

Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation
Regular Meeting – April 20, 2023
2:00 pm Technical College of the Lowcountry
100 Community College Drive, Bluffton, SC

Meeting Minutes

Present: Feaster, McElynn, Rodriguez, Sulka, Willis, Alsko, Gough, Mantua, Murray

Absent: Dallas, Fobes, Sisino, Perry

Staff: O'Toole

Guests: Glover, Brown, Passiment, Arvantides, Forster, Amundson, Barrientos, Braun, Williams, Fragale, Fleming, Wolf, Lee

Chair Feaster called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to enter executive session to review the confidential projects; Sulka moved; Murray seconded; approved unanimously; the Board entered executive session at 2:01 pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to exit executive session; Sulka moved; Mantua seconded; The Board exited executive session at 2:30 pm. No motions or votes were taken in executive session. Public session followed.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve February 16th minutes, Sulka moved; Murray seconded; approved unanimously.

O'Toole reviewed the BCEDC's 2022-2023 operating budget. O'Toole reviewed the budget lines that were not on budget but pointed to the bottom line which was underbudget. The budget at the 75% of the year mark was at 60% of budget. The board had no questions.

O'Toole introduced project laundry. MasterCorp, a commercial laundry service planning to construct a 25,000 sq.ft. facility, representing a \$34,420,000 capital investment on the pad site in the Beaufort Commerce Park. The company expects to create 164 new jobs. The company is already in the area and is looking to expand their industrial laundry presence in the Lowcountry. Staff recommended a grant of \$100,000. The board discussed the project. Sulka moved; Mantua seconded; motion was unanimously approved.

O'Toole introduced project peanut. The company, Hull & Husk, is a start-up company and Don Ryan Center of Innovation company. The company plans to take peanut shells and other agriculture waste and make fire pellets. They will develop a peanut pellet laboratory at the former Packet Building to support peanut shell processing and a production plant. The company expects to invest \$2,295,000 and create 10 new jobs. Staff recommended a grant of \$25,000, Murray moved; Sulka seconded, motion was unanimously approved.

O'Toole introduced project canvas. The Company, Deep Water Canvas expects to invest \$1,717,000 and create 21 new jobs. They will offer a full-service cut, sew and seal, manufacturer facility specializing in marine covers, Deep Water will offer a wide range of services that include prototyping and product development. Staff recommended a grant of \$25,000. Discussion was put on hold so that staff could better inform the board on the company's operations at the May meeting prior to deciding.

O'Toole provided an update on the Site and Job Fund Budget where he explained how the projects just approved and being considered fit into the FY 23 and FY 24 budgets.

Fleming provided an update on SCA's activities highlighting its marketing plans for the balance of the year.

O'Toole provided an update on the staff's activities. The board was advised about project crab and the company's efforts to cultivate soft shell crabs. Sulka suggested that the principals of project crab get introduced to the researchers at Waddell Mariculture Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.