

**Economic Development Task Force Meeting
Alabama Long-Term Community Recovery
July 20, 2011, 1000 CDT**

Present: Tryon McLaney –ADECA
Jessica Dent – ADECA
Lauren Dupuis – EDA, FEMA LTR
Stacy Bryan – Alabama Communities of Excellence
Ivan Holloway – Seedco Financial
Melanie Bouyer - Seedco Financial
Allen Ross – Al Dept of Finance
Steve Walkey – ADECA/WDD
Blair King – Alabama Power Co
Sallie Gowen – Assoc of County Commissions of Alabama
Joey Hester – NCARPC
Keith Jones – NW CLG
Jeff Pruitt – TARCG
Dennis Hopper - ADECA
Ladonna Roberts-City of Tuscaloosa
Teresa Lewis – City of Tuscaloosa
Marcia Johnson - USDA Rural Development
Ken Hollingsworth – ADECA
Doug Freeland – AIDT, Alabama Community College System
Paul McLander – Volunteers of America
Lisa Castaldo – Governors Office of Faith Based & Community Initiatives
Rosemary Elebash – National Federation of Independent Businesses

Welcome: Tryon McLaney, ADECA welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Review action items/notes from July 7th meeting.

- At this time the committee discussed how to get information to those who need it and what information needs to be on the website.
- The following organization/individuals were identified to contact as additional partners that would be helpful to this Task Force.
 - Donny Chambers of the West Alabama Chamber. He has a website that may be of some help in the Tuscaloosa area – www.ourchildrensresources.com.
 - Birmingham Business Alliance
 - Larry Vinson of the Alabama Council of Association Executives. They represent hospital, banking, rural electric and other associations across the state.

- Senator Shelby's local office – Chuck Spurlock. He may be willing to serve as a liaison to the other Senator and Representatives.

Discussion of community assessments.

Assessments are short computations from the communities that we are working with. Some of the communities are further along with their assessments than others. ADECA is working to establish a system to update this committee as we get information from FEMA. It was suggested that a sub-committee be formed to act as a liaison between the Community Recovery Task Force and ADECA.

Community Updates:

Shoal Creek is working on signing up for assistance.

Cordova –Recovery committee is in place and meeting on a regular basis. Visioning meeting was held on July 15, 2011. It was discovered that the Industrial Park is in a floodway and will have to change the purpose of this property. The community has partnered with Auburn University to assist them with the planning process. They have a strong community committee working on the long term planning process.

Sipsey – A small community in Walker County with a part time volunteer Mayor, three employees (two police officers and a magistrate). They have very little economic activity, mainly a gas station and Dollar General. Housing was the main thing impacted in Sipsey.

Phil Campbell – The visioning session for Phil Campbell is scheduled for Thursday, July 21 at 6:00 p.m. At this session they will get ideas from the citizens on what they would like to see in Phil Campbell with regards to housing, economic development, health services, recreational areas, etc.

Tuscaloosa has a preliminary draft plan ready and will present it to the public on Saturday, July 23.

If we find any bottlenecks caused by current policy/laws let Angie Smith in the Governor's office know.

SBDC has found that a lot of the clients they are working with incur costs due to changes in zoning from the time they originally built their buildings to now. Zoning is a local issue; some communities do not have zoning in place at this time.

Lauren Dupuis, EDA, reported that EDA has funding available for the Regional Planning Councils that cover the affected area and at this time, four have submitted applications (two have been passed the Investment Review Committee, two are going to the Investment Review Committee) and they are waiting on the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham to apply. These funds are restricted to what they can be used for.

The committee expressed an interest in developing a process that will help them know what is going on in each of the communities and how the members of the committee can plug into assisting the communities. They need to know what communities have signed on and at what point in the process they are. They also wanted to know who has not signed on and if we can provide any help to them.

The FEMA field teams are working in the communities and when the information is input at the JFO the information will then be sent to ADECA. It is our goal to have the assessments finished by August 12.

The EDA is working with the FEMA RSF and they are looking at anything that has to do with Economic Development activities to see if there are funds available to assist with the recovery. At this time there

has not been a Supplemental Appropriation for this recovery. These funds have to be approved by Congress. The funds are always competitive funds and are limited to the communities in the affected area.

Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments reported that they have some revolving funds available at this time and they are available for job creation and job retention.

At this time Bill Cummings, SBDC reported that they are a 30 year old organization that works with the SBA. They have coverage in all 67 counties and do one on one counseling with over 3,000 clients. They work with clients in the pre-venture stage as well as existing businesses. They assist businesses in establishing international trade, do business with the government and other areas.

Ty Warren, SBDC reported that they have been working with businesses affected by the storm. They are finding that business are having trouble replacing paperwork that was lost in the storm, building issues and knowing who to contact to find answers to questions. There is an issue with funding gaps between the insurance proceeds and the cost to rebuild. At this time SBDC could use additional personnel with experience to assist the small businesses and information on who can provide assistance to the businesses.

Jose Gil Montanez reported that FEMA LTR is working on completing community assessments, making sure that all the needs are identified. FEMA is also working on identifying private sector foundations and organizations that may be able to provide assistance to the small businesses. This information will be put on CD's and given to agencies and local governments.

We need to put a structure in place so that when we have identified the needs of the communities we are able to match them with someone who can help. It was suggested that we have a central number that people can call to get answers to "odd" questions and either get it answered or refer them to someone who can answer it for them.

Several members suggested that we set up a small business sub-committee to address immediate needs and work with the SBC and SBDC and EDA.

Ivan Holloway, SEEDCO Financial address the group. He said that the challenge that some businesses face is since they did not have "fiscal" damage to their property they did not need to register for assistance. Many realize later that they have lost business traffic due to the storm. SEEDCO has a Revolving Loan Fund that is able to provide assistance to small businesses and Not-for-Profits. It can be used to fill gaps in different areas and working capital loans. They work with the SBDC to help businesses replace things lost in the storm. Many small businesses are finding that their financial picture has changed after a storm and the help they normally receive from traditional sources is no longer available. SEEDCO has a model plan where they have 0% interest loans from \$500 to \$5,000 for three years to be used to replace things lost in the storm. SEEDCO receives their funding from financial institutions and philanthropic organizations.

The impact of the loss of small businesses on the community is the loss of sales tax revenues and this hurts local governments and the services they provide.

Tryon concluded the meeting with three main points:

1. Structure
2. Communicating needs from affected areas to the Task Force
3. Outreach to small business. Establish one point of contact.

At the next meeting we will have a list of all the participants and the communities that are affected that have signed up for assistance. When the assessments have come in we will call the next meeting. If anyone has information on websites that may be helpful to this group, specific needs in an area, please forward to Tryon.

Submitted,
Diann Hodgson