

Sabine County Economic Development Progress Report

Feb. January 1 – January 31, 2018
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- 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. 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 and Eddie Lewis on the completion of the Sabine County Tax Abatement Agreement Application. The application was submitted to Sabine County at the end of February.
- I did some research on reinvestment zones for Don Iles and Eddie Lewis for completion of his Sabine County tax abatement application.
- Also did some research on land transfers for economic development projects for Don Iles and talked to several people who have done these and got their input.
- 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. There was nothing of significance available other than the Capital Fund.
- 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 forwarded it to the Secretary of State to utilize his influence in making contact with the company. I had a conference call with Secretary Pablos and his staff on February 20 and discussed the project. He assigned Anthony Guiliani to work with me on the project. We have extended an invitation to the company to have a conference call with Secretary Pablos but as of February 28, we have not locked down a date.
- 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. 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 am hopeful to have a site visit from one fast food restaurant in either March or April. Have been doing some research on potential land sites for them to look at when they visit.

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