



**Lake County Chamber Alliance  
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Friday July 26, 2013 8:00 am  
Lake Sumter State College**

1. **In Attendance**

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

**Delegates Absent:** Kevin Austin, Roger Beyers, Jerry Cobb, Kelly Pisciotta and Walter Zielinski

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

**Liaisons:** Stan Austin, Rosanne Brandeburg, Deb Dyer and Pam Richmond

**Legislators:** Deb Dyer, (Lake County Tourism), Bill Mathias (Lake County School Board), Nancy Muenzmayer (Business Opportunity Centers), Jim Myers (League of Cities), 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 on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 approved by board.**

4. **Financial Report:** Steve Jennelle  
Reported no change, budget indicates positive through the end of this year

5. **Old Business:**

**Gas Tax Resolution (Six Cents)**

- Draft prepared by Lake-Sumter MPO presented and discussed. Generally agreed to accept as presented after modification of the wording from line 59, which read "continuing operation of Lake County Public Works" to "for the funding of Lake County TRANSPORTATION needs". The resolution will not address the distribution or allocation of gas tax between the county and cities under discussion by League of Cities.
- Pam Richmond acknowledged distribution of funds has not been defined.
- Jim Myers stated current distribution matrix is based on 20 year old data and needs updated
- Current distribution matrix indicates the municipalities that would be most negatively impacted were: Eustis, Mount Dora and Leesburg.
- Don Marx asked if there is a proposed "back-up" plan if the proposed gas tax resolution is not approved (?) Also, once passed, what is the Alliance's next plan of action.
- Tom Miranda stated his chamber members wants to know what services would be eliminated if the six cent fuel tax is not approved by the voters.
- Mike Bucher will work with Pam Richmond on distribution numbers and services that would be eliminated if the gas tax is not approved by voters and include in talking points to be emailed to all delegates with the approved resolution.
- Delegates are to present to their respective chambers and report back during the Alliance's regularly scheduled August meeting.

### Sales Tax (One cent or penny option tax)

- Requires referendum and is a fifteen year tax. Currently the tax is distributed 1/3 each to the county, school board and municipalities. Discussion on future distribution currently being discussed. The allocation must be included on the ballot.
- Discussion of timing of the referendum ensued. Steve Jennelle proposed to include it on the 2014 ballot to minimize costs. Jim Miller stated those running for office in 2014 could be negatively impacted - effecting election results.
- Generally agreed the referendum should be presented to voters in 2015 to allow time to present again in 2017 should the referendum not pass by voters.

### Alliance 2013/2014 County & Legislative Survey

- Mark Dushane will prepare survey draft
- Mike Bucher will forward to all delegates
- Delegates are to present survey to respective chambers and report back during the Alliance's Regularly Scheduled September Meeting.

## **6. NewBusiness**

### State Legislative Meeting - 2014

- Kelly Pisciotta will convene last year's Lake Legislative Days committee to begin planning.
- Discussion of retreat in October, inviting state legislators; location will be Clermont.
- Jennifer Wylie stated there will be a Legislative Delegation Meeting, open to all, at Lake Sumter State College, Monday, October 21.
- Jim Myers reported that League of Cities hosted all State Legislators at their last meeting and that advocacy does not begin in February, but rather September.

### Daily Commercial

- Mike Bucher reported that Kevin Austin, Mt. Dora delegate, wants to bring more exposure and involvement to the Alliance. The Daily Commercial is currently in the process of establishing a cube on their web site to promote public awareness of the Alliance.

### School Impact Fees

- Bill Mathias gave the School Board's perspective of school impact fees or basements. He stated that firm Henderson/Young concluded from their 2011 study that each new residence in Lake County resulted in a \$10,000 impact upon local schools.
- CFAC recommended re-instating impact fees at \$5400 which was not passed by the board due to the deficiency between the study's results and the proposed amount. The school board dismissed without a recommendation.
- Bill Mathias stated Dr. Fishkind will present alternative options at Monday night's meeting to achieve a balanced budget for the school board.
- Lake County Commissioners are requesting the school board's recommendation at the BCC's August 1 meeting.
- The Alliance will determine what/if any action it should take once the school board presents their recommendation.

### WorkForce Central Florida (WFCF)

- Ray San Fratello recommended inviting WFCF to become active with the Alliance in a liaison capacity. WFCF may be attending our August Alliance Board meeting.

## 7. **Alliance Partnership Reports**

### Business Opportunity Center (BOC)

Nancy Muenzmay – reported the BOC's are for all of Lake County, not just the communities they are located in. The BOC's primary goal is economic development. The BOC's offer seven FREE classes to assist entrepreneurs. The BOC's are planning to increase the number of classes and needs volunteers from the business community to administer the additional classes. BOC's is working on establishing a partnership with the "first contact officers" who include: bank loan officers, leasing agents and others who experience first or early contact with entrepreneurs. BOC's request of first contact officers to provide contact information to the BOC's and to recommend the contact to contact the BOCs. Nancy also reported the BOC's are working on establishing a partnership with the local schools.

### Tourism Development Council

Deb Dyer -reported a meeting/workshop to be held Tuesday, August 6 at 2:00pm in the Agricultural Center. Topic will be how to complete forms. October 1s is deadline for capital funding.

### League of Cities (LOC)

Jim Myers - reported the LOC is currently working with previous sponsors of the Community Service Awards and requested more nomination be presented for the awards. Budget for the event will be set in two weeks. It was discussed that high school students are eligible for nomination. Encouraged all chambers to forward nominations as early as possible.

**Adjourned:** Mike Bucher – 9:40am

## 8. **Next Regular Meeting**

August 23, LSSC Business Resource Center, starting at 8:00am

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