

**GADSDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GADSDEN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING
COMMUNITY CONSERVATIONS**

Thursday, March 12, 2015

04:30 PM

Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room
7 East Jefferson St
Quincy, Florida

PRESENT: Bruce Ballister, Dan Pennington, Dan Evans, Karen Marsh, Fert Richardson, Wilbert Butler, Peter Patel, Dee Jackson, John Youmans, Gail Bridges – Bright, Ben Chandler, Regina Davis, Rob Nixon, Angie Barry, Joe Munroe, Dot Inman- Johnson, Bernard Piawah, Jill Jeglie, Beth Kirkland, Dawn McMillan, Sylvester Robinson, Gene Morgan, Stacy Hannigon, Allara Gutcher, Robert Presnell, Beryl Wood, Deputy Clerk

AGENDA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Welcome Robert Presnell gave a welcome. Lynn Cherry of Carpe Diem gave welcome.

MEETING OVERVIEW Mrs. Gutcher said the meeting today was a result of a grant from Competitive Florida Partnership Program. She said this was the 1st of 2 meetings required.

Mrs. Cherry said they would focus on Economic Development for Gadsden County. What is Economic Development? Discuss the grant that Gadsden County has received along with Assets and Jobs in the County.

Think Big – *“If you can’t imagine it, you can’t achieve.” Really imagine what we see Gadsden County becoming. She gave ground rules.*

Introduction Beth Kirkland, spoke on what is Economic Development? Development Council recognized Peter Patel board member along with Robert Nixon.

Economic Development is anybody that makes payroll on Friday, opportunity for success. 3 ways: Tourism Development & Marketing; Building Globally Competitive Strategy: Strategy Sources of Input – You – Strategy Outcome – Jobs & Capital Investment: Targeted Industry sectors: Transportation Assets. Average Wage is about \$30,000: Leveraging regional and state partner; EFI, DEO, FEDC, FGNW; Opportunity Florida, Career Source.

Targeted Industry Sectors

- Transportation & Logistics (Warehousing/Distribution)
- Manufacturing
- Law Enforcement Training, Services and Supplies
- Construction Materials and Services
- Agri-Business

- Eco-Tourism

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – WHAT IS IT?

OVERVIEW OF COMPETITIVE FLORIDIA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM Allara Mills discussed the grant received. Only county that is a participant. Our goal is to create a economic development strategy.

ACTIVITY 1: GADSDEN COUNTY ASSET EVALUATION Define the top 5 Assets: Then each group prioritized. Industrial /10-90 Park; Raw Land (enter changes), Apalachicola River

- ◆ Group 1 – Green Table – Apalachicola River, Creek Entertainment, 10/90 Industrial Park, Creek Entertainment, Costal Timber
- ◆ Group 2 – Brown Table – Creek Entertainment, Industrial / 10-90 Park, Tri-Eagle Sales, Pat Thomas Law, Jai Alai Building
- ◆ Group 3 – Blue Table – Natural Gas Pipeline, Raw Land (Interchanges), Quincy Industrial Park, Agri-Business, Lack of Accommodations, IFAS Land Exchange
- ◆ Group 4 – Purple Table – Lake Talquin, Gadsden Arts Center, Quincy Industrial Park, Historic District, Havana Industrial Park

ACTIVITY 2: GADSDEN COUNTY JOBS - Focus on competitive high wage competitive jobs and where you want the jobs to go.

- ◆ Green Table – Healthcare, Distribution/ Transportation
- ◆ Brown Table –Training/Training Incentives, Technology Jobs
- ◆ Blue Table –Warehousing, Agri - Business
- ◆ Purple Table - Training Education (Skills Upgrade), Tourism

CLOSING REMARKS Next meeting will be in Chattahoochee – March 23, 2015 @ 6:30pm – RV Clubhouse on the River.

Adjournment

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:40 P.M.