

FINAL MINUTES OF THE JULY 9, 2009, MEETING OF  
THE MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
HELD AND CONDUCTED ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2009, at 8:30 a.m. in the MCEDA Office at 623 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS

Members Present: John Almond, Dick Hutchinson, Chip Estes, Calvin Harris, Lanny Slaughter and Jack Harrington

Also present were Tim Coursey, Lenita Knight, Mitch Stringer, and Taravia Seals, Jim Streetman and Andy Clark

Guests: Jan Collins, Janie Jarvis and Debbie Jones

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. Almond made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. After a second by Mr. Harris, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Almond made a motion to adopt the June 11, 2009, minutes with the correction that the Harley Davidson retail facility was not relocating from Hinds County. After a second by Mr. Almond, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey introduced Ms. Debbie Jones and Ms. Janie Jarvis representing the Madison County Schools. Ms. Jones presented a draft of the 2009 Bond issue proposal of the Madison County School Board. Ms. Jones stated that the approval of the proposed bond issue would allow for a new 40 million dollar High School facility as well as upgrades to the existing schools in the school district.

Ms. Jones stated that the growth of Madison County equates to approximately 250 additional students per year to the school district. These new schools are needed to accommodate the growth of Madison County. The Madison County School Board would like for the MCEDA Board to offer a resolution of support from MCEDA for the approval of the Bond Issue for the new schools. Mr. Almond made a motion that the MCEDA Board get more information regarding the bond and distribution and table this discussion to be taken under advisement. After a second by Mr. Hutchinson the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Jones added that the Madison County School Bond vote will take place on September 15, 2009.

Mr. Coursey introduced Mr. Lanny Slaughter and welcomed him to the MCEDA Board.

Mr. Coursey reported that he attended a meeting concerning the Gluckstadt Interchange. Mr. Coursey reported that he will be completing a comment sheet from MDOT concerning right of way options. This sheet also allows for comments from the members of the MCEDA Board for any Board member that would like to have their comments included.

Mr. Coursey reported that the Madison County Board of Supervisors has asked if MCEDA would consider hiring an additional lobbyist and split the cost of the lobbyist. The cost of the lobbyist is \$75,000.00 per year. The BOS is asking MCEDA to be responsible for ½ of this fee in the amount of \$37,500.00 per year. Mr. Estes made a motion that MCEDA agree to pay ½ of the fee for the lobbyist in the amount of \$37,500.00 per year if the funds can be identified within the MCEDA budget allowed by the millage amount provided by the Madison County Board of Supervisors, if these funds are not allowed by the BOS, MCEDA would have the right to withdraw participation. After a second by Mr. Harrington, the motion passed with a vote of 4 yes, in favor to 2 no, opposed.

The MCEDA Board discussed the need to identify the individual votes of board members when the vote is not unanimous. Attorney Streetman will investigate the legal requirements of identification and bring their findings back to the MCEDA Board.

Mr. Coursey inquired if the MCEDA Board had determined the need or value of advertising in the local newspapers. It was stated that the MCEDA Board wanted to lean towards earned media as the best source of advertisement and promotion for MCEDA. Additionally, Mr. Coursey reported that the signs at the Industrial Parks are in poor condition and are in need of repair. MCEDA staff is currently securing quotes for repair and replacement of signs. This will include signs for Industrial Parks and available property.

Mr. Coursey reported that he would like for the Board to consider MCEDA hosting an Economic Outlook Symposium allowing the Madison County Business League to partner with MCEDA in presenting the Symposium. Mr. Coursey stated that this will be presented in a very professional manner with an effective keynote speaker and possible sponsorships from area business. Mr. Coursey stated that the estimated cost of this event would be approximately \$30,000.00. The MCEDA Board suggests making sure that this event does not overlap any economic reporting event already being presented in the area.

The MCEDA strategic planning retreat will be held August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Tunica, MS. Mr. Tim Coursey will be the facilitator for the event. The event will consist of two ½ day sessions.

Ms. Jan Collins provided an update for the Madison County Business League. Ms. Collins stated that she has been working with Ms. Harris about MCEDA and the Business League possibly advertising together with a full page advertisement. Ms. Collins also reported that the Business League is planning their Fall Forum which will be held September 17, 2009. Mr. Hugh Meena will be the guest speaker for the event.

Mr. Coursey reported that Budget Committee met. Mr. Coursey also reported that he had spoken with Mr. Donnie Caughman regarding the budget; Mr. Caughman stated that MCEDA should receive the same amount as last year. Mr. Coursey stated that the budget will be set after the MCEDA Planning Retreat.

Mr. Coursey reported that Mr. Jeff Ballwebber is still looking into ways to find money for the Northeast Madison Lake project. He will be working with the local offices of the MS delegation to try to get their assistance.

Mr. Coursey reported that the Stimulus Package Broadband Grant rules have been released. However, there is no application available at this time. Mr. Coursey reported that MCEDA only qualifies as a grant/loan applicant because the Northeast area of Madison County is considered to be underserved. Mr. Coursey stated that meetings will continue with Mr. Paul Griffin, CMPDD and Steve Seale to determine what direction to go in from here.

Mr. Coursey reported that the new office building plans were researched to include German façade, look and feel. Mr. Coursey added that the project is currently on hold pending a property sale. Mr. Coursey will check on the MCEDA leased 16<sup>th</sup> section land as an option for building a new MCEDA facility. It is the will of the MCEDA Board that this be added to the Planning Retreat agenda.

Attorney Jim Streetman provided an update from legal counsel. Mr. Streetman stated that the Covenants updates are in rough draft and will be emailed to Mr. Coursey for review. Mr. Streetman also stated that the legal team is currently negotiating with Madison County School Board regarding 16<sup>th</sup> section land and a plan to be reimbursed for infrastructure MCEDA constructed.

Mr. Harris reported that he had reviewed the Financials and recommended them for approval. Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. After a second by Mr. Hutchinson, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey reported that he has met with the director if the Madison County HMA hospital. There will be a groundbreaking for the hospital to be planned at a later date. It is the direction of the MCEDA Board for MCEDA to assist in hosting of this ground breaking if possible.

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Mr. Coursey made a travel request for himself, Lenita Knight and Mitch Stringer to attend an upcoming Economic Symposium in Biloxi sponsored by USM on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Estes made a motion to approve the travel request as presented. After a second by Mr. Harris the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Mitch Stringer reported that K&S Wiring has moved to Canton, MS. Mr. Stringer also reported that he has meetings scheduled with Tower Automotive and Cardinal Health.

Ms. Knight reported that the Sister City planning committee continues to meet monthly. The committee is in the process of finalizing letters to be sent to all of the area high schools to notify the faculty and students of the opportunity and processes for applying to participate as a delegate to Kanda Japan. Ms. Knight also reported that the committee is working with travel agencies to determine a budget amount per individual and for the entire delegation. The committee will also be soliciting sponsorship funds from area businesses.

Ms. Knight also reported that she has been contacted by Mr. Darrell Lee with Mississippi Public Broadcasting regarding the implementation of a community wide outreach project within the city of Canton starting in the fall of 2009. Ms. Knight was contacted by email from Mr. Lee and will be scheduling a meeting to discuss this program further.

Mr. Estes presented a list of Goals and Objectives for 2006-2007. Mr. Estes requested that this list be updated. Mr. Coursey suggested that the update of these goals and objectives take place during the upcoming Planning Retreat.

Chairman Hutchinson reported that there was no business necessary for Executive Session.

At 10:38 a.m., upon a motion made by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

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G. Richard Hutchinson, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Calvin Harris, Secretary-Treasurer