



**WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD
MERCED COUNTY**

**Workforce Investment Board
Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee
1880 Wardrobe Ave, Merced, CA
Wednesday, October 14, 2009, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

<http://www.mercedwib.com>

Members Present:

Robert Harmon Steve Newvine Loretta Schlosser

Others Present:

Andrea Baker Brian Cutler Bruce Logue Dee Knight
Jack Mobley Joanne Presnell

-
1. Greetings: The Chair, Mr. Steve Newvine, greeted everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.
 2. Meeting Overview: The Chair gave an overview of the purpose and function of the Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee.
 3. Ed Morrison Presentation: The Chair noted the Ed Morrison presentation was very informative and went well, but the attendance could have been better.
 4. What Does the Future Hold for Merced County – Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things: The Chair noted several business and community leaders were having a presentation in November, which is close to the same message presented by Ed Morrison, and introduced Mr. Bruce Logue, Pastor of Life Spring Church. Pastor Logue noted the following regarding the Tupelo, MS presentation by Dr. Vaughn Grisham (a Sociology Professor at the University of Mississippi) on Nov 4, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at Merced Senior Center:
 - The Merced business/community group was formed around the book written by Dr. Grisham on the economic development of Tupelo, MS, which was the poorest city in the State of Mississippi.
 - The Tupelo project is not just economic development, but social architecture that develops leaders in the community, which is a two-year program. Tupelo is a community of 34,000, and 72,000 in the county. Medium household income is \$38,500 a year.
 - The Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the Ford Foundation designated Tupelo as one of the 10 most innovative public private projects in the nation.
 - Tupelo has been designated twice “All American” community. During the 13 years of the study, there were 1,000 manufacturing jobs added each year. There are 53,000 jobs in the county. Tupelo has nationally imitated educational programs, a regional medical center that is frequented by three other states, second wealthiest community in the State of Mississippi, has the national average for per capita income, and half the national average of the poverty rate—7%.
 - In 1990 the people of Tupelo proposed the largest school bond in Mississippi history, and passed with 88% of the voting public.
 - The USDA selected the county as the model for rural development.

After the presentation, there will be an evaluation form available for everyone to fill out, and everyone will also be asked to go to a designated table and sign up to attend a follow-up meeting that will be held at Castle Airport Commerce, Aviation and Economic Development (CAED) office, with a facilitator, to identify a mission and implement a project.

Staff will provide the Ed Morrison video and PowerPoint information to Pastor Logue. It would also be great to get the video shown on the local channel.

5. Enterprise Zone Report: Ms. Joanne Presnell noted as stated at the WIB Executive Committee meeting, the Department is now the Enterprise Zone manager and would be meeting with different cities and county to form agreements. Since July 2009, 1106 vouchers have been processed and 295 for October alone (halfway through the month).
6. Recommendation to Executive Committee/WIB: Staff will send the Nov 4th Tupelo presentation flyer to all WIB members, and note this at the November WIB meeting. Also recommend and encourage WIB members to attend the Castle Airport CAED meeting.
7. Chair Comments: The Chair noted after the Tupelo presentation, he would notice staff if there would be an Economic Development meeting in November.
8. Next Meeting – To be determined.
9. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.