



MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Economic Development Task Force Meeting #1

Date: Wednesday August 22, 2007
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Pinal County Government Complex; 31 N. Pinal; Bldg. F
Purpose: Activity Centers

Handouts: Agenda

Participants:

Belinda Akes, Eloy CofC
Suraj Bhakta, Rose Law Group
Bill Brown, Central Arizona College
C. Alton Bruce, City of Coolidge
Margaret Carstens, San Tan Area CofC
Evelyn Casuga, APS
Kazi Haque, City of Maricopa
Roger Hill, Abbott Laboratories
Rhonda Montgomery, Casa Grande RMC

James Nelson, SRP
Sally Odette, APS
Rayna Palmer, Apache Junction CofC
Lynn Perez-Hewitt, Copper Corridor EDC
Craig Ringer, CAAG
Brad Ross, Resolution Copper Company
Janine Solley, City of Apache Junction
Greg Weiner, AZ Dept. of Commerce
David Welsh

Judie Scalise, ESI Corp.
Garrett Gray, ESI Corp.
Peggy Fiandaca, PSA
Audra Koester Thomas, PSA
Curt Dunham, PSA
Jerry Stabley, Pinal County

Meeting was called to order at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Welcome and Project Overview

Jerry Stabley, Pinal County Project Manager welcomed everyone and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Economic Development Task Force.



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Project Overview

Curt Dunham, PSA, introduced the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan project and the role of the Economic Development Task Force.

Regional Update Presentation

Curt Dunham and Judie Scalise, ESI Corp., presented a PowerPoint: “Regional Update.” The presentation included an overview of the Comprehensive Plan results thus far, the realities of economic development in Pinal now, and how economic development will play a role in the Comprehensive Plan.

Future of Economic Development in Pinal County

Judie Scalise provided some existing conditions on economic development in Pinal County and led a discussion regarding its future in Pinal. Dialogue included the following:

- The County needs to take advantage of its attributes, such as rail, natural resources and tourism, and mining.
- If it is desirable to maintain agriculture, perhaps investigate green industry and ethanol plants.
- We need to have employment centers that lead to traditional activity centers.
- Better coordination needs to take place between education and employment, offering mentor programs and specific training programs.
- Healthcare is an important part of our economy, and a necessity in Pinal County.
- Inland port needs to be considered.
- Perhaps Arizona’s only large amusement park could be situated at the I-8/I-10 exchange.
- Pinal needs sustainable and environmental technology.

Defining Employment/Activity Centers and Supporting Them

A discussion then continued on employment/activity centers in Pinal County. Dialogue included the following:

- Retail is not quality economic development—it cannot be the whole picture.
- Addressing the need for qualified labor force is important.
- Need to combine education and workforce training.
- Need the political will to support quality economic development.
- Need to connect places, people and trade.
- Rail corridor is valuable in Pinal.
- Need to address use of water in Pinal when talking economic development.
- Pinal County Plan needs to be the ‘quilt’ that holds the patches, such as economic development, together.
- Need to define County’s role in economic development.



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- Need to define where economic development takes place: in the county, in municipalities, both?
- County needs to serve the role of balancing out economic development.
- Need to address tax base.
- State Land plays an important role in economic development.

Next Steps

The next scheduled meeting of the Transportation Task Force is September 26, 10 a.m. to noon at the County Complex in Florence.

These meeting summary notes reflect the notes taken by Partners for Strategic Action, Inc. during the meeting. If corrections are needed, please provide those recommendations as soon as possible, preferably within two weeks of receipt of these notes.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Fiandaca, AICP
Project Manager

