



Economic Development Group of Wabash County

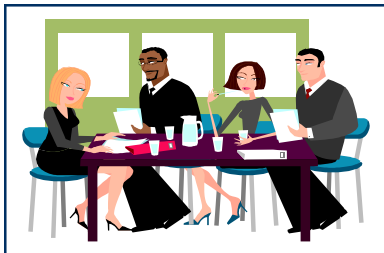
Dedicated to creating economic and employment opportunities for the people and businesses of Wabash County.

2008 Wage and Benefit Survey

The Economic Development Group, in partnership with Grant County Economic Development, completed a wage and benefit survey of Wabash and Grant County. The survey was conducted electronically and over thirty emails were sent out to select Wabash County businesses asking them to participate. The businesses EDG selected to cover a wide range of industries. EDG would like to send a special thanks out to everyone who took the time to visit the site and complete the survey.

The survey was closed on July 11 and the Grant County ED sent copies of the results to all of the businesses who participated in the survey. If you didn't receive a copy or didn't participate but are interested in seeing the results you can find them on our website under the "workforce" tab. If you would like a hard copy of the 2008 Wabash and Grant County Wage and Benefits Survey please send an email request to Abby at achoy@edgwc.com.

Actions of the Board



Economic Development Group's monthly board meeting was held on July 8 and August 12, 2008 at 7:30 am in the EDG Board Room. At both meetings the board reviewed minutes from the previous Board Meeting, monthly financial reports, and the President's Report.

There were no new business items in July, but one change that was discussed was that due to the interest rate changes, EDG is currently behind on the budgeted interest income. In an attempt to recoup some of the interest lost, a 90 day CD was purchased through Mutual Federal for the amount of \$80,000 with 2.75% interest. Mutual Federal was selected after allowing all local financial institutions to give EDG quotes on CD availability and interest rates.

Also in July two other changes were made on the income side, they include a \$5000 fee that we received for staff services given to the Economic Development Commission and an additional \$10,000 given to our organization by the city in support of all the work done this year.

During the August meeting there was one new business item. NBI 08-08-01 pertained to EDG being an advocate on behalf of a tax abatement proposed by a local, well established business. This tax abatement would be used to expand the business' current location and create two new jobs. The board passed this NBI unanimously.

Additional discussions included development ideas in which the EDG would be partnering with the Miami County EDG. The board agreed that partnering with a neighboring Economic Development Group is a great idea to build alliances in the region.

It was also decided at the August meeting that in the future all EDG Board Meetings will be moved from the first Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday of every month. Continued scheduling issues in the last year caused the board and staff to review it's normal meeting times and make the change.

EDG Board of Directors

Jeffery Kellam, Chair

Ken Perkins, Vice Chair

Dan Hannaford, Secretary

Ralph Naragon, Treasurer

Robert Vanlandingham

Skip Daughtry

Rob Pearson

Ron Kerby

Lester Templin

President's Report July & August 2008



William S. Konyha
President

July

- The President reported on Living Essentials, LLC. Living Essentials currently employs 42 people, topping the originally agreed upon number of 36. They have just completed a lab on site and are currently working on constructing two FDA approved Clean Rooms and developing some additional research facilities. They are planning an expansion of up to 150,000 square feet and fully expect to more than triple their employment in the next year.
- The President presented at an ED 101 course for county officials at Ivy Tech in Lawrence, Indiana at the request of Ball State University.
- The President met in North Manchester with a newly formed business that is in the sheet metal fabrications business. He made arrangements for the IEDC and DWD to meet with them and determine if there is anything that can be done to assist them in training new employees.
- EDG has scheduled site visits with ThermaFiber, Living Essentials, Visionary Computers, and one additional employer in North Manchester to discuss training needs. We hope to be able to use funds from the IEDC and DWD to support the efforts of these companies as well.
- The President reported that as staff of the County Economic Development Commission we closed the Solid Waste tax exempt bonds with POET in North Manchester. They sold \$25,000,000 of Series A bonds at 9.25% and \$500,000 at 12%.
- The President attended the North East Indiana Regional Partnership Annual conference in Pokagon. He also attended the Office of community and Rural Affairs Advisory Board Meeting in Indianapolis.
- As Chairman of Indiana Main Street the President conducted interviews of several candidates to replace the Indiana Main Street Manager. The field has been narrowed down to three candidates and referred them to the staff of Indiana Main Street for disposition.

August

- The President met with Living Essentials and is assisting them in their search to find a larger building in the County for it's distribution center. A plot in the Wabash Business park directly across from the REMC building was proposed. Discussions are still in the works. Last month Living Essentials shipped 22 million bottles of 5 Hour Energy Drink out nationwide.
- The President and Steve Ford of Ford Meter Box traveled together to the NEIRP Board meeting this month to discuss TIF and Tax Abatement.
- Working with Mayor Vanlandingham, the President secured approvals from Kroger for the construction on the new Culvers building in the Wabash Shopping Center.
- Chairman Kellam and the President met one developer, Ken Dilger (Dilger Property Group) from Indianapolis at a reception for the governor. The President as been in contact with Mr. Dilger and has invited him to come and visit our County and take a tour of available sites. Along with Mr. Dilger the President called on three site selection consultants; Ginovis, Bingham Economic Development Advisors and Colliers International. Information was presented to them on the three parks.

We are always happy to hear from our members! Questions or concerns?

President's Report July & August 2008 Cont.

- All of our sites will be featured at the Kruse International Labor Day auction from August 28-September 2. This is the largest event that Kruse International has and they expect between 250,000 and 300,000 people to attend. The materials will be displayed on a large screen and will be shown constantly over the five day event. Those attending the auction include some of the wealthiest people in the U.S. including corporate CEOs. The President arranged this all at no cost to EDG.



Still Not A Member of EDG?

**You can join now for a
pro-rated price as low as
\$150.00 for 2008.**

(Pricing varies depending on size of business.)

Call us for details 260-563-5258

**We would love to have
your support!**

Local Business Helps EDG Create New Printed Materials

The Economic Development Group of Wabash County, Inc. was awarded an eighteen month grant in 2007 from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). Part of the money awarded on this grant was set aside for new marketing materials. EDG had not updated its marketing materials in years and was in dire need. With the help of local businessman, Mr. Eric Schoening of Vertical Communications, EDG staff set out to create new custom designed materials to hand out at site selection meetings.

The new marketing materials consist of a Wabash County shaped folder including six insert pages which review the North Manchester Industrial Complex, Wabash Business Park, Wabash AgriPark, Wabash Community Data, a Strategic Access page, and a blank page for customization. These pages will come to EDG with the top labels and pictures preprinted. The basic layout will be done but the text printing will be done in house so changes can be made. This will allow the marketing materials to be of use for years to come.



Please contact us at 260-563-5258 or by email at info@edgwc.com