

FINAL MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2010, MEETING OF  
THE MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
HELD AND CONDUCTED ON THE 11TH DAY OF AUGUST 2010,  
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 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. in the MCEDA Office at 623 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS.

Members Present: Jack Harrington, Lanny Slaughter, Bill Guion, and Baxter Strain

Also present were Tim Coursey, Lenita Knight, Taravia Seals, Mitch Stringer and Attorney Andy Clark.

Guests: Jan Collins, Philip LeRoux, Isaac Fowler, Ike Fowler and Pat McDonough

At 8:35 a.m., Chairman Harrington 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. Guion made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of Member Appreciation under New Business. After a second by Mr. Slaughter, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Slaughter made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 14<sup>th</sup> MCEDA Board meeting. After a second by Mr. Guion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Guion made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. After a second by Mr. Slaughter, the motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Harrington introduced and welcomed new MCEDA Board Member, Baxter Strain, to the MCEDA Board. Mr. Strain will replace At- Large appointment, Mr. Chip Estes.

Secret ballots were marked to elect a new 2010 Secretary/Treasurer. After tallying of the votes by Attorney Clark, Mr. Bob Williams was announced as winning the election unanimously.

Mr. Coursey introduced Mr. Philip LeRoux, with Summers Green and Le Roux, LLP. Mr. LeRoux presented copies of the 2009 MCEDA Audit report to the MCEDA Board for review. Mr. LeRoux stated that he found no issues with his review of all MCEDA accounts.

Mr. Coursey introduced Mr. Ike Fowler, CEO of Absocom, to the MCEDA Board. Mr. Fowler shared information on a proposed county wide Wi-Max (Wi-Fi) project for Madison County.

Mr. Fowler reported that Madison County currently lacks the proper infrastructure to access broadband in Madison County. Mr. Fowler on behalf of Absocom proposes to work in partnership with MCEDA to enable wireless internet for Madison County. This project proposes beginning in Northeast Madison County. The project also proposes MCEDA seek a New Market Tax Credit Loan in the range of \$5 Million to \$7 Million dollars. Proceeds from this loan would be used to construct the wireless network. Once the loan is secured, there would be an exit strategy available after 7 years of operating the network.

The MCEDA Board directed Attorney Clark to secure information needed to determine the procedure and need for increasing the borrowing ability of MCEDA. Additionally, a committee was identified to meet with Absocom to further discuss the plan and gather further information. The committee will include, Jack Harrington, Calvin Harris and Baxter Strain. Mr. Coursey will also set a meeting with Mr. Steve Seale to determine if he would be available to work on this project.

Chairman Harrington stated that during 2010, the MCEDA Board has experienced 2 board member replacements. Mr. Harrington suggests that the Board recognize Mr. John Almond and Mr. Chip Estes for the years served and dedication to the MCEDA Board. It is the will of the MCEDA Board to secure a recognition item to be presented to these former Board members at the MCEDA and MCBL Education Forum to be held September 1, 2010. Ms. Knight will secure the recognition pieces.

Ms. Collins provided a report for the Madison County Business League. Ms. Collins stated that the Coffee with the Congressman was cancelled and has been rescheduled for August 26. Ms. Collins also reported that the Education Forum is scheduled for September 1, 2010. Ms. Collins reported that the Madison County Business League has traded membership with all of the 5 Madison County area chambers of commerce.

Mr. Coursey reported that he has read the audit report for the Parkway East PID. Mr. Coursey stated that he has discussed this with Attorney Clark and it appears that if any of the other landowners file bankruptcy, MCEDA could be held responsible for a prorated portion of the other landowners' unpaid assessments. Mr. Coursey inquires as to whether it is still an interest with the MCEDA Board to consider the auctioning of this Parkway East property. Mr. Coursey suggests that this topic be discussed during the upcoming MCEDA Strategic Planning Session.

Mr. Coursey reported that Mr. Jeff Ballweber has submitted the RBEG grant services application. The proceeds secured from the grant application will only be a portion of the funding needed to build a store in Northeast Madison County. A business plan will also be needed as part of the grant application. Mr. Coursey would like to secure the services of Mr. Ballweber for the purpose of writing the business plan and complete some additional research or assignments to include but not limited to, tech support, congressional requests, budget coordination, grant proposals, monitor new federal availability of earmarks, and prepare 2

additional contracts for store in NE Madison County. Mr. Slaughter made a motion to approve the proposed contract for Jeff Ballweber with Pickering Engineering in the amount of \$8,500.00. After a second by Mr. Guion the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey reported that Attorney Clark made attempts to meet with the attorney for the Madison County School Board, Clark Holmes to further discuss the lease termination of the 16<sup>th</sup> Section property for MCEDA as well as the consideration of fee for the future lease of property as compensation for added infrastructure.

Mr. Coursey reported that Attorney Clark received a letter from MDOT regarding timelines for that Gluckstadt Right of Way. MDOT states that a value engineering study is required for all major federally funded projects to look at alternative methods of design, construction and/or materials incorporated into the project for the purpose of finding ways to save money. MDOT is currently evaluating the recommendations from the study.

Mr. Coursey reminded the MCEDA Board members that the 2011 Plan of Work session for the MCEDA Board will be held immediately following the September MCEDA Board meeting, September 8, 2010. Mr. Coursey stated that the purpose of this session will be to lay out the plan of work for the upcoming year which begins in October. Mr. Coursey suggested that the Board think of any projects, goals and/ or objectives they would like to consider during this work session.

Attorney Clark provided an update from legal counsel stating that all of topics have been addressed during topics presented earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Coursey reported that the bids were being opened and awarded at the Movie Studio for final work to be completed. The studio is still on track to open October 2010 providing contracts are in place. Mr. Coursey also stated that the Annual Report is in the process of being compiled to be published by October.

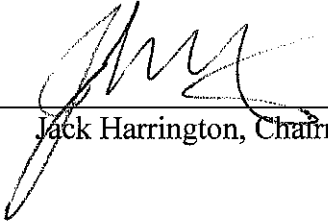
Mr. Coursey reported that Mr. George French has completed the USDA loan application and it has been signed. The purpose of this loan would be for the construction of a Convention Complex at Livingston. Attorney Clark stated that the signing of this document does not obligate MCEDA in any way.

Mr. Coursey made request for travel to the IEDC Conference, September 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Columbus, Ohio and the SAEDA Conference, August 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Memphis. Mr. Guion made a motion to approve the travel request for Mr. Coursey as presented. After a second by Mr. Slaughter, the motion was unanimously.

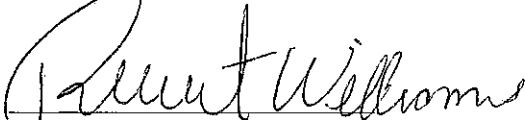
Mr. Stringer provided an existing industry report. He reported that one of the suppliers is preparing for a large expansion. He also stated that he has visited several existing businesses in the area.

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At 10:50 there was a motion by Mr. Guion to adjourn. After a second by Mr. Slaughter, the motion was unanimously approved.

  
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Jack Harrington, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Robert Williams, Secretary-Treasurer