

**Minutes of the
Treasure Coast Economic Development District
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Meeting**

Thursday, January 11, 2007

The following members and staff were present:

Martin County	Bill Summers Barbara Essenwine
Palm Beach County	Paul Skyers Kathryn Schmidt
St. Lucie County	Gwenda Thompson Larry Daum Candace Walker Karen Russell
Indian River County	Helene Caseltine
Staff	Greg Vaday Penny Myszkowski

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Motion was made by Bill Summers to approve the Agenda as amended, and seconded by Paul Skyers. Motion was approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Barbara Essenwine to approve the Minutes of the December 14, 2006 meeting, and seconded by Gwenda Thompson. Motion was approved unanimously.

Greg Vaday welcomed the new CEDS members, Candace Walker, St. Lucie County Economic Development Council and Karen Russell, St. Lucie County Finance. Greg Vaday is waiting for Martin County and Indian River County to finalize their CEDS Committee appointments.

Greg Vaday gave each member a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee Members' Reference Book and described its contents. He encouraged all members to become familiar with it.

Kathryn Schmidt asked if the CEDS Committee was under the Sunshine Law. Greg Vaday will look further into that issue.

Greg Vaday gave a powerpoint presentation explaining the work of the CEDS Committee. He explained to the committee that he had presented this powerpoint to the Martin County Business Development Board earlier in the day. The presentation reviewed the function of the CEDS Plan, the region's economy, and current and future economic patterns. The CEDS plan is available on the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's website.

Greg Vaday gave committee members an article entitled “The Quality of Florida’s Job Structure” published by the University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR). It offers an accurate picture of Florida’s current job structure and how it evolved. Florida has a declining share of higher paying jobs and an abundance of low paying jobs. The main job focus, according to the report, has been providing services for tourists and retirees. As Scripps and Torrey Pines come into the region, there will be an increase in technology and higher paying jobs.

Larry Daum said the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in St. Lucie County helped to create many jobs. Gwenda Thompson said that many of the workers were younger workers or older workers returning to the labor market.

Greg Vaday mentioned that St. Lucie County is interested in hosting a Regional Economic Development Summit and he met with Commissioner Craft and suggested that it be scheduled for early fall. Kathryn Schmidt mentioned that it is important for the local workforce development boards to work together and there is a need to educate the public in this regard.

Public Comment

None.

CEDS Committee Comment

Paul Skyers mentioned that at the Economic Summit in Palm Beach County, one of the initiatives called for resilience, the business community’s ability to survive after a massive hurricane. It was agreed that there is a need to look deeper into alternative energy. The Overall Economic Development Program Committee created a small task force to look at alternative energy. Paul Skyers asked for any information that members might have in this area. Gwenda Thompson said St. Lucie County was looking at the process of using garbage and waste to create energy, with the byproduct being used for building material.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bill Summers, seconded by Kathryn Schmidt. Meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

The next CEDS meeting will be on March 8, 2007.