



The mission of St. Landry Parish Economic Development is to provide leadership in economic and community development that facilitates growth opportunities leading to enhanced prosperity for St. Landry Parish businesses, communities, its citizens and its youth.

## **Executive Directors Report**

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## **I - Business Center/Small Business Update**

The Business Center continues to be a growing resource for conducting training, planning, counseling, board sessions and various types of planning sessions designed to promote enhanced partnerships and collaboration for the parish.

On September 6, 2016, in collaboration with the LSBDC, ULL SBDC business consultant met with a total four (4) entrepreneurs engaging in one-on-one consulting sessions in the areas of business planning, market research and other key services.

We have two (2) upcoming small business seminars scheduled for the month of September 2016. On September 22<sup>nd</sup> we will host a Franchise Seminar conducted by Roy Holleman, Franchise Consultant, those in attendance will be educated on franchise concepts available in the U.S., proven methods of researching and identifying those that present a true chance for success in your community, funding options available, services for franchisors and much more.

Our second seminar scheduled will take place on September 27<sup>th</sup> for all local businesses within St. Landry Parish and surrounding areas affected by the recent 2016 Historical Flood. Business owners will learn the effects a disaster can have on a small business, how to survive it, how to devise a strategy for recovery and how to prepare your business for future disasters.

From our discussion at the last meeting pertaining to the roof of the business resource center, Brady Moreau with S and S Steel buildings provided an overview assessment of the current roof condition, complete with photos at the September 15<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting, as well as a list of long and short term solution alternatives. Per the recommendation of the committee next steps include reaching out to local architect firms to provide roof specs as well as cost for the RFP process.

The 2016/2017 Louisiana Business Incubation Association (LBIA) Business Incubator Application was successfully submitted on August 8, 2016. The grant announcement date originally scheduled for August 25, 2016 has been postponed due to the historic flooding received throughout the Baton Rouge, La area. Sandy Deslatte, Coordinator, LED/LBIA Awards Program, indicated the committee is currently in the scoring process of applications with an announcement date tentatively scheduled for October 1, 2016.

We currently have 9 tenants active in the Business Center:

C&C Painting and Pressure Washing

Boone Speech and Learning Services

Miracle Ear

Happy Housemaids

Magnolia Community Development Corporation

Victory Manufacturing

WIB 40

Double J Express, LLC

Charles G. Lawson Trucking, Inc

## **II – Communications**

We urge all of you to regularly review our primary website at [www.opportunitystlandry.com](http://www.opportunitystlandry.com) and further all of the great things being written and posted at [www.SLPforward.com](http://www.SLPforward.com). We have had some challenges with turnover in our web maintenance contractor and are meeting this week with an alternative contractor that may be able to handle some of the work needing to be done in maintenance on the site. It is our intent to start some significant refreshment of [opportunitystlandry.com](http://www.opportunitystlandry.com).

To date [www.slpforward.com](http://www.slpforward.com), currently holds a total of fifty-one (51) articles shining the light on positive things happening throughout St. Landry Parish. One (1) article per week is typically uploaded onto the site on a consistent basis providing fresh and updated article content. This initiative continues to be active on NPR radio.

We are in the process of working with Parish Government to identify the final team of contractors for the Phase II of this campaign. After meeting with additional contractors within the month of September 2016, we are currently waiting to receive proposals for review prior to determining our final and best outcome. We anticipate final outcome of these discussion to come before the SLED Board for review and financial consideration at the October round of board meetings.

With the website's foundation now solid, a Google analytics test is conducted monthly to evaluate website traffic directly to the site. During the time period beginning August 16<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup> SLPforward's number of page views reached 460 with a total of 355 sessions. Based off the Demographic Report the percentage of 18-24 users

visiting the site has increased significantly which attest to our outreach efforts in engaging our youth and future leaders throughout the parish.

Through our continued work with Parish Government regarding our existing GIS platform, all smooth ride home data has now been upgraded onto our GIS system. Improvements, which will be ready to view in the coming weeks which can be found on the home page of [www.opportunitystlandry.com](http://www.opportunitystlandry.com).

### **III – Property/Site Development**

We continue to promote active development at the major interchanges on the I-49 corridor by working with the Mayors, boards and community leaders in most of the impacted communities about planning and building capacity for development. There has been significant progress with the development of the Grand Coteau Business Corridor over the past month. There will also be a milestone in the Harry Guilbeau District Development with the ground breaking on Thursday for the new Giles Nissan facility, project lot.

