

Date: April 28, 2005  
To: I-85 Corridor Alliance Board  
From: Larry Fillmer, I-85 Corridor Alliance Executive Director  
Ray Vaughan, I-85 Corridor Alliance Secretary  
Subject: April 28, 2005 Board Meeting Minutes

The I-85 Corridor Alliance Board Working Session for April was convened at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2005 at the National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) in Auburn, Alabama. We thank Al Giffin, Director of the NCAT and Dr. P.K. Raju and their staff members for arranging our meeting and for their hospitality. The attendees at the meeting were:

1. Deroald Hopkins – First Tuskegee Bank
2. Ray Vaughan - Wildlaw
3. Sandy Nichols - Wildlaw
4. Don Smith - City of Auburn
5. Dean Matheson – Interport/SDS
6. Dr. P.K. Raju – Auburn University Engineering Technical Assistance Program
7. Yvonne Hardy - Auburn University Engineering Technical Assistance Program
8. Maria Traylor – Auburn/Opelika Convention and Visitors Bureau
9. Scott Slocum – Weston Solutions
10. Joe Sumners – Auburn University Economic Development Institute
11. Ralph Foster - Auburn University Outreach
12. Al Cook – City of Opelika
13. Valerie Gray – Chambers County Industrial Development Authority
14. Jim Bannon - Auburn University College of Agriculture
15. Joe Molnar - Auburn University College of Agriculture
16. Larry Fillmer - Auburn University Development
17. Jan Drummond - Auburn University College of Engineering
18. Joe Turnham – City of Shorter
19. Al Giffin – National Center for Asphalt Technology, Director
20. Sara O’Neal – Guest of Wildlaw

Larry opened the meeting and a round of interlocutions was made. Deroald also welcomed everyone.

Larry and Ray discussed the changes needed in the IRS fillings due to Larry taking a permanent job with Auburn University. Al Cook moved and Dean Matheson seconded

having Ray, as Board Secretary, file all papers with the IRS on the 501(c) (3) recognition application. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Scott Slocum reported on research he did on the funding of similar efforts, such as Team NEO in North East Ohio. The Alliance is different from these other groups, as they all found funding and then formed, while we formed first and are now looking for funding. Scott proposed that each member make an initial gift of \$500 to cover IRS filings and initial expenses, such as expenses for participation in the two trade shows planned for the fall. Scott also proposed the formation of a fund raising committee charged with applying for grants and developing a long-term funding strategy. Maria Traylor moved to accept both proposals; P.K. Raju seconded; the Board unanimously approved both proposals. Scott will open an account at Auburn Bank, with signatories being himself as Treasurer and Deroald as President. President and Treasurer will form the committee.

Larry gave some updates on the Innovation and Business Partnership Forum and the Workforce Development Initiative. Sept. 15-17 is the date for the Forum, around the Ball State game. The Workforce Development Initiative is now concentrating on a proposal to create an “Academy of Technical Business” with Auburn University and Southern Union State Community College. The concept is to create a minor in manufacturing, particularly for non-technical students. It could start as early as next January.

Dr. Jim Bannon and Dr. Joe Molnar gave updates on the Center for Sustainable Rural Living (CSRL). There will be three components to the Center: Ag & Environmental Education (explaining sustainability), Research Program (exploring sustainability), and Learning Center (exhibiting sustainability).

### **Cluster Updates.**

Maria reported on the Tourism and Community Development Cluster, which now meets every other month, so it has not met since the last Alliance board meeting. Deroald reported on the task force for a “Gateway to Tuskegee”; the National Park Service has come on board and there will be a community-wide meeting on the gateway concept for the area.

Larry reported on the Educational Services cluster; the concentration is all on workforce development at this time. Jerry Clement will work with Dr. Emily Melvin, Auburn University College of Education, to begin a process of re-engaging the Cluster.

P.K. reported on the Technology Services Cluster. He is recruiting membership for the Cluster and is attempting to hold the first meeting in May. They will be working on the possibility of holding a Technology Exposition in the spring of 2006.

Dean reported on the Infrastructure/Business Services Cluster. The mapping of resources continues to progress, although it is a very labor intensive process. Dean is also attempting to recruit new members to the Cluster as participation by some early members has waned over the past few months.

Al Cook announced that Gambro Renal Products (Swedish Company with current manufacturing facilities in Hechingen, Germany) have selected Opelika to build their first U.S. facility (\$110 million capital investment) in the Fox Run Business Park. This will be a 100,000 square foot manufacturing facility that will employ 150 people and will start operations in early 2007. The plant will make components for use in the kidney dialysis process. The company manufactures as many as 10,000,000 kidney dialysis machines per year.

Larry updated us on the Governmental Excellence and Best Practices program held in Montgomery on April 18, 2005. Along with Larry, Deroald and P.K. Raju participated in the program and Ralph Foster and Joe Sumners attended the session. Larry got to meet briefly with Bob Farley, President of Team NEO; he indicated a willingness to work with us and collaborate on activities and information that would help compare their situation with ours and how both efforts are progressing. Their efforts mainly focus around retention of existing companies in the eight county area around Cleveland. He told Larry that it took them a good three years to get the group to come together and start working fully.

Joe Turnham reported on the activities in Shorter. Halla Climate Systems of Alabama is now ready for full operations and Joe sees the possibility for further expansion of that facility in Shorter.

Valerie reported on the Langdale Mill Project and indicated that there are follow-on trips now planned to Washington regarding funding considerations. Valerie also stated that the Chattahoochee River Festival, which is this weekend, will feature mock battles among Civil War Ironclads along the river from LaGrange to West Point to Valley.

Larry discussed the possibility of having Bill Hutto, Manager of the Auburn/Opelika Airport come to the next Board working session to provide an update on the expansion plans for the Airport. Everyone was in agreement that the presentation would be beneficial, and Larry will contact Bill regarding his availability to attend the next meeting in May.

As there were no other items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 AM.

**Next meeting will be Thursday, May 26, 2005, 8:00AM-10:00AM; location TBD (in the Auburn / Opelika area).**