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**Sabine County Economic Development Progress Report
July 1-July 31, 2016
Prepared by Charlie Dromgoole**

- Will present a draft of an existing business economic development survey at the next meeting.
- Continuing to do demographic research on Sabine County.
- Working on establishing short and long-term goals for presentation to the meeting on August 18, 2016.
- Went on a comprehensive tour of Sabine County with Gene Nethery on July 20 & 21.
- Met with six bankers from Sabine County on July 20 to discuss issues, opportunities, and needs they see in the county. Got a lot of insight at this meeting
- Toured Shopko Hometown Comanche store while on a trip to Abilene. Was impressed with the selection, quality of merchandise, cleanliness, customer service, and community involvement.
- Met with Shopko Hometown Comanche store manager and assistant manager and learned a lot about Shopko, their store philosophies, operations, growth patterns, and distribution chain. Comanche gets deliveries twice per week from the Shopko warehouse in Omaha, NE and is paired with the Shopko store in Cotulla, TX for distribution.
- Talked with Comanche EDC Executive Director about their recruitment and location of Shopko and the incentive package offered to the Comanche store which is a former ALCO store.
- Talked with San Saba EDC Executive Director about the recruitment of a Shopko store which will be a newly constructed store in San Saba since Tractor Supply took over the ALCO building in San Saba. This project has not been finalized yet and was put on hold while Shopko looks at expanding the footprint of their new construction stores by about 5,000 sq. ft.
- Met with Shane Matthews with the Port of Houston Authority concerning the possible development of a Foreign Trade Zone in Sabine County.
- Met with Jordan Frisby with the Port of Houston Authority concerning potential manufacturing operations that would use the port but need to be located in an attainment area for air permits.
- Am doing research on and making phone calls to companies that operate call centers to learn what Sabine County needs to do to attract a call center.
- Making calls to various contacts around the state to let them know of my involvement with Sabine County.