



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT – December 14, 2012

**This report represents activity from November 16 – December 14.*

Status of On-Going Projects:

- **Project Cover III** – This project, AID, has begun work. EDC office is still working with company on small items to help them get established.
- **Project Pace** – The County is still waiting to hear more on “next steps.”
- **Project Tub** – This is an international company that has “short-listed” Oconee County but still waiting for firmer plans regarding path forward.
- **Project Zeta** – This is formerly known as “Project Wire.” We have met with the project team and they are looking at a \$1.2m capital inv'st. This is a data center/back office type project. Should present something to council for consideration in early 2013.
- **Project May** – EDC continues to work with this existing industry's expansion plans. Waiting for approval on expenditures related to new product line.
- **Project Peninsula** – The EDC team has had several discussions with the developer and awaiting submission of concrete plans.
- **Project Mole** – Existing Company that we have worked with and got the state involved. Looking at a significant 2013 expansion.
- **Project W** – This project is on-going. Have had constant contact with project team.
- **Project Mold** – Working to narrow down this existing industry plans expansion and future equipment purchases.
- **Project Fluid** – Continued discussions with an existing industry about expansion opportunities.
- **Project Gear** – Continued discussions with an existing industry about expansion opportunities.
- **Project CreekSide** – Awaiting final instructions from the company.
- **RAS Tech Meeting** – Continued involvement in this project. Working on making introductions to equity solutions.
- **Project San** – Existing Company that we have worked with and got the state involved. Looking at a significant 2013 expansion. Likely early 2013 interaction with council on the deal.
- **Project Stark** – Oconee was cut due to no land option on I-85 to meet company's timeline.
- **Project Bory** – Existing Company that has 2013 plans. Met with several times to firm up the ideas.
- **Project Gizmo** – Existing Company that we have worked with and got the state involved. Looking at a significant 2013 expansion.
- **Project Science** – New company that has visited and we met with about relocating to this community. This is a research type company. Trying to find the right fit building.
- **Project Plant 5** – Submitted Oconee building options for this project via the SC DOC. Awaiting next steps.

Organization Activities:

- **RFP 11-21 Strategic Plan for Economic Development** – RKG Associates visited in December. Looking at 1/8/13 council presentation then a workshop on the 15th.
- **Golden Corner Commerce Park Master Plan** – Met with engineering firm about a feasibility analysis. Applied for C Funds to cover costs.

- **AOP Industry & Business Showcase** –We have commenced planning for the 2013 event. Meeting held to form a 501 c 3.
- **Oconee County Agribusiness Meeting** – The EDC has become more involved in the emerging Agribusiness sector within the county and exploring ways to help. Meetings held monthly.
- **URS Meeting** – EDC staff meets with the URS team on a regular basis on Echo Hills. Also submitted some info on GCCP.
- **Professional Development** – Both Mr. Blackwell and Mr. Johnson completed their 2012 professional development in November.

Marketing/Recruitment/Retention Activities:

- **Presentation / NAI Earle Furman Assoc.** – Mr. Blackwell presented at said meeting about economic development in Oconee.
- **Oconee County Economic Development and Planning Mtg** – Mr. Blackwell presented at said meeting about economic development in Oconee.
- **Cushman & Wakefield Broker Visit** – The EDC team hosted a visit from the VP for Industrial Development.
- **Walhalla Hotel** – Met with principals to learn about development and avenues where we can assist.
- **Atlanta Mission** – Russell Johnson attended a business development trip to call on brokers and site location influencers about Oconee County.
- **Charlotte Mission** – Richard Blackwell attended a business development trip to call on brokers and site location influencers about Oconee County.
- **Upstate Alliance Meeting** – Mr. Blackwell attended the local developers meeting at the UA.
- **“Holiday Hello”** – The EDC conducted this annual event in December.

Upcoming Meetings to Note:

- The EDC will meet on Jan. 18th.
- The Oconee County Industrial Group will meet on Jan 18th at OMC.

The above report is respectfully submitted on December 14, 2012.

Richard K. Blackwell, *SCCED*

Executive Director

Oconee County Economic Development Commission