

**Minutes of the
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
Committee Meeting**

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Paul Skyers, Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The following members and staff were present:

Martin County

Pauline Becker
Tammy Simoneau
Kevin Powers
Barbara Essenwine
Judson Epperly

Palm Beach County

Paul Skyers
Kevin Johns
Kelly Smallridge
Kathryn Schmidt (by phone)
Gary Hines

St. Lucie County

Karen Russell
Candace Walker
Gwenda Thompson
Larry Daum

Indian River County

Helene Caseltine (phone)
Raymond Coniglio
Randy Riley
Matthew King

Visitors

Jeff Oris
Jocelyn Boyce

Staff

Greg Vaday
Penny Myszkowski
Trayce Jones

Mr. Greg Vaday welcomed former and new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy members. Staff called the roll and announced that a quorum was present. Motion was made by Ms. Tammy Simoneau and seconded by Ms. Gwenda Thompson to approve Minutes of the July 19, 2007, August 16, 2007 and September 13, 2007 CEDS meetings. Motion was approved unanimously.

Motion

Membership Appointments

Each county was requested to appoint or reappoint five representatives to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee to begin their term in January of 2008.

Indian River County

Raymond Coniglio
Helene Caseltine
Randy Riley
Mathew King

Martin County (tentative)

Tammy Simoneau
Kevin Powers
Judson Epperly
Pauline Becker
Barbara Essenwine

*Commissioner Flescher has not made an appointment

Palm Beach County

Paul Skyers
Richard Staudinger
Kevin Johns
Kelly Smallridge
Kathryn Schmidt

St. Lucie County

Gwenda Thompson
Karen Russell
Larry Daum
Candace Walker

*Commissioner Lewis has not made an appointment

Election of Officers

Staff requested nominations for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Chair and Vice Chair. Motion was made by Ms. Candy Walker to nominate Mr. Larry Daum for Chair, and seconded by Mr. Paul Skyers. Motion was made by Ms. Kathryn Schmidt to nominate Mr. Kevin Johns for Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Gary Hines. Motions were approved unanimously.

Motion

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2007 – 2012 Presentation

Accomplishments of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee were reviewed as Staff gave a PowerPoint presentation on the purpose for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which is to focus on regional economic development and projects that have a regional impact. District programs include grant and technical assistance for local governments, entrepreneurship, business assistance, and redevelopment and economic development planning. The Economic Development Administration will be funding regional projects in public works and in technical assistance and economic adjustment due to relocation or loss of employment of over 1% of the workforce in a community. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy has been able to obtain approximately \$5.5 million in federal funds for projects including planning grants, mitigation strategy and infrastructure. Mr. Daum stated St. Lucie County received \$1.5 million to complete sewer and water extensions into a commerce park at the St. Lucie County airport, a \$6.5 million project.

Staff mentioned the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's Small Business Revolving Loan Fund. This fund provides loans of up to \$35,000.00 for small businesses that are starting or expanding operations in the region. In April, the Research Coast Business Financial Consortium was launched. Seventeen banks have pledged \$2 million in lending support over the next two years to enhance recruiting and expansion of technology businesses. Underwriting will be done by the banks.

Since 2003, the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council has obtained \$1.5 million to advance brownfields redevelopment in the region. Further information is available at <http://www.tcrpc.org/Brownfields/home.html>. Treasure Coast Regional Council is currently working with the Village of North Palm Beach on a brownfields project to cleanup and demolish a former waste water treatment plant and build a park in its place. Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council is working with the City of West Palm Beach to help redevelop a large site in the Northwood community redevelopment area.

Staff stated it is important to involve community leadership and to have public and private sectors working together to help implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy plan. Ms. Caseltine mentioned the economic summit that was held in October. The Innovation Council came out of this summit and recently had their first meeting and discussed the importance of everyone working together. Ms. Schmidt said the Workforce Development boards recently met to discuss communicating on a regional basis.

There are thirteen projects in the Action Plan section of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan. New projects can be added on a yearly basis.

Priorities for 2008

Priorities for 2008 will be the implementation of the newly revised Comprehensive Development Strategy Plan and the prioritization of regional projects. Another priority is the development alternative energy industries and how local government can support alternative energy and conservation.

Ms. Walker emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship and helping people to develop well written business plans to support their new and growing businesses.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Meeting Calendar/Location for 2008

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy meetings for 2008 are:

February 14, 2008
April 10, 2008
June 12, 2008

August 14, 2008
October 9, 2008
December 11, 2008

Staff suggested each County host one meeting. A few suggestions from the Members included a bus tour in western Indian River County, Scripps in Palm Beach County, the new Emergency Operations Center in Martin County, and the soon to open Torrey Pines in St. Lucie County. Staff requested Members to research and report back.

Public Comment

None

CEDS Committee Comment

The next CEDS meeting will be February 14, 2008.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.