Sussex Economic Development Action Committee (SEDAC)

Patti Grimes AND Hal Godwin

October 29, 2008
Creation of SEDAC

- 2007 Sussex County Today & Tomorrow Conference
- Meeting with Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT)
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EDUCATION
Bill McGowan, University of Delaware
Troy Mix, University of Delaware
Bill Pfaff, University of Delaware
Judi Sciple, Delaware Technical & Community College
Ileana Smith, Delaware Technical & Community College
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BUSINESS
Randall Cash, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce
Nancy Carig, Blue Water Wind
Carol Everhart, Rehoboth-Dewey Chamber of Commerce
Patti Grimes, Bethany-Fenwick Chamber / Carl M. Freeman & Joshua M. Freeman Foundation
Walt Lydic, Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce/Georgetown Chamber of Commerce
Betsy Reamer, Lewes Chamber of Commerce
Mark Reeve, Mark Reeve Associates
Jo Schmeiser, Milford Chamber of Commerce
Jim Smith, Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce/Delmarva Power
Chris Weeks, Rehoboth Beach Chamber of Commerce & Becker Morgan
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GOVERNMENT
Dave Baker, Sussex County Administration
Joan Martin-Brown, Town of Milton
Joe Conaway, Town of Bridgeville
Gene Dvornick, Town of Georgetown
Hal Godwin, Sussex County Administration
Richard Kautz, Sussex County Planning
Heather Keegan, Delaware Economic Development Office
Faye Lingo, Town of Millsboro
Trisha Newcomer, City of Seaford
Noble Prettyman, Town of Milton
Jeff Stone, Delaware Economic Development Office
Scott Thomas, Southern Delaware Tourism
Dell Tush, Town of Dewey Beach
Julie Wheatley, Sussex County Economic Development Director

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Guiding Principles

- Cohesive Action to Push Initiatives Forward:
  - No one group or individual can push forward all of the recommendations
  - Only through a diverse group of stakeholders working together with a common purpose in mind can the goals be achieved

- Decisions Guided By Market Intelligence:
  - Successful businesses gather information about their environment
  - Economic development decisions should be supported by the analysis of market intelligence
Movement for Action

- Reviewed existing County research
- Request hiring of Economic Development Director
- Expert review by Hyett Palma and Associates
- Economic Overview Report by DEDO
Feedback from Stakeholders in the County

- SWOT Analysis by SEDAC
- Business Climate Survey
  - 120+ County businesses participated
To leverage the experience, intellect and creativity of the Sussex County community to inform, develop, recommend and communicate strategies for creating sustainable economic prosperity.
Goal 1

Create a system that supports and sustains existing business and aggressively pursues future opportunities.

Possible Objectives:
- Business Data Center
- Scenario plans
Goal 2

Foster entrepreneurial efforts

Possible Objectives:
- Entrepreneurial climate
- Inventory/business services for entrepreneurs.
Goal 3

Responsibly manage the County’s natural resources and cultures that make it unique and appealing

Possible Objectives:
- Sub-regional vision/plans
- Arts, culture and entertainment
Goal 4

Provide the necessary infrastructure for individuals to live, visit, invest, and work in Sussex County

Possible Objectives:

- Access to available/existing real estate, infrastructure and market characteristics
Goal 5

Grow and nurture a well-trained workforce that supports higher paying job opportunities

Possible Objectives:
• Collaboration among business, education and economic development communities
• School-career partnerships
Commitment

Accountable to citizens through annual Sussex County Today & Tomorrow Conference updates

- Report progress
- Get input for plans
- Secure participation
Accomplishments

- Received endorsement from Sussex County Council for Mission, Principles and Goals

- Gained Economic Development Director, September 2008
  - Julie Wheatley