

September Directors Report

- The Agriculture Task Force met to discuss the IDA's progress with Organic Packing Facility along with Southern Virginia Packing LCC and Old Dominion Organics. The USDA and First Citizens bank are working to meet the budget deficit generated by the increase in construction and material costs. Contingent upon underwriting we are confident that we have filled the gap. The funding intuitions have all of the information required to move forward with the process. I informed the Task Force that I had a constructive informational session with the Farmers and ODO in Dundas, all parties are concerned about costs but remain eager to move forward. The Farmers thanked the IDA and the Agriculture Task Force for our leadership on the project.
- I attended the Lawrenceville Town Council Meeting and expressed my gratitude to Everett Gibson and Kim Martin for all their hard work and cooperation. Often times we have last minute meetings come up and everyone steps forward to pitch in. Both the IDA, the Town of Lawrenceville and Brunswick County Economic Development have a very good working relationship.
- I have started classes to become a Certified Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Site Inspector. The initial classes are on line with classroom study groups in Richmond on Sept 23 & 24. These classes have been eye opening in regards to the methods available and required to protect our natural resources and how a poorly managed site can harm wildlife. Once completed I will be certified to inspect our job sites to allow land disturbing activities to be handled in the correct manner. I will also be able to review the Storm Water Maintenance, Erosion and Sediment Control Plans.
- Along with our partners and Southside Planning District, the IDA submitted the Grant Application for the Industrial Redevelopment Fund. When awarded the IRF grant, along with prior grants from the Department of Historic resources, Tobacco Commission, DEQ Brownfield and 2.5M in tax credits, this will provide \$5,150,000 for Sledge & Barkley of the funds required to create 24 apartments and 5,000 square feet of retail space. We are seeking additional grant funding and support from Virginia Community Capital, 90% of the A&E, environmental work and Department of Historic requirements are completed. Lawrenceville amended their zoning ordinance in 2020 to allow for upstairs residential apartments. I cannot overstate how much time an effort was expended on this grant submission. Thanks to Ashleigh Zincone, Paige Pollard and Charles Bennet for all of their impactful insight, knowledge and hard work.
- The project at the former Southern States Building continues to move forward. Some alterations of the building are under review, these changes will meet USDA and VDAC's food safety requirements. Most of these changes effect the temperature of the loading and processing areas. This will also allow better logistics for efficient operations. The IDA is applying for a VDAC's grant to help the prospect with the expenses. The IDA is providing support to a Lawrenceville project.
- Rise Collaborative continues to move forward. LaVern leads these monthly events. We were interviewed by a writer to be included in the Rise N Shine Collaborative Blog. The IDA staff have worked very hard to make this and The Merchant Assistance Program a success. I invite the public to attend these events. These meetings provide valuable information for new, potential and existing businesses. They are free of charge and provide thousands of dollars in consulting.

For information on the Schedule along with how to sign up please contact LaVern Dillard at 434-848-0248.

- LaVern and I participated in National Night Out. We were lucky enough to be tasked with the highly sought shaved ice snow/cone booth. The well-attended annual event is a late summer treat. My son, Evan especially loved the bounce house and the Everett Gibson lawn mower Train. His exact words “One more time dada” Thank you to Brunswick County Sheriff’s Department for looking out for us and keeping us safe.
- In response to Ms. Anne Williams, question during citizen comments at our August 12th Board Meeting, about the IDA reaching out to Microsoft. I let Ms. Williams know that we are reaching out and collaborating with Mecklenburg County in the Roanoke River Industrial Park. The IDA owns one half of that park and will benefit from the relationship.