



March 18, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Introduction & Opening:

The March meeting was held at Mamacittas. Detex hosted the meeting. Al Ranzou opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests.

Member companies present were: Alamo Worksource, Cemex, Coleman, Checks In the Mail, Comal ISD, Detex, EH Systems, Fedex, Great American Products, Hawkins Personnel, NB Chamber, NB Herald-Zeitung, NB Smokehouse, Objective Maintenance, Priority Personnel, Resource Mfg., Star Manufacturing Stay-tuff Fence, T-Bar M and TXI.

Guests present were: Pernox, Seguin EDC, Alert, Judge Danny Scheel and Doug Miller.

Thanks to Detex for hosting the meeting.

Officer Reports:

Paul updated the membership on the finances. Most of the membership dues have been received and will be reflected in next months report.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship: The 1st draft of the revised scholarship guidelines as being reviewed by the committee and will be presented to the board for recommendations.

Featured Program:

County Judge Danny Scheel updated the members on various projects happening in Comal County:

Flood control project: FEMA has funded the project. The county is in mediation with property owners in the area of the project. Construction should begin within the next 6 months. The project needs to be finished in 24 months per FEMA rules.

HWY46 expansion: the expansion should start by November. The project will be done in sections to allow NBU time to move existing utilities.

HW306: TXDOT has agreed to fund the grade separations on 306. The project is slated for 2010.

Outer loop: the outer loop will be a 40mi road around New Braunfels. On the current plans, the road will only affect 30-45 people in the path. The population of Texas is expected to double in the next 20 years, so the loop needs to be built before more development makes it impossible/difficult in the current path. There is a meeting on April 2 at 6:30pm at the Civic Center regarding the loop. Judge Scheel is requesting that supporters for the loop attend the meeting. The state public land fund project from 1101 to Hunter Rd. is under development. The 1st part of the loop goes through the development and will need at Hunter rd. The needs to be extended to 306 immediately, otherwise there will be too much traffic on Hunter Rd. and Hoffman Lane. The rest of the outer loop will need to go through regional mobility authority approval. On new developments in the path of the loop, land needs to be designated for the right of way for loop use. For more information on the loop, visit Judge Scheel's office or check out www.nbtexas.org or www.nbolstudy.com.

Senior Homestead Exemption: Judge Scheel is against this act which would raise the property tax exemption for seniors and shift the tax burden to businesses and other home owners. Currently, Comal County has the lowest property tax rate in the ACOGS region. Seniors already have a tax freeze and exemptions. Judge Scheel said they should pay their fair share and is encouraging everyone to vote against this proposal in November.

Conservation Easement Program: The grant has been approved for the county to purchase 300 acres of land to be set aside for conservation. The land will be owned by the county and be used for parks and will not be allowed to be developed. The county is supposed to close on the land on 3/20.

Chamber Report:

Rusty Brockman said there is a lot of developer and business interest in the New Braunfels area.

A venture capital group is showing interest in the Moll bldg.

Owens Corning is consolidating some of their facilities in Wichita Falls and will be closing the New Braunfels plant in June. The chamber is working with Alamo Worksource to put together a job fair for Owens employees in May.

The city of New Braunfels has taken over running the airport control tower since the demise of Silver State.

CTTC continues to grow. They will be leasing the old Goodwin primary campus to use for expansion until new facilities can be built at the CTTC campus. There are still 2 students from the MTA needing internship sponsors for the summer.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on April 15 at 11:45 at CTTC. Alert will be hosting the meeting. The program should be Jim Hawkins on lean manufacturing.

Respectfully submitted: Paul W. Webber, Secretary/Treasurer