

3rd Annual Georgetown County Economic Development Forum
Thursday, Jan. 5, 2:00 p.m. – Pawley's Plantation

Objective:

MS to speak for 15-20 minutes at this summit, hosted by the Georgetown County Economic Development Commission. MS should focus on our agenda going forward, what we've done for the area, and positive economic news.

Logistics:

MS will begin at 2 pm immediately after the afternoon break

MS will be introduced by Harry Butler.

MS will speak from a podium into a PA to a seated audience.

Audience:

About 150 will be present – local economic development professionals and elected officials.

Media will be present:

Attachments:

Talking points

Economy Talking Points

06 agenda talking points

Previous related speeches

Tentative agenda

Talking Points:

1. Story of Georgetown and the Need for Competitiveness

When you look at the economic history of Georgetown, what you'll find is place of resourceful, resilient folks who have always adapted along with changes in the economy

In the pre-revolutionary period, the economy here was dependent upon indigo. That crop ceased to be profitable after the Revolution, and Georgetown switched to rice farming, eventually coming to produce half the rice consumed in the US.

Following the Civil War, the area could no longer support a rice-farming economy, and the lumber and paper industries filled that void. Today, in addition to manufacturing, commercial fishing and tourism form the basis for the region's economy

What does this mean? Illustrates the need for competitiveness [[Friedman]]

2. Competitiveness – Improving Soil Conditions

Income Tax Relief and Tort Reform, plus Workers Comp in the coming session

From our Executive Budget:

\$1M additional dollars for tourism marketing

\$600K additional dollars for Tourism competitive grants program (matching funds program). These help festivals, etc.

First time funding for Community Development Corporation. Georgetown's Five-Rivers CDC (led by Beulah White) is working closely with the county. These dollars will be made available in a grants program.

\$2M for a plan and initial installation of Broadband in rural communities.

\$3M for Capital Access Program - Initial state funding of \$3,000,000 for the Capital Access Program (CAP). This program is designed to give financial institutions operating in the state a flexible, non-bureaucratic tool to make business loans that are riskier than conventional loans and that may not meet conventional underwriting standards. This loan program will help grow the state's small businesses. Legislation creating the program passed the General Assembly in 2005.

\$5M in Beach Renourishment for Developed areas.

3. Refocusing the Department of Commerce:

Biggest win for Georgetown this past year:

American Gypsum will make a \$125 million investment for a gypsum wallboard facility, bringing with it 100 direct jobs and 200 indirect jobs.

Other news from the Department of Commerce:

680 new jobs and \$155.48 million in total investment for past two years

Recruited International Steel Group now known as Mittal-Georgetown to lessen the impact of Georgetown Steel's closing.

SafeRack, a company that announced \$2.5 million in investment and created 45 jobs, took advantage of the 40,000 sq ft speculative building that you constructed as a tool to attract industry.

The building was made possible in part by \$450,000 received from the Department of Commerce through the Rural Infrastructure Fund.

Began a 400+ acre industrial park on Highway 521 that should attract prospects here to Georgetown County and ultimately result in more job creating announcements.

The county received \$1.2 million from the Tobacco Settlement Funds to enhance the water and sewer infrastructure.

This type of investment in ready-to-go infrastructure is certainly a positive move forward in your efforts to make Georgetown more competitive

Two concerns in the City of Georgetown are flooding and drainage issues, especially along Front Street.

A Community Development Block Grant of \$500,000, awarded last month by the Commerce Department, you will enable to address those flooding problems

This effort will protect the business district that relies heavily on tourist traffic.

We're continuing to support efforts that retool our state's workforce with programs like Incumbent Workers Training.

In the Georgetown County area IWTP funds have helped companies like

International Paper; Mittal Steel (formerly Georgetown Steel/ISG); Georgetown Memorial Hospital; Coastal Wire; Three D Metal (Andrews area); Peddinghaus (Andrews area; Thantex (Andrews area)

Training Programs have varied from individualized, scholarship-type tuition reimbursement of employees (Health/Medical Industry) to cross training of employees as in the case of ISG/Mittal Steel in the wake of the Georgetown Steel shutdown.

Much of this training has targeted rural areas, especially focusing on the manufacturing sector with the goal of helping companies remain competitive and more importantly, retain jobs in the community.

Existing companies like International Paper have benefited from this program -- by developing standardized training for safety programs and improving maintenance standards, both of which contribute to their bottom line.

Effective training programs like IWTP have helped Georgetown retain and recover some jobs, which were headed overseas.

Economic Development Forum Agenda January 5, 2006

Location: Pawleys Plantation

12:00 pm Speakers Luncheon
Jim Jerow- Call to order, recognition of guests, and invocation
Russ Campbell- Welcome from Alliance, and recognition of sponsors
Sel Hemingway- Make remarks on the Forum during the luncheon

1:00 pm Jeff McKay, NESA Director
Senator McGill will introduce Jeff McKay *Role of NESA*

~ Northeast Strategic Alliance

Meeting
Tues. 3rd 2:00 P.M. office

Economic Development Forum Agenda January 5, 2006

- Jim Jerow calls meeting intro Russ sponsor + Alliance pitch / Jim intro + intro Harry*
- 2:00 pm Governor Sanford
Harry Butler will introduce Governor Sanford
- 2:30 pm *- Sel Hemingway make case for 521*
Elizabeth Mabry, SC Department of Transportation Executive Director *Eliz update projects*
Jim Jerow will introduce Elizabeth Mabry
- 2:45 pm Hwy 521 widening completion to I-95 and eventually on to I-20 and up to Charlotte talks including panel of John Grover - International Paper, David Schronce - SC Ports Authority, Joe Young - Low Country Forest Products, Brian Kurtz - Mittal Steel Georgetown, Mike Mock - Georgetown County Emergency Preparedness
Sel Hemingway will moderate this program after his 5 minute introduction
- 3:15 pm Recognition of Linwood Altman for his years of work on transportation *- Chairman Yancey 2002 Rd project*
Yancey McGill handles the recognition
- 3:30 pm Break for 10 minutes
- 3:45 pm Joel Ford speaks about countywide zoning in terms of a comprehensive plan for Georgetown County *Case for county planning & zoning*
Jeep Ford will introduce Joel Ford
- 4:30 pm George Fletcher who is the Director of the S. C. Council on Competitiveness
Wayne Gregory will introduce George Fletcher
- 5:15 pm Hospitality and networking
- 6:00 pm Dinner with Sel Hemingway speaking about Hwy 521 widening, countywide zoning, and VISIONS during his State of the County address

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