

## Sabine County Economic Development Progress Report

July 1 – July 31, 2018

Prepared by Charlie Dromgoole

- I attended the SCEDAC meeting on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 in Hemphill and prepared the agenda prior to the meeting with input from SCEDAC members.
- Revised the Agenda format due to changes and additions in SCEDAC members that are now participating in the group.
- I visited with Chris Reynolds with TDA concerning a 0% interest loan program that could be available to us in the future for projects and how it might tie into our two current projects. He provided some very useful information.
- We have had numerous conversations with TDA concerning 2BeGreen (Project Polymer) about information needed to complete the Texas Capital Fund application 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't start on the utilities until we get approval on the Capital Fund grant
- I worked up a Site Information sheet and a Building Data Sheet to send out to Sabine County Realtors and others who might have property or buildings available for sale or lease 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 and other interested parties asking them to complete the information and return it to us.
- Spent some time with Judge Melton discussing possible options for the Sabine County Tourism program. Also did some review of the Tourism Assessment conducted by the Governor's Office of Economic Development.
- Updated the SCEDAC Strategic Plan.
- Began to put together information on the formation of a 501(c)3 or 501(c)6 non-profit organization for SCEDAC that would could include economic development and tourism. Will present the information at the August 21 SCEDAC meeting.
- Beginning the development of a document highlight the positive economic activities taken place in Sabine County in the past couple of years. Would welcome assistance from SCEDAC members on providing information for this document.
- 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 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 Melton*

VOL 3-0 PG 657