



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT – January 14, 2013

*\*This report represents activity from December 14 – January 14.*

### Status of On-Going Projects:

- **Project Cover III** – This project, AID, continues to take shape in the former Spec building with steel rising and up-fit taking place. The 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 several times to convince them to choose Oconee versus a neighboring county. They are looking at a \$1.2m capital inv’t with 7 new jobs. This is a data center/back office type project.
- **Project May** – EDC continues to work with this existing industry’s expansion plans. Waiting for approval on expenditures related to a new product line.
- **Project Peninsula** – The EDC team has had several discussions with the developer and awaiting next steps.
- **Project Mole** – Existing Company that is considering an expansion in 2013. They are working to get the approvals in place to move forward.
- **Project W** – This project is on-going. Have had constant contact with project team. Sent a follow-up letter in early January and have had several discussions with project manager at Commerce.
- **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** – Got a positive response from the project and we are still in the “hunt.” They have had to finalize some vendor issues but should get some paperwork to us by the end of the month.
- **RAS Tech Meeting** – Continued involvement in this project. Working with MLBDC on necessary steps. Equity partner being sought.
- **Project San** – Existing Company that is considering an expansion. Had the SCDOC meet with them and working to get a meeting with Duke Energy.
- **Project Bory** – Existing Company that has 2013 expansion plans. Met with several times to firm up the ideas but waiting for confirmation via corporate.
- **Project Gizmo** – Existing Company that we have worked with and got the state involved. SCDOC made an incentive proposal to the firm; waiting game for approval.
- **Project Science** – New company that has visited and we met with about relocating to this community. This is a research type company that has made a visit to the community. Should know something by end of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.
- **Project Plant 5** – Submitted Oconee building options for this project via the SC DOC. Awaiting next steps.
- **Project Court** – This is the Walhalla hotel project. Meetings with developers continue. The incentive package is before council currently.

- **Project Riverside** – This is a new project from out-of-state that we have had dialogue with about locating their process to Oconee.
- **Project Smiley** – Working with the SCDOC on this project and submitted several Oconee options. Waiting for feedback.
- **Project Mustang** – As of right now, it seems Oconee has been eliminated from this project due to not having a suitable building option. With the project being behind on its’ timeline, it switched from being a “land specific” type project to needing an existing building.
- **Project Return** – This Company produces custom automation equipment. Oconee was eliminated due to its’ proximity to a competitor.
- **Project Lexar** – A product development and manufacturing company that is seeking to expand its operations anticipating future growth, in one of five possible locations: South Carolina, Tennessee, New Jersey, Virginia, and North Carolina. Oconee submitted two suitable building options based on their criteria.

#### **Organization Activities:**

- **RFP 11-21 Strategic Plan for Economic Development** –RKG Associates visited in December for their last in-the-community visit. They also wrapped up the project. Presented to council on 1/8/13. Workshop to be held on 1/15/13 to discuss implementation.
- **Golden Corner Commerce Park Master Plan** – Met with engineering firm about a feasibility analysis. Applied for C Funds to cover costs. Need a new survey for Pioneer Water. Also continued discussions about the transmission lines.
- **AOP Industry & Business Showcase** –We have commenced planning for the 2013 event. Meeting held to form a 501 c 3.
- **Oconee County Agribusiness Meeting** – Continued active dialogue with this group and working with them on business plan.
- **URS Meeting** – EDC staff meets with the URS team on a regular basis on Echo Hills. Also submitted some info on GCCP.
- **Work Ready Communities** – Officially kicked off the pursuit for Oconee County dealing with the Work Ready Communities initiative.

#### **Marketing/Recruitment/Retention Activities:**

- **Presentation / CBRE** – Hosted a meeting from two CBRE brokers involved in corporate services and data center projects. Toured Echo Hills.
- **OCIG meeting held** – Met at BASF and had a tour of their facility.
- **Toured buildings** – Toured the Jacobs Chuck and the Sponseller building with the listing broker.
- **CU Center for Workforce Development** – Met with the Assistant Director of said Center to begin relationship building.

#### **Upcoming Meetings to Note:**

- The EDC will meet on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Oconee County Industrial Group will meet on Jan 18<sup>th</sup> at OMC.

The above report is respectfully submitted on January 14, 2013.

Richard K. Blackwell, *SCCED*  
Executive Director

Oconee County Economic Development Commission