

Step Committee March 16, 2009

TOWN OF BAYBORO STEP Leadership Team
PC Courthouse First Floor Kitchen Annex Room
March 16, 2009 @ 5:30PM

Mr. Himbry called the meeting to order and on behalf of the Mayor and Town Council welcomed everyone. The third Thursday of the month was tentatively set aside as an established meeting date.

The Sign In Sheet was passed around and refreshments were served. This allowed everyone to eat while the PowerPoint Presentation was going on.

Chilton Rogers, STEP Coach from the NC Rural Center, took the floor and proceeded to give a PowerPoint Presentation regarding an Economic and Demographic Scan of Bayboro and surrounding Pamlico County. (To be attached to the Minutes) Ms. Rogers stated that this was a good overview of where Pamlico County stands and how we may want to proceed.

Ms. Rogers discussed growing a local economy, Town and County demographics, basis for economic descriptors, sources of income in the County, regional perspectives, and challenges to County and Towns. Ms. Rogers stated that the quality of labor force and education were very important to growing a local economy. To help grow our economy, we need to produce as much as possible for our use with enough left over to sell externally.

Ms. Rogers stated that the key question needing to be addressed is: How can we grow the Bayboro (Pamlico) economy? We can do this by retaining and growing existing businesses; improving local linkages—encouraging more local buying to reduce income leakage; encouraging creation of new businesses through entrepreneurship—more exports, less income leakage from buying imports; increase in commuting; capturing more unearned dollars— attracting more retirees; attracting outside investment by getting someone to build a new factory, regional hospital, state facility, etc.

There were discussions regarding the Demographic Scan and interest was voiced in possibly establishing a small trauma center/outpatient clinic to accommodate the Retirement Population that is moving into Pamlico County. Also, there was discussions about getting independent studies done. Ms. Rogers stated that the next steps are to look at potential growth paths, brainstorm assets and limiting factors related to each potential growth path, and visualize Bayboro in 2020.

Due to the time factor, other business listed on the agenda were not addressed; therefore, tabled until the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for April 16, 2009 from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Refreshments will be provided. The Committee is encouraged to invite others to attend.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Baker-Coordinator