## FINAL MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2014, MEETING OF THE MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HELD AND CONDUCTED ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2014, AT 8:30 A.M.

## IN THE MCEDA CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MCEDA OFFICES AT 625 HIGHLAND COLONY PARKWAY, RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI

The meeting of the Madison County Economic Development Authority was conducted on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in the MCEDA Office at 625 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS.

Members Present:

Bill Guion, Dick Hutchinson, Baxter Strain, Jim Smith,

Lanny Slaughter and Calvin Harris

Also present were Tim Coursey, Lenita Knight, Taquana Bell Mack, and

Attorney Andy Clark.

Guests:

Joann Gordon, Jena Padget, Phillip LeRoux, Bob Montgomery, Rick

Moore

At 8:38 a.m., Chairman Guion 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. Slaughter made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. After a second by Mr. Harris, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Strain made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2014 MCEDA Board meeting. After a second by Mr. Smith, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hutchinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2014 Special MCEDA Board meeting. After a second by Mr. Smith, the motion was unanimously approved

Mr. Strain reported that he had reviewed that Financial Report and everything appeared to be in order. Mr. Hutchinson made a motion to approve the MCEDA financial report as presented. After a second by Mr. Slaughter the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey presented Phillip LeRoux of Summers, Green, & LeRoux to the MCEDA Board. Mr. LeRoux was engaged to conduct the annual MCEDA audit and stated that all MCEDA records was in order. Mr. Coursey stated that the accounting firm, led by Mr. Phillip LeRoux found all MCEDA records to be in order. Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the Audit report as presented. After a second by Mr. Slaughter the motion was unanimously approved. There was a motion by Mr. Strain and second by Mr. Harris to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the need for an Executive Session to address possible land sales. 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.

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Slaughter and a second by Mr. Strain to do so. This motion was adopted unanimously. Chairman Guion then opened the meeting to announce publicly that the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss possible land sales. Chairman Guion convened an Executive Session for this purpose.

Mr. Coursey presented Joann Gordon of the Canton Convention & Visitors Bureau & Film Office and Rick Moore of EyeVox and Mad Genius. Ms. Gordon updated the MCEDA board on the Film Studios and the expansion of its offices. Taking advantage of a Katrina grant worth 445,000, the Film Studios was about to add 12 offices. The Film Studios, per Ms. Gordon, has also been involved in several productions, movies, Young Filmmakers Program, Workforce Training, and even was referenced in the Wall Street journal's article on the City of Canton.

Mr. Coursey stated that Mr. Rick Moore was present to discuss his desire to take over the Film Studio lease and executing a new lease. Mr. Moore stated that his plan for growing the industry for Madison County held a profit motive and would hopefully increase film incentives for Madison County and the state of Mississippi. If Mr. Moore is to assume management of the lease and worst case scenario, it didn't work out, Mr. Coursey stated that the lease would then revert back to Joann Gordon's group. The MCEDA board agreed to wait until July to review an agreement between MCEDA and Mr. Moore on the possible details if that were to happen. Mr. Moore would be leasing directly from MCEDA in the event. The board liked the idea that was presented and agreed to form a financial committee to formulate a plan on behalf of MCEDA. Bill Guion, Baxter Strain, and Jim Smith are on this committee.

Mr. Strain made a motion to adjourn Executive Session. After a second by Mr. Slaughter there was a unanimous vote to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the open session.

Ms. Jan Collins provided an update for the Madison County Business League (MCBL). Ms. Collins gave an update on the merge of the MCBL with the Foundation. There would be no change to the bylaws or the board once this merge is complete. Ms. Collins stated that the MCBL is moving forward and has also elected new board members: Phil Buffington, Brad Maley, and Brad McMillan.

Ms. Collins stated that Mr. Phillip LeRoux, also conducted a review of their finances and that MCBL was working on a merger agreement and further discussions would be continued. She informed the Board that there will be a Healthcare Committee meeting the week of June 9, 2014 and Murray Harbor would be the speaker and on August 20, Len Fitch would be utilizing MCBL to introduce her financial literacy program. Ms. Collins also stated that the Entrepreneur Committee and Joe Donovan would like to possibly form a SWAP team.

Ms. Collins also reported that the Madison County Creative Council is currently working to have its website be the go-to site for information and events regarding the county.

Mr. Coursey provided an update on the Madison Schools Resolution. He is still waiting to hear back from Ronnie McGeehee. Mr. Strain agreed to follow-up with Mr. McGeehee.

Mr. Coursey made a request to change the July scheduled board meeting to July 17, 2014 since he will be out of town on the original meeting date and time.

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Mr. Strain made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing Mr. Coursey's signature on all closing documents for the new building with Priority One. After a second by Mr. Harris, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith made a motion to authorize Mr. Coursey to sign all necessary documents needed to transfer the property over the Flora Water well site to the Town of Flora. After a second by Mr. Hutchinson, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey stated that MCEDA tried to close on the new offices on June 11, 2014 but flood insurance was needed. Mr. Coursey stated that flood insurance would be placed on the property. Mr. Coursey mentioned a possible separate space in the back of the new building specifically for MCBL's suite. He noted that MCBL will be charged a fee for the space that they utilize.

Attorney Andy Clark provided an update to the board and has all resolutions drafted that are needed for the new building and will get them signed and handled at closing.

Mr. Coursey stated that he would be traveling to Fort Myers once again as well as attending the MEDC conference on next month. He mentioned that Jamie Martin would possibly be going as well.

Mr. Coursey provided an update on the existing industry and stated that the Existing Industry Report for Ms. Winningham could be reviewed by the MCEDA Board as part of the Executive Director's report.

Mrs. Lenita Knight presented the board with the Community Development report update. She stated that MCEDA hosted the Monthly Human Resource Managers meetings for May where J. Paul Childress with People Lease of Ridgeland was the speaker. Mrs. Knight also attended the monthly Canton Chamber Board meeting as well as the Creative Economy Council meeting.

Mrs. Knight attended and presented during the Awards day celebration at Velma Jackson High School for the Youth Leadership participants. She also attended, along with Jan Collins, the Holmes Community College Minority Business Informational Meeting. She has continued to work on preparing vital information for reference regarding the MCEDA office and changes to leave in her departure.

There was a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Harris to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the need for an Executive Session to discuss land sale and personnel. 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. Strain and a second by Mr. Harris to do so. This motion was adopted unanimously. Chairman Guion then opened the meeting to announce publicly that the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss land sales and personnel. Chairman Guion convened an Executive Session for this purpose.

Mr. Coursey reported that the first Talent Scout Video is complete and the second video for married couples is almost complete. The Panther Creek video is in process but Mr. Coursey suggested getting a helicopter shot by possibly purchasing a camera-equipped drone. He stated

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that a drone would allow MCEDA to film diverse aerial shots of all of our industrial parks and commercial areas and even residential areas for use on the MCEDA website and marketing emails. Mr. Coursey stated that Rick's people would fly it at no cost to MCEDA with the exception of allowing them to borrow it from time to time.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve up to \$3,000.00 to buy a drone for marketing purposes for MCEDA. After a second by Mr. Harris, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey reported that the \$250,000 Telehealth MDA Ace Grant was approved on June 11, 2014. This is a grant to MCEDA to pass thru to TelehealthOne and Mr. Coursey has all of the schematics regarding it.

Mr. Coursey reported that he planned to submit the application for the \$1Million EDA grant this week. Mr. Harris made a motion to approve authorizing MCEDA to engage the CMPDD to a) provide technical assistance and to make application to EDA for a Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant b) designate the CMPDD as the AOR, and c) authorize Mr. Coursey to sign all documents related to this process, 2) approve letter of matching funds and 3) approve letter of jobs and investment. After a second by Mr. Strain, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey reported that MCEDA was putting key people in place to get their input regarding the cooperative shared services and would be traveling to Ft. Myers with several representatives from the local hospitals to get their input and hopefully buy-in to the concept of cooperative shared services.

Mr. Coursey stated that he is reviewing the first draft of the layout for the Global Institute for Research and Operational Training (GIROT) area.

Mr. Hutchinson made a motion to approve a salary increase and position promotion for Taquana Bell to the position of Office Manager in the amount of \$35,000.00 annual salary effective July 1, 2014. After a second by Mr. Harris, the motion was unanimously approved.

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

At 11:30 a.m., upon a motion made by Mr. Strain, second by Mr. Hutchinson and unanimously approved the meeting was adjourned.

Bill Guion, Chairman

ATTEST:

Baxter Strain, Secretary/Treasurer