



## Centralina Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2008

### Commission Members Present

Tom Anderson

Andy Dulin

Michael Geis

Jim Greene

Michelle Nance

Jim Puckett

Dan Ramirez

Joel Randolph

Manuel Rey

Robert Van Geons

Chris Wease (by phone)

### Centralina Staff Present

Laura Mundell

Victoria Rittenhouse

Bjorn Hansen

### Guest

Donny Hicks-Executive Director,

Gaston County EDC

1. **Call to Order:** Tom Anderson, Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:10. Chairman Anderson introduces our guest Donny Hicks and ask that all the board members introduce themselves

### *Around the Region: News and Noteworthy Reports from the Board,*

**Laura Mundell:** CEDC is sponsoring the Ethanol Roundtable July 31, 2008 in Mooresville at the Charles Mack Citizen Center

**Tom Anderson:** The Lincoln Economic Development Association has moved into their new building extends an invitation to all to stop in a visit the new building. Also, in June Lincoln County welcomed United Plate Glass (a glass fabricator) to the Lincoln County Industrial Park a 50,000 square foot building with 12 employees.

**Andy Dulin:** Request that we have the next board meeting at the new offices of the LEDA.

2. **Amendments to the Agenda:**

**Tom Anderson:** Are there any amendments to the Agenda? We may need to table item #7 on the agenda; several people that have an interest are not present.

**Dan Ramirez:** Move for approval of Agenda

**Jim Green:** Seconds the motion, all agree

**Tom Anderson:** Motion approved

3. *Approval of Minutes*: April 17, 2008
  - Dan Ramirez**: Motion to approve minutes
  - Joel Randolph**: Seconds the motion, all approve
  - Tom Anderson**: Motion approved
  
4. *Presentation from Donnie Hicks, Gaston County EDA* “Moving the State Forward”  
(Please refer to attachment)
  
5. *Discussion for resolution: Allowing local governments to fund local road improvements.*
  - Tom Anderson**: Does the CEDC want to create and submit a resolution requesting support from Legislators to support local governments funding road improvements. If DOT cannot improve road conditions this could significantly affect our regions economic development, deteriorating road conditions could discourage new business from coming to our region and it could discourage existing business from expanding in our area.
  - Dan Ramirez**: Do we have a format for the resolution
  - Tom Anderson**: No, if it is the direction of the Board to support a resolution COG would develop the resolution and forward it to our local Legislators. This would simply say that we need to move in the direction to allow local jurisdictions to have the authority to build roads and to have the authority to fund roads.
  - Robert Van Geons**: My concern that if we become the funding source we risk the ability to change the way funds are dispersed in our region. I am concerned that if we begin to do this ourselves we will be required to do more because the State will say they do not have the money and tell us to raise the tax rate. I have a hard time of taking on the responsibility and letting the DOT off the hook.
  - Dan Ramirez**: The initiative in Charlotte with the Chamber of Commerce is trying to replicate the Pennies for Progress project in South Carolina. This is an incentive that is voted in by the constituents, has a timeline and a list of projects that are to be completed with the money. When the time or money run out it is the constituents who choose how to proceed. What we need to do is hold DOT accountable, by stating we are lending the funds to them that they will have to repay the funds at a later time.
  - Dan Ramirez**: In favor of drafting a resolution to get the ball rolling.
  - Robert Van Geons**: If it is a resolution to have the authority to find funding for roads, then I personally would support it; but I am a representative of my county commissioners and I would have to vote against a resolution.
  - Michelle Nance**: Right now, it seems that we have multiple groups all working on the transportation issue. We need to somehow find out what everyone is doing in this subject area to see whom we should support.
  - Dan Ramirez**: Mecklenburg County has formed the Committee of 21 to take a look at the road/transportation issues in our area maybe we should invite the Committee to give a presentation to us or invite ourselves to one of the Committee’s meetings.

**Tom Anderson:** Let me assume we have a motion from Commissioner Ramirez to draft a resolution from this Board that will essentially request authorization for local government to build, fund and repair roads. The resolution needs to be drafted to state that the purpose of the request is because of our concern as to the impact on our ability to attract industry to this area how it is impacted by inadequate roads and inadequately maintained roads

**Jim Greene:** To clarify, the motion is to develop a resolution we are not approving a resolution at this time. Move to call the questions

**Tom Anderson:** Motion made questions called

**Action:** Approve resolution

Dan Ramirez: Motion to approved resolution

Manuel Rey: Seconds

**Opposed:** Andy Dulin and Robert Van Geons

**Motion Approved** 8 to 2

6. Appointment of nominating committee for CEDC officers

**Jim Puckett-** Chairman

**Robert Van Geons** – Vice-Chairman

**Michael Geis**

**Andy Dulin**

\*The group will schedule a conference call\*

7. *Policy Options for Restricted and Unrestricted funds.*

**Jim Greene:** Motion to table item #7 until the next board meeting

**Dan Ramirez:** Seconds the motion all agree

8. *Update of Logistics Project*

**Laura Mundell:** We received a grant a year ago to work with the logistics industries to connect the industry. Our Logistics Committee was in favor of a website that would get the industry in our region connect. We have created a brand for the website, a new name for the organization, and a new logo. We will be asking you for help to contact other people in the industry or to help sponsor the website.

9. *Meeting dates for 2008*

October 16, 2008: Location TBA

**Tom Anderson:** We need the nominating committee to bring their recommendations to the October 16 meeting.

**Tom Anderson:** Do we have a motion to Adjourn

**Dan Ramirez:** Motion to adjourn

**Robert Van Geons:** Seconds the motion all agree

**Tom Anderson:** Motion Approved

**Adjourn:** 5:50 PM