



CEDS Committee Meeting

January 19, 2007

RiverWinds Community Center

(8:30am-10:00am)

Members Present

Diane Hale, Swedesboro	Bob Law, Woodbury
Jack Fisher, Gloucester County	Gerry Pohlig, Greenwich Twp.
James Gayman, Rowan University	Patricia Knobloch, Franklin Township
Alice Polocz, Pitman	Jacquelyn Love, Deptford Township
Jerry Frecon, RCF of GC	Chuck Romick, Gloucester County
Andy DiNardo, WIB	Hosea Johnson, WIB
Linda Scancellia, Newfield	Allen Magid, Gloucester County College
Karen Dickel, WIB	Danae Croce, GCIA
Kathy Farinaccio, WIB/Comcast	Michelle Giuliani-Shirey, GCED
Marc Kamp, Paulsboro	Lisa Morina, GCED
Jennifer Mauro, One-Stop	Joseph Frattali, GCED
Bill Fleming, Woodbury	Ray Compari, GlouCo College
Jerry Velazquez, Triad Associates	Michael Zumpino, Triad Associates
Steve Kehs, Triad Associates	Lisa Morina, GCED

This meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Lisa Morina, Director of Economic Development for Gloucester County. After she asked everyone to introduce themselves she moved on to the approvals for the previous minutes. The minutes for December 8, 2006 were approved in a motion given by Bill Fleming, seconded by Jacquelyn Love and approved by the entire Committee.

At this time Ms. Morina turned to floor over to Mike Zumpino and Steve Kehs of Triad. Mr. Zumpino welcomed the members and thanked them for coming. Mr. Zumpino asked Mr. Kehs to start the PowerPoint presentation beginning with a brief recap of the last meeting. The review topics that were covered are as listed:

- Review of Eligible EDA
- Review of Typical EDA funded projects
- Discussion of Goals and Objectives
- SWOT Analysis/ Discussion
- Timeline for meetings
- Distribution of 2003 CEDS Plan
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Mr. Kehs asked the committee if they had any other questions regarding any of the topics covered at the December 8th meeting. When no one chose to comment he moved on to the Demographic Analysis of Gloucester County prepared by Triad Associates.

Mr. Kehs highlighted the findings of the Demographic Analysis, and outlined the strengths as being; proximity to Philadelphia and excellent regional location, superior transportation network, access to highways, and connections with other regions. He also mentioned the problems with traffic in certain areas including Rt. 55 and Rt. 130.

Before continuing Mr. Chuck Romick, Director of Planning for Gloucester County mentioned we should add Rt. 42 as an area of traffic problems in the County and the Committee agreed. Mr. Kehs continued to talk about freight lines and bus transportation as well as Gloucester County's history and development patterns as they pertain to current demographic analysis.

At this time Mr. Kehs spoke about population characteristics in Gloucester County noting that between 1990–2000 Gloucester County was one of the fastest growing counties in the region and the rate of growth actually accelerated significantly between 2000-2005. Mr. Kehs noted the areas that saw a decrease in population were the older towns that are for the most part in the redevelopment phase due to build out.

Mr. Kehs also spoke briefly on income statistics and unemployment rates, our industrial and agricultural heritage, areas of distress, smart growth investments and tourism as he wrapped up his presentation.

At this time the Committee entered into a brief discussion pertaining to the finds of the demographic analysis. Bill Fleming of Woodbury asked Mr. Kehs and Mr. Zumpino if we could investigate the potential causes for high vacancy rates in specific areas of the county. Mr. Zumpino replied that the topic of commercial development will be the focus of our next meeting when they present the market analysis to the committee. Ms. Morina added that we will shortly be embarking on a retail market analysis in addition to the CEDS.

Ms. Morina also cited that Gloucester County has a cottage industry of oil refining and chemical processing and we need to look at how that impacts the economy. Mr. Zumpino added it is important to retain this type of industry, and that business retention is just as important as attraction. Jack Fisher Gloucester County Administration also remarked that at last week's State of the County Breakfast Assemblyman Burzichelli spoke about the growth and legacy of these industries and addressed them as a new resource in an energy driven society. Mr. Fisher noted there had not been any new energy plants approved in the state of New Jersey (or the nation) for 25 years and these are very valuable economic resources to the county.

In addition to the demographic report and the discussion of Gloucester County's historical industrial roots, Jerry Velazquez of Triad made some comments about the downtown areas, and the economic potential for growth. Mr. Kehs wanted to add how important community and minority outreach will be in the CEDS process and for the strategic economic growth of the County in general. With this being said, two towns, Glassboro and Paulsboro, will be holding town meetings in late February pertaining to this study.

At this time Mr. Zumpino asked the committee if they had any further questions or comments, and reminded the members to turn in nomination forms to Ms. Morina, and when no one chose to comment the meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

(It should be noted that to date we have received project nomination forms from: Woolwich, Westville, Clayton, Franklin Twp, Newfield, Swedesboro, Gloucester County Improvement Authority, Gloucester County College, Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District – GCIT, and Rutgers Co-op Extension)

The next meeting will be held on February 16th at RiverWinds Community Center in West Deptford from 8:30am – 10:00am.