

Economic Development Sub Committee for the Clark County Strategic Plan

Attendees:

Lonnie Jackson- HSU SBTDC
Deanna Gourley-HSU SBTDC
Joe and Kathy Phelps- IOCC
Leslie Bright- Alliance
Shawnie Carrier- Alliance
Matt Runyan- Wall Street in the Woods
Bill Wright- Southern Bancorp
Dr. Wesley Kluck- OBU
Joe Phelps- Daily Siftings
Anita Williams- HSU
Jimmy Bolt- City of Arkadelphia
Chuck Hollingshead- Mayor
Wilber Everett
Wesley Kluck-OBU

-Lonnie Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

-Dr. Kluck explained that broadband stimulus funds are being requested. USDA has grant options but only regards to broadband in portions of the county like Okolona or Whelen Springs if they are interested. Stimulus Grant package due in by August 14th and should know if September if awarded. Nexus Systems in Monroe is submitting the packet and would complete the infrastructure in the county. They would offer wireless broadband for roughly \$49 monthly using existing towers. The city of Arkadelphia will see wireless installation begin in spring 2010 by a company called Open Range Communications. This was not solicited by us.

-Bill Wright presented a grant request submitted by the Henderson State University Small Business and Technology Development Center. The grant request is for \$30,000 over a three year period to teach FastTrac Entrepreneurial Training in Clark County and the surrounding region. Bill suggested that the committee vote on this request. Jimmy Bolt made a motion to approve this request, second by Mayor Chuck Hollingshead. Motion passed.

-2025 Commission

This is a grant available to business owners in the downtown area of Arkadelphia. This will help business owners with store front improvements such as awning, canopies, signage, etc. Bill Wright said that Southern Bancorp might consider a matching grant. Another option would be to partner with Summit Bank and provide a low interest rate. Bill Wright asked for a vote of support. Shawnie Carrier made a motion, second by Anita Williams. Motion passed.

-Leslie Bright spoke about Leadership Clark County. She stated that they had received about 10 applications. They have also received several sponsorships. The applications are due by August 14th. Overnight stay: September 9-10 Camp Winnomocka.

-Shawnie Carrier stated that the EDCCC Alliance will be relocating to a new office located on Pine Street. The new office is 1900 sq. ft., has 5 offices, and 2 restrooms. This will also house Connie Nelson of the Arkadelphia Chamber of Commerce. Move in date is set for late September or early October.

-Jimmy Bolt gave updates

- Zero Waste
- Construction on the Beehive is on schedule
- Received grant of \$57,000 for police cars
- Received grant of \$41,000 for fire trucks

-Bill Wright spoke about a USDA grant to conduct a study to manufacture pellets. The grant is \$49,000.

No further business- adjourned at 1:45pm.