



## Economic Development Goal Team Meeting Minutes

July 29, 2011 - 12:00pm  
Phillips County Chamber of Commerce

- In attendance: Doug Friedlander, Ellis Bruce, Tim Schuringa, Julia Nordsieck
- Updates were given on 2011 Goals:
  - Status of Unified Economic Development Strategy/Plan **(Goal 1, pg. 26)**
    - The involved entities (Chamber, Port, Main Street, and A&P) are choosing their representatives for more concrete discussions.
  - Update Business Incubator (renovation of 411 Ohio St. & Classes) **(Goal 4 )**
    - The Chamber is pulling together the development of a local venture fund to support the start-up businesses created with the support of the HEC
  - Economic Incentives Updates **(Goal 6, pg. 31)**
    - Subcommittee Meeting held on June 13
    - Tim will create a Google document with the incentives information for the committee to use as a working document
  - Small Tract Farming **(Goal 7 )**
    - Farmers Market Update
      - FMPP grant submitted to help develop and market the Market
      - There is a need for more produce vendors – the following leads were developed: Todd Wesson, farmer’s wives
      - There is a need to determine what CES services exist and could be better utilized
    - Other – Native Grass, Feasibility Review for Small Tract Farming...etc..
      - The group was unsure on the status of the Audubon’s NATIVE project
- Highlights from visit the by Executive Director of Downtown Bentonville were discussed:
  - A big takeaway was the concept of developing an improvement district downtown to support building and infrastructure improvements.
- A brief conversation was had on the needed change in JED leadership as Ellis will leave for a job in Bentonville in mid-August.
- The next meeting date will be emailed out to the group once it has been set.