Our industrial site development efforts with the team of One Acadiana are steadily moving forward. Our goal is still to work towards 2 shovel ready sites in SLP for 2016. We are in the process with LED and OA for mapping out a recruiting campaign on a 500 acre heavy industrial site, Nexus Energy Park in partnership, which should be announced in the next several weeks. .

### **IV Projects Update Summary: 23 Active, 2 Pending Announcement, (Hippo, Lot), 1 Parked, (Code) 1 Pending Park (Project McCarty) Please note (Latest Updates)**

**Project Base** – This is a project looking at the utilization of one of core parish transportation facility assets for international business investment. *Latest update:* We are still being told by company execs that the project still has an interest in our location, but are still waiting for information requests made by our legal team.

**Project Belt** – This project has come about as a result of local BRE efforts and is a cooperative between a local employer and SLED in trying to bring in a supplier into their existing manufacturing facility. The job creation figures if successful are now estimated up to 45 FTE's. *Latest Update:* Based off a meeting with company execs last week this project is moving to a higher probability of success.

**Project Boost** – This is a very large potential expansion project in terms of capital expenditure. The project would produce less than 15 new employees at very high wage scales and well up to 170 temporary construction jobs for a year or more. *Latest Update:* The Company is finalizing some of the permitting process, as well as the financial package for the project. We are still anticipating these pieces will come together in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year.

**Project Brace** – This is a retention project involving the purchase of an existing facility here in the parish. We are working closely with LED, as well as One Acadiana on this

effort. If successful this project would protect as many as 65 existing positions, as well as offer the potential to expand an additional 25 positions at this location. *Latest Update:* We are meeting with company execs, OA and LED on Wednesday of this week.

**Project Bulletproof** – This is a new recruitment light manufacturing project looking hard at an existing facility in the parish. If successful this project would create up to 100 FTE's. *Latest Update:* This is an RFP project with LED and OA. As of early September the project sits in a good spot with our facility. The big pending decision in the company's willingness to commit to an expansion at this time. We strongly anticipate clarity on this project sometime in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

**Project Clean** – This is a manufacturing infill development project located in the center of the parish. If successful this project will create 50 new direct positions. *Latest Update:* We had a good meeting with their company execs, local engineers and community leadership early in September. The project seems to be going through the normal planning and permitting process now and we anticipate the ability to announce soon.

**Project Duncan** – This project is a cooperative submittal with OA and LED. It deals with a light fabrication and assembly. It has a CAPEX of \$3 million, 85 permanent jobs, with an average production wage is \$19.50 per hour plus benefits. *Latest Updates:* We are pending updates from site consultants for next steps on this project.

**Project Dye** – This project is a cooperative submittal with OA and LED for development-stage Energy Company to build a chemical manufacturing facility. The project has a CAPEX of \$30 million, 100 permanent job and an average annual wage of \$60,000. *Latest Update:* We are pending updates from site consultants for next steps on this project.

**Project Expo** – *Latest Update:* There will be an update on this project as part of the regular agenda.

**Project Flap** – This project is a cooperative submittal with OA and LED. The company looking to set up a new aerospace component manufacturing facility. Details of the project are being asked to remain confidential for the time being. *Latest Update:* The project is still in the site consultant review process.

**Project Fountain** – This is a large scale commercial development project that discussions have been ongoing for some time. National tenants are committed to this project and negotiations with landowners and real estate development partners are continuing on a regular basis. *Latest Update:* We actively discussing how this project can be combined with Project Expo planning efforts to create a destination location.

**Project Fresh** – This is an in state expansion for the company, but a recruitment project for our parish. Initial job creation numbers are less than 6 with room for expansion. The project hinges to some degree on project vertical with land acquisition. *Latest Update:*

The Company still has an interest and would like to be a yes/no with this site this calendar year.

**Project HIPPO** – This is a heavy industrial project that is very large in scope on its investment and job creation potential. Currently, we are working with regional and state partners on identifying and meeting engineering requirements on the footprint site. *Latest Update:* As of last week the permitting for this project is on schedule to be completed in the next 45 to 60 at which point this project will be announced as the Nexus Energy Park.

