

**CURRITUCK COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

February 26, 2009

Bank of Currituck, Grandy

Attendance: Elizabeth White, Greg Wirth, Tameron Kugler, David Palmer, H.D. Newbern, Peter Bishop and Mike Painter

Absent: Commissioner John Rorer, Kevin Burwell and Matt Converse

Guest: Greg Harris

Item I. Call to Order

New Member Welcome – David Palmer & Greg Wirth

Mr. Palmer, serving as chair in the absence of Kevin Burwell, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm and welcomed new member Greg Wirth who gave a brief description of his background. Mr. Palmer related that he, himself, had been appointed as a member of the board, whereas he had formerly served as an ex officio member.

Item II. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Palmer requested that Discussion of a Strategic Plan be added as Item XIII and subordinate following items. Director noted that Item III would be deleted as Chairman Burwell was not present with those documents. Mr. Newbern moved for approval of the amended agenda. Mrs. White seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Item III. Recognition of past members Fannie Newbern & Brian Innes

Deleted

Item IV. Public Comment

John Snowden-Resolution in Support of Local Business

Mr. Snowden was not present.

Greg Harris, OBX Power Sports, outlined a plan for a sports park at the LeBlieu Industrial Park which would generate approximately 35-50 jobs within a year. He was concerned with the amount of time required prior to receiving a CUP hearing to obtain permission for construction of an ATV/dune buggy track. He felt he could have the business up and running by Memorial Day if he could get through zoning. Members encouraged him to discuss with Ben Woody. Mrs. Kugler noted that a fast track procedure had been discussed in the past and was still needed for situations such as this. There was a question of requirements for Heavy Manufacturing zoning. Director was to attend the meeting with Mr. Woody.

Item V. Approval of January 22, 2009 Minutes

Mrs. Kugler moved to approve the January 22, 2009, minutes. Mrs. White seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Item VI. Report on SOG Development Finance Course

Director referenced the document prepared by Commissioner Rorer which was a synopsis of the School of Government course attended by the Commissioner and Director. He reviewed the main revenue tools available to counties. Director would provide a copy of the document to each member with the request that they familiarize themselves with the information for consideration at a future meeting. At that time, the EDAB could recommend to the Board of Commissioners the implementation of any tools they consider viable. This subject will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

Item VII. Report on Green Business Fund Grant & Proposal

Director referred members' attention to the material in their packet and explained that the NC Department of Commerce and the NC Science and Technology Foundation were soliciting proposals in various categories. The County is applying for a grant to construct a wind turbine at one of the schools, preferably Jarvisburg Elementary, by East Coast Wind Power. This would be a collaborative effort between the county and the schools with the expertise of Cooperative Extension and the Planning staff. This would benefit all entities through generating power, providing educational opportunities, and drawing attention to the county as well as promoting business with a local company. The wind turbine project would provide an excellent opportunity to initiate the promotion of Currituck County towards becoming a green county. Various questions and concerns were expressed. Based on Director's preliminary proposal, the project was selected as a finalist. The final grant application is due March 31 with results to be announced in June. Director will keep the EDAB apprised of the status of the grant.

Item VIII. Discussion on Strategic Plan

Mr. Palmer stressed and some members agreed that a strategic plan was past due. ED incentives and visioning for the development of the county are necessary aids to the Director in recruiting businesses. Mrs. White suggested some pre-planning, either by a smaller committee or by all members through email or online conferencing, utilizing the various studies and materials in hand, to prepare a presentation for a possible retreat at which the strategic plan could be finalized for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Palmer would like to see a plan within two months. Mr. Wirth felt that some basic questions need to be answered; for example, whether the BOC would support architectural standards for the highway corridor, before too much time was spent on developing those standards. Mr. Newbern was concerned that mandating architectural standards would discourage business. Mr. Palmer had submitted an outline to members and was asked to begin an email conference the following week to get input on the first phase of defining the roles of the BOC, EDAB and Director.

Item IX. Director's Report: Discussion on 2010-11 Budget proposal, Personnel, and Work Plan items

Director reviewed his budget proposal and explained any increases/decreases. Most were related to a requested additional position; however, he was not optimistic that the position would be approved.

A job description was provided for a position to be jointly shared by Economic Development and Travel and Tourism for a web manager.

Item X. Infrastructure Project Updates & Stimulus Package Discussion

A) Maple Commerce Park

Director would be looking for stimulus funds distributed through the Department of Commerce for possible funding for the Maple Commerce Park. An estimate of \$1.7 million is needed to construct the road and perform site work. It is hoped that the County budget will include funding to begin this work. He mentioned he was starting to have interested businesses contact him. Since county wells are on the property, the County will be exploring green technology projects.

B) Moyock Wastewater

Director reported that the Board of Commissioners would be meeting to discuss wastewater on the following Monday, and he hoped there would be approval for the Moyock Wastewater System. Funding on hand from two grants total approximately \$1 million towards that project. He is monitoring the status of the stimulus funds, particularly to The Rural Center, for possible additional funding since this is a shovel ready project. Another project that is almost shovel ready is Southern Outer Banks wastewater.

Director answered several questions regarding the Moyock wastewater project.

There was a discussion on the mid-county bridge, particularly the tolls, and whether the county would have any input in setting the amount.

Item XI. Other Business & Announcements

Mr. Painter announced a Chamber meeting on March 11 and outlined the agenda. Three economic forums were also planned, the first to be March 23. Mr. Palmer suggested this would be a good opportunity for members to get public input.

Schedule Outer Banks Meeting

A special meeting was scheduled either prior to or following the Chamber meeting on March 23 at the Library in Corolla. This meeting will be in lieu of the regular monthly meeting. Director will advertise.

Support of expanded medical care

Director distributed some health care data statistics and related that this subject had arisen due to the recent near loss of the physician's office in Moyock. Director and Mr. Painter had discussed a joint resolution supporting expanded medical care and possibly approaching health care providers and residents to ascertain their needs.

Item XII. Adjourn

There being no further business, Mrs. Kugler moved to adjourn. Mr. Newbern seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.