

**CURRITUCK COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

SPECIAL MEETING

March 23, 2009

Hampton Inn, Corolla

Attendance: Elizabeth White, Greg Wirth, Tameron Kugler, David Palmer, H.D. Newbern,
Peter Bishop, Mike Painter, Commissioner John Rorer, Kevin Burwell

Absent: Matt Converse

Guest: John Snowden

Item I. Call to Order

Chairman Burwell called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM. Within the call to order, Chairman Burwell presented the board with recognition resolutions for former board members Ms. Newbern and Mr. Innes. Chairman entertained a motion for approval of the resolutions; Mr. Palmer moved to approve, Mr. Wirth seconded motion. Motion carried.

Item II. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Burwell entertained a motion for approval, hearing no changes. Mr. Palmer moved for approval of the amended agenda. Mr. Newbern seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Item III. Public Comment

John Snowden: Mr. Snowden spoke to the board about the importance of supporting local businesses, and praised the development of a resolution that asks for local consideration for all discretionary county purchases. Mr. Snowden also discussed his business registry that will be mailed to the entire county to familiarize residents with local services and businesses.

Item IV. Approval of February 26, 2009 Minutes

Ms. Kugler moved to approve the February 26, 2009 minutes. Mr. Wirth seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Item V. Update on Strategic Planning Efforts & Business Survey

Mr. Palmer, who has been managing the strategic planning process for the EDAB, provided the update. Mr. Palmer and Ms. White have been working diligently on the plan. Mr. Palmer praised Ms. White's efforts on the project, and thanked the board for their feedback. The first two sections, which cover visioning the county and roles and responsibilities, are complete. The next month will focus on the final phase – tactics and tools to achieve the vision. Mr. Palmer noted that this was the area of the plan that needs the most support, and encouraged strong participation.

Chairman Burwell wondered if the business survey results would be incorporated into the planning process. Director stated that, to the extent the results are available when planning is sent to the BOC, the results would be provided to the strategic planning team for inclusion in the plan, as well as guidance for additional policy development.

Regarding survey deployment, Chairman Burwell and Ms. White cautioned about the manipulation of a web-based survey and that only email-based survey responses from a representative sample would provide accurate, reliable data for our purposes. Director will work with Ms. White, et al, to fully develop a methodology for getting representative data for the survey. Director will follow up with an implementation schedule via email.

Discussion then moved to whether or not to make a motion in support of the survey document and process before the EDAB, to give the process their blessing, and make this an acted-upon item providing clear direction. The consensus of the board was that action would be appropriate. As such, Chairman Burwell entertained a motion for support or modification of the survey. Members first discussed some of the questions within the document and suggested some small changes.

Mr. Palmer moved to support the document and process with the discussed alterations. Mr. Wirth seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Item VI. Discussion on UNC SOG Development Finance Course

This subject will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion. Mr. Rorer explained that the Board of Commissioners has broad latitude to provide for incentives and other financial tools to support economic development. Director also noted that development finance, survey and strategic planning are interconnected.

Item VII. Discussion and Action on a resolution to support purchasing goods and services from Currituck Businesses.

Director developed this resolution in response to the desire of the EDAB to take a proactive step to support our local businesses whenever legally possible or appropriate in sourcing goods and services for County consumption. Overall, the language was acceptable, and the spirit of the bill was lauded. Mr. Palmer, while supportive of the resolution, felt that stronger language should be used when directing non-bid opportunities to local businesses, insofar as Currituck based companies should be considered 'first.' Members discussed the merits of this language change. Ms. White also requested that non-bid opportunities be placed online so that local contractors could be notified of these bids. Director will take that suggestion to the County Manager. Chairman Burwell then closed discussion and entertained a motion on the item. Mr. Newbern moved to approve the resolution as written. Mr. Wirth seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-1.

Item VIII. Director's Report:

Director provided a brief overview of the ARRA / Stimulus related sewer and wind turbine grants that are in application for Currituck County. There are also some energy efficiency grants coming through the State Energy Office that the County may apply for to help the turbine project.

Item XI. Other Business & Announcements

Director specifically praised the efforts of Ms. White and Mr. Palmer for their efforts related to the Strategic Plan and Survey tool, and was very thankful of the boards' efforts in general. The Board, and Commissioner Rorer, were also very supportive and thankful for the direction and effort involved.

Item XII. Adjourn

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