

MINUTES
Taskforce for the 21st Century
September 17, 2008
State Capitol Room 151
10:00 a.m.

Chair Dianne Lamberth called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

Members present: Dianne Lamberth, John Ahlen, Gene Eagle/Mac Dodson, Bill Ferren, Maria Haley, James Hendren, Pat Lea, Sam Walls, Gary Campbell by proxy, and Jim Youngquist.

Members absent: Judy Adams, John Barnes, Clay Curtner, Guy Fenter, Gene Hill, Brad Lacy, Mike Maulden, and Chris Masingill.

Staff present: Lisa Cogbill, Mike Gerfen, Randy Wright and Terre McLendon.

Guest present: Karon Rosa, Arkansas Dept. of Higher Education.

A motion to accept the amended minutes from the September 11th meeting was passed.

A motion passed with one member abstaining to endorse a recommendation, understanding the challenge of proper execution, that the State be allowed to take equity position in private enterprises.

Mike Gerfen recapped the discussion regarding organizational structure of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Arkansas Science & Technology Authority, and the Arkansas Development Finance Authority:

- There should be a “one-stop-shop” website that links all state services, programs and incentives that support economic development.
- The State should develop a statewide economic development plan that involves all state agencies.
- The 104 talent development programs should be consolidated where possible and closely linked to the economic development agencies.
- AEDC, ADFA and ASTA should co-locate with ample parking.
- Develop and fund a dedicated revenue stream for funding 21st century businesses.
- Increase funding for AEDC and ASTA.

Maria Haley noted that AEDC’s strategic plan is being reviewed by the Governor’s Office and the task force should include a recommendation that Arkansas develop a statewide economic development plan. Maria will send incentive comparisons to IEA.

11:45 – the task force broke for lunch and reconvened at 12:15.

Task Force members present prioritized role and scope statements by importance. Each member was given 19 votes: Education (K-12), 2 votes; Education (Post-Secondary), 3 votes; Education (Workforce), 4 votes; Research and Development, 2 votes; Entrepreneurship, 2 votes; Risk Capital, 1 vote; Existing Business Innovation, 3 votes; Infrastructure, 1 vote; and “Other Economic Development,” 1 vote. Members unable to attend the meeting were given the opportunity to

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prioritize their choices electronically and submitted their ballots to Terre McLendon at IEA. Results will be available at the September 23rd meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd at 10 a.m. at the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Cogbill.