

FINAL MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2008, MEETING OF
THE MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HELD AND CONDUCTED ON THE 13TH DAY OF MAY 2008,
AT 8:30 A.M.
IN THE MCEDA CONFERENCE ROOM
OF THE 1855 COURTHOUSE IN CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

The meeting of the Madison County Economic Development Authority was conducted on the 13th day of May, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. in the 1855 Courthouse in the City of Canton.

Members Present: Thomas Johnson, John Almond, Chip Estes, Calvin Harris, Jack Harrington, Dick Hutchinson and Bob Williams
Also present were Tim Coursey, Lenita Knight, Mitch Stringer and Attorney Leslie Scott

Guests: Tim Johnson, Lucy Webber, Benjamin Roberson, Cap Primos and Brad Griffin

At 8:30 a.m., Chairman Johnson 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. Coursey made an amendment to the agenda to move Update From Legal Council by Ben Roberson to Item B under New Business. Mr. Almond made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. After a second by Mr. Hutchinson the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Estes made a motion to adopt the April 10, 2008 minutes. After a second by Mr. Hutchinson, the motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Johnson called for a report from the Madison County Foundation. There was no one present from the Foundation to give a report.

Mr. Coursey presented President of the Madison County Board of Supervisors, Mr. Tim Johnson, to the MCEDA Board. Mr. Johnson commended MCEDA on the great job that MCEDA is doing for Madison County. He stated that there is tremendous opportunity as we move forward in Madison County. Mr. Johnson stated that the Madison County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on May 8, 2008 to hire a lobbyist to represent Madison County. He stated that he recently returned from a trip to Washington that helped resonate the fact that Madison County needs representation.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board of Supervisors has hired Mr. Steve Seale of Wise, Carter, Child and Caraway Law Firm. He further stated that the Board of Supervisors is asking MCEDA to share the cost of the lobbyist at 50% of the total fee. The annual compensation for Mr. Seal is \$75,000.00. The Board of Supervisors is asking MCEDA to pay \$37,500.00, plus the cost of expenses.

Mr. Estes made a motion to approve the financing in the amount of ½ the cost of the lobbyists hired by the Madison County Board of Supervisors plus ½ the cost of expenses for said lobbyist. After a second by Mr. Almond, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that it would be imperative that the county think about other lobbyist that could possibly serve in the same role as Mr. Seal and look additionally at other lobbyists beyond next year and complete some due diligence in securing future lobbyist services. Mr. Tim Johnson agreed and stated that Mr. Seal is under a one(1) year contract and suggests putting processes for evaluation in place to determine the success of his lobbyist efforts for Madison County.

Mr. Coursey introduced Mr. Ben Roberson of Butler Snow. Mr. Roberson presented the Articles of Incorporation for discussion with the MCEDA Board. The first item of discussion is the name of the organization. Mr. Estes made a motion to change the name to the Madison County Business League, Inc. After a second by Mr. Hutchinson, the motion was unanimously approved.

It was the direction of the Board that Mr. Tim Coursey would serve as the registered agent and Attorney Leslie Scott would serve as the incorporator. The following corrections were made on the attachment to the Articles of Incorporation, Item 8, Purposes, second paragraph, 3rd line, following MCEDA add “and elected officials”; Item 11, Members, 1st line after businesses, add “and individuals”.

Mr. Roberson stated that once the Articles of Incorporation are filed, a tax ID can be established and a bank account can be opened. Chairman Johnson inquired who will be responsible for handling the funds of the League. It was determined that Mr. Tim Coursey would handle the funds for the Madison County Business League, Inc. until it was up and running and could afford its own paid staff. The time he devoted to assisting with this duty during this interim period will be done in Mr. Coursey’s free time and not when he is on duty for MCEDA.

Formation of the League was discussed. Four private sector members will be appointed that will serve as directors until the 1st Annual Meeting. These selections need to be made in a timely manner and the ex-officio members should share a slate of names along with the MCEDA Board for newly appointed League directors. Each MCEDA Board member will send the names of two (2) individuals as suggestions for the League Directors to Mr. Coursey by the end of the week.

Mr. Roberson presented the draft Bylaws of the Business League. The following corrections were made, Article, V Section 13, Executive Committee should not be allowed full control. This section will be altered to reflect the same as MCEDA’s policy.

Mr. Estes made a motion to allow the MCEDA partnership committee to continue in its current role of assisting with the establishment of the League. After a second by Mr. Hutchinson, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey made a request to hire public relations consultant Mr. Heath Hall in the amount of \$6,000.00 plus \$2,000.00 per month if additional services are needed to help implement the strategy. Mr. Hall will first evaluate MCEDA's PR and branding strategy, then develop a comprehensive PR/branding plan and consult on the implementation of the plan as needed. Mr. Harrington made a motion to approve hiring Mr. Heath Hall for Public Relations purposes for MCEDA. After a second by Mr. Hutchinson, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey stated a Grant Writer would be a great benefit to MCEDA. He stated that it would be the responsibility of the grant writer to identify funds, write grants, submit and monitor grants and administer awarded grants, if and when necessary. Mr. Coursey proposes that MCEDA approach Mrs. Kristi Whitney to handle MCEDA's grant program. It is the direction of the MCEDA Board to have a grant writer make a presentation to the MCEDA Board on what they do and how it can benefit MCEDA. Mr. Hutchinson made a motion for Mr. Coursey to bring a specific proposal and or target a grant area with some one identified to compete this task and a subcommittee to review. After a second by Mr. Harris, the motion was unanimously approved.

