Board Bulletin

February 26, 2016

Economic Development Update

Active Projects – The current number of projects with activity in the past six (6) months is sixteen (16). One formerly active project led to the recent opening of a new business in Richfield within the past 30 days. There have also been two (2) new active project leads in the past 30 days.

The EDC actively met or provided follow-up information to seven (7) of the sixteen (16) active projects in the past 30 days (44%). The EDC hosted an initial site visit for an active project lead generated by the Charlotte Regional Partnership in Badin, and also hosted site visits with two (2) EDC generated projects in Albemarle and Richfield.

The EDC staff responded to eight (8) requests for information (RFI) in the past 30 days. Three (3) of these leads were generated by the NC Economic Development Partnership, four (4) by allies and one (1) by the Charlotte Regional Partnership.

There were a total of five (5) existing industry visits in the past 30 days.

Other Information & Activity

- The County's effort to evaluate the cost benefit of additional industrial site development is on-going. The engineering analysis for several proposed industrial sites is nearing completion. It is anticipated a final report will be available for discussion with the Board on Monday, March 7.
- The EDC hosted a Business Breakfast Series event on February 18 at Stanly Community College focused on alternative financing sources for small businesses.
- EDC staff will be traveling to meet with site consultants and prospective businesses in the Atlanta area in early March.

Rural Employment Dashboard Info

The NC Rural Center recently released a new employment dashboard to assess differences in employment gains for rural and urban counties between 2014 and 2015. Below please find a summary of the data.

Counties of Similar Size Population (Approx. 60,000)

Jurisdiction	% Change	Employment Gain/(Loss)
Franklin	3.4%	900
Chatham	3.1%	944
Granville	3.0%	807
Haywood	3.0%	789
Stanly	**2.6%**	**703**
Lenior	2.0%	517
Carteret	1.9%	558
Rutherford	0.9%	202
Duplin	0.7%	168
Columbus	-0.1%	(19)
Sampson	-0.8%	(213)

Counties in the Charlotte Region

Jurisdiction	% Change	Employment Gain/(Loss)
Mecklenburg	4.9%	25,179
Gaston	4.9%	4,601
Cabarrus	4.8%	4,231
Iredell	4.8%	3,580
Union	4.6%	4,704
Rowan	4.6%	2,682
Lincoln	4.6%	1,726
Stanly	**2.6%**	**703**
Cleveland	2.3%	973
Catawba	1.3%	895
Alexander	1.0%	162
Anson	-	(5)

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Regular Board Meeting	Monday, March 7 7:00 PM Commons Meeting Room