

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

**Minutes of Meeting
April 26, 2010**

The Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties met for the quarterly meeting on April 26, 2010 at 211 Main Street Restaurant in Lavonia.

In the absence of Chairman Doug Cleveland, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Vice Chairman Cary Bennett. Members attending were: Cary Bennett, Roy Crocker, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Bill Leard, Ralph Owens and Shurratt Whitworth. Also attending was: Lyn Allen, Dwayne Dye, Tim Martin, Jack Edmunds, treasurer and Pudge Smith, recording secretary.

Mr. Bennett asked for additions or corrections to the minutes that were mailed to each member. There were none so the minutes were accepted as presented.

Mr. Edmunds presented a financial summary and asked if there were questions. There were none so the financial report was accepted. A copy is attached.

Cary Bennett gave an update on the mega-ramp project in Franklin County. There is some urgency in completion by next April to accommodate a large fishing tournament that will have a major economic impact on all three counties. Mr. Dye reported that Hart County's ramp is almost complete. Mr. Martin reported for Stephens County on their projects as well as the Bruce Creek fishing pier project. Mr. Leard reported on the jet ski tournament to be in August on Lake Hartwell.

Ms. Allen reported on Franklin County's Work Ready program stating that they are working on phase II and need to have the program complete within an 18 month time frame. North Georgia Tech is still doing assessments. She also reported plans to continue to try to schedule a Manufacturer's Council meeting.

Mr. Martin reported for Stephens County that they continue to work on phase II.

Mr. Dye reported that he feels Hart County has completed phase II and he should receive certification of this soon. Hart County has five companies either Work Ready required or preferred.

Dwayne Dye gave the invocation and dinner followed.

Following dinner, Mr. Bennett appointed a nominating committee for officers for the coming year and asked that they report at our July meeting. This committee is Vernon Cape, Vernon Edwards and Cam Parker.

Ms. Allen reported on the annual Manufacturer's Appreciation Luncheon held recently in Atlanta. She stated it was a nice recognition affair with some 1,000 in attendance.

Mr. Dye began the economic development reports by indicating that project activity in Hart County is fair. He reported on the successful grand opening recently of RITZ. He commented on concerns in cuts from state funding and the adverse effect this could have.

Mr. Martin reported a slight upswing in project activity. He reported on a scheduled trip to Atlanta to meet with various consultants etc. regarding industry in Stephens County. He reported the Haystone Park project is almost complete. Stephens County will be featured in *Georgia Trend* in July.

Ms. Allen reported that project activity is somewhat quiet in Franklin County. On a positive note, Wellstone Mills is now Parkdale and approximately 425 jobs have been retained. The hospital project is moving slowly. She reported on the electric plant project that has been on hold is now on again and is a \$60 million project in lieu of \$30 million.

The next meeting will be July 26, 2010 at Fletcher's in Hartwell. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

**Pudge Smith
Secretary**