



Lake County Alliance

Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2012

1. Meeting called to order at 3:13 pm by Kelly Pisciotta
2. Pledge of Allegiance to U.S. Flag
3. Invocation: Given by Don Marx
4. **In Attendance:** Mike Bucher, Shananne Cain, Mark DuShane, TJ Fish, Peggy Hayes, Cathy Hoechst, Steve Jennelle, Don Marx, Colleen McGinley, Jim Miller, Kelly Pisciotta, Ray San Fratello, Tim Sennett and Scott Sullivan
5. **Visitors:** None
6. **Minutes of February's Meeting:** March and April meeting minutes presented by Kelly Pisciotta. Steve Jennelle moved to accept as presented, Don Marx seconded, motion carried.
7. **Financial Report:** March and April financials presented by Steve Jennelle. Don Marx moved to accept as presented, Tim Sennett seconded, motion carried.
8. **Old Business** (Kelly Pisciotta)

Alliance By-Laws –All chambers but Lady Lake, reported their members have approved the proposed by-law changes. Mike Bucher moved to accept the proposed by-law changes as presented, with future amendments as needed. TJ Fish seconded the motion, motion carried.

Top 5 Issues – Kelly Pisciotta read the lists of “top 5’s” she received from the chambers. The Chamber Alliance Advisory Council (CAAC) will review the board member’s top 5 priorities at their next meeting for any additional thoughts and comments. Discussion of a possible work shop to select the top 5 issues for the Alliance to address was discussed as well as development of a strategic plan for the Alliance.

Legislative Committee –Kelly Pisciotta listed the benefits of forming a Legislative Committee. After discussion, Don Marx moved to establish the committee. TJ Fish seconded the motion, motion carried.

Kelly Pisciotta will solicit chambers for members. The committee will be an advisory committee only; everything must be approved for action by the Alliance board. Jim Miller is to schedule the committee’s meetings with sufficient time to prepare a bullet point report to the Alliance board at the regular monthly meetings.

Capital Facilities Advisory Committee –Kelly Pisciotta announced that Tim Sennett has volunteered to sit on the committee. Jim Miller moved to accept Tim Sennett as the representative. TJ Fish seconded the motion, motion carried.

Alliance Website – All present agreed the site needs updating. Jeff Smith is to work with Kevin Robson in removing old information and posting this year’s meeting minutes. Any board member who has a recommendation for improvement or inclusion to the Alliance website is to forward such to Jeff Smith. Each

member chamber encouraged to have a link to the Alliance website. Jeff Smith is to work with Kevin Robson to ensure a link to each member chamber is posted on the Alliance website.

Reports

1. **Emergency Operations Center** (Cathy Hoechst)

Cathy reported that she has established a dialogue with Tome Carpenter and is working on establishing a meeting with him. He provided her with a number of websites to review. She discussed the creation of a "Business Recovery Plan", as very few chambers have one in existence. The business community needs to be educated with strategies to overcome an emergency.

2. **Lake County School Board** (Rosanne Brandeburg)

Rosanne reported Lake County schools graduated 2500 seniors this year. Through refinancing, the school board will be saving \$3.5mm in interest payments. In 2008 the debt was \$617.3mm; as June 30 the debt was \$468.8mm, indicating a positive trend. The Board voted to not enforce a Uniform Dress Code. Lake-Sumter Community College (LSCC) Trustees approved name change to reflect being a four year college; new name is: Lake Sumter State College. Four year programs in Organizational Management and Nursing will be offered beginning the coming school year. The college intends to increase its availability of on line course to facilitate the expected increase of enrollment.

3. **North West Regional Board Advisory** (Ray San Fratello)

Ray reported that permitting is the County's number one issue being addressed. Four City Managers recently met with Kelly Lockton to establish a permanent, uniformed permitting plan for Central Florida; significantly reducing, the financial for the smaller municipalities. A future meeting is planned to include all City and County Managers to work towards establishment of a universal permitting program throughout Lake County. The date of this meeting is to be set at the June 25 meeting of the NWR Advisory Board.

4. **MPO Update** (TJ Fish)

TJ reported a state level MPO advisory council transportation study indicated the public is driving and spending less on fuel. MPO is scheduled to meet with the County Commissioners on these findings in August. He believes that nothing significant will happen until after the National Elections. Significant concern is the County does not have funding if a developer were to want to negotiate a new project. A future funding source must be realized. MPO is in the planning stages of a summit and solicits the Alliances support; TJ to forward a formalized proposal to Kelly Pisciotta.

5. **Chamber Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC)** (Mike Bucher)

The CAAC will finalize its new meeting time and location. The next meeting will focus on the CAB's Top 5 priorities for review and comments.

General Discussion

Steve Jennelle initiated a discussion of how the Alliance could become involved in business education within the Lake County Schools. Maggie Teachout is the current Career Technical Advisor for the County. USB in North Lake and the Leesburg Chamber have established programs. Rosanne Brandeburg volunteered to meet with Maggie Teachout to discuss options of Alliance involvement/support. Steve Jennelle volunteered to solicit input from chambers via email. Mike Bucher mentioned that the South Lake Chamber Commerce has an active Education Committee with School principles and various County representatives serving on the committee.

Scott Blankenship reported that the "soft skills" of high school graduates are sorely lacking. His office has scheduled a meeting in July with WorkForce Central Florida to address the most effective methods to address this situation.

Scott Blankenship reported a county wide Career Academy is scheduled from July 31 to August 2.

Kelly Pisciotta distributed Alliance Delegate Job Descriptions

Adjourned

TJ Fish moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Bucher seconded the motion, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.

Next Meeting

- Thursday, July May 18, 2012