

Development District of Central Texas

Board of Directors Meeting
Central Texas Council of Governments
2180 North Main Street
Tuesday, April 23, 2009
11:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Judge John Firth – Coryell County
Cynthia Hernandez – Belton Economic Development
Jane Crouch – Hamilton EDC
Judith Hetherly – City of Lampasas
Ira Brand – Coryell County
Ginger Watkins – Cameron EDC
Patsy Luna – Mayor Pro Tem Temple
Judge Randy Mills – Hamilton County
Denice Doss—Milam County

Others Present:

Belinda Pillow – SBDC
Marty Smith – Copperas Cove Chamber
Betty Price – Copperas Cove Chamber
Trip Miller – Journal Communications
Beth Correa – CTCOG

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. with a quorum present by Chairperson Denice Doss, Rockdale Chamber of Commerce.
2. Public Comments: None
3. DDCT Chairperson, Denice Doss, City of Rockdale, asked the Board to review the minutes from the January Board meeting. Patsy Luna, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Lampasas made a motion to approve the minutes taken for January 22, 2009. Cynthia Hernandez, Belton Economic Development Corporation, made the second and the motion passed unanimously.
4. Denice Doss asked Judge John Firth, Coryell County, to lead the discussion for possible action to approve economic development study groups to address future DDCT area economic support requirements. Judge Firth started by saying that after attending the CTCOG Annual Meeting, he was impressed by the guest speaker from Washington, representing the National Association of Regional Councils and he delivered a briefing for our future. Judge Firth said he thought it was the best he has ever seen and hopes to take the information and move forward with it. As we move to the future, the primary focus is now the worldwide market that is driven by distribution logistics and light packaging. How can our area tie into that? Judge Firth held up the Susan Combs Comptroller Magazine, showing the lead article as the Dennison/Sherman economy which has had businesses that have “sky-rocketed” to success. The reality is that our region has far more resources to offer than Dennison/Sherman. We have a great potential of far surpassing what that city did. The current economic plan for the DDCT is very business focused, but inwardly driven with heavy competition within each county. The question is how to leverage all the resources in our region rather than concentrating on each individual

community. Fort Hood offers many opportunities for the entire region. The reality is that we have great economic advantages, being the largest exporter state. The next 40 – 50 year focus will be on that advantage. No place in America has a better Workforce than we do. The climate is the best in the USA. Without jobs, we cannot keep people here. Texas' economic disadvantages: High School dropouts and high number of retirement aged workforce. Fort Hood offers a highly educated Workforce but many have to move out of the area because there are not enough jobs in the area to keep them here. Central Texas offers an enormous opportunity to grow and develop new business communities.

Judge John Firth made a motion to approve a resolution to form a Study Group to address future DDCT area economic support. Mayor Judith Hetherly, City of Lampasas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Beth Correa, DDCT Staff, reminded the Board that story ideas and/or contacts for ideas are needed to be submitted to Journal Communications so that they can begin writing articles. Also, Journal Communications requested for the Board to begin forming mailing lists and to send them to staff for compiling into one list. Trip Miller, Journal Communications, re-iterated that they need story ideas and contacts and that Bill McMeekin would be here at the COG on Wednesday, April 29, 2009. He also stated that there were over \$100,000.00 in ads purchased and he thanked the Board for their support.
6. Beth Correa also reminded the Board that time logs are due. Beth reported that the Board is doing well on turning in time and encouraged Board members to keep up the good work.
7. Beth Correa led discussion regarding the May 1st Workshop. The workshop is called, "Business Plan Boot Camp". Marcus Carr is the instructor and it will be held at CTCOG. The cost is \$75.00 and one guest is free.
8. Staff Comments: Beth reminded everyone that we would be meeting again on July 23, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.
9. Board of Directors' Comments: Denice Doss recommended the DDCT host a workshop in our area for the economy. The workshop that was held in San Marcos had a renowned economist from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Ira Brand suggested that Mr. Perryman come to our workshop and talk about the economy. Judge John Firth recommended contacting Susan Combs for speakers, as well. The Board was in agreement.

Cynthia introduced Belinda Pillows, Small Business Development Center. The Small Business Development Center is hiring a full time counselor to work with small businesses in this area.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Denice Doss, Chairman

Date

Attest:

Beth Correa, DDCT Staff