

BEAUFORT COUNTY

E C O N O M I C D E V E L O P M E N T



BEAUFORT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD Monthly Board Meeting Minutes December 15, 2021

Present: Chairman Ed Booth, Brian Alligood, Bubs Carson, Dr. David Loope, Al Powell, Randy Roark, Commissioner Rebholtz, Andy Fisher, Joy McRoy

Absent: Ricky Credle, Archie Griffin, Don Sadler, Dylan Bowen, Clif Williams, Rich Morin, Chad Keech

Other Attendees: Martyn Johnson, Al Powell, Trey Goodson, Vicky Hamill, Gregory Smith, Susan Squires, Kasey Ginsberg, Jenny Tinklebaugh

Welcome: Chairman Ed Booth

Introduction: Martyn Johnson

Speaker: Scott T. Hamilton, President, CEO GLF

Scott T. Hamilton became president of the Golden LEAF Foundation in November 2019. Mr. Hamilton previously served as executive director of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) located in Washington, D.C., He has also served in leadership roles with various county and regional economic development organizations within North Carolina. He most recently served as president and CEO of Advantage West, a nonprofit regional economic development partnership serving the 23 westernmost counties of North Carolina.

Mr. Hamilton is a current member and past president of the North Carolina Economic Developers Association and has held leadership positions with numerous boards and organizations across North Carolina, including the North Carolina Economic Development Board. He served for 11 years as a gubernatorial appointee to the North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Hamilton received additional training and certification in economic development from the University of North Carolina School of Government and the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is also a graduate of the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma and the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center's Rural Economic Development Institute.

Overview of Golden Leaf Foundation and Future Priorities

Golden LEAF was created to receive 50 percent of the annual payments made by cigarette manufacturers to North Carolina under the 1999 Master Settlement Agreement that included 46 states. State leaders at the time recognized the opportunity to create an organization and build an endowment dedicated to economic transformation across our state, rather than simply spend the money every year in the state budget.

Through the efforts of our Board of Directors, we have built an endowment that has funded hundreds of millions of dollars in grants and covered all operating expenses with investment income alone.

Golden LEAF's mission is to increase economic opportunity in North Carolina's rural and tobacco-dependent communities through leadership in grantmaking, collaboration, innovation, and stewardship as an independent and perpetual foundation.

Golden LEAF was entrusted with funds on behalf of all North Carolinians. It's not the Foundation's money. Golden LEAF invests it carefully and thoughtfully, earning returns in line with foundations of similar size while taking far less risk than average.

LEAF stands for Long-Term Economic Advancement Foundation.

Golden LEAF launched a strategic planning process in July 2020. The Golden LEAF Board adopted their new FY 2022-2026 strategic plan at their February 2021 Board meeting.

Purpose: How can Golden LEAF be more efficient, effective, and impactful in achieving our mission?

Stakeholder Engagement: Interviews, listening sessions and surveys of more than 1,000 people across North Carolina.

Next Steps: Launched revised Open Grants Program in July with a new site program. Exploring additional new opportunities.

Strategic Priorities for Fiscal Year 2022-2026

To increase job creation and economic investment in rural, economically distressed, and tobacco-dependent communities.

To improve workforce preparedness in rural, economically distressed and tobacco-dependent communities.

To increase the value of North Carolina's Agriculture industry.

To improve the competitiveness, capacity, and vitality of targeted communities.

To have, and be recognized for excellence, in organizational collaboration, innovation, and impact.

Golden LEAF along with its's scholarship program, provides grant funding to help move the needle for economic progress. Golden Leaf considers projects within the Open Grants Program, Community-Based Grants Initiative, Economic Catalyst and Site Development Initiative. Funding is awarded to those projects that create and retain jobs, attract new business, expand industries, and train new workers. Golden Leaf Foundation is governed by a board of directors appointed by leaders of the North Carolina Legislative and Executive branches of government. For the last 20 years the foundation has invested in the future of North Carolina.

Key factors for grant funding are to show demonstrated collaboration with community partners, a clear path to job creation, and will it be sustainable once funded? Mr. Hamilton said ultimately their goal to try to find a pathway to say "yes".

