



MINUTES

Hardee County Economic Development Council Hardee County Industrial Development Authority

Commission Chambers 412 W. Orange, Room 102, Wauchula, FL 33873 Regular Meeting

4/11/2017 8:30 AM

BOARD MEMBERS

Vanessa Hernandez, Chairwoman | Gene Davis, Vice-Chairman | Monica Reas | Courtney Green | Dorothy Conerly | Lory Durrance | Calli Ward | Tommy Watkins | Bill Lambert

1. Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Vanessa Hernandez	Chairwoman	Present	
Gene Davis	Vice-Chairman	Present	
Monica Reas	Board Member	Present	
Courtney Green	Board Member	Present	
Dorothy Conerly	Board Member	Present	
Lory Durrance	Board Member	Absent	
Calli S Ward	Board Member	Present	
Tommy Watkins	Board Member	Present	
Bill Lambert	Economic Development Director	Present	
Sarah W Pelham	Economic Development Corrdinator	Present	
Kristi Schierling	Economic Development Office Manager	Present	

Visiting: Kevin Zollner, Tom Shenk, Dillard Albritton, Brian Patterson, Terry Atchley, David Royal, Henry Kuhlman, Bruce Stayer, Lex Albritton, Ron Hall, Sharon Moye, Ron Edwards, Naveen Sika, Sudhir Rani, Kevin Cundiff, Rhonda Cole, Virginia Brown, Betsy & Mike Dambouise.

County Attorney: Ken Evers

County Commissioners: Mike Thompson, Sue Birge, Russ Melendy, Rick Knight and Colon Lambert.

Press: Michael Kelly

2. Approval of Agenda

Item 2.1. Motion to approve agenda as presented

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Gene Davis, Vice-Chairman
SECONDER:	Monica Reas, Board Member
AYES:	Hernandez, Davis, Reas, Green, Conerly, Ward, Watkins
ABSENT:	Durrance

3. Approval of Minutes

Item 3.1. March 2017 EDC/IDA Minutes

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Monica Reas, Board Member
SECONDER:	Gene Davis, Vice-Chairman
AYES:	Hernandez, Davis, Reas, Green, Conerly, Ward, Watkins
ABSENT:	Durrance

4. Agenda Items

Item 4.1. Terviva Presentation

Ron Edwards, Naveen Sika, Tom Shenk and Sudhir Rani came before the board today to give a presentation on their company, Terviva. A copy of this presentation is on file at the EDC office. Terviva was founded in 2010 and began working in Florida in 2011. There are offices currently in Okeechobee, Ft. Pierce, Oakland (CA) and Honolulu (HI). They partner with growers to replant idle citrus fields with pongamia tree orchards to produce vegetable oil and meal. Pongamia is an Asian legume tree native with existing uses in large markets. They see an opportunity to build a pongamia home base in Hardee County with a processing facility. Terviva is requesting \$2.5M in funding to build a processing facility with total capacity for 10,000 acres of harvest with the initial build out to process the first 1,000 acres. They would be able to run other oil see products through this facility. At the 10,000 acre scale, this project will create 160 FT jobs and 92 seasonal jobs.

Director Lambert would like to pursue this. There will be no decision made today. It was the board's consensus to continue moving forward and bring back an agreement at a later date.

Item 4.2. Florikan Discussion

Florikan representatives, Brian Patterson, Kevin Zollner and Kevin Cundiff, were before the board today with a proposal to go ahead with the purchase of their building. They have been growing at a rapid pace and are running out of space and need to expand. Their facility here opened in 2015 and they have been involved in the community since being here. Instead of waiting the 10 years as stated in the lease, they would like to purchase the building today at a discounted rate. Florikan has proffered a purchase price of \$2M. Florikan has put in another \$1.4-\$1.5M in the building. They would like to close by early to mid May. The IDA could have a 2nd on the property if needed to make sure that the jobs are maintained for the remainder of the contract terms. We had an appraisal done on the lot adjacent to it, and it came back around \$100,000.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Gene Davis, Vice-Chairman
SECONDER:	Monica Reas, Board Member
AYES:	Hernandez, Davis, Reas, Green, Conerly, Ward, Watkins
ABSENT:	Durrance

Item 4.3. Florida Olive Council request

A request from the Florida Olive Council was included in the agenda packet. It is a request for \$10,000 for support of the Pioneer Plants Lab. It was asked if this is a one time request or a recurring request. Director Lambert was not aware that this would be a recurring request. Chair Hernandez would like more information. Director Lambert can bring back additional information at next month's meeting.

No action was taken today.

5. Project Updates/Chair Updates

The new hospital is planning to open on October 29, 2017. Director Lambert went to the Olive and Orange meeting last Thursday in Tampa. He was also on USF Radio last Friday discussing mining and the post-mining scenario. It was called Florida Matters. We are close to having a final contract with the MOBO building. The hops are starting to grow. We are having a meeting with an extract expert tomorrow. Sarah is continuing to answer Enterprise Florida's RFP that are sent out. We are still working on what to do with the paddleboard business. We are hoping to bring a contract back soon.

6. Financial Report

Item 6.1. March 2017 EDC/IDA Financials

RESULT:	ADOPTED [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	Monica Reas, Board Member
SECONDER:	Calli S Ward, Board Member
AYES:	Hernandez, Reas, Green, Conerly, Ward, Watkins
ABSENT:	Durrance
AWAY:	Davis

7. Announcements/Other Business/Public Comments

8. Adjournment