

**Campbell County  
Economic Development Commission/CEDS Committee**

**July 28, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Campbell County Economic Development Commission was held on Thursday, July 28, 2011 in the Campbell County Board Level Multi-use Room, Haberer Building, Rustburg, Virginia.

**Members Present:**

William Callohan III, Vice – Chairman  
William Anderson  
Gary Cantwell  
Charlene Thompson  
D. Vance Driskill  
Kyle Rosser  
William Overacre  
Richard Carroll

Linda Gray  
Bonnie Crews  
Jo Kelley  
Linda Rodriguez  
Ruth Pillow  
Phyllis Campbell  
Kevin Keys  
Mark Younkin

Jo Ann Jordan  
Patty Eller  
Valarie Younger  
Scott Tweedy  
Deronda Brightwell

**Also Present:**

David Laurell, County Administrator  
Waverly Coggsdale, Altavista Town Manager  
Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager  
Scott Hechler, Director of Public Safety  
Edward Wildrick,  
Mike Davidson, Director of Economic Development  
Brandon S. Turner, Program Manager  
Christy Holt, Administrative Assistant

**Member Absent:**

Lester Wooldridge Chairman  
Herbert W. Guthrie  
William R. Reeves, Jr.  
Willie Thornhill  
Heather Massie  
Dale Moore

Barbara LaPrade  
Doris Robinson  
J.D. Puckett  
Todd Scott  
Sharon Brown  
G. Michael Damron

// Vice-Chairman Callohan called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

// The April 28, 2011 minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, upon a motion by Mr. Cantwell, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and duly adopted by unanimous vote of the members present, the April 28, 2011 Economic Development Commission meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**Matters from the Economic Development Director**

**Project Updates**

// Mr. Davidson went over the purpose of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), the process we will follow, the criteria for federal grants on projects for the county and how we qualify, as well as meeting times for the CEDS committee. Mr. Davidson stated one of the greatest outcomes of going through this process is the planning effort. He also asked if emailing Agenda and Minutes would be suitable; there was consensus from the committee that electronic data transfer is preferred.

// Mr. Davidson next presented 2007 CEDS Executive Summary updates for new Committee members, briefly mentioning ongoing or closed projects due to the "Great Recession"; items he covered included population growth, economic diversity, recognizing that broadband is a high priority equal to other utilities, agricultural development, and education in our community and how that assists with economic development. Mr. Cantwell questioned if there were differences in data collection source requirements for the 2012 update versus the requirements for the 2007 update, to which Mr. Davidson indicated there are no differences in requirements for the 2012 CEDS Update to date.

**Attachment A:**

Mr. Davidson's Power Point

// Mr. Turner presented 2010 statistical data on the demographics of Campbell County, as well as unemployment rates, top employers, the areas of growth in the county, and educational programs. The Commission was concerned to hear that the unemployment rates may go back up compared to the 6.2% rate according to May 2011 figures.

// Mr. Turner presented information showing how much employment, based upon Virginia Employment Commission data, had changed in the county, but also told that it was skewed due to an employer that was recently reclassified from the City of Lynchburg into Campbell County. The question was proposed as to who the business is and why it was included in the City; Mr. Davidson explained that B&W has offices in the city and PO Boxes that are used as mailing addresses. When B&W files reports with the VEC, B&W does one filing for all of their employees. However, major operations are in the county, and Mr. Davidson specified that B&W is paying taxes in the county.

// Mr. Turner presented to the CEDS Committee educational statistics such as high school graduation rates and residents who have graduate degrees, as well as college data. The county is graduating 79.9% of students on time, which is below average compared to 86% for the state. Residents twenty-five years old with a high school diploma are at 82.5% compared to 85.4% for state average, and rate of residents with a bachelors' degree is 16.2% compared with a state average of 33.4%. The education data started a lengthy discussion among committee members of why the county is behind on the education front. It was pointed out that we have manufacturing jobs that pay higher salaries, but do not require a higher degree of education. The county also has a number of universities and colleges in the area, but graduates frequently move outside of the area for better employment opportunities.

// Mr. Turner next updated the Commission on Agriculture in the region. The number of farms in the county has increased by 8%, but decreased in size by 7%. In 2007, total farm income fell by 508%, but it was due to a severe drought during that time frame.

// Mr. Turner told the CEDS committee that tourism employment has picked up in the county by 3.3%, and local tax revenue has increased by 11.5% from 2005 to 2009. The information from the survey counts a "tourist" as anyone visiting from fifty (50) miles outside of the county. This includes

food, gas, lodging, and shopping. Tourism expenditures contribute approximately \$33 million to the County's economy according to the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

**Attachment B:**

Mr. Turner's Power Point

**Matters from the County Administrator**

// No matters were discussed.

**Matters from Commission Members**

// There were no further updates or questions from Commission Members.

// Following a general discussion of the aforementioned matters and with no other items presented for consideration, upon a motion by Mr. Cantwell and seconded by Mr. Carroll, the meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m. The next meeting of the Joint EDC/CEDS Committee will be held on August 18, 2011 at 12:00 noon in the Multipurpose Room in basement of the Haberer Building.