

Sabine County Economic Development Progress Report

April 1- April 30, 2018

Prepared by Charlie Dromgoole

- I attended the SCEDAC meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2018 in Hemphill and prepared the agenda prior to the meeting with input from SCEDAC members.
- 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 May 20, 2018. We have had numerous conversations with TDA and they have been accommodating on the project.
- I assisted Don Iles in proof reading and providing input into the proposal to the TLL Temple Foundation for the Cross-laminated timber industry on behalf of the City of Hemphill, Sabine County, City of Pineland and Pineland Service Center.
- I am doing research on Chapter 381 Agreements as a possible alternative to tax abatement to be used by Sabine County as incentives for potential locations.
- I am continuing 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. Met Sylvia Leal with TLLTF at BEDC in San Antonio.
- 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 May, but have not been able to get a firm date.
- I was hopeful to have a site visit from one fast food restaurant in April but they cancelled due to work load. They still want to come look at sites in Sabine County and will reschedule in the future.
- I began contacting SCEDAC members to update the SCEDAC Strategic Plan.
- The wood pellet manufacturer in Canada looking to expand their operation in the South (Project Bullet) 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. The information requested was developed through the Texas Forest Service and Josh Neal and was provided to the company. The visit did not happen and will be rescheduled. Attempts to contact the company for a rescheduled date have been unsuccessful.