

**COMMITTEE MEETING  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APRIL 21, 2017**

**I. CALL TO ORDER 8:15 AM**

**II. MINUTES APPROVAL- WILL ROLL TO NEXT MEETING FOR SAKE OF TIME**

**III. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**1. Brainstorming- Challenges Section**

Provide Solutions to the challenges section of our EDAC plan

**2. SCORE**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**V. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

**VI. STAFF COMMENTS**

*A. Mike Taber- None*

*B. Earl Hahn*

**VII. ADJOURN**

**NOTE:** For quasi-judicial matters, any party desiring a verbatim record of the proceeding of this hearing for the purpose of an appeal is advised to make private arrangements for the production of a record and anyone wishing to present documents or other written evidence to the Board must provide eight (8) copies of the written material. If special accommodations are required in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals should contact the County Administrator's Office by calling 863-993-4800 at least forty-eight hours prior to the hearing.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DATE: April 21, 2017**

Consent Agenda  
 Regular Business  
 Public Hearing

Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing  
Time

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Economic Development
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Mike Taber,
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	Andy Neuhofer, Chairman
<b>TITLE &amp; DESCRIPTION:</b>	Brainstorming- Challenges Section
<b>REQUESTED MOTION:</b>	None- Brainstorming workshop
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	
<b>BACKGROUND:</b>	
<b>FUNDS:</b>	Budget Amount N/A Actual Agenda Item N/A Cost: Account Number: N/A Explanation: N/A
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	Strength weakness Feb 2017
<b>REVIEW APPROVAL:</b>	Department Director
	Finance Director
	Budget Department
	Purchasing Department
	County Attorney
	County Administrator

What are the Strengths and Challenges of our community?

Strengths

Challenges

Business Strength	How should BOCC leverage/support?
Low cost alternative to large FL markets	<p><b>Completed at January 13, 2017 EDAC Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Providing a matrix that compares DeSoto County in cost savings to Metro area</li> <li>-Highlighting specific examples where demographics are favorable</li> <li>-Promoting our excellent transportation network (particularly roadways) for commerce</li> <li>-Promoting specialty care at DeSoto Memorial Hospital</li> <li>-Improving City roads and Community Appearance</li> <li>-Promoting excellent access to government and responsive customer service by County and City employees</li> <li>-Promote Tourism events that draw people into the Community to see for themselves the strengths</li> <li>-Attract high-end recreation like cutting horses, dog shows, tournaments</li> <li>-Use/Invest in Social Media Marketing</li> <li>-Continue Regional approach</li> <li>-Have Committee members engage youth by speaking with them about business. -Encourage the Chamber to do the same</li> <li>-Create and participate in programs like Junior Achievement, youth entrepreneurial programs, youth business engagement programs, etc.</li> <li>-Promote the fact that we are in a Foreign Trade Zone</li> </ul>
Existing agricultural workforce with transferable skills	
Progressive High School Vocational and Dual Enrollment Plans	
Support from State and Utility Economic Development	
Qualified Economic Development professionals	

Challenges/Barriers to Businesses	How should the BOCC address?
Lack of qualified workforce	
Lack of competitive real estate offerings	
Frequent areas of blight	
Lack of funding for economic development	
Poor education attainment	
Increased competition from coastal communities	
Lack of production industry	
Undeveloped technology training resources	
Crop disease/need to diversify agricultural and related processing businesses	

Opportunities

Rising cost of doing business in large FL markets	
Access to Central and South Florida population base	
Increasing population base	
Increasing Taxpayer base	

Attachment: Strength weakness Feb 2017 (2018 : Brainstorming- Challenges Section)



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**DEPARTMENT:** Economic Development

**SUBMITTED BY:** Mike Taber,

**PRESENTED BY:** Lew Ambler, Vice Chairman

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**TITLE & DESCRIPTION:** SCORE

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**REQUESTED MOTION:** None - Presentation

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**SUMMARY:**

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**BACKGROUND:**

**FUNDS:** Budget Amount N/A  
Actual Agenda Item N/A  
Cost:  
Account Number: N/A  
Explanation: N/A

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

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**REVIEW APPROVAL:**

Department Director

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Finance Director

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Budget Department

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Purchasing Department

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County Attorney

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County Administrator

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