

Governor's Rural Task Force

Meeting #4 – December 15, 2015, 2:00pm-4:00pm CST
Dept. of Ag., Ellington Agricultural Center, Ed Jones Auditorium

Welcome and Task Force Introduction, Co-Chairs

Presentation #1 – Tennessee Wildlife Federation, Mike Butler, CEO

The Economic Value of TN's Great Outdoors: Why Should I Care

Recommendation: Use TN's renewable, natural resources to have a more intentional economic impact by thinking creatively, protecting the goose that lays the golden egg, and investing in our public resources.

Presentation #2 – Jackson Energy Authority, Steve Bowers, Manager of Communications and Government Relations

Tennessee Fiber Optic Communities – The Necessity of Broadband in Rural TN

Recommendation: Invest in fiber networks to keep Tennessee competitive. Fiber benefits many areas including education, agriculture, healthcare, and job creation.

Presentation #3 – City of Crossville & Chamber of Commerce, David Rutherford, City Manager and J. Bradley Allamong, President & CEO

The Rural Communities Initiative (The Horizon Project)

Recommendation: Create community partnership to addresses challenges such as workforce issues, aging population, poverty, and drug abuse. Crossville is using a 7-step process in their community: (1) Determination, (2) Partnership/Collaboration, (3) Development of Fundamentals, (4) Community Visioning, (5) Adoption/Sanctioning by Elected Bodies, (6) Implementation Strategy, and (7) Community Reporting.

Presentation #4 – Community Economic Development Network of East TN, Carol Judy

Economic Diversity and Value Added Products

Recommendations: Diversify the economy and prioritized rural development efforts that support a healthy community and environment. Protect the mountains to maintain whole, healthy ecosystems. Address the changing energy landscape through workforce transition for coal miners.

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Presentation #5 – King University, Samantha Lane

Using King University as a Resource in Rural Communities, Specifically in Education / Health Care

Recommendation: Partner with King University to serve rural communities because (1) the University will go where the students are and provide classes at community colleges, employers, etc. and (2) the University has Education and Nursing programs where required clinical hours for students can be used to serve rural communities.

Presentation #6 – Southwest Tennessee Human Resource Agency, Mark Chandler, WIOA Workforce Development Coordinator

Results of Recent Economic Analysis Done for West Tennessee

Recommendation: Use the [recent economic analysis](#) as a tool and resource for efforts to help these communities and share this analysis with other partners.

Presentation #7 – Statewide Organization for Community eMpowerment, Patrick Morales, Board President

The POWER+ Plan and New Opportunities for Appalachian Tennessee after Coal

Recommendation: Support the POWER+ Plan by sending letters to federal representatives or through a statement/resolution from your community or organization.

Presentation #8 – Nashville Technology Council, Bryan Huddleston, President & CEO

Build a Tech Workforce in Tennessee's Non-Urban Communities

Recommendation: Create rural technology hubs to create high quality jobs in rural areas and reduce the number of unfilled technology jobs.

TNECD Broadband Initiative, Amanda Martin

We need your help encouraging participation in the statewide broadband assessment that will launch January 5th. We will be looking at access, adoption, and utilization of Broadband.

Closing Remarks, Co-Chairs

Next Meeting: January 19, 2016, 2-4 pm CST, Ellington Agricultural Center, Jones Auditorium