

Sabine County Economic Development Progress Report

March 1 - 31, 2017

Prepared by Charlie Dromgoole

- Finalized the details on the completion of the hotel feasibility study and wrote a summary synopsis of the 128 page study that was presented to SEDAC. Have had several conversations with Todd Walker of Source Strategies and a conversation with Scott Joslove, President of the Texas Hotel and Lodging Association concerning the marketing of the study to potential hotel developers. The focus will now be on getting the study out to potential hotel developers/owners. Have sent the study to several known hotel developers, several contacts made at ICSC, and Best Western.
- Made contact with several restaurant contacts that I developed at ICSC and am gathering additional information for them in hopes of getting them to visit Sabine County in the future.
- Attended the SCEDAC meeting in Hemphill on March 15. Met with Project Polymer about locating in Sabine County.
- Began doing research and gathering information on Project Polymer. Attended a meeting in Hemphill on March 27 to discuss the development of an incentive package and plan to present to Project Polymer.
- Visited the current site of Project Polymer in Orange to see their current operations and meet with company leadership and discussed incentive possibilities.
- Finalized a draft of an economic development incentive policy and application for tax abatement for Sabine County. Presented the documents to Judge Melton prior to the March 15 SCEDAC meeting. Have also been reviewing the previous tax abatement information that Sabine County had developed but never was submitted to Commissioner's Court.
- Continuing to work with Rebekka Dudensing, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service on the agricultural project study for Sabine County. Discussions on the project are continuing and moving forward. She will be making a presentation on their findings at the April 20 meeting.
- Have been working with Don Iles, Betty Russo, and Nancy Windham on developing the curriculum for the Economic Development Essentials Workshop to be held in Hemphill on the morning of April 20.
- Continue to make contacts in reference to the Tourism Assessment of Sabine County conducted by the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism.