

Columbia County Economic Development Department

Executive Activity Summary

October 2012

Meetings with:

Lake City Rotary Club

County Department Head meetings with Division Chief, Lisa Roberts

Leadership Lake City

David Kraus

Board of County Commissioners – Special Called Meeting

NC Florida RACEC Catalyst Site/NFIP/Stakeholder Mtg

Mike McKee, Media & Communications – FGC – working on a promotional video to post on web

Dave Clanton, Lake City Public Works

Suwannee Lumber – Phil Amrell

Dale Williams, Suwannee Lumber site visit

Frank Darabi, P.E. , Dale Williams and Phil Amrell – Suwannee Lumber

Numerous EDD Office Manager candidates

EDD Office Manager Interviews

REDI Conference Call

Heidi Outway – Plum Creek PR – conference call

NFEDP Board Meeting – Honey Lake Plantation, Madison, FL

Plum Creek – Seattle Executives

I am happy to report the hiring of Debbie Motes as the new Office Manager. Debbie comes to us via Wal-Staf Temp services and started to work on October 22. Debbie deserves kudos for hitting the ground running here at the ED office and has done a great job organizing and integrating with the Columbia County Administrative team. She looks forward to meeting you all at the November 7 EDAB meeting, if not before.

You will note on your November 7 Agenda further discussion on Suwannee Lumber. Fortunately, and coincidentally, Frank Darabi works as an environmental engineer for Columbia County and also advises Suwannee Lumber. Mr. Darabi has submitted his recommendations for a plan of action to help Suwannee Lumber. Please reference Mr. Darabi's letter attached for his recommendations. The EDAB is playing a critical role in the growth and development of Suwannee Lumber here in Columbia County.

Another project that I am excited about is the creation of a marketing video by Florida Gateway College. Mike McKee is leading the effort to create a video that is approximately three minutes in length. Once complete it will be posted on the web and be available for widespread distribution. The video will feature segments on Education, Workforce, Transportation, Healthcare, Existing Industry, The North Florida INTERMODAL PARK and Recreation. Scott Owens, TARGET Plant Manager, Terry Dicks and of course, Dr. Chuck Hall will be featured on the video. Hopefully, the finished product will be ready for viewing by our December meeting.

Project activity has been encouraging this past month with several opportunities under consideration. We have submitted data on a couple call center projects that would potentially invest \$3-\$4 million and employee 200-300 people. Also under consideration is an aviation related manufacturing concern that is a \$400 million capital expenditure and would employee 400.