**Project League** – This is a new recruitment project with major impact potential that would expand across the region and even the state. If successful this project would create up to 100 white collar high paying positions, collectively averaging close to 100k annually. *Latest Update:* As of last week the feedback with company continues to be positive. We are on the short list for the project. Company officials are still working through details on partnerships in the education and investment areas. We hope to have a better sense for go/no go in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

**Project McCarty** – This is a cooperative submittal with OA and LED for a new heavy manufacturing facility. Details of this project are asked to be held confidential at this point. *Latest Update:* This project is still in the site consultant evaluation/selection process. Pending new updates this project will be placed in the parking lot for next month.

**Project Nova** – This is joint submission project with OA and LED. It is a light manufacturer looking to locate in an existing central parish facility. This project would look to invest up to 4 million in facility upgrades and employ 50 full time positions over the first 3 years of operations. This is on the short list of two sites for the state so it has strong potential for a site visit in the near future. *Latest Update:* We are waiting confirmation from the site consultant on if there will be an onsite visit scheduled.

**Project Lot** – This project is the expansion of an existing parish company into construction at new location and the further modification and refit of their existing facility within the parish. Assuming the existing facility backfills the same number of positions in its new use this project would create 45 new direct full time positions. The existing location now has approximately 25 full time positions. *Latest Update:* There is a ground breaking announcement on this project scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup> on site in the Harry Guilbeau District at 10:00. This project is a major step forward in the future of the Harry Guilbeau EDD.

**Project Protect** - This is an in parish expansion project that has already made the land acquisition for their new site. The project could expand to up to 12 new manufacturing positions once the new location is operational. *Latest Update:* As of early September the company is look at the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for starting their new build location.

**Project Rest** – This project deals with the redevelopment and reuse of land surrounding one of our interstate intersections. There continues to be positive meetings with pivotal

state agencies to move the project forward. Detailed job creations figures are still not available on the project. *Latest Update:* While this project is still active it is moving slowly at this point. We will continue to monitor and update progress on a monthly basis.

**Project Ride** – This project represent an expansion of a large area retail site in the center of the parish. Property has been acquired and some initial site clearing work has been completed. If successful this project could create up to 40 new positions. *Latest Update:* There are currently some items being working out in a corporate structure that may move this project forward in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2017 start date.

**Project Vanilla** – This is a cooperative site submittal with OA and LED. Their site consultant has on a quick turnaround. The project is targeted towards an industrial facility to batch process chemicals for the oil and gas industry. At this stage the project does not have investment and job creation figures, but has specific site requirements that are a good fit for 2 SLP sites. Each of these has been submitted. *Latest Update:* We are still waiting results from the evaluation process.

**Project Vertical** – This project is dealing with a light industrial manufacturer looking to put a new production facility in the Parish. If successful this project would create up to 30 direct full time positions. *Latest Update:* As of earlier this month we are still on formal funding verification from their overseas investment group. We continue to be assured that is coming soon.

**Project Youth** – This is a very large recruitment project that we are currently in completion on a site in Houston. This project could be a very large capital expenditure project with projections as high as 400m. The site consultant is currently working on a specific site location in the central parish. This project had a significant setbacks in property acquisition and is in the process of identifying alternative sites. *Latest Update:* We will assist and monitor this process by month over into at least the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to see if it progresses.

## **Announced Projects**

**Project Lid – Announced Regional Retention** - This project will relocate up to 100 immediate jobs and has potential to add an extra 75 full time direct positions to the parish for a total of 175 positions. The ground breaking ceremony for this project, C&G Container Scientific, was held on April 11<sup>th</sup> on site and was very well attended.

**Project Outpost (A) – Announced Recruitment** - This is a one of a kind Loves Travel Center that broke ground early in January 2016 in Port Barre. This will be the first center for Loves not located on an interstate highway. The location will serve as a full service 24 Hour travel center with a Subway Restaurant on location. This project will create at up to 35 direct full time positions.

**Project Bayou – Announced Recruitment** - This Wal-Mart Neighbor Center projected was announced earlier this month as being an example of highlighting the retail development potential here in the center of the Parish. This project is well into its

construction process now and is projecting a formal opening on January 20<sup>th</sup>. This project will create between 90 and 100 direct full time positions.

