

**JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF
FRANKLIN, HART AND STEPHENS COUNTIES**

**Minutes of Meeting
April 25, 2011**

The Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties met for the quarterly meeting on April 25, 2011 at Fletcher's Restaurant in Hartwell.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Doug Cleveland. Other members present were Cary Bennett, Vernon Cape, Roy Crocker, Don Foster, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Bill Leard, Ralph Owens, Dean Scarborough and Gerald Voyles. Also attending were Lyn Allen and Dwayne Dye, Economic Developers, Jack Edmunds, treasurer and Pudge Smith, recording secretary. Mr. Cleveland welcomed guests, Tate Izlar, representing the office of Senator Johnny Isakson and Jordan Chinouth, representing the office of Representative Paul Broun.

Mr. Vernon Edwards gave the invocation.

Chairman Cleveland called for corrections or additions to the minutes of the January 24, 2011 meeting that had been provided by e-mail or mail. There being none, they were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Edmunds presented a financial summary and asked for questions. On a motion by Mr. Scarborough and seconded by Mr. Leard, this report was accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Dye updated the authority on the Regional GA Mountain Mfg. Work Ready initiative stating that Rabun and Banks counties have been added to the previous four (Franklin, Habersham, Hart and Stephens) to share the \$350,000.

Mr. Dye reported that plans are being made for a Tri-County Manufacturing Meeting to be held in late May or early June with the possibility of combining it with a Regional Work Ready meeting.

Mr. Dye also reported that all communities are participating in the TSPLOST initiative and each has submitted a list of projects.

Mr. Dye reported that the GEDA Luncheon held recently in Atlanta was a very positive meeting. He mentioned that Governor Deal spoke in favor of education and economic development.

This joint authority has been invited by OneGeorgia to participate in the program at the Spring GEDA Workshop to be held May 18 - 20 at St Simons Island. Mr. Dye reported that he, Ms. Allen and Mr. Martin had prepared the presentation and it is ready to present.

Ms. Allen shared with the group photographs of progress on the regional hospital project and stated things are going well.

Several water events are planned by the Lake Hartwell Marketing Alliance in the next two months and Ms. Allen brought everyone up to date on those. She also reported that a group of Clemson students is working on a marketing plan and that the Corps of Engineers has asked the marketing alliance to help plan a year long celebration of the 50th anniversary of Lake Hartwell.

Ms. Izlar gave a brief overview of some major issues from the Senate. Mr. Chinouth also mentioned several issues and offered to "fact check" rumors on any issues we might have concern over.

COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Ms. Allen reported good activity in Franklin County with existing industry and 40 jobs have been added by Fanella Industries and that another existing industry is looking to expand. She said they have had two inquiries on their spec building.

Mr. Scarborough reported that some local industries are beginning to hire in Stephens County.

Mr. Dye reported that in Hart County 265 jobs have been created in the past 12 months from existing industry and 75 from new industries RTIZ and SD Automotive.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cleveland gave a report on the Broadband Connectivity project. OneGeorgia Authority has indicated that funds might be available for a feasibility study and has encouraged or JDA to apply for a grant for a group of counties in our area. These counties would include Banks, Franklin, Habersham, Hart, Rabun and Stephens. Mr. Cleveland and our economic developers have been investigating this idea. The cost of such a study would be \$175,000 and a OneGeorgia grant would cover 80% of this (\$140,000).

The expense of writing the grant would be \$5,000 so the six counties would need to raise \$40,000 (\$35,000 for the 20% match plus the \$5,000). It was suggested that if we move ahead with the project each of the six counties be responsible for their pro-rata share of the \$40,000 (\$6,667 each).

Resolution or motion to go here.

Chairman Cleveland appointed a nominating committee naming Bob Evans as chairman along with Roy Crocker and Vernon Cape. They will report at the July meeting.

The next meeting will be held July 25 in Stephens County.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

**Pudge Smith
Recording Secretary**