

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

*Note: You may hear an audio of the meeting and review the agenda and minutes on the IRC website - www.ircgov.com/Boards/EDC/2010. Also, all reports followed by an * are on file at the Board of County Commissioners and are available upon request.*

EDC Members Present

Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large (Chairman)
Andrea Coy, City of Sebastian
Jan Pagano, Civic Organization
Susan Adams, City of Fellsmere
Derek Zimmerman, Manufacturing Appointee
Bill Kenyon, Town of Indian River Shores (left at 4:25 p.m.)
Scott Carson, Real Estate
Gwenda Thompson, Workforce Solutions
William Penney, Banking Appointee
Peter Robinson, Local Developer (arrived 4:25 p.m.)
Doug Bournique, Local Industry
James Kretsch, Member-At-Large
Debbie MacKay, School Board
Andrew Kennedy, Member-At-Large
Helene Caseltine, Alternate for the IRCOC
Talmage Rogers, Jr., Citrus Industry
Beth Mitchell, Sebastian Chamber of Commerce

EDC Members Absent

Penny Chandler, IR Chamber of Commerce (IRCOC)
Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee
Deb Branwell, Town of Orchid
Victor Hart, Gifford Community
Keith Kite, Tourist Industry
Ken Daige, City of Vero Beach

Others Present

Tex Carter, Vice President, INEOS New Planet Energy LLC
Ray Crabbs, INEOS New Planet Energy LLC
Freddie Woolfork, Gifford Youth Activity Center
Julianne Price, PACE Coordinator, IRC Health Department
Eric Menger, Vero Beach Municipal Airport

IRC Staff

Peter D. O'Bryan, Commissioner Liaison
Sasan Rohani, Long Range Planning Chief
Bill Schutt, Senior Economic Development Planner
Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant, District 4

Call to Order

Chairman Schlitt-Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of the EDC Minutes of February 16, 2010

Mr. Rogers felt that clarification was needed on Page 3 in reference to Sustained Funding Sources for Economic Development and suggestions were made to add bullets to the recommendations and add **Economic Development** to the second recommendation.

Chairman Gonzalez briefly summarized the recommendations made at the January 19th Joint EDC & EDD Meeting:

- *Business licensing fees from the unincorporated County be directed as specific source for Economic Development*
- *IRC Municipalities allocate a portion of their licensing fees to **Economic Development***
- *Continued promotion of the Chamber's private industry partners, private partners for specific projects*
- *Recruit business associations within the area as a whole group for Economic Development.*

ON MOTION BY Mayor Kenyon, SECONDED BY Mr. Carson, the members voted unanimously (16-0) to approve the meeting minutes of February 16, 2010 as amended with the suggested clarifications.

INEOS New Planet BioEnergy (INEOS) – QTI and Local Jobs Grant

Mr. Carter, with a PowerPoint Presentation*, gave an overview of the history of the proposed project, conversion of feedstock into ethanol and the local economic impact of the project being approximately 55 new jobs. For additional information, he

directed the board to their website: www.inpbioenergy.com.

Mr. Bill Schutt reviewed his memorandum asking for consideration of INEOS's request for a Local Jobs Grant*. He stated that INEOS was qualified for a local jobs grant of up to \$310,000 with a \$33,000 local match for the state QTI Tax Refund Program, and \$27,500 local match for the state Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Program. He relayed staff recommendations:

1. Approve a local jobs grant of up to \$310,000 for INEOS New Planet BioEnergy LLC., payable over a three year period per phase.
2. Designate the proposed INEOS New Planet BioEnergy LLC site as a Brownfield area.
3. Adopt a resolution of support for INEOS New Planet BioEnergy LLC's state QTI Tax Refund Program Application and state Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Program Application.

Commissioner Liaison O'Bryan supported staff recommendations 1 and 3 but felt recommendation 2 was complex in nature and ultimately a decision to be made by the Board of County Commissioners. A discussion followed on The Brownfield Redevelopment Program.

ON MOTION BY Councilmember Coy, SECONDED BY Ms. Pagano, the members voted (16-0) to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve staff recommendation 1 (a local jobs grant of up to \$310,000 for INEOS New Planet BioEnergy LLC) and staff recommendation 3 (adopt a resolution of support for INEOS New Planet BioEnergy LLC's state Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program Application and state Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Program Application).

Proposed Gifford Energy Institute – Presentation By Mr. Bill Clumpner, Integrated Energy Services Inc.

Ms. Caseltine introduced Mr. Clumpner and his plan to open a Community Resource Manager Training Institute within the Enterprise Zone in Gifford, Florida. The proposed "Gifford Energy Institute" would focus on applied energy engineering job development and job creation.

Mr. Clumpner provided an information packet* and briefly reviewed his plans.

He explained the Institute was designed to train Enterprise Zone and IRC workers on pre- and post-project analysis and documentation of increases in energy and carbon efficiency through classroom and hands-on training. A number of certifications could be earned through the training that would allow workers to qualify for national certifications in building performance, infrared analysis, and AC/HVAC.

Economic Development FY2010/2011 Proposed Budget

Ms. Caseltine handed out copies of the Economic Development FY2010/2011 Proposed Budget*. She spoke of prior years when IRCOC had voluntarily taken decreases in funding when County revenues decreased in order to assist the County in meeting its fiscal challenges. She indicated, though, that for the new fiscal year, the IRCOC would be requesting an increase from their present funding for IRC economic development purposes of \$119,332 to \$158,415.

Ms. Caseltine pointed out that their website maintenance expenditures had decreased due to cost sharing between Economic Development and Tourism Divisions along with the Chamber itself. Ms. Caseltine emphasized a new item on page 2 of the proposed budget entitled: Business Expansion Expediter.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Bournique, SECONDED BY Ms. Thompson, the members voted unanimously (16-0) to approve the Economic Development FY2010/2011 Proposed Budget.

Commissioner Liaison O'Bryan encouraged the EDC members to contact the County Commissioners and speak with them regarding the proposed budget and the importance of investing in the future for Economic Development within the County.

Monthly Updates from Brainstorming Session

a) Sustained Funding Source for Economic Development

A discussion ensued on business licensing fees directed as a specific source for Economic Development. Ms. Caseltine noted the Business Taxes billed total in unincorporated IRC for FY2008-09 was \$186,348 and amount collected was \$169,482, however those fees could not be designated solely to Economic Development.

b) Industry Business Parks

There was no new information.

c) Organize a Business Plan/Entrepreneur Course

Ms. Pagano reported that Indian River State College (IRSC) had started offering classes in the City of Sebastian and was presently working with the city to set-up a place for a certified business analyst to assist new businesses. She indicated that IRSC would be offering some classes in conjunction with the Sebastian and Indian River Chamber of Commerce's.

Other Matters

Chairman Gonzalez announced that eMindful had received their state funding for 70 local jobs.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.