

FINAL MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2010, MEETING OF
THE MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HELD AND CONDUCTED ON THE 8TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2010,
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 8th day of September, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. in the MCEDA Office at 623 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS.

Members Present: Jack Harrington, Lanny Slaughter, Baxter Strain, Bob Williams, Calvin Harris, Bill Guion and Dick Hutchinson

Also present were Tim Coursey, Lenita Knight, Taravia Seals, Mitch Stringer and Attorney Andy Clark.

Guests: Jan Collins, Ike Fowler and Pat McDonough

At 8:47 a.m., Chairman Harrington 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. Williams made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. After a second by Mr. Hutchinson, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Strain made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 11th MCEDA Board meeting and the August 26th Special MCEDA Board meeting. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. After a second by Mr. Harris, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey presented Mr. Ike Fowler with Absocom. Mr. Fowler provided an update on the Wi-Max feasibility study for Madison County. Mr. Fowler reported that Absocom would complete the study in the next nine weeks. During this time, reports will be made to the MCEDA Board and or staff every two weeks. Mr. Fowler stated that the first two week period is the most crucial time period. During this time, objectives must be presented, assessment of priorities, form advisory council and draft mission statement. Mr. Fowler also reported that a work schedule would be provided for monitoring purposes. Mr. Fowler stated that he would personally meet with the leadership of each municipality.

Mr. Coursey reported on the need to continue or discontinue the MCEDA Marketing Grant program. It is the direction of the MCEDA Board that an application process is instituted. The submission of an application does not guarantee grant approval. Approval of all grants will be the final decision of the MCEDA Board. It was also determined that all chamber sponsorship requests will be approved by the Executive Director on a case by case basis.

Mr. Coursey reported that he has been approached by the Madison County School District Superintendent, Mike Kent about possible support with a school demographic study. Mr. Kent is seeking the support of various sources for the completion of this study. These studies are revised every 4- 5 years and a new revision is currently needed for the Madison County study.

Mr. Coursey reported that it would be in the best interest of MCEDA to seek an increase in the limit of our borrowing capacity as spelled out in our authorizing legislation. Mr. Hutchinson made a motion to allow Mr. Coursey to meet with the MS legislative representation and go through the process of lobbying to request the increase of the borrowing limit of MCEDA to \$24,000,000.00. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey stated that a meeting needs to be set up with Mr. Steve Seale regarding his status as lobbyist for the Madison County Board of Supervisors and MCEDA. This meeting will be for Mr. Seale, Mr. Coursey and any MCEDA Board members that wish to attend. The MCEDA Board would also like to request that Mr. Seale attend a MCEDA Board meeting and provide an update on county lobbying efforts.

Mr. Coursey provided an update on the Livingston Township development. Mr. Coursey stated that the Livingston representatives presented a management agreement to MCEDA for review to be signed. It is the direction of the MCEDA Board that no agreements or contracts are signed until MCEDA receives something more tangible on the property and all the Madison County Board of Supervisors are made aware of the development.

Mr. Coursey reported that in regard to the Northeast Madison RBEG Grant, he will be meeting with Mr. Jeff Ballweber to finalize the grant process and discuss the business plan for the retail store.

Mr. Coursey stated that in the past, MCEDA has contributed \$10,000.00 to the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce. This is now known as the Scandinavian Economic Development Alliance, which has been formed and is being marketed as a broader approach to recruiting Scandinavian companies, not just Swedish companies. Mr. Coursey stated that he is still in the process of learning more about the new structure and function of the new organization. Once Mr. Coursey receives more information he will present it to the Board for review. It is the sense of the MCEDA Board that unless there is some further need identified later, the MCEDA Board will not be dedicating \$10,000.00 to the Scandinavian ED Alliance.

Attorney Clark provided an update from legal counsel. Attorney Clark stated that he continues to attempt to schedule a meeting with Mike Kent and Holmes Adams with the Madison County School District for the purpose of discussing the 16th section land lease and procedures.

Ms. Jan Collins provided an update for the Madison County Business League. Ms. Collins stated that the Education Forum sponsored by MCEDA and the MCBL was a great success. Ms. Collins stated that the MCBL is working to partner with Canton Academy and Canton Public Schools to begin an early reading program. The next Coffee and Congressman event is scheduled for Wednesday, October 20th at the CAVS center in Canton.

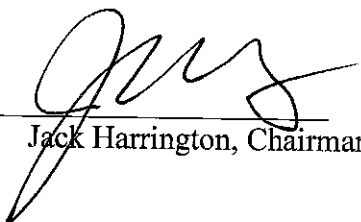
Mr. Harris stated that the Education Forum was very informative and suggested that for future events that there should be more diversity in the presenting groups and or program participants.

Mr. Coursey stated that he received a letter from Parkway East Property Attorney Bob Montgomery regarding property owners who are in default of making their annual assessment payments. It is the sense of the MCEDA Board that Mr. Coursey, with the assistance of the Board attorney, will investigate the policies and procedures for auctioning land and make recommendations at the next MCEDA Board meeting.

Mr. Coursey made a travel request for the NMTC Investor Conference in Chicago, October 18 – 21 for Tim Coursey and Jack Harrington. Mr. Guion made a motion to approve the travel request for Mr. Coursey and Mr. Harrington to Chicago. After a second by Mr. Williams the motion was unanimously approved.


Chairman Harrington stated that there was no business to discuss in Executive Session.

At 10:48 there was a motion by Mr. Harris to adjourn. After a second by Mr. Hutchinson, the motion was unanimously approved.



Jack Harrington, Chairman

ATTEST:



Robert Williams, Secretary-Treasurer