



**Lake County Chamber Alliance  
Special Board Meeting and  
Workshop Minutes  
Thursday May 30, 2013 2:00pm  
Grand Oaks Resort**

1. **In Attendance**

**Delegates:** Mike Bucher, Shananne Cain, Mark Dushane, Beth Jenkins, Don Marx, Jim Miller, Orin Owen, Steve Jennelle, and Dick Scott

**Delegates Absent:** Kevin Austin, Roger Beyers, Jerry Cobb, Tom Miranda and Kelly Pisciotta

**Directors:** Rob English, Peggy Hayes, Susan Martin, Colleen McGinley, and Ray San Fratello

**Liaisons:** Sean Parks, TJ Fish, Stan Austin, Robert Chandler, Bill Mathias, Carolyn Maimone and Debi Dyer.

**Visitors:** Melissa Stephan, Maggie Teachout, Steve Koons, Bill Hayes, Terri Friesner, Tom Laury, Greg Malanczuk.

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

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Minutes of last regularly scheduled Alliance meetings from April 26, 2013 presented. Jim Miller moved to accept, Orin Owen seconded, motion passed

4. **Financial Report:** Steve Jennelle will review May's report at June Board meeting.

5. **Alliance Partnership Reports**

**Lake Sumter MPO**

TJ Fish – reported that "Rails to Trails" is focused on "closing the gaps". Explained the different trails and their current status. Explained current situation of funding and goal of a coast to coast connection. Gave statistics from West Orange Trail and explained that for every dollar invested netted a \$9 return with 80,000 people per month using the West Orange Trail.

**Public Transportation** - TJ defined Para Transport, it uses, benefits limitation and funding sources and costs. Overall, ridership of public transport is up.

**MPO** - Supports the County Commissioners search for new funding sources, municipalities expanding Lake Xpress services and state legislation support public transportation.

**Capital Facilities Fund**

Commissioner Sean Parks – Explained Capital Facilities and explained the Capital Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) provides recommendations of how collected fees should be applied. Explained the future need of infrastructure and possible funding sources. Explained that no "General Funds" go into transportation funding.

Steve Koons - presented Lake County proposed budget with power point presentation. Property values are down 35-40% over the past eight years. Explained County Commissioners desire input from business community and Chamber Alliance.

Budget strategies include:

Consolidation of offices

No Economic Development funds

Researching outsourcing options

Asked for the Alliance to consider a letter of support for the County's proposed budget once the ad valorem and constitutional budgets are submitted at the next Commission meeting.  
Discussed the solid waste plan going out for bid.  
Discussed Lake County Tax Collector assuming responsibilities for driver licensing in 2014.

#### County School Board

Maggie Teachout – Explained focus is on workforce/career and college readiness. She presented the career and technical overview of the board of how the board is working with industry leaders to prepare future workforce. Career prep is available to all Lake County students.  
Lake County boasts an 87% Industry Certification testing compared to 47% nationwide.  
Seeking increased business partnership involvement in school system.

Melissa Stephan - Gave update on Lake Technical School, explaining certificate programs including: HVACs, computer systems and information technology, pharmacy tech and machinery.  
Focus is on manufacturing. Will be offering welding programs in the future in a response to industry requests.

#### Economic Development & Tourism

Robert Chandler - Department is focused on business attraction, retention and expansion. Reported that businesses are requesting skilled labor. When prospective businesses are searching for a location to establish, they are interested in quality of life and schools for their children ... Lake County offers both.  
Business Opportunity Centers (BOCs) offer greatest asset in development, expansion and retention of new business to Lake County.

Stan Austin - Explained requirements of a Certified Business Consultant, explaining mandatory on-going training. He reported on successes of the BOC's and future class expectations.

**Adjournment:** 5:15pm. Mike Bucher thanked all speakers and sponsors (attached). Presentations will be posted on web site for board members to share with respective Chamber board and membership at large. A summary of "asks" will be presented to board for follow up at June's meeting.

#### 6. **Next Regular Meeting**

June 30, LSSC Business Resource Center, starting at 8:00am

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