

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

Goal 1: ~~To the county shall~~ recognize the viability of existing businesses and seek to retain their presence in the County and include them in expansion efforts ~~by~~. ~~The county shall~~ providing assistance to the county's State-designated Enterprise Zones ~~and in the County and otherwise~~ pursuing a planned economic growth program that will broaden and increase job and income opportunities; and expands the tax base tax base. ~~The intent of the objectives and policies is to ensure the element includes a means to assess the adequacy of the plan in regulating land uses and development and to provide the county with guidance in the creation of standards and guidelines to meet identified needs.~~ To implement this intent and pursuant to the Florida Florida administrative code, the county will adopt as the basis for its growth and economic decisions the most recently published high-medium range population statistics from the University University of Florida Florida. ~~(which at the time of this amendment are the 1999 high range statistics~~].

Objective 1: ~~The County shall p~~Promote [aw5] the cooperation and coordination among private and public sector organizations to expand existing industries and business, especially within the designated Enterprise Zones.

Policy 1.1:-

~~Upon adoption of this Comprehensive Plan,~~ Wakulla County shall, ~~through its Economic Development Authority,~~ establish business assistance programs with an emphasis on providing incentives for job creation and training. Such incentives shall include, but are not limited to, technical assistance relative to land development and permitting, assistance with infrastructure needs assessment, and coordination with other public agencies providing technical and business assistance. ~~In addition~~

Policy 1.2: -

~~Additionally,~~ ~~t~~The county shall seek to mitigate the harmful effects of the Net Ban on Wakulla's commercial vitality by assisting the State-designated Enterprise Zones in Medart, Panacea, and the Opportunity Park vicinity; in their efforts to replace Wakulla County's lost economic opportunities and further economic expansion.

Policy 1.3:-

The county shall encourage private investment and participation in the Rural Enterprise Zones by making known the State sponsored revitalization incentives available to investors within these zones and by providing technical assistance relative to utilizing those incentive programs, including the following: the Enterprise Zone property tax credit provided in section 220.182, Fla. Stat.; the Enterprise Zone jobs credit provided in section 220.181, Fla. Stat.; the Enterprise Zone jobs credit against the sales tax provided in section 212.096, Fla. Stat.; the community contribution tax credits provided in sections 220.183 and 624.5105, Fla. Stat.; the sales tax exemption for building materials used to rehabilitate real property in Enterprise Zones provided in section

212.08(5)(g), Fla.-Stat.; the sales tax exemption for electrical energy used in an Enterprise Zone provided in section 212.08(15), Fla.-Stat.; the sales tax exemption for business equipment used in an Enterprise Zone provided in section 212.08(5)(h), Fla.-Stat.; and discounts up to 50 percent on tariffed rates for services from public utilities and telecommunications companies as allowed by the Public Service Commission to small businesses located in an Enterprise Zone for a period not to exceed 5 years.

Policy 1.24: -

The County shall assist local businesses registered within the County in promoting growth in higher paying jobs, using the Florida Department of Commerce's "Expansion and Retention of Existing Business" as a guideline resources available from Enterprise Florida^[aw10].

Objective 2: The County will attempt to eExpand ^[aw11]the employment base by 1995 by identifying which businesses and industry jobs can be increased. The current growth of Wakulla County makes it feasible to anticipate that this base can be increased by 8 percent by 1995, and by 15 percent by the year 2,000.

Policy 2.1: -

The Board of County Commissioners shall create an Economic Development Authority (EDA) by charter. The EDA shall be organized consistent with guidelines set by the Florida Department of Commerce Enterprise Florida and shall be subject to the authority of the Board of County Commissioners.

Policy 2.12: -

Start-up funding to implement an EDA shall be pursued through such agencies as the Private Industry Council, the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the Regional Planning Council, and through contact with neighboring counties, and private concerns/entities.

Policy 2.23: -

The objectives of the EDA shall include data collection, which shall include but not be limited to assessment of human resources, support industries and the inventory of presently available commercial facilities, and relevant spatial, socio-economic data in GIS. The EDA shall evaluate needs for and opportunities for establishment of a small business incubator park and an office center and shall report its findings and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

Policy 2.134: -

The County recognizes the importance of tourism as an economic growth industry. The EDA and shall include as a goal the pursuit of growth within the tourism industry, especially tourism that encourages overnight visits, and shall investigate tourism development activities of other counties and recommend specific actions to the Board of County Commissioners.

Policy 2.245: -

The County shall use the resource-based economic opportunities that exist in Wakulla County as a basis for major economic growth. ~~The EDA and~~ shall evaluate techniques used by other jurisdictions for encouraging new businesses and expansion of existing businesses related to seafood, timber, agriculture, aquaculture, water resources, and other ~~resources which~~resources that are dominant in the County.

Policy 2.356:-

The County shall promote ~~adopt land development codes which recognize~~ the economic importance of clean air and water, historic and prehistoric landmarks, and copious natural resources, while encouraging expansion of the business community. This shall be accomplished by evaluating each new regulation in light of its impacts on environmental protection required in this plan, as well as its impacts on opportunities for development of employment opportunities.

Objective 3: ~~The County shall p~~Promote the cooperation and coordination among private and public sector organizations to expand the eco-tourism and heritage-based tourism opportunities within the County^[aw17].

Policy 3.1: The County shall pursue funding opportunities for the development of a bicycle, ~~and~~ pedestrian and recreation facilities master plan ~~and a blueways master plan.~~

Policy 3.2: When deemed appropriate by the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners, the County shall provide resolutions and letters of support for grants written by the Big Bend Scenic Byway Corridor Management Entity and other private or not-for-profit organizations to further expand the eco-tourism and heritage-based tourism opportunities within the County.: