

APRIL 29, 2004–JOINT WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Joint Workshop with the Economic Development Council on Thursday, April 29, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at the Freeport Community Center.

The following Board members were present: Larry Jones, Chair, Tim Pauls, Vice-Chair, Commissioner Lane Rees, Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, and Commissioner Ro Cuchens. Mr. Ronnie Bell, Interim County Administrator, was also present.

The following members of the EDC were present: Tom Powell, Tracy Roberts, Barbara Jones, Sally Merrifield, Presidents, Pam Tedesco, Kriss Titus, and Scott Gashaw.

Mr. Powell, Executive Director, presented a power point presentation that gave a brief overview of the following five topics:

- Implementation Plan for Economic Development
- EDC Projects
- Florida's Great Northwest
- Outlook for the Future
- Private Funding for the EDC.

Mr. Powell spoke about the status of their implementation plan for economic development for FY 2003-2004. He discussed three major current EDC projects known as "Science International, Inc.", "FRC Industries" and "Mannon Freeport Investments, LLC." He explained the incentives used to influence the businesses to come to Walton County. He also spoke about proposals that had been submitted, hosted site visits by prospective businesses, and the upgrades made to the EDC web site.

Mr. Powell also spoke about Florida's Great Northwest and the outlook for future economic development projects. He presented information on EDC's efforts to increase funding from private sources. There was further discussion held regarding the greenway concept.

Commissioner Pauls stated that the Board recently agreed to send a letter to the state of Florida in regards to the state's surplus land. He said that they also agreed to look at those lands to determine what might be affordable for housing. Mr. Powell stated that affordable housing is a critical issue. Commissioner Cuchens stated that he would like to fly over the greenway path to identify what areas can be developed.

Commissioner Pauls expressed concern with the greenway concept based upon feeling unsure of the boundaries. Mr. Powell assured the Board that the boundaries they wished to approve could be defined.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court