

Economic Development Group of Wabash County



Dedicated to Creating Economic and Employment Opportunities for the People and Businesses of Wabash County.

Poet Hosts Grand Opening of their North Manchester Plant

POET hosted a grand opening ceremony for its North Manchester plant on September 11th. POET, the largest producer of biofuels in the world, was joined at the opening of POET Biorefining - North Manchester by Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels and Cathy Gallmeyer, Director of the Lugar Northeast Indiana Community Service.

"Right here in North Manchester, we are making a difference." Jeff Broin, CEO of POET, said. "The ethanol that will be produced in this facility will displace over 60 million gallons of fossil fuels annually - decreasing our dependence on foreign oil and saving consumers money at the pump."

"With its third Indiana facility, POET is quickly becoming a household name in our small towns," said Governor Daniels. "This new North Manchester facility means more good jobs and an important market for our Hoosier farmers."

"The opening of the POET facility in Wabash County near North Manchester represents a crucial step in the diversification of our economy," said Bill Konyha, President/CEO of the Economic Development Group of Wabash County. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to partner with an enterprise the caliber of POET on this project and would like to pledge our continued support for their efforts in the northeast Indiana region."

POET Biorefining - North Manchester will utilize 22 million bushels of corn from the area to produce 65 million gallons of ethanol and 178,000 tons of Dakota Gold Enhanced Nutrition Distillers Products™ per year. Ethanol marketing for the facility is provided by POET Ethanol Products and byproducts are marketed by POET Nutrition. Rail access is through Norfolk Southern. The \$130 million facility employs 42 people with an annual payroll above \$2 million.



*Governor Mitch Daniels
Addresses the Crowd at
Poet's Grand Opening.*

EDG Board of Directors

Jeffery Kellam, Chair

Ken Perkins, Vice Chair

Dan Hannaford, Secretary

Ralph Naragon, Treasurer

Robert Vanlandingham

Skip Daughtry

Rob Pearson

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Actions of the Board

Economic Development Group's monthly board meeting was held on September 9, 2008 at 7:30 am in the EDG Board Room. The board reviewed minutes from the August Board Meeting, monthly financial reports, loan portfolio and the President's Report. There were no new business items to address at this meeting.

Mr. Konyha stated that we will be holding a special Finance Committee meeting sometime during the month of September to review 2009 budget and 2007 Audit Report. Once the Finance Committee has reviewed and approved the 2009 budget it will be presented to the board at the October board meeting for approval.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 am.

President's Report September 2008



William S. Konyha
President

These items were reported on by the President:

- Wabash Agri-Park—The application for a special exception seeking approval from the Country BZA to zone the subject property to an Industrial Park has been submitted. EDG will sought the County Plan Commission recommendation during its September meeting and the BZA will conduct a public hearing at on the 23rd of the month. This is a requirement for the Forever Green Enterprises project. The President presented the zoning request to the County Plan Commission on September 3rd. After discussion the Plan Commission granted the unanimous recommendation.
- North Manchester TIF- The President prepared a Declaratory Resolution and the Confirming Resolution for the North Manchester Economic Redevelopment Commission. They will be used for five sites including the Industrial Park. EDG gathered deeds and prepared legal descriptions from them in anticipation of advancing the project. The President presented the information to the Board of MEDCOR and was authorized to meet with bond council to discuss and resolve several related issues. MEDCOR also authorized the EDG to prepare the economic development plan for the sites.
- Kurz Kasch, Inc.— The private equity owner of Wabash Magnetics, Kurz Kasch, Inc., announced in Dayton, Ohio its intent to consolidate 200 manufacturing jobs to Miamisburg. The project will result in the closure of the Wabash plant with the loss of 78 jobs. Mike Schmitz, the VP of Finance advised IEDC that the decision was based upon factors that make the most sense for the project. He added that it made more sense for them to stay in the greater Dayton area, close to their Sales and Engineering facility and to be as close to their customer base as possible.

EDG's New Website Launched August 14th!

EDG is excited to announce that its new website went live on August 14th. This project helps to give the website a fresh look along with making it easier to navigate and more informative. Most importantly the website brings Wabash County up-to-date with the information site selectors, our main target audience, expect to see online. In today's state-of-the-art world a website is the first impression a potential client has of our organization/community. Not only is it vital that they don't have to "dig" for the information they find essential, but we must put everything that Wabash County can offer into the forefront. The new website, which was paid for in part by a grant from The Community Foundation of Wabash County, does just that.

EDG worked with local businesses to bring the website to completion. The staff of Visionary Web, who hosted and developed the old website, met with EDG staff on multiple occasions to help bring the vision of the new website to life. Visionary Web also assisted us in updating some of the text. Lori Overmyer was hired to take photographs at local businesses and some of Wabash County residents' favorite attractions. These images are shown at the top of each page as you travel through the website.

EDG is also working with NIPSCO's Economic Development site to make our "available properties" section as informative and current as possible. Linking with the NIPSCO site allows EDG to update not only our own webpage but multiple other Economic Development sites at the same time. Included in these sites are: NIPSCO, Indiana Business Research Center, and the Indiana State Economic Development site.

EDG wants to express its gratitude to those assisting in the creation of the site and to all the local businesses that allowed Ms. Overmyer to visit and take pictures, including: Ford Meter Box, Wabash County Hospital, The Honeywell Center, Manchester College, Visionary Web, Wabash County Historical Museum, Harvey Industries, Strauss Veal Farm and One World Handcrafts, Inc.



A screen shot from the new website which launched August 14, 2008.

[View the New Website Here!](#)