

NC STEP Minutes, July 22, 2010

NC STEP Advisory Committee Meeting
Town of Bayboro Town Hall
July 22, 2010 @ 5:30 p.m.

Joseph Himbry welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He then had the attendees introduce themselves. Ms. Yolanda Burwell is visiting us from the NC Rural Center.

The minutes from the last meeting were presented for approval. Carla Byrnes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Pat Prescott seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

Mr. Himbry stated that we are still waiting for the Contract from the NC Rural Center. He went on to announce that the Town of Bayboro Council reviewed the payment invoice presented by the NC REAL Curriculum and approved payment.

Mr. Himbry also stated that the NC Rural Center has a new website and that the Town of Bayboro STEP Projects are featured. He commended the STEP Committee for this achievement.

Mr. Himbry reminded the Committee to remember to present their detailed invoices to the Bayboro Town Council for approval before payment will be rendered.

Ms. Baker read a CBC Project update from Dee Sage and Candy Roberts, as they could not attend the meeting. Per her written update, Ms Sage stated that the B & E has been meeting twice a month and that Suzanne Julian has been busy helping with research and capturing SWOT workshop notes. The SWOT workshops have been completed and the information gathered will be reviewed and the potential list of CBC will be narrowed down.

The next step for the CBC subcommittee is to visit individuals to discuss the probability of the CBC's selected. The first contact will be with Mark Sutherland, Executive Director of the Military Growth Task Force to discuss the "Feed the Forces" and "Fuel the Forces" strategies developed by the MGTF (Military Growth Task Force).

Two important dates were announced. On August 11, 2010 at the Jones County Civic Center, there will be a Biofuels Symposium. It was stated that there needs to be a strong representation at this symposium. Farmers, engineers, elected officials; anyone who might be interested in developing a distribution facility is encouraged to attend. Pamlico County is competing with six other Counties for this amazing opportunity, which is scheduled to be up and running within 24 months.

Also on August 24, 2010, Mark Sutherland will be in Pamlico County to address the B & E Committee at 7:30am at the Pamlico Community College. All STEP Leadership Members are requested to attend if possible and to invite any other individuals who might be interested in economic growth opportunities aligned with the MGTF efforts.

Dr. Coon reiterated that it was extremely important for as many diverse trade persons as possible attend the August 24 meeting as possible.

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Regarding the Support Network Project, Brian Dodds stated that there has been very little progress to date as he has been out of the area on vacation. He went on to say he is back now and will be starting work on the project as soon as possible.

Selva Staub has been working on the SCORE network and the statement was made that we need local entrepreneurs to test the score process out. Mr. Himbry responded that he is working on a business growth project and may be able to help.

Dr. Coon gave a brief update on the NC REAL Curriculum. Fourteen people are signed up and August 2, 2010 will be the first day of the week long workshop. The idea is that after training, those that attended the workshop will come back and train other teachers so that eventually all the teachers will be trained in the NC REAL Curriculum. Dr. Coon invited STEP Members to stop in during the training to observe.

CERC Intern Suzanne Julian gave a brief update of the projects she has been working on. She stated that she was helping Jude Dodds in finding funding for the Pavilion Project. She stated that Pamlico County does not qualify for designation as a HUB County, but that the County may be eligible for tax credits regarding various projects. She is still pursuing information on waste water treatments facilities and marketing strategies. She also informed the Committee that she is participating in a blog regarding CERC Interns and their experiences.

Regarding the Commuters Subcommittee, Mr. Himbry stated that the committee is still talking to DOT and working on the planting of greenery along the NC 55 corridor. Currently, the towns will have to maintain the plants after the DOT plants them.

Dr. Coon asked about streetlights along the sidewalks. There was some discussion as to where to place the lampposts and the possibility of asking homeowners to contribute towards the cost and have a contribution plaque attached to the posts.

Regarding the welcome signs, the possibility of inviting students from Pamlico County High School to submit designs for the individual community signs was discussed. Dr. Coon is to be informed when the time comes for the submittals.