Community Reports:

Aurora, Clif Williams: Absent Martyn Johnson advised Scott Hamilton had been to Aurora and met with Clif Williams and Kurt Ryan about the Aurora Industrial Park. The meeting went well, and Mr. Hamilton was impressed with the progress and hoped Golden Leaf Foundation could provide further assistance.

Bath, Bubs Carson: The Annual Christmas Parade included Commissioners Waters, Booth and Rebholz, Al Powell from STEM, Representative Kidwell, Dr. Loope from BCCC and the Mayor of Belhaven, Ricky Craven. Bath was awarded 5 million dollars in the state budget which will be utilized to improve the sewer system and start the process to provide services to others. The young man who fell out of a family vehicle in the parade did break a bone but is doing fine, he will be in a wheelchair for a while but recovering well.

Belhaven, Ricky Craven: Absent

Chocowinity, Joy McRoy: Everything is going well in Chocowinity and no news to report.

Washington, Don Sadler: Absent

Washington Park Dylan Bowen: Absent

Community College Update, Dr. Loope: The college continues to offer customized and specialized training to several industries, Nutrien, AAF Flanders, PAS, IDX, Pamlico Yachts, County Road Seafood and is now working on a Brewery Certification through Mulberry House. Upcoming training: Air BnB Entrepreneurship Academy in May. Dr Loope announced and distributed the Spring 2022 Course Schedule Book.

County Update, Commissioner John Rebholtz: At the December meeting Frankie Waters was reelected as Chair and Jerry Langley as Vice Chair of the Beaufort County Commissioners. The County audit produced zero exceptions. There were a couple exceptions at DSS. The County fund balance is approximately 9 million dollars. Increased revenue received was due to increased value in personal property. The Commissioners discussed a Strategic Plan for Beaufort County and will be addressed at the planning retreat at the end of January.

Beaufort County Business Update, Randy Roark: Unable to complete call from his phone.

NC East Alliance Update, Trey Goodson: Just finished the Webinar Untapped Talent Pool Hiring People with Disabilities on December 2. Laura Ulrich, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, will be presenting annual economic update following the pandemic. Project Teek announced in Edenton their expansion into North Carolina. They planned to visit Beaufort County but had to cancel, they hope to reschedule in the New Year as they look for a location.

Beaufort County Schools CTE, Vicky Hammill: We have a couple teachers who are taking training with the NC Ties(North Carolina Technology in Educations Society). Also currently finalizing a contractor for our Boat Building location, the Dept of Public Instruction looking over the fine print to ensure everything is correct. You can follow the schools at [BCS CTE Facebook](#), [BCS_CTE Instagram](#) and [BCS_CTE](#) on Twitter.

NCWORKS Update: Greg Smith: Jobs Jobs Jobs! They have openings available all the way from biscuit maker to construction and boat building. Not enough people to fill positions. Martyn stated that MJM Yachts is seeking 120 new employees.

Director's Reports & Budget, Martyn Johnson: Recap of visit of Scott Hamilton to Aurora. Aurora leadership presented their progress of the Industrial Park and the BCCC satellite campus in part due to funding from Golden LEAF. The Aurora Leadership Council and Bill Booth of Alpha Life met with Mr. Hamilton to discuss the challenges in Aurora and their vision for the future. Beaufort County remains a Tier 2 County, our current challenge is to maintain and attract young people and families. There are jobs, what the county needs is to create a community where people want to live work and play. Vicky Hammill added there are wonderful assets, but Beaufort County is lacking daycare and preschool

facilities, we need to become a more family orientated community. Al Powell said students say they can't wait to leave because there is nothing to do here for a young person. Susan Squires mentioned a member of her Leadership Beaufort group said as a single female there is nowhere to go after 5 pm, not to mention she can't afford to go out and spend \$50 at a restaurant for a cheeseburger. Martyn also mentioned the lack of affordable housing for young families, we have the jobs, but we need to develop more resources.

The Economic Development Budget is on track.

The Washington-Warren Airport was awarded 20 million dollars in the new state budget, thanks to Keith Kidwell.

Commissioner Rebholz asked about who is driving the economic development of the 20 million and how will it be allocated? Martyn replied the "airport" is driving the development of the airport and he is involved in the economic development projects spinning off the development of the airport. There was discussion amongst the board regarding the economic impact to Beaufort County.

Rise29 had their graduation ceremonies, and we look forward to another group in the spring.

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Rebholz

Second: Dr. Loope