



Economic Development Goal Team Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2011 - 5:00pm

Phillips County Chamber of Commerce

- Ellis Bruce welcomed the group.
- Updates were given on small-tract farming (Goal 7, p. 32)
 - Britt Hill of the Audubon Society described the NATIVE program, a USDA funded initiative that targets getting underserved farmers to cultivate and sell native seed grass. The grasses take two years to go to seed, after which the seeds are sold to the Army Corps of Engineers among other potential clients.
 - The Farmer's Market is gearing up for the start of the season on June 11th from 10am-12pm. The market schedule for the year is Fridays from 8am-12pm with the exception of the second week of the month, when it is on Saturday from 10am-2pm. This was done so the market will coincide with the Second Saturdays art walk. The market is also pursuing approval to accept EBT.
- Tim Schuringa and Ellis Bruce both discussed the efforts towards a unified economic development strategy (Goal 1, p. 26). A general meeting was held with community business leaders to identify initial thoughts and questions on this strategy. A follow-up meeting has been held with the leadership of the key economic development entities: A&P Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Main Street, and Port Authority.
- An update was given on the business incubator which will be starting its third class in early August. The program has developed new marketing materials and will be pursuing regional recruitment for this round of participants. (Goal 4)
- Larry Denson shared his research on ADEC's economic development incentives (Goal 6, p.31). A date was set for the committee work meeting to discuss this and other research further.
- Doug Friedlander updated the group on the Chamber's activities. Their most recent project was a job fair matching former school district employees with local job opportunities.
- Next Meeting Dates:
 - Economic Development Goal Team Meeting: July 18th, 5:30pm, Chamber
 - Incentives Subcommittee Meeting: June 13th, 5:00pm, Chamber