

Sabine County Economic Development Progress Report

June 1 – June 30, 2018

Prepared by Charlie Dromgoole

- I attended the SCEDAC meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 in Hemphill and prepared the agenda prior to the meeting with input from SCEDAC members.
- Attended the Hemphill City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 19 in support of the presentation to the Council on the CLT Project. Afterward, spent time talking with Brant Cobb concerning the future needs of the CLT Project and what their next stages would be after the initial plant is constructed.
- Also spent some time review the business plan for CLT and providing input to Don Iles on possible methods of financing the project. In addition to speaking with USDA, I also visited with Chris Reynolds with TDA concerning a 0% interest loan program that could be available to us in the future.
- 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 but we were not able to obtain the financing information as required in the application over the next several months to finalize the application. We have had numerous conversations with TDA and they have been accommodating on the project. Mr. Grillo has indicated that the financial information is about completed. When 2BeGreen is ready with all of the required documentation, the application will have to be resubmitted. The site preparation is coming along fine, but we can start on the utilities until we get approval on the Capital Fund grant
- I worked up a Site Information sheet to send out to Sabine County Realtors to start a site portfolio of available sites in Sabine County for both commercial and industrial projects. Cookie will be sending out the information to the Realtors asking them to complete the information and return it to us. I am also working on a building data sheet that we can send to realtors so that we can keep an inventory of available buildings.
- 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, but have not been able to get a firm date. I am going to meet with the representative on his next trip to Houston. Also heard back from Best Western that they have not been able to locate a potential owner/operator.
- I was hopeful to have a site visit from one fast food restaurant in June 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 continue to attempt to contact him regularly. He assures me that he will visit Sabine County.

David Meltz

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