

**Vision 2020 Government Foundation Committee Meeting
August 5, 2008**

The Government Foundation of Vision 2020 met at 7:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Lufkin/Angelina Chamber of Commerce. In attendance were Jane Ainsworth, Jody Anderson, Rose Boyd, Susie Cardwell, Curt Fenley, Nathan Gann, Kelly Holcomb, Todd Kassaw, Paul Parker, Dr. Larry Phillips, Stephen Raley, Jay Shands, Judge Wes Suiter, Jim Wehmeier, Judge Paul White, with Trent Ashby presiding.

Trent Ashby opened the meeting at 7:30 with a brief welcome and an overview of the focus of the Government Foundation. Strategies 3 and 5 are the priority strategies with both focusing on communication and relationships with local, state and federal officials which relate directly to Strategy 2 being the commitment of our elected officials to the Vision 2020 program.

Census Update

Dorothy Wilson gave the committee an update on the preparation for the upcoming census with the goal of achieving our MSA status. The City of Lufkin has spent hundreds of hours updating the maps and data so they were able to update the census data that was sent to them for review. The City made over 42,000 changes to the map. This should help to reach our goal of MSA status. The census will actually begin in 2009. More growth was seen in the surrounding areas than in the City of Lufkin.

Judge Suiter reported that he had set up training sessions with all the surrounding areas in order to know how to prepare for the census. Judge Suiter will meet with the people from the census next week to find out if there are any questions or needed information. A 911 data base was used for the county.

Jane Ainsworth suggested that it might be helpful to have a meeting of key census people from each of the surrounding areas within the county to find out who needs help and what they need help with.

Educating the public about the benefits of the census and having accurate numbers is a major concern. It is too early to start, but all forms a media will be used—TV, newspaper (including La Lengua), and radio. Judge Paul White suggested that trust factor will be a huge issue and that we should consider making churches and LISD, along with all the school districts key sources of education for the minority sections of the population. He volunteered to take this information to the Hispanic congregations during meetings he will be starting in

October. He will need a list from Trent of the benefits of the census to take to his meetings. Paul Parker plans to make a big education put on the part of the City of Lufkin to educate the public, but feels it is too early to start.

Consensus Legislative Agenda

With the upcoming Legislative session, Trent suggested that one of the main focus of this group would be to have a consensus agenda for David Pore, our legislative consultant. Jay Shands and Jim Wehmeier said David Pore had been working closely already with the City, County and Angelina College and an agenda has already been created. Jim Wehmeier will provide this agenda to Trent Ashby who will distribute it to the committee members for review, in case there are any additional items to be added.

Creation of Subcommittee

Trent suggested that a subcommittee be created consisting of three members serving 6 months to review the list of vacancies coming from the Governor's office and make recommendations for filling the vacancies.

Group 1: The members of this subcommittee for 6 months will be Trent Ashby, Curt Fenley, and Stephen Raley.

Group 2: The next members of the subcommittee will be Judge Paul White, Kelly Holcomb, and Jerry Huffman.

Next Meeting Date:

It was agreed that the Government Foundation should meet on the first Tuesday of every other month. The next meeting will be on October 7th at 7:30 a.m. at the Chamber.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 AM.