



**Lake County Chamber Alliance
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday August 23, 2013 8:00 am
Lake Sumter State College**

1. **In Attendance**

Delegates: Kevin Austin, Roger Beyers, Mike Bucher, Roger Beyers, Shananne Cain, Jerry Cobb, Mark Dushane, Catherine Hanson, Beth Jenkins, Steve Jennelle, Don Marx, Jim Miller, Orin Owen, Dick Scott and Walter Zielinski

Delegates Absent: Tom Miranda and Kelly Pisciotta

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

Liaisons: Deb Dyer, Anika Holmes, Bill Mathias, Jim Myers, Debi McIntyre, Nancy Muenzmany and Tim Sullivan

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 July 26, 2013 approved by the board.

4. **Financial Report:** Steve Jennelle
Two outstanding invoices. Recommended Community Service Awards be \$75 next year.

5. **Old Business:**

Gas Tax Resolution (Six Cents)

- Alliance resolution has been emailed to all delegates.
- Orin Owen reported that the Tavares Chamber supports the proposed resolution.
- Don Marx reported the Mt. Dora Chamber supports the proposed resolution.
- Alliance will vote on proposed resolution during its regularly scheduled September meeting
- Mike Bucher requested delegates to contact him for any questions or issues regarding vote.

Sales Tax (One cent or penny option tax)

- No reported opposition of the tax, however, concern is over the allocation of funds.
- School board and Lake County Commissioners have not agreed on distribution of funds until plan is in place for funding of schools.
- General agreement that Alliance should monitor and weigh in on referendum.

Alliance 2013/2014 County & Legislative Survey

- Mark DuShane presented Strategic Initiative Survey (2013/2014)
- Delegates are to present to respective chambers and report results.
- Mike Bucher will email to all chambers for dissemination.
- LLD Committee will begin planning 2014 LLD with results

School Impact Assessment

- School Board and Board of County Commissioners are still not in agreement; meeting in November is scheduled.
- School Board desires to charge assessments based on the Henderson/Young survey.
- Following discussion, consensus was for BCC/School Board meeting sooner rather than later to explore possible funding options independent of decision.

6. **New Business**

State Legislative Meeting - 2014

- Kelly Pisciotta out of town, LLD committee waiting on meeting to be scheduled. Alliance survey results and delegate responses will be reviewed.

Workforce Central Florida (WFCF)

- Anika Holmes introduced her representatives and herself. She gave a short briefing on WCFC.
- Desires to become members of all chambers and liaison partner with the Alliance
- Gave presentation and purpose - putting people back to work by preparing the jobseekers for work

Leesburg Airport

- Leo Treggi, manager of Leesburg Airport, gave short briefing on the status of the airport - Free Trade Zone, approved by city commissioners July 22, and the benefits to local businesses.
- Wipaire, Inc. to bring sixty jobs and seaplane ramp to the airport
- Leo is to email information to Mike Bucher to be shared with all delegates

7. **Alliance Partnership Reports**

Safe Climate Coalition of Lake County

Debi MacIntyre – gave briefing on the Coalition's purpose and resources, sharing "Quality of Life" booklet the coalition produced.

- The Coalition needs economic input for future editions of the Quality of Life booklet
- Mike Bucher will email Debi's contact info to all delegates

Lake County Economic Development & Tourism

Robert Chandler - reported the department is fully staffed with the hiring of Paul Simmons for South Lake County and Jason Mabry for Northeast Lake County

- There will be a re-launch of the BOC in the fall
- TDC workshop on marketing/advertising scheduled for September 12

County Commissioners

Tim Sullivan - reported BCC currently working on solid waste challenges for County.

Lake County School Board

Bill Mathias - reported \$16mm shortfall in budget and discussed the courtesy busing (parental responsibility zone) challenge

- Discussed changing "bell times"

Adjourned: Mike Bucher – 9:38am

8. **Next Regular Meeting**

September 27, LSSC Business Resource Center, starting at 8:00am

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