



Economic Development Group of Wabash County



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

EDG Awards Duffy Electric with a Training and Incubation Grant

Duffy Electric & Automation / Duffy Machine & Millwright was awarded at \$2550.00 Training and Incubation Grant by Economic Development Group of Wabash County, Inc. Duffy is a "home grown" business which currently employs nearly 50 employees in high skill and high wage positions. Duffy is the employer paying the highest wages and benefits that EDG could identify outside of Manchester College in the North Manchester area. Duffy's employee's work in the electronic automation control installation, service and machine installation and maintenance industries. They have recently purchased a vacant building in the North Manchester Industrial Park and are currently growing faster than expected.

Ben McLaughlin, Training Director for Duffy Electric, is planning on attending a NASP training conference to gain certification status so that he can instruct the Duffy staff in certain aspects of job safety. The company needs to add this component in order for them to maintain certain contracts and to acquire additional contracts. This training will add value to the company and will enable its employees to gain value through training issued by the company as a certified trainer.

EDG checked with the IEDC and the Work One centers to see if they would consider funding or assisting in funding these grants but neither organization had funding available. EDG decided to support this grant completely because they feel like any training that Duffy can secure that enhances the long term viability of the company is positive for Wabash County.



Actions of the Board

Economic Development Group's monthly board meeting was held on March 4, 2008 at 7:30 am in the EDG Board Room. The board reviewed minutes from the February board meeting, monthly financial reports, and the President's Report. There was one New Business Items (NBI) to approve.

New Business Item 03-08-01 authorized a Training and Incubation Grant for Duffy Electric & Automation/ Duffy Machine & Millwright for the amount of \$2,550.00. After brief discussion the Board Passed this unanimously.

Tentative dates were set and discussed for the annual dinner. Dates will be announced as soon as Mr. Konyha hears back from possible speaker.

Membership was discussed. In 2008 EDG set a goal for a 10% increase in membership. To date membership is running on schedule and there should be no problem reaching the 10% increase goal. Mr. Konyha discussed the marketing report with board as well. Currently there are many new and exciting marketing possibilities in the works for EDG.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 am.

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 March 2008

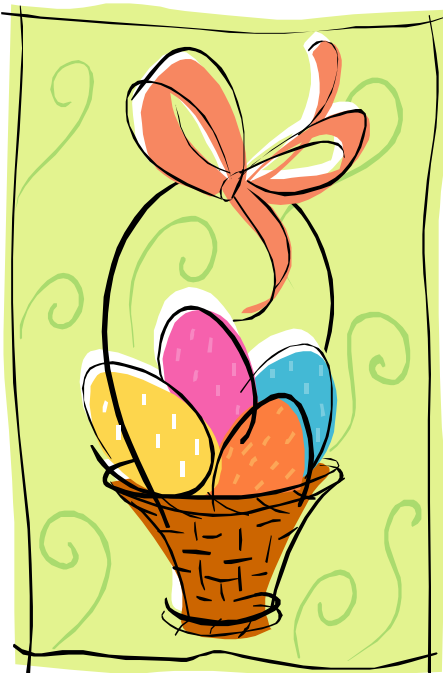


William S. Konyha
President

These items were reported on by the President:

- Wabash AgriProducts, Inc (WAP): EDG is currently working with WAP to get the real estate transaction closed as rapidly as possible, it is expected to be done by the end of March. WAP will take title of all 216 plus acres and then will sell EDG the residual area (216-50 to 60 for the ethanol plant) upon closing the TIF. The revenue to retire the TIF bonds will come from the WAP ethanol plant via revenue bonds. EDG is currently dealing with two more potential occupants representing \$25 million to \$205 million of additional investment in the park. The could cut the WAP liability by nearly 50%.
- TIF Districts: The President presented the idea of identifying TIF Districts and declaring sites as Re-development or as Economic Redevelopment Districts in advance of the passage of SB 17. A presentation was made to the City of Wabash Economic Redevelopment Commission and to the MEDCOR Board of North Manchester. They were well received in both places.
- The President went on a marketing trip and met with all the project managers from IEDC and presented information about Wabash County and some of our available sites. We did so in an effort to familiarize them with Wabash so that they will feel more at ease in recommending Wabash County and our sites to any prospects.
- The President met with three additional prospects for the Wabash entertainment district. All three are existing businesses looking to expand into the area. Each could be a valuable addition.
- EDG is currently working to apply for funding from the DNR via Homeland Security to acquire ground in North Manchester which is in a flood plain. This land would create an additional park for the area. The funds may not be available until August 2008.

EDG would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy Easter!



State Treasurer to speak at Annual Meeting

EDG holds an annual meeting for all of it's members to discuss pervious year business such as financials, grants, loans and programs. This is also the time that we elect any Board of Director chairs that are up for replacement/re-elections.

Most importantly it is a chance for our members to give the EDG Board and Staff guidance as to where they would like to see the organization go in the future. We value our members support and use this forum to discuss any ideas for the future of Wabash County that they may have.

This year EDG has secured Indiana State Treasurer Richard Mourdock to speak at our annual meeting. It should be an exciting and informative evening as we review the progress we made in 2007 and listen to Treasurer Mourdock speak. Please be looking for your invitation to arrive in the coming days.

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