



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
Steering Committee Meeting
February 20, 2009

MINUTES

The inaugural meeting of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee was held on Friday, February 20, 2009, at 9:00 am, at the St. Johns County Agricultural Center, 3125 Agricultural Center Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32094.

The meeting was called to order with the following members present:

Alex McCoy, Wes Larson, Dana Jones, Don Smith, Sam Crissinger, Mark Miner, Darryl Register, Elaine Brown, Josh Singletary, Cathy Chambers, Chris McNees, Jim Varian, Ben Bates, Jerry Cameron, Thomas Cooley, Greg Rawls, Matt Welch, Jacqueline Robinson, Ryan Tiedeberg, Steve Rieck, Deborah Kobza, Greg Greiner, Milissa Holland, Danita Andrews, Art Graham, Mike Holcomb

Staff: Brian Teeple, Margo Moehring, Guy Parola, Ameera Sayeed and Angela Giles.

Brian Teeple welcomed everyone and asked for introductions around the tables.

CEDS Overview

Mr. Teeple introduced Margo Moehring, Director of Planning & Strategic Initiatives. Ms. Moehring gave a brief overview and introduction of what a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is. The purpose of the CEDS is to build on what is already in place regarding economic development. Ms. Moehring asked members to visit the Regional Visioning web site at www.REGI.biz, under Economic Development, for additional information on CEDS.

CEDS Steering Committee Overview

Mr. Teeple gave a brief overview of what the Steering Committee is to accomplish. A request was made for a Chair to oversee the next meetings. Commissioner Milissa Holland, Chair of the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners was nominated, approved by the members, and accepted the position of Chair of the CEDS Steering Committee.

Regional Data and Analysis

Mr. Teeple reviewed the Regional Data with Members and stated that it is a work in progress. He asked for Members input as to any data that may be incorrect or missing from the document. Discussion followed regarding the document and changes to be made or additional data that may be needed, including:

- Table 1 on page 1 – several population figures are to be amended accordingly;
- A region-wide water and sewer availability map with corresponding data;
- A region-wide telecommunications map: specifically, fiber optic availability throughout the region;
- A region-wide natural gas pipeline / service area map;
- Utility-rate (water, sewer, and electricity) maps and corresponding data;
- Water (per capita) usage by county data;
- Information on the St. Johns River Water Management District's *District Water Supply Plan*;
- Inventory of electrical generating facility fuel types;
- Solid-waste and landfill data and (Note: NEFRC to provide);
- Labor force make-up (i.e., skill set);
- More detailed commuter patterns (vehicle miles traveled; from and to patterns) – commuter times over a period of time;
- Several of the REMI and BEBR sourced tables use NAICS industry classifications – a NAICS glossary of industries is necessary for clarification;
- The *Personal Income of the Region as Percent of Nation* table on page 23 of the Regional Data document will be amended to show region as percent of the state, and the state as a percent of the nation;
- REMI data shows non-agriculture private sector data: the CEDS document should include government and agriculture data;
- A comparison of the region's gross product to population;
- Industry impacts to the region are currently based on employment data – additional comparison of industry impacts to the region based on dollar value;
- Barge port information;
- Tourism;
- Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) plans within the region;
- Military installations;
- Airport expansion information;
- Foreign Trade Zone in Flagler County;
- Commuter rail;
- TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) container terminal information and freight-rail information;
- USDA "Champion Communities";
- Business park / commercial – retail maps;
- Regional exports;
- More detailed I-10 / I-95 SIS map;
- Private port activities within the region;
- Industrial parks – addition of two major industrial parks to map
- The utility industry should be represented in the Steering Committee.
- Labor unions / organized labor organizations should be represented.

What's Next/Questions & Answers

Mr. Teeple informed the members that the upcoming meeting would address the Region's strengths and weaknesses. The following comments were made regarding policy issues to address at future meetings:

- *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* stimulus plan: is there a place for this within the CEDS document?
- The Department of Community Affairs makes industrial land use amendment applications difficult to adopt in rural counties.
- Daytona College offers 4-year degrees and FCCJ will offer 4-year degrees as well. Should colleges and universities be addressed?
- Rural counties are put at a disadvantage by level of service requirements on SIS facilities.

Ms. Deborah Kobza, IT Centers of Excellence, offered the use of MS SharePoint for information sharing among Committee Members.

Chair Holland will email subcommittee suggestions to Ms. Moehring.

Next Meeting Dates

The next CEDS Steering Committee meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Friday, March 27, 2009, 9:00 am – 11:00 am, St. Johns County Agricultural Center
- Friday, April 24, 2009, 9:00 am – 11:00 am, St. Johns County Agricultural Center
- Friday, July 24, 2009, 9:00 am – 11:00 am, St. Johns County Agricultural Center

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.