

**Notes from the Economic Development Corporation and
Chatham County Joint Elected Boards Meeting
September 24, 2009**

The Board of Directors of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) met with the elected boards of Chatham County – the Board of Commissioners, the Goldston Town Board, the Pittsboro Town Board, the Siler City Town Board and the Chatham County Board of Education – on Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Village at Chatham Mills.

In attendance were:

Chatham County Board of Commissioners: Mike Cross, Carl Thompson, Tom Vanderbeck

Chatham County Economic Development Corporation: Joe Glasson, Mari Howe, Ned Kelly, Jennifer Nelson, Jamie Nunnally, Daniel Sundberg, Jeffrey Starkweather, Dianne Reid, Carolyn Underwood

Chatham County Board of Education: Flint O'Brien, Deb McManus, Kathie Russell, Gerald Totten

Town of Goldston: Steve Cunnup, Tim Cunnup

Town of Pittsboro: Pamela Baldwin, Hugh Harrington, Randy Voller

Town of Siler City: Sam Adams, Joel Brower, Larry Cheek, John Grimes, Jack Meadows, Don Tarkenton

Others: John Anton, Bill Crawford, Philip Culpepper, Jim Dilettoso, Mike Dilettoso, Michael Fiocco, Lynette Gavalier, John Graybeal, Charlie Horne, David Hughes, Paul Messick, Jason Sullivan, Quint Redmond, Howard Stier, Don Yonavjak

Joe Glasson, Chair of the EDC, welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the joint boards. He described the EDC's progress to date and introduced Dianne Reid, EDC president. Reid talked about EDC's new program implementation organizational structure (Power Point presentation attached).

The attendees then broke into three discussion groups, Infrastructure, Business Government Operations, and Education/Workforce Training. The groups were charged with naming the essential partners necessary to move their particular business issue forward. Notes from each group are attached.

Meeting notes were prepared by EDC staff.

Group notes discussing Infrastructure

Identify and inventory Chatham County infrastructure, including water, sewer, internet, roads, rail, and airports. Perform a gap analysis to determine specific and targeted deficiencies, (water, sewer, and broadband specifically). In conjunction with Essential Partners, develop and implement the plan, including timelines, in addressing the gaps. It is essential that the municipalities and the County jointly move forward in these assessments. The collaboration of the ex-officio members of the EDC Board representing the municipalities and County is critical for this program strategy to be successful.

Specific agencies and individuals within those agencies that need to be involved in getting the team operational (names in bold are identified as essential partners):

Chatham County: **David Hughes**, Public Works, Cynthia Van Der Wiele, Director, Sustainable Communities Development, Roy Lowder, water treatment plant, Jenny Williams, permitting, **Charlie Horne**, County Manager, Jep Rose, County Attorney, Vicki McConnell, County Finance Director

Siler City: **Joel Brower**, City Manager, Jack Meadows, Planning and Community Development, Terry Green, Public Utilities, Wanda Ingold, Finance Director

Goldston: **Johnny Clark**, Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District, Jeff Bright, Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District

Pittsboro: **Bill Terry**, City Manager, David Monroe, Planner, John Poteat, Public Works, Finance Person

Other: Karen McCraw, airport manager, Siler City, **Marty Clayton**, Progress Energy, Steve Judge, Progress Energy (engineer), Jerry Kidd, Embarq, Rubin Blakely, D.O.T., Bennie Sloan, D.O.T., Tom Roberts, Aqua America, **Keith Hurand**, Briar Chapel, **Phillip Culpepper**, Chatham Parks Investors LLC, Tim Smith, Preston Wood Partners, Joe Hackney, Bob Atwater, Financial sector representatives, like Sam Adams, Grant/loan funding sources, i.e. USDA Rural Development, Golden Leaf Foundation, Rural Center, and others

Group notes discussing business government operations

Participants: Jack Meadows, Jason Sullivan, Howard Stier, Daniel Sunberg, Tom Vanderbeck, Carolyn Underwood, Jennifer Nelson, Jamie Nunnally, Jeffery Starkweather

Items Discussed: Current Planning process, EDC help, stream-lining the process, meeting with EDC and planning/permitting staff, online handbook

Possible Team Members: Progress Energy, SCORE, Small Business Center, SBTDC, Department Heads, Public, Realtors, Banks, Web Designer

Group notes discussing Education/Workforce Training

Participants: Ned Kelly (EDC Bd), Dianne Reid (EDC President), Kathie Russell (Bd of Education, Chair), Deb McManus (Bd of Education, Vice Chair), Flint O'Brien (Bd of Education), Leslie Landis (Chatham Co Arts Council)

Ned Kelly reviewed the work he and Bud Marchant had done in previous meetings, and stated that the vision was to create a visible and marketable EDC service whereby the EDC would help any Chatham County business or prospective business fulfill their employee training needs and/or obtain educational support and mentoring for managers and entrepreneurs. Thus the EDC would facilitate connecting businesses with available training, educational, and mentoring programs. We view the foundation of this service as built on the county's two principle educational institutions – CCCC and the Chatham Co Schools – and the partnership that already exists between them. To this end, Bud Marchant is in the process of setting up a meeting among himself, Superintendent Logan, and Ned Kelly, and possibly other representatives of CCCC, the EDC, and Chatham Co Schools. Once these three institutions have reached agreement on a common vision, we would like to reach out to other local institutions that might be partners in providing such a service.

The following is an outline of the institutions that Bud Marchant and Ned Kelly had identified in their previous meeting:

- I. CCCC
 - a. Small Business Center
 - b. Currently has on-going technical training programs
 - c. Can create a training program based on a company's curriculum or a course from the NC Department of Public Instruction high school technical training curriculum
 - d. In some cases, can itself create the curriculum for a technical training program
 - e. On-going program with REAL for rural entrepreneurs.
- II. Chatham Co. Schools
 - a. Committed to technical training and has close working relationship with CCCC, to which it outsources certain courses for high school students
 - b. Can draw upon NCDPI's technical training curriculum
 - c. Bud Marchant and Ned Kelly plan to meet with Robert Logan as preliminary to meeting with other providers of education and training for small businesses
- III. Other business education resources
 - a. Small Business and Technology Development Center at NC State
 - b. NC Rural Economic Development Center
 - c. Chamber of Commerce
 - d. NC Cooperative Extension
 - e. SCORE Chapel Hill (919-968-6894) – Ned Kelly has had e-mail communication with Everett Kemp, Chairman of Chapel Hill Score
- IV. REAL programs for developing rural entrepreneurship – they have programs for high school
- V. Meeting to include as many of the above as possible by end of September 2009

Meeting postponed until preliminary meeting with Robert Logan.

Flint O'Brien added that the Council for Entrepreneurial Development (CED) offered a mentoring program for entrepreneurs that he had found very helpful.