

**COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MAY 12, 2017 AT 8:15 AM  
IN THE EXTENSION OFFICE  
2150 NE ROAN ST  
ARCADIA, FLORIDA**

The Economic Development Advisory Committee held a Committee Meeting on May 12, 2017.

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

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Tony Guidry	Member	Excused	
Lew Ambler	Vice Chairman	Present	
Mary-Kay Burns	Administrator, Department of Health, DeSoto County	Present	
Bill Hackney	Member	Excused	
Jan Harvin	Member	Present	
Heather Nedley	Member	Present	
Andy Neuhofer	Chairman	Present	
Beth Carsten	Member	Excused	
Robert Womack	Member	Absent	
Earl Hahn	Member	Excused	
Danielle Blosser		Present	
Asena Mott		Present	
Kathy Gamotia		Absent	

**II. MINUTES APPROVAL**

**1. Economic Development Advisory Committee - Committee Meeting - Feb 10, 2017 8:15 AM**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jan Harvin, Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Asena Mott
<b>AYES:</b>	Ambler, Burns, Harvin, Nedley, Neuhofer, Blosser, Mott
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Womack, Gamotia
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Guidry, Hackney, Carsten, Hahn

**2. Economic Development Advisory Committee - Committee Meeting - Apr 21, 2017 8:15 AM**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jan Harvin, Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Asena Mott
<b>AYES:</b>	Ambler, Burns, Harvin, Nedley, Neuhofer, Blosser, Mott
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Womack, Gamotia
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Guidry, Hackney, Carsten, Hahn

**III. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**1. Community Health Assessment**

Mary Kay Burns presented the Executive Summary of the DeSoto County Health Assessment. General Discussion followed.

**2. Brainstorming Challenges - Final Session**

The Committee had discussion related to the last portion of its brainstorming exercise- Strengths

Increased Competition from Coastal Communities: Increase budget to allow for investment of land, lead generatin, and local incentives

Lack of Production Industry: The committee had discussion that the County has a tremendous agricultural production industry. Investigate ways to make it easier for value added agricultural businesses (cannery, food production, beverage production, nurseries, etc) to start and thrive. Review LDR for recommendations to increase the availabilty of land for these types of operations near the largest agricultural areas.

Undeveloped techonology training industry- Mrs. Mott outlined South Florida State College Machitronics/Stem programs upcoming including deisel mechanic, lineman, and water treatment plant operations. Committee recommends growing and supporting these programs and encouraging SFSC and DeSoto Schools to continue to invest in these types of programs in DeSoto County.

Crop disease/need to diversify agricultural and related processing businesses- Further investigate with UF/IFAS, encourage BOCC to engage more at a state level on these issues.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**V. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

**VI. STAFF COMMENTS**

**A. Mike Taber**

Mike Taber provided a legislative update and Mrs. Mott provided South Florida State College position on education bills passed/being considered by the Florida Legislature.

**1. Legislative Update**

**B. Earl Hahn**

None

**VII. ADJOURN**