

FINAL MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2009, MEETING OF  
THE MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
HELD AND CONDUCTED ON THE 12TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2009,  
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 February, 2009, at 8:30 a.m. in the MCEDA Office at 623 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS

Members Present: John Almond, Calvin Harris, Jack Harrington, Dick Hutchinson, Chip Estes and Bob Williams

Also present were Tim Coursey, Lenita Knight, Mitch Stringer, Taravia Seals and Attorney Leslie Scott.

Guests: Heath Hall, Steve Seale and Brad griffin

At 8:38a.m., Chairman Hutchinson 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. Estes made a motion to adopt the agenda with the removal of item III, Election of Officers. After a second by Mr. Almond, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Almond made a motion to adopt the January 12, 2009, minutes as presented. After a second by Mr. Estes, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey introduced Mr. Heath Hall to the Board. Mr. Hall was in attendance to present a Marketing Plan update. Mr. Hall reported that the MCEDA logo has been completed and the MCEDA website update and enhancements have been completed. He stated that the Ms. Harris has completed several press releases as part of the earned media process and has launched the e-newsletter that will be disseminated monthly.

Mr. Hall stated that there were 3 segments of the marketing plan designed for MCEDA. He stated that the first segment is complete and that now MCEDA needs to go out and be aggressive in the media and let the political community know what MCEDA is doing. Mr. Hall stated that advertising in area publications is key to marketing MCEDA. MCEDA has a great opportunity right now to promote its new website and location. This will allow people to see what you have to offer.

Mr. Hall stated that MCEDA needs to determine what to spend on advertising. Mr. Hutchinson suggested that Mr. Hall do some research on advertising options and their costs and bring his findings back to the MCEDA Board.

Mr. Coursey introduced Mr. Steve Seale, a lawyer with Wise Carter, hired by the Madison County Board of Supervisors and MCEDA, in accordance with cost sharing arrangements, to assist with government relations. Mr. Seale shared with the MCEDA Board the issues he has been focused on working for the Madison County Board of Supervisors. The MCEDA Board discussed the Northeast Madison County Lake initiative and its importance with Mr. Seale. The MCEDA Board asked Mr. Seale what MCEDA needs to do to get a request for funding started.

Mr. Seale suggests that MCEDA host a reception for the legislation in conjunction with the Madison County Board of Supervisors, and the Madison County Business League. Mr. Stringer will work with Mr. Seale to prepare the reception which will include a presentation about the NE Lake initiative. The presentation should illustrate the importance of the project, what it involves and the funds it will take to make it happen. This reception should be followed with a visit to Washington with a small delegation of MCEDA representatives.

Mr. Seale suggests that MCEDA secure a commitment request from Congressman Bennie Thompson and Senator Thad Cochran. This will indicate their commitment to the project and funding requests.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve that MCEDA plan and host a legislative reception. After a second by Mr. Estes, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey reported that MCEDA has responded to a request from Nissan and the Mississippi Chapter of the Japanese American Society to lead an effort to create a sister city relationship with Kanda Japan. This would include hosting a delegation of Japanese students and adult chaperones March 21 through March 25. This is a great opportunity for cultural exchange and it also helps to cement MCEDA's relationship with Nissan. Mr. Coursey requested that the MCEDA Board approve a budget and provide direction on additional sponsorship. Chairman Hutchinson stated that the MCEDA Board will yield to the best judgment of the MCEDA staff regarding any donations towards the expenses of the Sister City project.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve a budget of \$10,000.00 for the financial support and planning of the Kanda Japan Sister City Project. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey reported that the staff is currently reviewing the janitorial and landscaping contracts at the WIN Center. Ms. Knight will be securing janitorial bids for the cleaning service.

Mr. Coursey reported that Secretary of State Delbert Hosseman is changing he method of appraising 16<sup>th</sup> Section land. Mr. Coursey stated that the lease amount will include the value of the improvements to land. Mr. Coursey has talked with Madison County School Board Superintendent, Mike Kent. Mr. Kent discussed letting MCEDA out of its current 16<sup>th</sup> Section lease. Mr. Kent asked that a MCEDA spokesperson attend the School Board meeting and express MCEDA's concerns regarding the issue.

It is the will of the MCEDA Board that MCEDA ask the Attorney General for reconsideration of interpretation of the assessment process and explain the cost that is already invested and the negative impact to Economic Development that will occur as a result of changes in the assessment process.

Mr. Estes made a motion that if the changes in the assessment process become policy, MCEDA will begin negotiations to terminate all 16<sup>th</sup> section leases with the Madison County School District. After a second by Mr. Harrington and following discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey reported that the Nissan Titan truck lease is due to expire in April. Mr. Coursey has been in contact with Nissan and they have agreed to assist MCEDA with a discount of the lease or purchase of a Nissan.

Mr. Almond made a motion to advertise for bids for a new vehicle in the appropriate publication for Madison County. After a second by Mr. Williams the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey presented plans for the new MCEDA office to be located in Gluckstadt. Mr. Estes suggests utilizing a design where you utilize the land in the best way possible. He suggests that MCEDA request input from other developers for their opinions. Mr. Estes suggests that Mr. Coursey and Mr. Harrington meet with Andrew Mattice for discussion.

Mr. Coursey reported that the Madison County Business League members will be interviewing two candidates for the position of Executive Director immediately following the MCEDA Board meeting.

Mr. Coursey reported that he has a meeting scheduled with Jim Skannell, of Nissan. Mr. Coursey will share the results of this meeting once it is complete.

Mr. Coursey made travel request for New Orleans, LA, on March 2, 2009 and a possible trip to Smyrna, TN. Mr. Almond made a motion to approve travel request for Mr. Coursey as presented. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Stringer reported that the Euro American Plastic's ribbon cutting was a great success. Mr. Stringer stated that he has a meeting scheduled with Electro National to discuss available

training. Mr. Stringer also reported that he continues to stay in contact with Levi's assisting where necessary with possible facility resources.

Ms. Knight reported that she has talked with Mike Kent to get permission and approval to show and distribute the video throughout the Madison County School District. Mr. Kent reviewed the video and has given his approval. Ms. Knight reported that she visited the first school, Camden Elementary, on February 11, 2009. The students were extremely receptive to the video and stated that they enjoyed it. Ms Knight is in the process of contacting each elementary school principal to schedule an assembly or time to deliver the videos to these schools.

There was a motion by Mr. Harris and second by Mr. Williams to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the need for an Executive Session to address possible land sales and personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously. There was then a discussion of the need to go into Executive Session to consider the aforementioned, at the conclusion of which there was a motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mr. Almond to do so. This motion was adopted unanimously. Chairman Hutchinson then opened the meeting to announce publicly that the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss possible land sales and personnel matters. Chairman Hutchinson convened an Executive Session for this purpose.

Mr. Harrington made a motion to adjourn Executive Session. After a second by Mr. Estes, there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the open session. The following actions taken in Executive Session were then reported by the Chair:

Mr. Harrington made a motion to give right of first refusal to the party interested in the Gluckstadt property at a cost of \$25,000.00 with a 30 day notice of purchase and at a price of \$15.00 per square foot. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Williams made a motion that MCEDA Board wait until salary information is received before any action is taken regarding the salary of Mr. Coursey. After a second by Mr. Hutchinson, the motion was unanimously approved.

At 12:15 p.m., upon a motion made by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Harrington and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

