

FINAL MINUTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2009, MEETING OF
THE MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HELD AND CONDUCTED ON THE 11TH DAY OF JUNE 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 11th day of June, 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
And Bob Williams

Also present were Tim Coursey, Lenita Knight, Mitch Stringer, and
Taravia Seals

Guests: Jan Collins, Jeff Ballwebber, Tom Bryant and Brad Griffin

At 8:34a.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. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Almond made a motion to adopt the May 14, 2009, minutes as presented. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Jeff Ballwebber provided an update for the Northeast Madison Lake Project. Mr. Ballwebber presented a hand out of the Madison County Lake Preliminary Project Tasks and Timeline. This included the project feasibility study as well as the project outlined in 6 phases. Mr. Ballwebber also provided a finalization and follow up of the previous statement of work. Mr. Ballwebber stated that grant writing activities are underway. Mr. Ballwebber stated that he is currently pursuing grant opportunities which are being presented to MCEDA staff for discussion.

Mr. Coursey stated that he has received a letter from the County Administrator requesting MCEDA to submit our budget request to the Board of Supervisors. The County has asked all departments to reduce their budgets by 5%. Mr. Coursey stated that he met with the MCEDA Budget Committee. As a result of the meeting Mr. Coursey stated that he will be submitting a budget request on behalf of MCEDA to the Madison County Board of Supervisors in the amount of \$500,000.00.

Mr. Coursey reported that there have been two additional Ad Valorem tax exemption applications submitted to the county, from M-Tek, Inc. and Denbury Onshore LLC. These requests were received after the Madison County policy deadline. Mr. Coursey suggest the approval of the M-Tek, Inc. request.

Mr. Estes made a motion to approve the Ad Valorem tax exemption request for M-Tek, Inc., while denying the Ad Valorem Tax exemption request for Denbury Onshore due to lack of adherence to Madison County and the State of MS Ad Valorem Exemption policy. After a second by Mr. Almond, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Jan Collins presented an update for the Madison County Business League. Ms. Collins reported that the marketing brochure for the Business League is scheduled for delivery. Ms. Collins has received commitments from approximately 22 possible people for membership. The Business League website is also up and running. Ms. Collins stated that she has been meeting with each Madison County Supervisor on an individual basis while keeping frequent communication as her focus.

Mr. Coursey presented an option concerning the MCEDA City Grants and Chamber Contributions. Mr. Coursey stated that the MCEDA Board might want to consider reducing the amount of the grants as one option for overall adjustments to the MCEDA Budget. It is the direction of the MCEDA Board to leave the amount of the grants at their current amount to be awarded during each fiscal year with no advance awards.

Mr. Estes presented an additional MCEDA office relocation option. Mr. Estes stated that there is a building available for purchase in the Canton Industrial Park. Mr. Estes stated that it might be wise to investigate this location as a relocation option. Mr. Estes also stated that Larry Smith-Vanez has expressed an interest in a land swap or part equity option for MCEDA offices constructed in Gluckstadt.

Mr. Almond stated that he had an opportunity to visit the building located in the Canton Industrial Park. Mr. Almond stated that this building is of low quality construction and would not make a good impression for MCEDA.

Mr. Andy Clark provided an update from legal counsel. Mr. Clark stated that the legal team is currently working with the Madison County School Board regarding 16th section land and our request for them to consider a payback policy for the infrastructure MCEDA constructed on the land and communicating with the Public Service Commission regarding Broad Band access capability. Mr. Coursey has a meeting scheduled for Friday, June 12th to begin the process of gathering data for a broadband grant. Mr. Clark stated that work also continues on the covenants.

Mr. Coursey reported that MCEDA has a new board member, Mr. Lanny Slaughter, appointed by Supervisor Karl Banks to replace Mr. Thomas Johnson.

Mr. Coursey also reported that he met with architect, Mr. Russell Perkins and stated that the new office building plans are available for review. Mr. Coursey also reported that he has been in contact with HMA regarding the possible need for a clinic in the Madison County area.

Mr. Coursey presented that Economic Report Card, a copy of which was included in the Board packet. Mr. Coursey stated that the report card will be published and updated semi annually. The format may change for printing purposes. The MCEDA Board would also like to see an executive summary added to the report with comparisons of Rankin County. The Report card will also be included on the MCEDA Website.

Mr. Coursey announced that the MEDC Summer Conference is scheduled for July 22 – 24, 2009. Mr. Estes made a motion to approve travel request for the MCEDA Board and Staff to the MEDC Summer Conference in Biloxi, MS, July 22-24, 2009. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Stringer reported that he attended the Automotive News Conference in Birmingham. He stated that this was a way to build a better relationship with Nissan. Mr. Stringer stated that the convention included a large Media conference and that there was an emphasis on flexibility in the auto industry.

Mr. Stringer also reported that he has been working with a developer to identify a 20,000 square foot facility in Madison County. Mr. Estes mentioned that Harley Davidson is looking to relocate. Mr. Stringer stated that he would look into this.

Mr. Stringer has also been involved in conversations and meetings involving the sale of the CN rail lines north of Canton. He is currently working with Representative Rita Martinson and Supervisor D.I. Smith on this matter. Mr. Stringer reported that he is also working on the update of the Wage and Benefit Survey.

Ms. Knight reported that she might have the opportunity to share the video with summer camps and area Boys and Girls Clubs. Ms. Knight also reported that the Sister City planning committee continues to meet monthly. She stated that she has been in contact with the Birmingham, AL Sister City coordinator to discuss their process and gain further knowledge. Ms. Knight stated that the Madison County committee is currently looking at the selection process and criteria and possible sources of funding. Ms. Knight reported that there could be greater opportunities to receive funding and direction by becoming members of the Sister City International organization.

Mr. Estes made a motion to approve membership in the Sister Cities International organization for MCEDA/Madison County. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

There was a motion by Mr. Almond and second by Mr. Williams to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the need for an Executive Session to discuss 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. Almond and a second by Mr. Estes 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 Personnel Matters. Chairman Hutchinson convened an Executive Session for this purpose.

Mr. Estes made a motion to adjourn Executive Session. After a second by Mr. Williams, 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. Almond made a motion to increase the base salary of Executive Director, Tim Coursey by 3% as a cost of living increase. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

During open session, the Board expressed an interest in a MCEDA Board and Staff retreat opportunity possibly sometime in August in Tunica, MS, as an effort to welcome the new MCEDA Board member and attorneys. Ms. Knight will solicit MCEDA Board members for best available dates.

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

G. Richard Hutchinson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Calvin Harris, Secretary-Treasurer