**Project Slip – Announced Expansion** - This project was a major turnaround project with the Alon Refinery in Krotz Springs. The company made major investments in this effort, which brings significantly enhanced capacity to the Alon facility. For industry concerns the company would prefer that this project not be included in a major press announcement. This does not diminish the positive impact on our parish from this project. SLP Tourism continues to recognize record breaking lodging numbers for the later portion of 2015 as temporary workers made their place in area hotels, campgrounds, and RV Facilities. Over 2000 temporary construction jobs were brought into the parish with this effort. We are working now to confirm the number of permanent jobs that will ultimately be created with this expansion. We do not anticipate this number exceeding 15 in total.

**Project Outpost – Announced Recruitment** - This is the original Project Outpost. This project, the Go Bear Travel Center is going to be opening its doors within the next 2 weeks. The company is Gaubert Oil, which is base out of the Houma Thibodaux area and will be the 13<sup>th</sup> retail travel facility for the company. We along with Acadiana Works has been providing various levels of hiring assistance, including the use of the Business Center to interview management candidates for the new facility. This project is projected to create up to 45 new full time positions.

**Project Lynx – Announced Recruitment** - This project, The Hazelwood Energy Project, was formally announced on Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. This project is projected to create 123 direct full time positions, 135 indirect positions and 200 temporary construction related positions. Initial capital investment projections on this project are 400 million. This project also has the potential to lay the framework for significant future development.

**Project Spin – Announced Recruitment** This project is a small project that we are piloting as an incubation for oil field support services in C&C machining with Victory Manufacturing. We had hoped throughout the later part of 2015 to make a large announcement, but the company principal had some health challenges that slowed their work to a temporary stop. We are hopeful that in supporting this area of high demand labor force that we will be able to keep some of our machinist workforce in the parish with career opportunities.

**Project Lift – Announced Recruitment** - This project was formally announced over the weekend. The company Air Evac Life team will be basing rotary wing operations out of the St Landry Parish Airport. They are completing significant upgrades to one of the existing facilities and now have aircraft on the ground to assume operations. This successful project further highlights the huge upside for the SLP Airport, which tends to get overlooked as a key transportation asset of St Landry Parish. This project is anticipated to create 16 direct full time positions.

**Project Strip – Announced Expansion** - This is a large commercial project on a large multi-tenant commercial facility located on the I-49 Service road corridor, St Landry



Plaza. The company, Rock Step Capital, made a formal announcement earlier this month through their President, My Andy Wiener. He pledged to bring as many as 8 new national tenants to the facility over the next 2 years. This project could allow for up to 75 direct full time and a greater number of part time employees.

**Project Essen - Announced Expansion** Crest Industries, based in Pineville, Louisiana, will invest \$5 million to develop a new cutting, machining and fabrication facility in Eunice and add new machining centers to existing PCS equipment. Crest will retain 18 PCS jobs, and the expansion project will create 20 new jobs averaging \$50,000 per year, plus benefits. LED estimates the investment will result in an additional 24 indirect jobs, for a total of 44 new jobs in the Acadiana Region.

**Project Rip – Announced Recruitment** - This Company, Top Timber, and deals with the timber hardwood related processing. It is located to the rear of S&B Sawmill in the proximity of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center. The company had indicated that it could initially employ up to 12 full time positions with the potential to grow very quickly if certain international agreements can be established.

**Project Roto – Announced Expansion** - This is an existing company within the Parish, Noble Plastics that has acquired the Yahoo building to begin production of additional plastics components through a process call roto mold plastics production. There is a good potential that this project would bring in a partner supplier, Project Mat. This project will initially create 15 or less direct full time positions, but has a great potential for future expansion.

**Project Alon – Announced Expansion** - The Alon Refinery has recently completed an expansion at their facility to include the building of a rail transfer facility that will allow them more efficiently loading on and off load bulk rail materials to be utilized both in and out of their production facility. The project will create as many as 12 full time positions.

**Project Runway – Announced Recruitment:** A formal announcement was made for this project Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM at their new construction site just past Beau Chene High School. We conducted a follow-up site visit last week. There is solid progress on the foundation structure, which is the most time consuming portion of their building process. The company expects operations to commence in a matter of weeks. This project will create as many as 25 direct full time positions.

**Project Martin – Announced Expansion:** Bayou State Lumber Company, LLC, formerly known as Acadiana Hardwood, LLC. This company will create 29 permanent new jobs and retain 21. This mill is the only viable employment opportunity for most individuals in the area.

## **V – Area and Regional Development Items:**

*OA (One Acadiana)*

We continue quality interaction on multiple levels with the staff at OA and LED as we look to enhance the economic development capacity for region. Some of the most recent activities include:

- Identifying support resources for businesses affected by flooding
- Site identification/certification
- Joint request for proposal submittals

As the incoming chairperson for AEDC the SLED Executive Director will be assuming an active board seat for One Acadiana over this upcoming year.

The St. Landry Chamber of Commerce board is in the process of significant change and transformation. We have a formal facilitated strategic planning session scheduled for early October in order to help get clarity on what opportunities exist for robust, proactive Chamber of Commerce.

Parish Tourism, which is temporarily housed with Opelousas Tourism is working hard to bring their facility back into commerce. Aside from this, we continue to engage them as partners in multiple areas, which will include vetting firms looking to provide services in the Phase II of the moving forward effort.

With many of the challenges facing the regional economy it is important that we do everything we can to take care of our core employers. We are well into the process of BERG collaboration meetings with SLP companies. Throughout 2015 we tracked the progress of roughly 25 companies we met with throughout the year. In 2016 we look to expand that visitation base to 25 of the top sector employers we have in the Parish. To date this year we have sat down with twelve of these employers, which includes:

- Gaienne Lumber
- Giles Automotive Group
- Opelousas General
- Wal-Mart Distribution Center
- Alon Refinery
- Evangeline Downs
- Targil
- Sterling Automotive Group
- Noble Plastics
- Dixie Storage
- Crest Industries
- Service Machine Specialties
- Ventura Foods
- Acadian Medical Center
- Savoie's
- International Snubbing Services

As a direct result of these visits Savoie's is now directly engaged with a partnership program called "economic gardening" that takes and in depth look at viable market expansion opportunities around the country and how they can possibly target these identified opportunities. The final stage of this effort takes place later this week.

Our recent direct involvement with flooding issues around the Wal-Mart Distribution Center is another example of why this outreach and relationship building is important. We are currently looking at a partnership for long term road elevation improvements with FEMA dollars. We are also looking at ways to assist the center as they are looking to increase their workforce by as much as 20% by the end of the calendar year.

Additionally, we have reached out directly and provided direct resource information to the majority of the businesses in St Landry Parish that had indicated damages from the recent devastating flooding.

We have been reaching out to members of the St Landry School Board on an individual basis to discuss their selection process for a new superintendent. We have also help to facilitate multiple meetings with school board leadership and community and business leaders in the parish to provide input on their current selection process. Our presenter this week will talk more about the progress of this critical effort.

We are directly involved with numerous initiatives with the Acadiana Planning Commission, APC and its newly incorporated Metropolitan Planning Organization. We are close to getting the final results from the CEDS Regional Economic Plan. We also continue to engage them with the Grand Coteau Council on improvements to their business corridor, which is making very nice progress.

We are continuing our active efforts with a board seat on the ARA (Acadiana Regional Alliance). Some of the key items of consideration at the last board meeting were:

- Continuing updates on the evolving I-49 South Project
- Updates on the Acadiana Food Alliance
- Best practice discussion for the parish entities
- Reginal Acadiana familiarization tour for Acadia, Jeff Davis and St Martin Parishes.

Efforts move forward in growing our relationship with SLCC and their great progress. We will have finalized our agreement for their new RN Program this week and will continue to be in active discussions ranging from the new K-12 Superintendent, to dual enrollment growth, to Corporate College Program offering support, as well as expanded potential in the phase II of our "Moving Forward" Program. We have also agreed to once again support a SLED scholarship for a St Landry Parish resident attending SLCC next year through proceeds provided through GOEIDC.

Good things continue with LSU-E and we look to move forward with Dr. Kimberly Russell and her team at LSU-E in a number of areas. These discussion have also

ranged from the selection process of the new K-12 superintendent, providing leadership education to TheSLP, possible Incumbent Worker Training Program Opportunities, as well as expanded input in the phase II of the “Moving Forward” Program. We have also agreed to once again support a SLED scholarship for a St Landry Parish resident attending LSU-E next year through proceeds provided through GOEIDC.

