrator with a proposed reorganization for handling MCEDP programs. Ron Munnerlyn will

officially take the position on January 1st. Up until that time Mr. Munnerlyn will be transitioning into these positions until Jim Haynes retirement at the end of December.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A motion was made by Ken Harmon and seconded by Frankie Frazier to approve the July 2016 minutes as presented. The Board unanimously agreed to approve the July 2016 minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The July 2016 financial report was circulated. Brandinika Ritter noted that a grant check for ECAM was deposited, there were IAD expenditures/deposits, and carpet/outdoor rugs were purchased. Chairman Midgley reported that the Executive Committee is planning to get together to go over the financial books.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chairman Midgley reiterated Ron Munnerlyn is coming in. Chairman Midgley also noted his decision to run for the District 3 county council position and asked the board for their support. A special election is scheduled to occur in September for this purpose. MCEDP breakfast board meeting options were discussed. After IAD the board will review the possibility of having 7am breakfast board meetings in the future. Brandinika Ritter gave an IAD update reporting that save the dates had been sent out. The committee has been working on getting the invitations out to all industrial employees instead of a select amount.

OTHER REPORTS – Mayor Heath Harpe reported for the *City of Bennettsville* that work has commenced on the second roundabout. Ken Harmon reported that he has 25 people from Horry County scheduled to tour Bennettsville on August 19th. Frankie Frazier reported a lot of people stopping in Bennettsville while traveling through the area.

Bobby Brock reported for the *Town of Blenheim* that there is a lot of economic development occurring in Blenheim. A two million dollar convenience store is being erected with a lunch counter in it. A lot of incentives have been established for this venture. Inspection and construction fees were waived as a part of the package. An old shop that burned out is currently being renovated. Blenheim is working with Harry Easterling Jr. to keep unsightly houses from sprouting up. The hope is to condemn the homes that cannot be bought or sold. A marketing survey was conducted and it showed 15K cars traveled through Blenheim. Marlboro Water Company has had the most leaks in the month of July that he has ever had in any one month.

LC English reported for the *Town of Wallace* that everything is fairly quiet, but the new elementary school has exhausted their landscaping funds.

Jim Haynes reported for *Marlboro County* that the County would like to use the old school as a form of recreation center. Right now kids are using it with supervision. The gym was recently air conditioned. The media room is developing into an adult game room. Having the County Christmas party at this location is also under consideration. The building is slowly being renovated.

Luke Johnakin reported for *Marlboro County Schools* that he is working on a mentoring program where upper class students would be used to assist ninth and tenth graders. It is a 21st century program for the Department of Education. Upper classmen get a release program to get work experience. The goal is to provide them with a thousand dollar stipend for the school year to mentor instead of securing a job. Mr. Johnakin is hoping that the MCEDP members will financially support the program. Chairman Midgley said it sounds like a worthy project. Stuart Ames inquired about a program for high school students taking classes at NETC. Mr. Johnakin answered that this program is in the making, but would be separate from the mentoring program they are working on.

William Fleming reported that MEC is working very closely with Duke for a potential port. The end result would be distribution centers. Current industry expansion possibilities would also be increased. The advantage of being located within thirty minutes of a port is invaluable. It could be as soon as this year or next year to get

port in place. Stuart Ames reported that there is slow down on business activity because of the upcoming presidential election and depending on who wins it could stay slow for about 100 days after the election. Companies are looking for business opportunities, but they are not making many decisions at this time.

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 Frankie Frazier.

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

11-21-16
Date


Ken Stroman, Secretary

Mission Statement

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