


PEMBROKE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Public Information



PROPOSAL FOR COUNTY WIDE STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OUTLINED

Sixteen representatives of chambers of commerce or interested citizens from Lumberton, Pembroke and Rowland met for a dinner meeting Monday night at PSU where a proposal was presented for Robeson County-wide strategic planning for economic development.

This information will be shared with chambers from Fairmont, Red Springs and St. Pauls, which were also invited to send representatives.

Dr. Bruce Mattox, director of economic development at PSU, outlined the proposal which he described as "a fabulous opportunity for this county."

Don Metzger of Lumberton, president of the Robeson County Committee of 100 who presided at the meeting, praised the proposals as "something really exciting."

Mattox's definitive outline included such topics as (1) purpose, (2) resources, (3) process, (4) responsibilities, (5) proposed roles for chambers of commerce, and (6) a target schedule.

One of the greatest strengths of the proposal is that the Fayetteville Regional Office of the Division of Community Assistance, which is under the N.C. Department of Economic and Community Development, is willing to provide free overall coordination of the plan. That office will also provide staff for two task forces to assist in the project.

"The Division of Community Assistance was looking for a project, and the time is right, according to them, to help us," said Mattox. "All they will need from us will be a minimal amount of financial support for travel back and forth to our county."

Nancy Roy, community development specialist from the Division of Community Assistance, was present at the meeting and was enthusiastic about the proposal.

Other organizations providing free assistance to the project would include the Lumber River Council of Governments, based in Lumberton, and the PSU Office of Economic Development, directed by Mattox. Each would provide staff for two task forces. Robeson County officials would also help, including Hunter Poole's Economic Development Office.

Aside from travel expenses, only other financial assistance needed would be primarily for printing, said Mattox. No money will be needed for salaries, he stated.

Purpose of this strategic planning, pointed out Mattox, would be "to spur economic development by (1) understanding current reality and trends, (2) creating a common vision, (3) producing specific goals and objectives, (4) improving cooperation and organization, and (5) refining attitudes and skills."

Mattox enthused: "We have the resources to do the work. All we need is the commitment of the people in the

chambers to get the job done."

The proposed roles for the Robeson County chamber of commerce would include helping to form a steering committee for the endeavor and "soliciting the endorsement and financial support of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners."

The group meeting Monday unanimously adopted this proposal for strategic planning with Ronald Thompson, chairman of the Economic Development Committee for the Lumberton Chamber of Commerce, making the motion, and Mayor Mitchell Walker of Rowland making the second. The group plans to have its representatives meet August 4 with the County Commissioners for their endorsement. Next organizational meeting of the group is at 7 p.m. August 18 at the office of the Lumber River Council of Governments in Lumberton.

Steps will be taken to contact the chambers without representation Monday. The importance of having the entire county involved was emphasized.

"We are not just talking any more," said Mattox, who noted he has been at PSU for two years. "We now have specific goals and objectives to get this done. We are willing to commit to this. Jim Martin (the county manager) is on board, having expressed his strong support."

Metzger said, "If we don't take advantage of this opportunity, we are passing up something very rare--like falling out of the sky. All it takes is commitment from the various chambers throughout the county."

One of the first actions of this group will be to appoint a chairperson of the steering committee. "This is critical," said Mattox. "This person should be dedicated, have the time, and get people behind the project for a relatively long period of time. It is important to constantly keep this on the front burner publicity-wise."

The time table proposed for this process is as follows: AUGUST Chamber of commerce prepare list of steering committee nominees; Division of Community Assistance begins environmental scan; SEPTEMBER--Chambers of commerce select steering committee members and chairperson; PSU public forum; OCTOBER--Steering committee selects strategic issues; NOVEMBER--Strategic issues announced to public; nominees sought for task forces; DECEMBER--Task force members announced; JANUARY--Task forces begin meeting; MID-APRIL--Task force's final reports due for editing and combination; MID-MAY--Final report presented to steering committee.

