

**Minutes of the  
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy  
Committee Meeting  
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council  
421 SW Camden Avenue, Stuart, Florida 34994**

**Thursday, October 8, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

The following members and staff were present:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Martin County       | John McAuliffe<br>Pauline Becker<br>Kathie Smith<br>Crystal France (Ron Bunch) |
| Palm Beach County   | Paul Skyers<br>Gary Hines<br>Seabron Smith<br>Munroe Harlow (Kevin Johns)      |
| St. Lucie County    | Gwenda Thompson  |
| Indian River County | Helene Caseltine   |
| Staff               | Greg Vaday<br>Penny Myszkowski   |

**Roll Call**

Staff called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

**Agenda**

Motion was made by Paul Skyers and seconded by Seabron Smith to approve the Agenda for the October 8, 2009 meeting. Motion was approved.

**Minutes**

Motion was made by Pauline Becker and seconded by Paul Skyers to approve, with a slight modification, the Minutes of the CEDS Committee meeting on April 9, 2009 and to

approve the Minutes of the CEDS Committee meeting on June 18, 2009. Motion was approved.

### **CEDS Priority Project List 2009 – 2010 Update**

The CEDS Project List 2009-2010 includes the following projects:

- 1 Belle Glade City Hall/Incubator.
2. Glades Utility Authority.
3. Lake Worth Park of Commerce.
4. Seed Capital Fund.
5. Regional Cluster Study.
6. Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute.
7. Regional Aviation Park.
8. TCRPC RLF – grant to be submitted in November.
9. Center for Competitive Economics and Entrepreneurship – grant approved 7/23/09.

Pauline Becker inquired about a couple projects in Martin County that were previously discussed as possible EDA grant applications. Staff said that Mr. Ron Bunch is currently working independently with Martin County on these projects.

The Belle Glade Incubator Project grant is almost complete. However, there are problems with the \$400,000 local match that is needed. A local tax credit was considered but not approved. Gwenda Thompson asked if anyone has talked to the Federal Work Force or the Palm Beach Alliance (Katherine Schmidt) to partner on this project. Staff did not know if anyone had spoken to them, but said it was a good idea. Staff is going to speak with Kevin Johns as to whether Palm Beach County might be able to help. Phase 1 of the construction has been completed.

The Glades Utility Authority project grant was submitted in August 2009. It is currently in the final review stage. It includes the installation of water and sewer lines across the Glades area.

The Lake Worth Park of Commerce grant was submitted in May 2009. It was approved by EPA on August 24, 2009. It is the infrastructure and needs analysis for the Lake Worth Park of Commerce. A proposal has been submitted to the city for the CEDS to manage the grant and there will be an RFP sent out for consultants for the master plan. This project has a twelve month time line. The city will contribute the balance of the money. Helene Caseltine asked about the job creation and staff said the 500 jobs projection was for the build out of the project. Gary Hines and the Business Development Board will work with staff on the RFP.

The Seed Capital Fund grant will not be funded by EDA or the Banking Consortium. There are local businesses that need capital to expand business operations and staff is looking for funding for them. Helen Caseltine asked about the criteria as to what types of businesses could apply. Staff answered that it is mostly focused on high tech industries.

A proposal will be drafted and circulated among the committee members requesting Federal help.

The Regional Cluster Study grant was submitted by the Office Depot Foundation. The Regional Planning Council provided some assistance to them and will be part of the team with the Business Development Board in this in depth study. The EDA has asked the Office Depot Foundation to rework the application.

The Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute grant for \$4 million was submitted in June 2009 to EDA . This project will be built in Tradition. A joint press released will be published when the funding is approved.

The Regional Aviation Park project has not moved ahead at this time.

The TCRPC RLF is still in the planning stages. Staff said that the funding from EDA will probably not be available after the end of this year.

Indian River State College was awarded \$3.9 million in July 2009 for their Center for Competitive Economics and Entrepreneurship. The building of the facility in Fort Pierce will begin in the fall.

Motion was made by Paul Skyers and seconded by Pauline Becker to approve a letter to be sent to the Office of Urban Opportunity in Washington in the pursuit of Federal funding for the Seed Capital Fund project. The motion was approved. Our congressmen will be sent a copy of the letter.

Staff mentioned that the Regional Planning Council is working on two Brownfield grants that are due October 16, 2009. The first is an assessment grant for \$400,000 and the second is a site specific grant for \$200,000. Staff will be working with Indian River County on the Gifford land fill. Indian River County has filed a resolution of support for this project. Last week staff received a \$450,000 brownfields grant for the Australian/Belvedere property in West Palm Beach. There is an RFQ out for this work to secure consultants to work on this project which is scheduled to launch in January. We will be working closely with Palm Beach County. The canal adjacent to the landfill will be cleaned up in the first phase of the process.

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council will be completing the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan 2035 (RLRTP) for Martin and St. Lucie Counties. This has an 18 month time frame. A public participation process has been started. Dana Little is the project manager. We are working with the Federal government and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to obtain funding for Amtrak on the Florida East Coast. Kim Delaney is the project manager and has obtained about 117 resolutions/letters of support for the project.

At the last CEDS meeting in June, Kevin Johns, Palm Beach County, gave the invitation for a special task force to help implement the master plan for the Intracoastal Waterway Plan.

**Public Comment**

None.

**CEDS Committee Comment**

Staff said that we should hear by the end of this month regarding funding of the New Market Tax Credit.

The next CEDS Committee meeting will be December 10, 2009 at the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council office.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

### **CEDS Committee Comments**

Helene Caseltine mentioned that she attended a conference in Raleigh, North Carolina and also toured the Research Triangle Park and learned about the businesses in the Park. Gwenda Thompson said that the information she saw on the Park showed many diversified businesses. The DVD on this business park is available on [www.pbcgov.com/edu](http://www.pbcgov.com/edu) under the 2005 Economic Summit (see Videos from Best Practices from Around the World – Industries of the Mind).

The next CEDS Committee meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.