

Economic Development Group of Wabash County



Dedicated to creating economic and employment opportunities for the people and businesses of Wabash County.

EDG President testifies at the Indiana State Senate for SB 17.

The President of EDG testified at the Indiana State Senate as the representative of the Indiana Economic Development Association on December 18, 2007. Mr. Konyha also wrote letters to Senators Weatherwax and Dillon, both are members of the Senate Committee of Taxation. The testimony focused upon a number of issues that the IEDA has with Senate Bill 17 and the President's letters focused upon the clause that proposes to add a petition/remonstrance process to TIF and Tax Abatement.

The IEDA offered compromise on many of the issues in the bill, but do not feel they can compromise on the petition/remonstrance issue. The time involved in this process will significantly delay the start of any project and negatively effect the ability of a company to begin production. They believe this will seriously harm Indiana's ability to use TIF as a business attraction tool and damage the ability to win competitive expansion and retention projects.

The IEDA feels that attraction projects will avoid Indiana if we can not commit to TIF and abatement. Very few companies will subject themselves to the voluntary scrutiny that comes hand and hand with this bill when they can just as easily move their projects to other states that don't have these issues.

If you would like a copy of Mr. Konyha's testimony or would like to find out more information about SB 17 or who to write with your concerns on this bill please contact the EDG offices.



Actions of the Board

Economic Development Group's monthly board meeting was held on January 8, 2008 at 7:30 am in the EDG boardroom. The board reviewed minutes from the December board meeting, year end financial reports, and the president's report. There were no new business items to be discussed at this meeting.

Mr. Konyha reviewed with the board the 2008 Marketing Plan which is a establishes measurable outcomes of the various marketing efforts proposed for the upcoming year. Highlights of this plan include trips to tradeshow, meeting with site selection consultants, commercial and industrial developers and realtors, upgrading the website and creation of new marketing materials being developed by a local graphic artist and printing company.

The board also discussed handouts from Vieste, LLC, Nathan Feltman, the SB 17 testimony and NEIRMP Wabash County Information Report. (which will be handed out at EDG's Annual Meeting).

EDG Board of Directors

Jeffery Kellam, Chair

Ralph Naragon, Vice Chair

Ken Perkins, Treasurer

Robert Vanlandingham

Skip Daughtry

Dan Hannaford

Rob Pearson

Bill Reed

Lester Templin

President's Report January 2008



William S. Konyha
President

These items were reported on by the President:

- Wabash AgriProducts, Inc (WAP): Mr. Comparato and the President met with the landowners and advised them of intent to exercise our options to purchase said land. Formal notification drafted by legal council has been executed by all parties. The escrow agreements require us to place two earnest money deposits into separate escrow accounts. The earnest deposits will be deducted from the purchase price upon closing, or forfeited if we fail to close. WAP has executed identical escrow notices of exercise of options and escrow agreements with EDG. WAP will fund the earnest money deposits.
- The President has identified a local graphic artist to work with us to develop the print material that will be used for our marketing program. This material will be used to drive readers to the EDG website and will be printed by a local printer.
- The President met with a number of business attraction leads near the end of December. Some of these leads include a possible micro brewery in downtown Wabash, a company that has patented a method for constructing commercial windmill blades which is seeking a location from which they can be manufactured, a methanol generating facility which would compliment both Poet Energy and Vieste, LLC, a health care related enterprise in the Northern end of the County and a distribution point in the Midwest for a grill manufacture.

Wabash County Connections



For the latest news from:

**Economic Development
Group**

Wabash Marketplace, Inc.

**Wabash County Chamber of
Commerce**

**Wabash County Convention
and Visitors Bureau**

**North Manchester Chamber
of Commerce**

NEIRMP Wabash County Information Report

Northeast Indiana Regional Marketing Partnership has handed in an extensive Wabash County Information Report that was prepared by The Center for Economic and Community Development: Office of Building Better Communities, Ball State University.

The contents of this report include detailed information pertaining to: Basic County Information, LEDO's Vision for Future Economy, Current Marketing Focus, Current Marketable Assets, Development Challenges, Current Economic Development Initiatives, Current Basic Employer Mix, Potential Basic Employer Mix (plus 10 years), Wabash County Demographic and Economic Profile, and a IMPLAN Analysis.

These reports will be available to all EDG Members who attend our Annual Meeting in March of 2008 (exact date will be announced soon). If you are interested in receiving a report before then please contact Abby Hoy at the EDG offices.

**We are always happy to hear from our members! Questions or concerns?
Please contact us at 260-563-5258 or by email at info@edgwc.com**