Those attending Monday's meeting included: PEMBROKE--Greg Cummings, LRDA; Lindsey Locklear president of Pembroke Chamber of Commerce; Bruce Mattox, PSU Office of Economic Development; Bob Reising, Pembroke Chamber of Commerce; Gene Warren, PSU public information director; ROWLAND--Jerry Owen, Southern National Bank; Rob Price, president of Rowland Chamber of Commerce; Mitchell Walker, Mayor of Rowland; LUMBERTON--Don Metzger president of the Committee of 100; John Nicholson, president of Lumberton Chamber of Commerce; Jim Perry, chief administrator for the Lumber River Council of Governments; Hunter Poole, Robeson County Economic Development Office; Jane Smith, regional planner for Lumber River Council of Governments; Ronald Thompson, chairman of the Economic Development Committee of the Lumberton Chamber of Commerce; Betty West, associate executive director of the Lumberton Chamber of Commerce; FAYETTEVILLE-- Nancy Roy, Division of Community Assistance.

KIWANIS

Program chairman Dorsey Lowry was the Tuesday night speaker at the weekly meeting held at the Town and Country Restaurant. His topic was the trip he and Mrs. Alawry took this summer to Juneau, Alaska. "It was a trip to places they had never seen by Trans-Canada Railway and by ferry ship to Juneau. The trip took two months planning and 19 days to complete. Amtrak does not go into Canada as we drove to Toronto to catch the Canadian Railway in Toronto. They have no dollar bills in Canada so they have a metal coin equivalent to our dollar. We arrived in Toronto on July 7, an amazing place with its castle right in down town. Also there is a large tower with a restaurant at the top. There is a high skywalk from the Union Station to the Stadium. We got on the train at 11:30 at night on July 7 and headed across Canada 700 miles of pine, oak forest and white poplar. I like to talk with folks and they told me they had no running water or electricity and had outside privies, the train being there only transportation. They had plenty of fish & game

and moose. The moose could be seen in the water and just their noses showing for breathing. The undeveloped country produced train loads of cedar wood. In the Winnepeg area we saw many large farms of wheat, corn and grains. We saw the rodeo in Calgary, arrived in Jasper with the snow capped mountains, and finally we arrived in Prince Rupert, 2960 miles from Toronto and four days, and 4 nights. Boarded the Cruise ship at Prince Rupert which is just north of Vancouver. We saw huge Totem poles in Kitchener, bald

eagles and whales along the way. It was a fine trip of 8,650 miles and 19 days. And I recommend the railway and cruise ship vacation. It was great fun."

Clayton Maynor announced the Rescue Squad is holding a fund raising golf super ball tournament September 1 at the N.C. Indian Cultural Center. Entry fee is \$20. Ron Sutton announced that this Thursday night is Kiwanis night at Strike at the Wind. All area clubs have been invited and we hope we get a good turn out. Presiding- Ron Sutton; Invocation- Garth Locklear; Song Leader- Ed Teets; Reporter- Ken Johnson.

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Chancellor JOSEPH OXENDINE addresses Pembroke State University faculty in first faculty meeting of new academic year.

GNAA Plans 14th Annual Pow-Wow September 21-22

The traditional sound of Native American music welcomes you and your family to a festival of celebration of our heritage. Guilford Native American Association is holding their 14th annual pow wow at the Guilford County Fairgrounds, off Penny Road, in High Point, NC. September 21 and 22.

Native Americans from across the state and nation will compete in dance competition for more than \$4,000 in prize money for dancers and drums. The Running Water Singers of Fayetteville, NC will be the host drum. Many tribal dancers will be present, including the Eastern Band of Cherokee, Lumbees, Haliwa-Saponi, Waccamaw-Sjouan, Coharie, Tuscarora, Cheyenne, Eon-Occaneechi, Sioux, Seminole, Western Band of the Cherokee and others. Dancer registration will be held Friday, September 21, between 5-7 p.m. and Saturday between 10 a.m. and noon. Opening ceremonies and grand entries will be 7 p.m. Friday; 1 and 7 p.m.

Saturday. Gospel singing for your enjoyment will be featured Saturday from 11 a.m. until 12 noon. Indian traders and craftspeople from all over the region will offer their art for sale and Native cooks will keep you filled with fry bread and Navajo tacos and other delicious foods. Camping space for tents and tipis and plenty of parking is available. Admission is \$2 per person, \$1 for Senior Citizens and children six and under admitted free. The general public is welcome.

Since seating is limited, the public is advised to bring blankets, folding chairs, etc.

We respectfully request that no alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs be brought to the festival grounds. For further information contact, Guilford Native American Association, Inc. in Greensboro at 919-273-8686.

This pow wow was made possible with a grant from the Greensboro Area Visitors and Convention Bureau.

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