

Sabine County Economic Development Progress Report
August 1 – August 31, 2017
Prepared by Charlie Dromgoole

- Attended the SCEDAC meeting and the reception for Congressman Louie Gohmert on August 14 in Hemphill.
- Completed the initial draft of the Sabine County Economic Development Strategic Plan. Presented the initial draft at the SCEDAC meeting on August 14. I received revision input from two members and developed a final format that will allow us to track our progress on the plan and review the plan at each SCEDAC meeting. This will be presented at the SCEDAC meeting on September 21.
- Met with Jim Moyer and Kregg Victory to discuss the Fairmount development that is currently under construction. Toured the property with them and learned of some of the challenges and issues facing their project.
- Continue to stay in touch with Don Iles concerning Project Polymer. Also attended the retirement reception for Texas Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Affairs Director, Rick Rhodes, on August 24. While there I got to spend a lot of time with Chris Reynolds concerning our forthcoming Capital Fund application for Project Polymer. Also met Suzanne Barnard.
- Spent time talking with TEDC President Carlton Schwab and Larry McManus with the Governor's Office of Economic Development about rural economic development initiatives.
- Have continued to follow-up with a hotel developer from Houston that not only builds hotel developments but also has business acquaintances that build hotel projects in rural areas. I was going to bring him to Sabine County for a site visit to get the lay of the land on August 28 but had to cancel because of Hurricane Harvey. Will re-schedule for September.
- Sent the hotel sites document to the Choice Hotels and Best Western contacts but have not been able to make direct contact with either group. Continue to attempt to contact them by either email or phone.
- Made contact with a banker in Houston that has a client that has built several hotels in rural areas and sent him our study and other information. Will be following up with him.