



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### THRIVING SMALL BUSINESS JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

***JANUARY 9, 2014***

*Present:* See attached Sign-in Sheet. NEFRC or RCI Staff: Margo Moehring, Lindsay Haga

*Next meeting:* February 20, 2014, 2:30 pm, NEFRC

*Future meetings:* 3/20, 4/17, 5/15, 6/19, 7/17, 8/21, 9/11(if required)

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The committee discussion debated questions developed from the kick off meeting (outlined on the draft work program). The discussion advanced the following areas of interest:

#### **I. Data Interests/Needs**

- A. INNOVATE report (existing source)
- B. Department of Revenue (source of live data to help businesses with real market data and to understand local/regional purchasing trends).
- C. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and/or Federal Reserve Bank (to evaluate leading indicators tied to purchasing indices, identifying purchasing habits in the region).
- D. Best Management Practices (BMP) examples of regional procurement processes include Seattle, WA and Atlanta, GA
- E. JaxChamber Purchasing Council
- F. Florida Minorities Supplier Development Council

#### **II. Ideas for Regional Recommendations**

- A. Initiate heightened campaign to market [www.jaxsmallbizhelp.org](http://www.jaxsmallbizhelp.org)
- B. Expand [www.jaxsmallbizhelp.org](http://www.jaxsmallbizhelp.org) to include new features such as regulatory comparison tables (permit requirements) and reciprocity agreements standards as a start.
- C. Place link to [www.jaxsmallbizhelp.org](http://www.jaxsmallbizhelp.org) on all county and municipal websites.
- D. Meet with county/city managers to discuss reciprocity: permitting, business tax stamp, small business preference in procurement, other.
- E. Consider replicating JSEB, or a collaborative hybrid, throughout the region.
- F. Include Small Business chapter/element in the CEDS 2014 revision, an effort running parallel to the committee work, to address long term goals.
- G. Pursue federal funds through the existing Economic Development District to achieve suggested regional tasks.

### **III. Action Items**

- A. Contact:
  - 1. Bill Killingsworth, DEO to discuss state efforts on creating synergies between economic development district plans and comprehensive plans; specifically the small business credit initiative and Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern.
  - 2. JaxUSA/JaxChamber re: data.
  - 3. Shamika Baker, Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business program to discuss program elements and potential to replicate within the region. (Post meeting note: Ms. Baker is unable to make the rest of the meetings in the information-gathering phase.)
- B. Survey local governments. Ask about their procurement programs, local sourcing, others?

### **IV. Post Committee/Follow up areas**

- a. Follow-up/post meeting discussion
  - i. Attendees at each of the meetings will be asked the same discussion questions from the work program.
  - ii. Specific groups will be targeted to attend the next meetings: February – economic developers; March – small towns and rural areas; April – people who care about access to capital.
  - iii. Agribusiness subcommittee created, including David Dinkins, Janet Hamer, April Adkins.
- B. Next meeting
  - i. February 20th 2:30pm at NEFRC.