

Hardee County Economic Development Council/Industrial Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2016
Hardee County BOCC

Vanessa Hernandez- Chair-P
Gene Davis- Vice Chair-P
Dottie Conerly-P

Donald Samuels-P
John O'Neal-P
Lory Durrance-P

Diana Youmans-P
Monica Reas-P

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hernandez.

Visiting: Rhonda Cole, Henry Kuhlman, Michael Garcia, Roger Conley, Brian Patterson, Kevin Cundiff, David Royal, Trey Flemer, Kenny Lambert, Jim See, Shawn Rimes, Roy Brown, Dani Valentin, Vanessa Thomas, Jared Flemer, Jonah Bosquez, Kristin Giuliani, Jeff McKibben, Bruce Stayer, Paul Paris, Stan Pelham, Keith Davis, Pam Lovett and Ryan Lambert.

County Attorney: Ken Evers

County Commissioners: Mike Thompson, Colon Lambert and Sue Birge

Press: Michael Kelly

Staff: Bill Lambert, Sarah Pelham and Kristi Schierling

Agenda: The Director's Report will be moved to item #6. Gene Davis made a motion and was seconded by Diana Youmans to approve the agenda with the change. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Monica Reas made a motion and was seconded by Dottie Conerly to approve the 3/8/16 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Nutraceutical Discussion

Michael Garcia, Florida Olive Council, was here with a presentation on olives. A copy of this presentation is on file. There are 3 types of olive groves; high, medium and low density groves. Olive trees do seem to grow well in Florida. There is a research plot on Mosaic's land in Bowling Green. Olives take about 3-5 years to bloom depending on the variety of olive. The only issues would be chilling and summer rainfall. They need little water and few pests are an issue with the olives.

Director Lambert would like to take about 20 acres in the Commerce Park to use as test plots for food consumption and extracts for olives as well as pongamia pinnata and other botanicals. We will work with the County Agent, SFSC and others. Staff will be working on developing a budget for this.

****Dottie Conerly left the meeting 10:12am****

Director Lambert showed a youtube video on the trip to India. The purpose of the trip was to look for agricultural diversity. Director Lambert will be meeting with the President of the American Botanical Society in the next few weeks.

Florikan expansion discussion

Brian Patterson and Kevin Cundiff, both with Florikan, were here today to make a request to the Board for improvements to the building. Brian said that they are now at 85 employees of which 66 are Hardee County residents. They have surpassed the growth that the building can hold and are averaging 105 tons per day in production. Florikan has been involved in the community, working with NASA and currently

working with the high school on having interns at their facility. Brian is asking the Board for capital improvements for the building. OSHA certified showers and eyewash stations are needed and lighting for the backside of the property. They are currently using mobile shower and eyewash stations but are at the point that they need permanent ones. They are a 24/7 facility and the lighting on the backside is needed for safety. They would pay for the electricity of the lights on their monthly bill but are asking for the installation and labor costs to be paid by the IDA. They will need some additional space on the south end of the building in the near future. Director Lambert noted that if we go forward with the two requests, we would increase our investment in the building which would increase their rent amount. Florikan will start paying the taxes and insurance this year for the building. Gene Davis made a motion and was seconded by Lory Durrance to move forward with the capital improvements of the building. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

Director Lambert provided a written report this month.

**Director Lambert left at 11:37 am.

Stream2Sea Sub Grant Agreement

Sarah Pelham reviewed the sub grant agreement with the board. This was shown to and approved by the EDA board at their last meeting. The job requirements did not change in this new agreement.

*John O'Neal left at 11:58am

Monica Reas made a motion and was seconded by Gene Davis to approve the agreement. Lory Durrance abstained due to a banking relationship. Form is on file. Motion passed.

Debut Development Sub Grant agreement

Sarah Pelham reviewed the sub grant agreement with the board. This was shown to and approved by the EDA board at their last meeting. There is no job requirement component in this agreement.

Monica Reas made a motion and was seconded by Diana Youmans to approve the agreement. Lory Durrance abstained due to a banking relationship. Form is on file. Motion passed.

Peace River Paddlesports and Kuleana Adventures Sub Grant Agreement

Sarah Pelham reviewed the sub grant agreement with the board. This was shown to and approved by the EDA board at their last meeting. The EDA only funded the manufacturing portion of Trey Flemer's project. The rental portion is no longer being funded by the EDA. IDA Staff and Trey developed a 90 day budget to manufacture 10 boats. After the 90 days is over, staff will go to the EDA board to seek the remaining funding or could be decided that the project is to no longer move forward. Trey felt that 90 days was enough time to build the boats and try to get them out in the marketplace to produce sales. Trey will be given an advance of \$24,500 to purchase the materials needed for the boats as well as payroll.

Gene Davis made a motion and was seconded by Monica Reas to approve the agreement. Lory Durrance abstained due to a banking relationship. Form is on file. Motion passed.

Bees & Botanicals Sub Grant agreement

Sarah Pelham reviewed the sub grant agreement with the board. This was shown to and approved by the EDA board at their last meeting. Peace River Products reapplied this grant cycle with the new name, Bees & Botanicals. This contract does not have job requirements.

Donald Samuels made a motion and was seconded by Gene Davis to approve the agreement. Lory Durrance abstained due to a banking relationship. Form is on file. Motion passed.

Leases

The leases for Southeast Steel and Debut Development are in draft form. We will bring them back to next month's meeting for approval.

Financials

The budget amendments today were to add the EDA grants just awarded by the EDA to the IDA general fund budget.

Diana Youmans made a motion and was seconded by Gene Davis to approve the general fund budget amendments. Lory Durrance abstained due to the grant awards for Stream2Sea, Debut Development, Bees & Botanicals and Peace River Paddlesports having a banking relationship with his employer. Form is on file.

Sarah Pelham let the board know that we will be requesting \$150,000 from the BOCC again this year during their budget requests.

The EDC/IDA financials were accepted as presented with a motion by Monica Reas and a second by Diana Youmans. Motion passed unanimously.

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:02pm by Chair Hernandez.