

FINAL MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2012, MEETING OF  
THE MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
HELD AND CONDUCTED ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY APRIL 2012,  
AT 8:30 A.M.  
IN THE MCEDA CONFERENCE ROOM  
OF THE MCEDA OFFICES AT 623 HIGHLAND COLONY PARKWAY,  
RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI

The meeting of the Madison County Economic Development Authority was conducted on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in the MCEDA Office at 623 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS.

Members Present: Lanny Slaughter, Dick Hutchinson, Jack Harrington,  
Calvin Harris, Bill Guion

Also present were Tim Coursey, Lenita Knight,  
NaToya Hill, Danielle Winningham and Attorney Andy Clark.

Guests: Gerald Steen, Sydney Allen, Ronny Lott and Jan Collins

At 8:33 a.m., Vice Chairman Slaughter announced that the members present constituted a quorum and declared the meeting duly convened and directed that the notice for the meeting be filed with the minutes.

Mr. Harrington made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. After a second by Mr. Harris the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey introduced Supervisor Gerald Steen to the MCEDA Board. Mr. Steen stated that the Madison County Board of Supervisors is looking at an Economic Strategic Plan to be completed for Madison County. This plan would take approximately 120 days to complete. Mr. Steen stated that, once completed, MCEDA will have a lot to do with the implementation of the strategic plan. The plan will begin May 1, 2012 and will be paid for by the Madison County Board of Supervisors and the Madison County Foundation.

Mr. Steen also stated that the Madison County Board of Supervisors is looking into hiring a lobbying firm to represent Madison County. Mr. Steen stated that the hired lobbyist will be the lobbyist for the Board of Supervisors and MCEDA. Mr. Steen stated that the BOS would like for the hiring of the lobbyist to take place in the next 30 days. Mr. Steen introduced Mr. Sydney Allen with Butler Snow to the MCEDA Board.

Mr. Allen thanked the MCEDA Board for the opportunity to come before them. Mr. Allen stated that this is an exciting time for Madison County. Mr. Allen stated that he had the opportunity to participate on the Washington trip with the Madison County Collective and he serves on the MCEDA/MCBL Government Relations Committee.

Mr. Allen provided an overview of his existing relationships and the relationships of Butler Snow as they will benefit Madison County. Mr. Allen stated that the current Madison County BOS has a new relationship with MDOT and Dick Hall. Mr. Allen also stated that Butler Snow has relationships with Dick Hall, Governor Phil Bryant, Tate Reeves and Phillip Gunn. Butler Snow also has an internal task force established to identify projects coming to the state and who might benefit from those projects.

Mr. Allen also stated that Butler Snow would like to have a part in putting the Madison County Strategic Plan in place. Mr. Allen stated that Madison County would be the only County that Butler Snow would be lobbying for and can scale up or down as needed on federal and state levels adding that Madison County would be priority. Mr. Allen stated that it would be at the discretion of the Madison County BOS as to the representation for the municipalities if needed. Mr. Allen stated that Butler Snow will be reporting publicly on a quarterly, possibly monthly basis and will remain in constant contact with the BOS and MCEDA.

The cost of the lobbyist will be \$72,000.00 per year. The BOS is requesting that MCEDA share in the cost of this contract by paying half.

Supervisor Steen discussed the proposed Strategic Plan for Madison County. Mr. Steen stated that Butler Snow's involvement in the planning of the Strategic Plan would be a great benefit to the County. Mr. Steen stated that the BOS will provide direction and tools of implementation for the plan as well as holding accountability for the plan. Mr. Steen stated that this has to be a partnership and that accountability is a huge part of the plan and a lot will be expected of MCEDA.

Mr. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 5, 2012 MCEDA Board meeting and the March 9 and March 23 Special MCEDA Board meetings. After a second by Mr. Guion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Guion made a motion to approve the financial reports for February 2012 and March 2012 as presented. After a second by Mr. Harris the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Jan Collins provided an update for the Madison County Business League. Ms. Collins stated that the League and Legislature luncheon was a great success. Ms. Collins also reported that the Youth Leadership was successful as well. Ms. Collins stated that medal presentations will be made during awards day ceremonies at each of the schools with participating students.