Brian Dodds voiced the opinion of there being a problem existing at the traffic light intersection in Grantsboro. It was stated that the four lane highway at the intersection of Grantsboro is a pedestrian nightmare. There was some discussion regarding a pedestrian who was recently killed by a vehicle while walking across the highway in that area. Various solutions to the pedestrian safety issue were discussed, such as applying to the DOT and the State for a pedestrian light at the intersection.

It was discussed that the Commuters Subcommittee members have dwindled down to almost nothing. Members are asked to spread the word that we need more help on the Commuters projects. Mr. Himbry stated the Commuters Subcommittee needs individuals from all of the communities. He will discuss the matter with the Mayors at the next Mayor's Association meeting scheduled for August.

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Ms. Baker spoke briefly about the amenities project. Ms. Bucksott is still out of town and will start work on the project upon her return. While out of town, Ms. Bucksott is currently working on a questionnaire and agenda list. Mr. Himbry stated that he is working on funding to supplement the project.

Mr. Himbry spoke briefly about the Waterfront Project. He stated that due to the fact that the cost has risen above \$30,000 due to CAMA flood elevation rules, informal bids are being accepted with the deadline date of August 17, 2010. Ground breaking is tentatively scheduled for two weeks later.

Mr. Himbry stated that the Town of Bayboro approved the Hotel Feasibility Study Contract. We should have the results back within 45 days. The plans for a hotel should not interfere with existing hospitality amenities currently available. Mr. Dodds questioned the sewer capacity and capability to accommodate a small hotel. Mr. Himbry stated that the location should not impact overly much on the sewer. It is the hope that a hotel will be placed outside of the sewers district and has a self-sustaining sewer system. He also reminded the committee that now is not the time for building, but the time for planning.

Regarding the Farmer's Market Pavilion, Ms. Dodds informed the committee that so far, applications for grants for funding the matching portion have been denied. She has contacted area farmers for possible donations and is still searching, with help from Suzanne Julian, for applicable grants.

Pat Prescott spoke about a meeting from USDA officials she had recently had. There is a possibility for some funding from the USDA and Ms. Prescott has started the process to apply for this funding. Ms. Prescott stated that we may have to piece together various financial donations and funding in order to get the total match, but that it can be done.

There was some discussion regarding various funding sources and the possibility of putting up a thermometer to chart the donations. This could possibly generate more interest from the public to make individual donations.

Brian Dodds spoke briefly regarding the website project. He stated that within the County, there are a tremendous amount of websites. There was some discussion regarding the linkages of these websites or possibly some other solution of connecting the websites.

There is the possibility of linking them to the Pamlico Chamber of Commerce, but there is an existing problem of these websites being kept up-to-date with current information. The question was raised as to how to monitor the various websites for current updates. Ms. Dodds stated that there as there is a "website" committee, if anyone has any suggestions, to please email her and the committee will discuss it.

Ms. Burwell offered some advice by saying that in the beginning of this first year, it is important to make sure there is an alternate means of getting the information out and not just relying on the website due to the fact that not everyone has access to internet or even a computer. She was informed that the local newspapers are utilized for announcements as much as possible.

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Ms. Burwell requested time at the beginning of the next meeting to discuss the layout and content regarding outreach communication.

Dr. Coon announced on the 18th of August at 12:00noon, the Chair of the State Board of Education will be addressing the Pamlico County Teachers, at the Primary Multipurpose room, with a luncheon prior to that. Anyone who is interested in attending the luncheon please let Dr. Coon know. Several individuals will be receiving letters of invitation.

The NC STEP Committee is invited to attend. Recognition for Teacher of the Year along with other announcements are scheduled for 10:45am and lunch is scheduled for 11:30am. The topic for the speech at 12 noon will be regarding the vision for education in North Carolina, the national standards, and various other related topics. This is in keeping with the educational expectations the STEP Committee has been working on.

The County has obtained the 21 century recognition and is awaiting a formal announcement.

The next STEP Committee meeting will be August 19, 2010. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Baker, NC STEP Coordinator

Attendees:

Barbara Baker

Tom Braaten

Yolanda Burwell-NC Rural Center

Carla Byrnes

James P. Coon

Brian Dodds

Jude Dodds

Alice Garrison

Joe Himbry

Vinnie Himbry

Ann Holton

Mark Howell

Suzanne Julian-CERC Intern

Jerry Prescott

Pat Prescott