



**Lake County Chamber Alliance  
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Friday June 28, 2013 2:00pm  
Lake Sumter State College**

1. **In Attendance**

**Delegates:** Kevin Austin, Mike Bucher, Shananne Cain, Mark Dushane, Steve Jennelle, Jim Miller and Orin Owen

**Delegates Absent:** Roger Beyers, Jerry Cobb, Beth Jenkins, Don Marx, Tom Miranda, and Kelly Pisciotta

**Directors:** Peggy Hayes, Susan Martin, Colleen McGinley, Ray San Fratello, and Jan Zacharchuck

**Liaisons:** Stan Austin, Rosanne Brandenburg, Deb Dyer, T.J. Fish, and Steven Koons

**Legislators:** Jonathan Till (Representative Nelson) and Jennifer Wylie (Representative Metz)

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

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Minutes of last regularly scheduled Alliance meetings from May 30 , 2013 tabled to next regular meeting.

4. **Financial Report:** Steve Jennelle  
Tabled to next regular meeting

5. **Old Business**

Alliance Workshop

- o Generally agreed by board that "Partnership Report" was an appropriate title vs. "Workshop".
- o Summary of presentations and PowerPoint presentations will be posted on the Alliance website.
- o Designed to inform or "Ask" delegates of partnership desires for input from the Alliance.

6. **New Business**

Lake Legislative Days 2014

- o Mark Dushane is to develop a survey question for delegates to distribute throughout their respective chamber boards to gather information for 2014 Lake Legislative Day issues and present at the September Regular Alliance meeting.
- o Generally agreed to present survey results with unmet 2013 Lake Legislative Days initiatives.
- o T.J. Fish recommended to concentrate on STATE regulations affecting local businesses.
- o Generally agreed that majority of chamber members are too engaged in daily operation of their businesses to monitor the Alliance website. Discussion ensued as to the viability of the website.
- o Workers Compensation requirement discussed as a possible action item.
- o Kevin Austin stated the Daily Commercial would support publishing or printing of Alliance initiatives.

7. **Alliance Partnership Reports**

Lake Sumter MPO

TJ Fish – shared that the MPO created a resolution and distributed it to all municipalities encouraging them to support renewal of the Gas Tax and encouraged the Alliance to support the renewal as well.

Generally agreed that the Alliance will support renewal of the gas tax. Mike Bucher is to draft a resolution to be presented to the Alliance at the next scheduled board meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup> .

T.J. shared that the State House and Senate support completion of the Coast to Coast bike trails and expounded on the benefits of ecotourism to the local area; every \$1 invested returns \$9. He encouraged the Alliance to support.

#### County School Board

Rosanne Brandenburg – reported Lake County School budget shortfall has been reduced from \$16.7 million to \$2.6 million. Transportation audit resulted in a savings of \$1.4 million and eliminating courtesy busing of students in the fall.

Jim Miller presented information about the one cent sales tax renewal in 2017, asking for Alliance support for 2015 county referendum on renewal of one cent sales tax. Jim will forward information to Mike Bucher.

#### Business Opportunity Center

Debbie Dyer - reported the hiring of Jason Mabry with Lake Economic Tourism and Development to fill the void from Robert Chandler's promotion. BOC continues to receive positive feedback from attendees of classes. BOC is planning on offering seven additional classes by this fall. BOC asks the chambers to solicit members to instruct the new classes.

#### Lake County Budget

Steven Koons - presented summary of the County Commissioners June 11th workshop. Constitutional Officers reported a decrease of 0.8%, property taxes are up 0.21% and the overall budget cut by 6%. Florida Retirement System (FRS) adding additional challenge to the 2014 budget. Next workshop is scheduled for July 9th with a meeting July 30 to set mileage rates. He illustrated other contributing factors presenting budgeting challenges facing the County Commissioners. He also presented the 2015 outlook, stating further budget cuts would be required. Upcoming workshop schedule presented.

**Adjourned:** Mike Bucher – 9:46am

#### 8. **Next Regular Meeting**

July 26, LSSC Business Resource Center, starting at 8:00am

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