### *AEDC (Acadiana Economic Development Council)*

We working with InnoV8 Acadiana, seven parish economic development organizations, Winrock International and JP Morgan Chase on the formal process for a regional business accelerator program. The SLED ED will assume the role at the Chairman of the Board for AEDC this year beginning Oct 1<sup>st</sup> so we will be having a planning retreat on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September to make sure the objective of AEDC are best aligned to provide value to Acadiana

Other items that have already been funded by AEDC over this past state fiscal year include:

- A detailed economic impact analysis of the of the I-49 extension.
- High grade photography of key employers in the region
- Drone flyovers of key Acadiana Assets
- Promoting high profile recruiting trips, such as the Site Selectors Guild and IAMC
- Supporting eligible individual key priorities in each parish

We are making great progress with the CEO support organization called Vision St Landry on strategically identifying priorities that could have significant impacts for SLP over the next 5 – 15 years. This group has also been instrumental in the communication with SLP Schools in their Superintendent search process.

### **VI – Community Development in St Landry Parish**

We are finding solutions with our efforts between Parish Presidents on legal options on the St Luke’s Hospital for valuation and transfer of ownership with the facility. We now have a formal appraisal on the property. The project outcome is in final consideration by both parish presidents to present to their respective parish councils. We anticipate meeting with our legislative delegation this Friday in Baton Rouge in order to come to some key conclusions on items needed for a final resolution for both Parish Councils.

Our efforts with Opelousas leadership is progressing in all of their priority areas for their leadership, which include the following:

- Developing the I-49 Corridor
- Revitalizing Downtown

- Improving Education

We are looking at ways that we can offer value to the leadership of Port Barre on proactive measures that can take to stay ahead of what looks to be major growth in their area over the near term. We also are continuously monitoring the progress/updates on project bulletproof.

We are actively working regain progress with the leadership of Eunice on how we can best help them to identify and progress priorities for their community and on the potential of keeping their economic development committee intact.

Great progress is being made with the community of Grand Coteau on planning and infrastructure efforts along their business corridor. Earlier this month the newly formed EDD Task Force met and developed their top priorities for their new district. These priorities were formally approved I their city meeting last week an active applications are now in place for starting 2 of these 4 priorities.

Multiple strategic planning meetings have been held with representative businesses from the Sunset, Grand Coteau and Arnaudville area. To date, Identification of organizational priorities e.g. mission statement, name, and determination regarding formal organizational structure have been identified in draft form as well as an alliance name entitled Do & See 93. Currently a logo is being created as well as a list of inventory of assets and resources amongst the '3' key communities.

TheSLP on August 25<sup>th</sup>, held its first annual fundraising event at the John S. Bradley Memorial High School Jamboree. SLP members sold jambalaya at the event and that amount raised in total exceeded \$500.00 with all proceeds going back into our organization.

On September 21<sup>st</sup> our fifth installment of LEAD St. Landry will be held on the campus of SLED. Dr. Kenneth Cochrane, President/CEO of Opelousas General Health Systems will serve as our guest presenter. The topic of focus will center on leadership challenges.

### **Grants Update:**

The FYE 2017 LBIA Grant application has been submitted with the grant announcement date extended to October 1<sup>st</sup> due to the 2016 historical flooding which took place in Louisiana.

As part of our 2016 goal structure we will be continue to explore the potential for two successful grant applications that will make a meaningful impact on our mission and efforts to build capacity in the parish. In August, a USDA strategic session was conducted at the Business Center on grant funding opportunities throughout St. Landry Parish for businesses, community facilities,

telecommunications, electric and water and environmental projects. As we continue to identify priorities for each our respective municipalities, information received through our most recent strategic session will assist in aligning potential funding opportunities provided through the USDA with those parish-wide priorities.

## **VII – Training Opportunities**

Mid-South Basic Economic Development Course

True South Basic Economic Development Course

September 19 - 22, 2016

Location: Hattiesburg, MS

Course Overview: The Basic Economic Development Course is an introductory look at economic development in North America, with an emphasis on the state of Louisiana. Students are given an overview of the tools and techniques of modern economic development, including the professional specialties that have formed in the last 20 years. Donald Dejean is now in attendance at this session.

## **VIII – Conclusion**

This year has been packed with challenges for our region, for our state and for our nation. It is clear that we are not immune. The most recent flooding events are just another example of things impacting our area that are out of our control. As leaders we all have to stay focused on the potential and the larger picture. This is not always easy to do and it is very easy to loose site of the bigger picture with so many important distractions. We have always said it is in the challenges where the opportunities lay in disguise for the right kinds of proactive thinking. With your tremendous support we continue to stay “Moving Forward” towards a bright future for St Landry Parish and Acadiana!