

**Sabine County Economic Development Progress Report**  
**January 1 – January 31, 2018**  
**Prepared by Charlie Dromgoole**

- Followed up on a lead from a local banker on a wood pellet manufacturer in Canada looking to expand their operation in the South. Had a good conversation with the President of the company prior to the holidays and learned about their requirements. There seemed to be some genuine interest in our area because of fiber source availability, rail access and close proximity to the ports. I have attempted on numerous occasions to make contact with the President of the company by both phone and email but have not had any response. I developed a briefing paper on the project and Daryl will be forwarding it to the Secretary of State to utilize his influence in making contact with the company. It is a really good fit for Sabine County.
- I had several conversations with Don Iles and one of the principals, Paul Grillo, of 2BeGreen (Project Polymer) about information needed to complete the Texas Capital Fund application. The Texas Capital Fund application was completed and hand delivered to the Texas Department of Agriculture on December 19. \$2 million was available in December and our application was for \$1 million. We are still waiting on one document from 2BeGreen to finalize the application and are hopeful to have it soon. I have also been working with Paul Grillo on the completion of the Sabine County Tax Abatement Agreement Application.
- I also followed up with the Zach Scott with the Governor's Office of Economic Development to see if there are any other State of Texas incentives that Sabine County can access for Project Polymer. Zach followed up with Paul Grillo to explain other possibilities.
- I am continuing to follow-up with several of the hotel groups that have expressed interest in Sabine County and am continuing to look for ways to incentivize the development of a hotel in the county. I sent them the information in the news article on 2BeGreen coming to Sabine County. Have had email responses from two of the parties who are still looking for an investor. Have been doing research on other hotel chain possibilities but am still convinced that Best Western and Choice Hotel are our preferred chains of those that locate in smaller communities.
- I have been following up on the leads I received at the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Deal Making Event on November 9 & 10 in Dallas. I am hopeful to have a site visit from one fast food restaurant on February 22 & 23. Have been doing some research on potential land sites for them to look at when they visit.

*Daryl M. Hill*