



EDGE April 25, 2008 Meeting Recap

CEDS Strategy Group Presentation

Members

Roy Bockler – Morton Community Bank
Steve Warren – Ameren
Bashir Ali – Workforce Development
Marylean Abney – Caterpillar
Ellen George – Illinois Central College
John Chambers – Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Patricia Hidden – Peoria County
Nancy Proehl – Mason County
Jim Unsicker – Tazewell County

Advisory Members:

Carol Merna – Congressman LaHood's Office
Kathy Harrington – Senator Obama's Office
Tim Sullivan – Senator Durbin's Office

EDC Staff:

Vickie Clark, Sally Hanley, Jessica Moroz & Greg Truninger

Proposals

- Pursue hosting a state or regional EDA meeting for Economic Development Districts

EDGE Feedback

An EDGE member asked if the strategy group could foresee any resistance to this proposal from anyone in the region and Mr. Bockler indicated none was expected.

EDGE Action

Dave Parkinson moved to approve the proposal, Bashir Ali seconded and it passed unanimously

- Create CEDS awareness campaign

EDGE Feedback

An EDGE member asked who would be targeted for the campaign and Mr. Bockler indicated small communities and townships.

Dave Parkinson commented that some communities have been successful in winning EDA funding and asked if we can get a cooperative effort to help other communities. Denny Kief stated that since Pekin had been successful in this endeavor they had already helped some communities outside the area and would be happy to also help communities in this region.



EDGE Action

Bashir Ali moved to approve the proposal, Marylean Abney seconded and it passed unanimously.

Tech Commercialization Strategy Group

Progress

- Peoria NEXT Innovation Center Update
 - Grand opening – August 2007
 - 8 tenants, including CAT occupying the 3rd floor

Looking Ahead

- Entrepreneurial E-Newsletter
- Round 2 Local Venture Capital Fund
- Opportunity Fund
- Mentoring Programs
- Energy Summit – October 28

Proposal

- For PeoriaNEXT to work with EDC to pursue \$60,000 match for the PeoriaNEXT/Bradley University portion of the \$600,000 TEKES grant. This grant will provide funding for a study of the PeoriaNEXT/Bradley University entrepreneurial program for technology commercialization. The grant will provide \$300,000 to PeoriaNEXT/Bradley and \$300,000 to the Finland partners to conduct the study. EDC may be utilized to assist with the research portion of the study and may potentially receive funding to produce their portion of the document.

EDGE Feedback

Dave Parkinson asked what would be researched and Mr. Ham explained the current regional entrepreneurial support is fragmented so the desire is to determine the current financing, tools/instruments that are available.

Katie Arnholt Kim asked how the region's best practices would be protected and Mr. Ham explained that typically economic development best practices are shared and everyone benefits.

EDGE Action

Bashir Ali moved to accept the proposal, Dave Parkinson seconded and it passed unanimously.



National Scenic Byway Business Development Strategy Group

Members

Merry Bassi – Hennepin Business Association
Steve Brown – Economic Development Director
Debb Ladgenski – Economic Development Director, City of Spring Valley
Kevin Lindeman – Economic Development Dist. Director, North Central IL Council of Governments
Kip McCoy – Managing Director, Heartland Capital Network
Kevin McGuire – Community & Economic Dev., U of I Extension – Fulton County
Nancy Proehl – Economic Development Coordinator, Village of Manito
Staff: Anaise Berry – Byway Director, EDC for Central Illinois

Mission

Support small business growth and economic development throughout the byway corridor

Objectives

- Implement an effective strategy for identifying and communicating with the byway's business stakeholders
- Provide and/or channel relevant information, education and technical assistance to byway businesses to support their retention and expansion
- Increase byway visitation and number of visitors becoming customers of byway businesses, increasing commerce and stimulating economic growth
- Maximize opportunities for visitor spending by increasing the number of tourism businesses throughout the byway corridor, closing any gaps in the mix of byway businesses

Progress

- Defined mission, goals, strategies and some forms of measurement
- Taken initial steps for identifying stakeholders
- Began exploring financial partnerships with EDC, SCORE, DCEO and IBFS

Next Steps

- Identify specific business stakeholders and create a composite list to use for future measurement
- Define the best means of communication
- Contact stakeholders
- Implement programs – training, marketing and resources

Proposal

- Utilize FHWA grant funds to conduct an inventory of byway support facilities and infrastructure; document findings and prepare recommendations for addressing needs, possible new business development, recruitment and relocation



EDGE Feedback

An EDGE member asked if FHWA grant funds had been used in this way with any other byway and Ms. Berry stated the Special Programs Manager with IDOT has indicated she is unaware of such use but thinks the idea is a good one.

EDGE Action

Bruce Alkire moved to accept the proposal, Denny Kief seconded and it passed unanimously.