



**Lake County Chamber Alliance
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 26, 2013 8:00am
LSSC Business Resource Center**

1. **In Attendance**

Delegates: Kevin Austin, Mike Bucher, Mark Dushane, Beth Jenkins, Steve Jennelle, Don Marx, Jim Miller, Tom Miranda, Orin Owen, Kelly Pisciotta, and Dick Scott

Delegates Absent: Susan Brooks, Roger Beyers, Shananne Cain and Jerry Cobb,

Directors: Christie Bobbitt, Rob English, Peggy Hayes, Colleen McGinley, and Ray San Fratello,

Liaisons: Stan Austin, Bill Mathias, Carolyn Maimone, Jim Myers, Sean Parks, and Adam Sumner

Visitors: Jonathan Till – Representative Bryan Nelson, Jennifer Wylie – Representative Larry Metz

2. **Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Minutes of last regularly scheduled Alliance meetings from February 22 2013 and March 22, 2013 presented. Jim Miller moved to accept, Kelly Pisciotta seconded, motion passed

4. **Financial Report:** Steve Jennelle
Lake Legislative Days (LLD) and regular February and March Alliance financials presented
LLD – better than projected
Operations – need Eustis to report number of members and East Lake is yet to be billed for their share of the Community Service Awards
Kevin Robson of Business Masters sponsoring five years of web hosting for the Alliance web site
Don Marx moved to accept, Scott Dick seconded, motion passed

5. **Old Business**

Community Service Awards

Jim Myers – Ceremony was well attended, selling out. Nine individuals recognized. Encourage more participation in the form of nominees for next year. Other marketing methods will be considered.

Alliance Delegate Responsibility Form

Mike Bucher – Some forms still to be turned in. Mike will contact delegates who have not turned form in

Alliance Website

Mike Bucher – site is current and up-to-date presenting a more logical image as well as indicating direction of the Alliance
Review website and give feedback on suggested improvements

Alliance Workshop

Mark Dushane - Friday, May 30 at Grand Oaks. Regularly Monthly Meeting of Alliance from 2:00 pm followed by workshop until 5:00pm followed by a Social Hour and Italian dinner with a cash bar; Carriage rides will be available to view Grand Oaks. .

\$500 short in funding - Steve Jennelle motioned the shortfall be funded from excess from Lake Legislative Days. Jim Miller seconded, Kelly Pisciotta seconded. Motion passed.

Key County Initiatives to be reviewed:

- 1) T.J. Fish - Transportation Funding for the Disadvantaged and Completion of Rails to Trails
- 2) Nancy Muenzmay - Business Opportunity Centers (BOC)
- 3) Sean Parks - Capital Facilities Funding
- 4) Sean Parks - County Budget Review
- 5) Bill Mathias - Career and Technical Adult and Community Education
- 6) Mark Dushane - Key County Indicators or Metrics

6. **New Business:**

Newly Assigned Positions

Rob English assumed Executive Director of Mount Dora Chamber. Nancy Muenzmay will assume Director of Business Incubator June 1 and Christie Bobbitt will assume Executive Director of Eustis Area Chamber. Robert Chandler has been assigned Director of Lake County Office of Economic Development and Tourism and Adam Sumner as Manager.

Lake Legislative Day (LLD)

Orin Owen and Don Marx will contact 2013 LLD group leaders to recap and review legislation issues resulting from LLD 2013.

Discussion of date selection ensued. Kelly Pisciotta shared that dates are "cost driven" and selected as close to "session" as possible.

Jennifer Wylie stated it is best to schedule before session, once in session appointments are nearly impossible.

Jim Myers proposed the Alliance invite LLD Group Leads to give presentation to the Alliance.

Rob English proposed the Alliance invite state legislators to May 30th workshop.

General Discussion

Gas Tax - \$0.06 gas tax renewal discussed. Explained that it is not a new tax, rather it would be a continuation of current gas tax. It was agreed that without forth knowledge of distribution it would be difficult to support. It was explained that each of the \$0.02 could be allocated differently. Agreed that prior to the Alliance publically supporting continuation there needs to be more research, presentation to the board and time allowed for delegates to present recommendations to individual chambers and resolution must pass vote by delegates. Resolution would require majority vote to pass. Resolution need not be approved until January, but delegates need to start informing chambers now. Jim Myers shared that upkeep of roads will become responsibility of individual municipalities in 2014, pending County Commissioners vote.

CFAC - Jim Miller volunteered to represent the Alliance should the committee re-adjourn.

Libraries - County Commissioners considering outsourcing labor. No closures slated.

7. **Alliance Partnership Reports**

Lake County Commission

Commissioner Parks – Encouraged encourage Alliance to continue partnership as County Commissioners value input from the business community in decision making

7. Alliance Partnership Reports (Cont.)

Lake County School Board

Councilman Mathias – Reported that Lake County is one of seven in running for Bill Gates Foundation grant.

North West Regional Board of Advisors

Ray San Fratello – Jacob Stewart to give presentation on MyRegion.org to County Commissioners at May 7th meeting

Lake Sumter MPO

TJ Fish – East Lake/North Orange County meeting later in the day to discuss funding issues. MPO will be asking municipalities to support renewal of current gas taxes which are scheduled to end. Four of the five county commissioners are required for the vote to pass. He discussed the transit development plan and explained the disadvantage or “para” services in Lake County.

League of Cities

Jim Myers – thanked sponsors of 2013 Community Service Awards: Daily Commercial, Lake Leadership, Chamber Alliance of Lake County, Lake Sumter State College and Lake Receptions. Nine awards presented. Need more nominations from chambers in 2014.

Representative Bryan Nelson

Jonathan Till – Survey results were distributed to all chamber and he encourages each to share results with their members.

Home Builders of America

Carolyn Maimone – reported home starts and permitting are trending up and the market is in need of skilled labor.

Office of Economic Development

Adam Sumner - reported Leesburg hotels are sold out for Bike Fest and encourage all hoteliers visit Leesburg Partnership face book page to post available rooms

Business Opportunity Center (BOC)

Nancy Muenzmay - will be visiting chambers to survey how BOC might better serve business community. Planning session planned May 9th with Robert Chandler, Stan Austin and Nancy Muenzmay. They will be presenting to County Commissioners in June and working to collect data/feedback from graduates.

Adjourned: Mike Bucher – 9:30am

8. Next Regular Meeting

May 30, Grand Oaks Resort, starting at 2:00pm

Submitted by: Jeff W. Smith, Lake County Chamber Alliance Recording Secretary