Ms. Collins stated that plans continue for the creative economy event to promote Madison County artisans. This event is a collaboration of all the chambers and tourism offices of Madison County as well as MCEDA, MCBL and MC Foundation.

Ms. Collins reported that the Economic Symposium is scheduled for May 10, 2012 at Nissan. The Stennis Institute will be reproducing 500 copies of economic booklets for distribution. MCEDA will pay for the booklets.

Mr. Coursey presented Mr. Nick Smerigan to discuss a proposed contract and the other Mississippi Film Studio at Canton information and updates. Mr. Smerigan stated that the improvements are still needed on the facility however; they will not stop film progress if they are not added.

Mr. Smerigan stated that one of the hurdles that still exist is the workforce training issue. Mr. Smerigan discussed the proposed contract presented to the MCEDA Board for review and discussion. The MCEDA Board attorney will review the presented contract and report back to the MCEDA Board with recommendations. After attorney recommendations the Film Studio committee has the authority to approve.

Mr. Coursey stated that the Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau has asked for an abatement of past due leases payments and be allowed to use the funds for marketing purposes. It is the sense of the MCEDA Board that all past lease payments need to be made. A committee was established to consider the lease payment issue. Committee includes, Lanny Slaughter, Calvin Harris and Jack Harrington.

The Madison County lobbyist issue was readdressed. Mr. Harrington made a motion to approve that MCEDA will pay half of the cost of contract with Butler Snow for lobbyist agreement, in the amount of \$37,500.00 annually. After a second by Mr. Harris the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey reported that M-Tek has presented plans for an expansion to their parking lot. Mr. Coursey stated that these plans are in compliance with the covenants for the area. Mr. Coursey recommended approving the plans as presented in the drawings. Mr. Harrington made a motion to approve the plans for expansion of the M-Tek parking lot as presented. After a second by Mr. Harris the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Winningham was requested to follow up with Pinelake to see if they have planted a line of trees as instructed on the east side of their property.

Mr. Coursey stated that MCEDA has been asked to write a letter requesting the City of Canton drop the lawsuit against Nissan. It is the sense of the MCEDA Board to follow suit with the efforts of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Coursey stated that there has been no further information provided regarding the timeframe of the proposed strategic plan.

Mr. Coursey provided a post Washington trip report stating that Mr. Jeff Ballweber has been working on grant application process and reported that CDBG grants are being pursued on the behalf of West Madison with the assistance of Supervisor Karl Banks.

Attorney Clark provided an update for legal counsel stating that all legal issues have been discussed.

Mr. Coursey stated that travel request include consultant trip to Chicago and Atlanta for Tim Coursey and Danielle Winningham. Mr. Coursey also plans to visit Bio-Medical accelerator in North Dakota, dates to be determined.

Ms. Danielle Winningham provided an Existing Industry Update. Ms. Winningham reported that there have been 2 call center projects. She has also met with Drew Troxler with MDA to discuss Priority 1 visits with industries also met with representative from Entergy and Director of workforce for Holmes Community College. Ms. Winningham plans to host a social event that will aid in establishing relationships with plant managers. Also working on site visits and building updates in LOIS with MDA as well as qualifying the Flora site with Entergy.

Ms. Knight provided a Community Development update reporting that Leadership Madison County completed its final full day session for the current class and preparations are underway for the project presentations and graduation event. Ms. Knight also reported that the Canton Chamber Man Street and the Madison County Chamber hosted a breakfast honoring the area Star Teachers from all area schools. Ms. Knight has also been active in the planning process for the upcoming Creative Economy event and participated in the Madison County Youth Leadership Economic Development Day as well as the League and Legislature Event at the Capital. Ms. Knight attended the recent Excel by 5 informational meeting for the area child care providers.

Ms. Knight reported that she continues to serve on the Canton Planning Committee as they prepare for the upcoming Charrette for the City of Canton. The Charrette is scheduled for April 30 through May 3 with multiple meetings scheduled throughout that time frame. Ms. Knight stated that this would be a good opportunity for the Joint Committee for Canton to participate in. Ms. Knight will communicated the schedule to the committee

Mr. Coursey reported that there was no need for an Executive Session.

At 12:00, upon a motion made by Mr. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. Harris and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

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Robert Williams, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Bill Guion, Secretary-Treasurer