Attorney Scott reported that she has worked on routine matters. And additionally, she worked with Mr. Roberson regarding the Business League. She also stated that she has been working with Mr. Sam Keys, Mr. Coursey and Ms. Knight regarding the bond debt refinance.

Mr. Harrington 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 Ms Knight has sent letters of invitations to request a \$2500 dollar MCEDA marketing grant to all Cities/Towns.

Mr. Coursey reported that MCEDA has been approached regarding a Brownfield site located in the Canton Industrial area. They would like for MCEDA to donate the land and they would clean it up and sell it. Mr. Coursey will continue to research this matter.

Mr. Coursey reported that the Executive Committee decided that the policy going forward for granting utility easements will still be considered on a case by case basis. And regarding the Parkway East easement request, the Committee decided to donate the easement and to make it exclusive. This will ensure that permission is received from MCEDA prior to any other use of the easement.

Mr. Coursey reported that he would like to look into conducting more educational events for the county. He has requested a proposal from an individual who can organize educational and training events.

Mr. Coursey made the following travel request; IEDC trip to North Carolina, June 8- 10, SEDC July 8-11, and MEDC July 23-25 for Board and staff. Mr. Estes made a motion to approve all travel as requested. After a second by Mr. Harris, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Scott discussed the procedures for depository notification. She stated that a notice should be provided to all area banks that are FDIC/FSLIC insured. The Board needs to determine the term for the depository agreements. It is the will of the Board to complete the process and let the term run through December 31, 2009. Mr. Hutchinson made a motion to publish the depository notice at the next MCEDA Board meeting. After a second by Mr. Harrington, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey reported that the Bond refinance process is continuing under the direction of Mr. Sam Keyes. The closing date is estimated to take place during the week of June 23, 2008 if there are no delays at all and things move along completely as planned without interruption.

Mr. Coursey reported that there has been a high level of interest in the Gluckstadt Property. Five local realtors have asked for information packages for interested clients.

Mr. Coursey reported that Mr. Stringer has worked with the county Road Manger to identify the property that the County will start maintaining. They have agreed to do the mowing for \$2,000.00 per mowing which will be done monthly during the growing season. This should save MCEDA approximately \$18,000.00 annually.

Mr. Hutchinson made a motion that the Executive Director of MCEDA is not required to attend any future Madison County Foundation meetings and additionally that the MCF Report be removed from the monthly agenda of the MCEDA Board meetings. After a second by Mr. Estes, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Stringer reported that he has been working with CMPDD for the South Central MS Works Local Workforce Investment Board nomination process to nominate Electro National and L-3. He has also been working with Toni Cooley of SEC to link up businesses throughout the county. Mr. Stringer reported that he traveled to Chicago for a consultant's trip and this went well. He was fortunate to have two Madison County businesses represented and had the opportunity to meet with them. He has also worked with M-Tek executives that have assisted with potential prospects for Madison County.

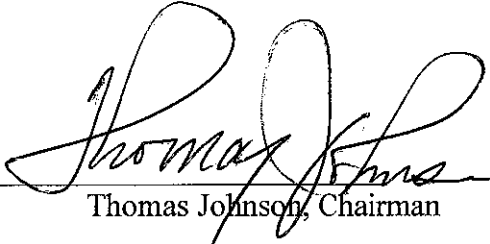
Ms. Knight reported that communication with Eyevox continues regarding the video planning and production. She stated that a second verse has been added to the rap and work on the concept continues. Ms. Knight has been communicating with Ms. Beverly Luckett of Canton Public Schools and has a meeting scheduled at the end of the week with Eyevox and Ms. Luckett. Production of the video will take place in June and July with distribution at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.

There was a motion by Mr. Almond 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 and potential litigation. 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. Hutchinson and a second by Mr. Harris to do so. This motion was adopted unanimously. Chairman Johnson then opened the meeting to announce publicly that the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss possible land sales and potential litigation. Chairman Johnson convened an Executive Session for this purpose.

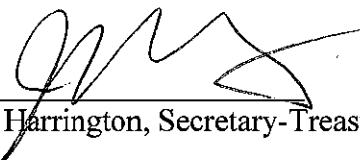
Mr. Hutchinson made a motion to adjourn Executive Session. After a second by Mr. Harrington, there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the open session. The following actions taken in Executive Session were then reported by the Chair:

Mr. Hutchinson made a motion to authorize Mr. Coursey to offer Bass Pecan five (5) acres of property in Canton at the same price of CMU Canton property. After a second by Mr. Almond, the motion was unanimously approved.

At 11:33 a.m., upon a motion made by Mr. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. Harris and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned.


Thomas Johnson, Chairman

ATTEST:


Jack Harrington, Secretary-Treasurer