

Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation
March 21, 2024 – Regular Meeting – 2:30 pm
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce
1 Chamber of Commerce Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC

Meeting Minutes

Present: Alsko, Amundson, Arnette, Braun, Cromer, Feaster, Fleming, Forster, Glover, Kenny, McElynn, Moss, Philips, Reitz, Shelton, Sisino, Williams,
Absent: Gough, Perry, Rodriguez, Toomer

Staff: O'Toole, Brunson

Vice Chair Alsko called the meeting to order at 2:32pm

Vice Chair Alsko entertained a motion by to go into Executive Session by Braun; Williams seconded; all approved.

Vice Chair Alsko entertained a motion to end Executive Session by Cromer; Shelton seconded; approved unanimously. Executive Session ended at 2:49 pm.

There was no public comment.

Vice Chair Alsko entertained a motion to approve February 15th minutes; Braun motion; Cromer second; all approved.

Shelton presented a review of the current budget. The Corporation budget is healthy to date and is currently 24% to budget.

Shelton noted that for the next fiscal year, there are plans to provide clearer information of revenues and cost of goods sold. There will be information at the next board meeting, and any board members are welcome to review the budget.

The BCEDC welcomed Mr. Glover, Mr. Moss, and Mr. White of the Gullah Farmers Cooperation and Enseso4Food to make a presentation. Enseso4Food is a traceability solution company working out of the Landing Pad at the Beaufort Digital Corridor. The technology provides tracking on food items so that the end user is educated on where the product has been.

BCEDC staff presented Project Eagle which is a project in conjunction with the State Department of Agriculture. The company plans to update their existing operations (pier, sea wall, and existing building). The Department of Agriculture is currently reviewing their grant application. BCEDC staff is recommending a \$20,000 grant for the creation of 6 jobs and \$1,250,000 investment in their operations. Vice Chair Alsko entertained a motion made by Cromer; Williams seconded; all approved.

BCEDC staff presented Project Micro which is an aerospace kitting company looking to place operations in Beaufort. Currently, BCEDC is competing with Dallas-Fort Worth in site selection. The company plans to invest \$7,109,000 into an existing facility in Beaufort County with plans to expand the footprint. There will be 42 jobs created with an average compensation of \$125,625. The Department of Commerce has provided an incentive summary to the company and staff is recommending a grant not to exceed \$200,000 at the local level. Vice Chair Alsko entertained a motion made by Braun; Kenny seconded; all approved.

BCEDC staff presented Project RT6 which is an expansion of the current bottling and packaging facility. This investment of \$3,050,000 will create 28 jobs with an average compensation of \$50,000. The Department of Agriculture has recommended a \$500,000 grant to them, and staff is recommending a local grant of \$50,000. Vice Chair Alsko entertained a motion made by Kenny; Braun seconded; all approved.

O'Toole presented the job and site fund including the three grants previously approved by the board. Vice Chair Alsko entertained a motion to approve the job and site fund made by Cromer; Williams seconded. Vice Chair Alsko asked a question regarding the carry over amount anticipated for this year. O'Toole shared that some projects may not come to fruition. All approved the job and site fund unanimously.

O'Toole shared that BCEDC staff had a call with a potential developer of the second spec building earlier in the week.

The RFQ for Engineering Services committee interviewed five engineering firms and has one more to complete on Tuesday, the 26th. Thank you to Fleming for leading the committee and to the other board members who have contributed.

Fleming provided an update on behalf of SouthernCarolina. SCA has welcomed four international companies within the last month. One company is a food-oriented manufacturing facility that met with TCL and had meals prepared by the students. SCA is receiving RFIs and will be sending O'Toole to Select USA in June.

BCEDC staff provided an update on their activity for the month. O'Toole provided an update on the scorecard and near-term projects. Brunson provided an update on recent business, retention, and expansion meetings. BCEDC recently sponsored the South Coast Cyber Summit and the Beaufort Digital Corridor's TechStars weekend.

Vice Chair Alsko entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:03 pm by Williams; Cromer seconded; approved unanimously.