

Government Foundation Meeting

October 20, 2009

Chris Moss called the meeting of the Vision 2020 Government Foundation to order at the Angelina County Chamber of Commerce at 7:40 AM.

In attendance were Jody Anderson, Trent Ashby, James Flournoy, Trey Henderson, Jerry Huffman, Stephen Raley, Joe Rich, Jim Wehmeier, Judge Paul White, Susie Cardwell, with Chris Moss presiding.

Census: (Trent Ashby)

In the absence of Dorothy Wilson, Trent Ashby gave an update on the status of the Census with the following information.

- The primary focus now is to get the word out through the schools. The superintendents are determining the best way to get the information to the students to take home to the parents.
- We will have a new liaison with the Census Bureau to cover our area. Kyle Mence is being transferred.
- The census advertising on the buses looks great!

Legislative Update: (Chris Moss and Jim Wehmeier)

- The appointment of Mary Ann Whiteker by Governor Perry to a special committee on school finance
- Ashley Morgan has recently left the Governor's Appointments Office and went to TECQ. Trey Henderson will plan another trip to the Appointments office between Christmas and New Years.
- There are three appropriations requests:
 1. Necessary improvements to water wells purchased from Abitibi
 2. Purchase of technical equipment for the expansion of the Angelina College Nursing project
 3. Cassels-Boykin County Park project
- A second round of recovery money, approximately \$210 million, will be available for East Texas. HUD has put restrictions on it for low to moderate income. Governor Perry is requesting a waiver for the low to moderate restriction on the funding and Congressman Gohmert is already working on this.

Water Rights: (James Flournoy and Jody Anderson)

- Region I needs someone on the Board to represent Angelina County. The Region I Board covers from Tyler to Beaumont and follows the Neches River watershed. Kelley Holcomb is the Chairman.

- Jody Anderson reported that the ANRA is submitting final comments for the Lake Columbia Environmental Impact Statement to the Corp of Engineers for approval in November.

Federal Tiger Grant: (James Flournoy)

A federal Tiger Grant has been submitted for improvements to North Loop at Highway 59. The selection will be in February and it was recommended that we make sure Congressman Gohmert is informed on this.

Update on Cassels-Boykin County Park: (Jerry Huffman)

Phase I of Cassels-Boykin is complete. That includes the boat ramp and parking lot. Phase 2, the pavilion, has been started. A contribution of \$250,000 from ANRA will allow the bathrooms to be built. There are currently 8 tournaments scheduled for 2010 (one national and the rest are state or regional).

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Vision 2020 Government committee will be on **December 1st at 7:30 a.m.** at the Lufkin/Angelina Chamber of Commerce Board Room.