

Sussex Economic Development Action Committee (SEDAC)

Patti Grimes AND Hal Godwin

October 29, 2008

Moving Our Economy,
Maintaining Our Identity

Sussex County
TODAY
&
TOMORROW
Conference

Creation of SEDAC

- 2007 Sussex County Today & Tomorrow Conference
- Met with Dave Baker and Hal Godwin
– Dec 2007
- Meeting with Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT)

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EDUCATION

Bill McGowan, University of Delaware

Troy Mix, University of Delaware

Bill Pfaff, University of Delaware

Judi Sciple, Delaware Technical &
Community College

Ileana Smith, Delaware Technical &
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BUSINESS

Randall Cash, Georgetown
Chamber of Commerce

Nancy Carig, Blue Water Wind

Carol Everhart, Rehoboth-Dewey
Chamber of Commerce

Patti Grimes, Bethany-Fenwick Chamber /
Carl M. Freeman & Joshua M. Freeman Foundation

Walt Lydic, Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of
Commerce/Georgetown Chamber of Commerce

Betsy Reamer, Lewes Chamber of Commerce

Mark Reeve, Mark Reeve Associates

Jo Schmeiser, Milford Chamber of Commerce

Jim Smith, Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of
Commerce/Delmarva Power

Chris Weeks, Rehoboth Beach Chamber of
Commerce & Becker Morgan

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GOVERNMENT

Dave Baker, Sussex County
Administration

Joan Martin-Brown, Town of Milton

Joe Conaway, Town of Bridgeville

Gene Dvornick, Town of Georgetown

Hal Godwin, Sussex County
Administration

Richard Kautz, Sussex County
Planning

Heather Keegan, Delaware Economic
Development Office

Faye Lingo, Town of Millsboro

Trisha Newcomer, City of Seaford

Noble Prettyman, Town of Milton

Jeff Stone, Delaware Economic
Development Office

Scott Thomas, Southern Delaware
Tourism

Dell Tush, Town of Dewey Beach

Julie Wheatley, Sussex County
Economic Development Director

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Guiding Principles

- **Cohesive Action to Push Initiatives Forward:**
 - No one group or individual can push forward all of the recommendations
 - Only through a diverse group of stakeholders working together with a common purpose in mind can the goals be achieved
- **Decisions Guided By Market Intelligence:**
 - Successful businesses gather information about their environment
 - Economic development decisions should be supported by the analysis of market intelligence

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Movement for Action

- Reviewed existing County research
- Request hiring of Economic Development Director
- Expert review by Hyett Palma and Associates
- Economic Overview Report by DEDO

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Feedback from Stakeholders in the County

- SWOT Analysis by SEDAC
- Business Climate Survey
 - 120+ County businesses participated

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SEDAC Mission

To leverage the experience, intellect and creativity of the Sussex County community to inform, develop, recommend and communicate strategies for creating sustainable economic prosperity.

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Goal 1

Create a system that supports and sustains existing business and aggressively pursues future opportunities.

Possible Objectives:

- Business Data Center
- Scenario plans

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Goal 2

Foster entrepreneurial efforts

Possible Objectives:

- Entrepreneurial climate
- Inventory/business services for entrepreneurs.

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Goal 3

Responsibly manage the County's natural resources and cultures that make it unique and appealing

Possible Objectives:

- Sub-regional vision/plans
- Arts, culture and entertainment

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Goal 4

Provide the necessary infrastructure for individuals to live, visit, invest, and work in Sussex County

Possible Objectives:

- Access to available/existing real estate, infrastructure and market characteristics

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Goal 5

Grow and nurture a well-trained workforce that supports higher paying job opportunities

Possible Objectives:

- Collaboration among business, education and economic development communities
- School-career partnerships

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Commitment

Accountable to citizens through annual
Sussex County Today & Tomorrow
Conference updates

- Report progress
- Get input for plans
- Secure participation

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Accomplishments

- Received endorsement from Sussex County Council for Mission, Principles and Goals
- Gained Economic Development Director, September 2008
 - Julie Wheatley

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