

Governor's Rural Task Force

Meeting #5 – January 19, 2016, 2:00pm-4:00pm CST
Ellington Agricultural Center, Ed Jones Auditorium

Welcome and Task Force Introduction, Co-Chairs

Presentation #1 – Celina, Clay County, TN, Dale Regan, Mayor; Ray Norris, Clay County Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Doug Young, Clay County Chairman

Ideas from Celina, TN

Recommendations:

- Improve sewer infrastructure to allow for development,
- Build bypass around Celina to redirect tractor trailers and other large vehicles to make the downtown area safer and more attractive for retail businesses,
- Support small businesses so they are competitive and long lasting,
- Provide lower grant match requirements for Distressed and At-Risk Counties,
- Reduce the number of unfunded and underfunded mandates from the State or Federal level, and
- Find a new occupant for the 15,000 square foot building in Celina previous occupied by a call center that relocated to Texas.

Presentation #2 – SEAD, Marie Cirillo, Rural Community Developer

Priming the Pump and Redefining Minority

Recommendation: Pursue land reform and protect our natural resources.

Presentation #3 – Appalachian Voices, Amy Kelly, Energy Savings Outreach Coordinator

Utility On-Bill Financing and Rural Economic Development

Recommendations:

- Get involved in the statewide OBF program led by TDEC and TECA,
- Promote and invest local resources in OBF as a driver of local economic development,
- Promote OBF (solar and efficiency) as a key component of the TN Clean Power Plan and Clean Energy Incentive Program, and
- Educate state and local stakeholders.

Presentation #4/5 – USDA Farm Services Agency, Michael Boyd, Farm Services Loan Specialist; **Small Business Administration**, Walter Perry, District Director

Financing Options for Rural Tennessee Businesses

Recommendation: Work with FSA and SBA to encourage business to utilize their loan programs.

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Presentation #6 – Southeast Tennessee Development District, Chuck Hammond, Assistant Executive Director; **University of Tennessee, Knoxville**, Kelly Ellenburg, Service Learning Director
Smart Communities Initiative

Recommendation: Use UTK's Smart Community Initiative to utilize the capacity of University courses to help partner communities meet goals related to economic viability, environmental sustainability, and social integrity.

Presentation #7 – Tennessee Marina Association, Tom Allen

The Economic Impact of Tennessee's Shrinking Summer

Recommendation: Support pending legislation to ensure a later start date for schools to reduce cooling costs for schools and create jobs.

**Presentation #8 – UTK Student Government Environment and Sustainability Committee/
Statewide Organization for Community eMpowerment**, Erica Davis, Chair

Reforming Oil and Gas Severance Tax to Strengthen Rural Tennessee

Recommendation: Support reforming oil and gas severance taxes as a way to strengthen rural Tennessee in this legislative session.

Presentation #9 – Tennessee Distillers Guild, Jeff Arnett, Jack Daniel's Distillery; Billy Kaufman, Short Mountain Distillery; Heath Clark, H. Clark Distillery

Tennessee Distillery Trail

Recommendations:

- Provide funding and marketing support to help launch a Tennessee Distillery Trail and
- Offer incentives for potential distillery owners to establish businesses in rural areas and for existing distilleries to expand their business.

Presentation #10 – City of Martin, Brad Thompson, Director of Economic and Community Development
Retail Strategies and the Retail Academy

Recommendation: Help rural communities maximize the impact of retail through Retail Strategies and their programs such as the Retail Academy.

Closing Remarks, Co-Chairs

Next Meeting: February 16, 2016, 2-4 pm CST, Ellington Agricultural Center, Jones Auditorium