



**MERIWETHER COUNTY INDUSTRIAL  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**Official Minutes**

**March 13, 2023**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Meriwether County Administration Building  
Commissioners Chambers**

Members Present: Rosla Plant; Danny Hosey; Freddie Hines; Mary Bray

Member Absent: Allen Parham

Staff: Jane Fryer, Velinda Walton

Others: Michelle Irizarry, Meriwether County Administrator; Kevin Brown, Attorney Seyfarth; Dr. Robert Griffin, Superintendent of Meriwether County Schools; Dawn Woodard, CTAE Director, Meriwether County Schools; Erin Cook, Southern Rivers; Ken Pope, Diverse Power; Eric Hiben, VP of Communications Plant, Diverse Power.

Chairman Rosla Plant called the regularly scheduled monthly Meriwether County Industrial Development Authority meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Mr. Danny Hosey conducted the invocation and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Mr. Freddie Hines for approval of the March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Agenda with one correction being made that the Sale of Property to Mr. David Moreland added beneath Old Business. Ms. Mary Bray seconded the motion with the one correction. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes/Planning Session, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023: A motion was made by Mr. Freddie Hines for approval of the February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Meeting Minutes/Planning Session as presented. Mr. Hosey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report as of /Jane Fryer: Ms. Fryer presented and explained the February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Financial Statement to the Board. Chairman Plant made a motion to approve the February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Financial Statement as presented. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

**Broadband update: (on our short-term plan):**

Southern Rivers EMC/Erin Cook: Ms. Cook gave a brief bio of herself and the role she plays with Southern Rivers. She stated that five years ago in March 2019, they were approved by the State to partner with Conexon Connect to be able to service people in the Southern Rivers Service areas with Broadband Internet. They agreed to serve 100% of their members with completion being July 2023.

Ms. Cook stated they are in the construction is being done in phases such as Phase 1 – completion; Phase 2 is underway; Conexon Connect will reach out to the members that have signed up for Broadband Service. One must register online to receive updates. Post card mailers to all members; Conexon Connect is the actual provider, if one signs up for this service during the phase Southern Rivers is currently in, there will be no connection fee and one may go to Facebook for Southern Rivers and Conexon Connect.

There are 12,604 service locations which 44% are unserved by Broadband and 2,437 Southern Rivers Electric location in Meriwether County which 91% are served. Conexon offers symmetrical speeds and the following service packages monthly will be available: 100 M, \$49.95; 1 Gig, 79.95 and 2 Gigs is \$99.95 and the managed Wi-Fi is \$4.95 per month. Ms. Cook also stated that they tailor business packages to their needs. Also, if one is not a member of Southern Rivers, they handle them on a case by case basis.

Diverse Power EMC/Eric Hiben: Mr. Eric Hiben, Vice-President, Communications Plant at Diverse Power introduced himself and gave a brief bio of his role with the company. They have 720 fiber customers. They will have 100 Gig multi-rings throughout the coverage area. Diverse will complete 100 miles this year and it will take 3 to 5 years for completion of the high-speed internet fiber.

Mr. Hiben stated last year Diverse Power built the Fiber Backbone for High -Speed Internet to service people that do not have access. The service will be run from northern LaGrange, Hogansville and Allie Road in the northern section of the county. Diverse Power has run strands from the Diverse Power sub-station in Durand across Crowder Road to the Roosevelt Memorial Airport outside of Warm Springs. The airport should have high-speed internet service active by next month. Diverse will install lines to the main highways and branch out to the side roads in the future.

Waste to Energy Presentation (on our long-term plan)/Danny Hosey: Mr. Danny Hosey stated that he is employed with the Mitsubishi Power Company that is creating a future that works for people and the planet by developing innovative power generation technology and solutions to enable the decarbonization of energy and deliver reliable power everywhere. He stated the company turns specialized waste to energy and there are 75 in the United States. This process reduces materials by 90% and weight by 75%.

It is a process of non-recyclable waste materials. Mr. Hosey explained the different processes of turning waste to energy.

Taxes paid by Industry/Jane Fryer: Ms. Fryer presented and explained the taxes paid by industries in Meriwether County beginning with the paid taxes from the industries located in the Meriwether Industrial Park from year 2022. The total taxes paid by the industrial park companies was \$690,069.26 and the taxes paid by other industries in Meriwether County was \$580,931.75 with the total of all industries in the County totaling to \$1,271,000.51.


Ms. Fryer informed the Board that Mr. Theron Gay and Ms. Michelle Irizarry had met with Mr. David Moreland concerning the two acres located on the corner of Harmony Church and Thompson Waddell Road. The agreement states that if Mr. Moreland did not locate the airport house on the property that the land will revert back to the county. The county returned the \$5,000 back to Mr. Moreland because the house will be moved to another site. Mr. Hosey made a motion to agree with a purchaser transfer agreement with Mr. David Moreland to return the two acres located on the corner of Harmony Church and Waddell Road back to Meriwether County. Mr. Freddie Hines seconded the motion. Three yes votes to approve the motion with Chairman Plant abstaining. Motion carried.

Old Business/Jane Fryer/KB Autosys Grant & Entrance: Ms. Fryer informed everyone that the \$500,000 State Grant was awarded to KB Autosys Facility. The company is ready to begin hiring employees. Ms. Michelle Irizarry stated they are still waiting on the response to the letter from the Georgia Department of Transportation concerning the entrance to the company.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Hines and seconded by Mrs. Bray. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Velinda Walton, Secretary

  
Rosla Plant, Chairman