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Sabine County Economic Development Progress Report
March 1-March 31, 2018
Prepared by Charlie Dromgoole

- I attended the SCEDAC meeting on Thursday, March 29, 2018 in Hemphill and prepared the agenda prior to the meeting with input from SCEDAC members.
- Followed up on a lead from a local banker on a wood pellet manufacturer in Canada looking to expand their operation in the South (Project Bullet). 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 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 staffer, Anthony Guiliani on February 20 and discussed the project. We extended an invitation to the company to have a conference call with Secretary Pablos. UPDATE: The firm agreed to a conference call on March 22 which was conducted with company official, Judge Melton, Don Iles, and Charlie Dromgoole. Secretary Pablos and Anthony were in Japan. During the call, the company official asked for some specific information on Sabine County and indicated that he would try to visit Sabine County during the week of April 9. This did not happen and will be rescheduled.
- I went to the Texas Forest Service to obtain information on forest related companies in a 75 – 100 mile radius of Sabine County and got the information through their website TexasForestInfo.com. TFS was also helpful in obtaining information on Louisiana forest products within the 75-100 mile radius of Sabine County. This information was sent to the Project Bullet company.
- Josh Neal was able to provide me with Google Earth screen shots of several possible sites that met the Project Bullet company criteria. This information will also be sent to the company along with other sites that are being gathered.
- 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 before April 20, 2018.
- I conducted some research on the Keeler Grant Program through the TLL Temple Foundation to see if there could be a possibility of available funding for future economic development projects.
- 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 Choice Hotels indicating a possible visit to Sabine County in April, but have not been able to get a firm date.
- I am hopeful to have a site visit from one fast food restaurant in either April. Have been doing some research on potential land sites for them to look at when they visit.

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