

GREENE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Greene County is known as an area able to promote growth but maintain its small town atmosphere.

To check our growth we reviewed the goals set by the Mapping Group in 2005.

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| 1. Investigate the possibility of Value added Ag projects. | <i>Soy Oil plants</i> |
| 2. Conduct business retention & expansion survey. | <i>In final review</i> |
| 3. Conduct a countywide economic development group. | <i>Going strong</i> |
| 4. Create zoning and building codes countywide. | <i>Need zoning for rural development</i> |
| 5. Promote and coordinate tourism. | <i>Sandra an associate member of Greene County Tourism Committee</i> |

Sandra attended the IIRA Economic Development conference in Peoria. Among the sessions she attended was, Entrepreneurialship with a Rural Flavor which conveyed promoting local assets, history, natural features and cottage industries = Specialty Businesses.

Many of us attended the "Oil Refinery" meeting March 24. It was encouraging to attend a meeting with a large industry interested in developing in Greene County. We will keep in contact with Fred Bett, CEO of Gulf Inc. to monitor how the project is progressing.

Ron Coultas from the Illinois Rural Electric Co-op invited us to a meeting/ luncheon, April 11, to rally support from Greene county financial institutions to join the Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation. The EDC would help promote Greene County to outside interests encouraging industry and residential growth. The fee to join this group is \$25,000.00 annually with a five-year commitment.

Good News from Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative; they are developing a Broadband system to reach rural customers.

Group Reports

Business Survey -Robin Hannah from Rural Economic Technical Assistance Center is reviewing our survey

Organization -Rick Keim is compiling information and we will meet in the next few weeks

Funding -

Value added Ag- Ethanol plants need cattle lots to take the by-product where as Soy Oil Plants need Hog lots to take the by-product

Homework review: (1) Non Profit- Grant funding to ease the stress of businesses (2) Business Involvement (3) Farmer feedback; we are a large farming community. (4) Push for Corridor 67, they are looking for funding (Will the Governor stand by his campaign promises?)

Project: Greene County Alms House Rehab. Work with Historical groups, County Board, Government. Can this house be saved? Let's try!

Home Work: Clip news articles of interest to share with group.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. Rockbridge Township Hall in Greenfield