



# COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**September 5, 2018**

**2:00 P.M.**

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council  
1400 Colonial Blvd, Suite 1, Fort Myers, FL 33907

## 1) Welcome and Introductions:

Mr. Kammerer began the meeting at 2:07 pm. The following members were present and introduced themselves.

Warren Baucom	Lee County EDO	C.J. Kammerer	SWFRPC
Karen Dugas	SWFEDA	Sean McCabe	SWFRPC
Terri Hall	City of Cape Coral EDO	Lincoln Price	Collier County EDO
Joshua Hudson	Charlotte County EDO	John Talmage	City of Fort Myers

## 2) Updates:

### a) 2017-2018 Economic Development District (EDD) Accomplishments

Mr. Kammerer recognized that there are several new members to the CEDS Committee. He gave a presentation on the EDD and the staffs' work over the past two years. A basic outline of the topics discussed follows:

- EDD Background and Purpose
- 2017-2022 CEDS
  - 5 Year Rewrite Process
  - Implementation: Transportation
  - Implementation: Workforce Housing
- Disaster Recovery
  - Grant Opportunities
  - EDA Recovery Workshops
- Brownfields
  - EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant
  - DEP South Florida Brownfield Symposiums



- Grant Writing
- REMI Economic Impact Modeling

Mr. Price asked to be sent the slides after the meeting. Mr. Talmage and Ms. Hall asked for more information on the REMI software. Mr. Kammerer agreed to show Mr. Talmage and Ms. Hall the software after the meeting.

**b) 2017-2022 CEDS Submittal-Stats America**

Mr. Kammerer announced that the CEDS document has been submitted to [statsamerica.org](https://statsamerica.org). He explained that Stats America is a useful data site that is funded by EDA. He quickly showed the site to the committee and explained its capabilities, including industry cluster mapping, economic distress data, and location quotient data.

**3) Annual CEDS Update**

**a) Vital Project Updates**

Mr. Kammerer explained that an annual report is due to EDA every year and asked for economic development highlights for each member's area in 2018.

Mr. Baucom explained that the Lee County EDO has been working with the Lee County Port Authority on Skyplex. Skyplex has more than 1,000 acres of commercial land available located in a foreign trade zone.

Mr. Talmage explained that the Fort Myers Riverfront Redevelopment Project has been completed and the Enterprise Center is no longer pursuing the commercial kitchen. He also stressed the importance of Fort Myers' industrial lands, which account for 20% of Lee County's industrial revenue.

Ms. Hall explained that Cape Coral has two multi family housing developments in the works.

**4) Disaster Recovery Coordinator-Disaster Supplemental Funds**

Mr. Kammerer introduced Mr. McCabe as the SWFRPC's Disaster Recovery Coordinator, funded by an EDA grant. Mr. McCabe explained that he has been meeting with long term recovery groups and unmet needs coalitions to gain an understanding of where the region is at in terms of Irma recovery. He stated that the CDBG-DR funding announcement is expected to be released very soon. He stressed that there are still a lot of people who are suffering but going unnoticed.



Mr. Talmage explained that there is overlap between the Hurricane Irma disaster money and the red tide / algae bloom disaster money and it would be beneficial to have a matrix of the differences between the two.

Mr. Baucom explained that the red tide money is mostly focused on small businesses. He also announced that SBA has issued a disaster declaration for SWFL businesses affected by algae and red tide.

#### **5) Regional Transportation Map**

Mr. Kammerer presented an interactive regional transportation map developed by the RPC that is available on their website.

#### **6) Future Direction of the EDD**

Mr. Kammerer asked for recommendations on how EDD staff can be of more assistance to the CEDS Committee members.

Mr. Talmage suggested that the RPC work on creating a master list of the software and resources that each CEDS member organization has access to and allow sharing of the usernames and passwords for those resources. He explained that Fort Myers is working with ES202 data and SBA CDC loans.

Mr. McCabe asked if there is a need for business continuity planning. Mr. Talmage assisted with recovery of Hurricane Katrina and Megan. He explained that the credit bureaus do a good job with helping businesses. Mr. Baucom added that Lee County used to host hurricane preparedness trainings with the SBDC, but attendance was not strong enough to continue.

#### **a) CEDS Membership**

Mr. Kammerer asked if there were any nominations for membership. The Committee suggested reaching out to Mr. Dana Brunett to rejoin the Committee. Mr. Brunett was a member representing the City of Cape Coral who recently joined the SBDC.

#### **b) 2018-19 Meeting Dates and Locations**

The Committee suggested combining future CEDS meetings with SWFEDA meetings to increase attendance. Mr. Kammerer agreed with that suggestion. Ms. Dugas agreed to take that suggestion to her executive director, Ms. Susan Pareigis. She also stated that the next SWFEDA meeting will take place on September 14, at 9:30 am at the Naples Chamber of Commerce.



**7) Grant Activity**

This item was for informational purposes. Relevant economic development grants were already explained during Item 2a.

**8) Public Comments**

There were no members of the public present.

**9) CEDS Committee Comment**

Mr. Talmage asked if Florida's EDA representative could attend an upcoming CEDS Committee meeting. He also explained that he is working with Cigent Technology, Inc. on cybersecurity.

**10) Adjournment**

Mr. Kammerer adjourned the meeting at 2:59.