

Meeting Summary

**Brownfield Redevelopment Task Force
July 31, 2007**

Brownfield Grant Writing Seminar

and

2007 Alabama Grant Awards Ceremony

Attendees

Katherine Bealle- PPM
Gary Behrens-BWSC
Jonathan Byrd- City of Anniston
Ann Carpenter- Georgia Tech Research Institute
Martha Cato- City of Valley
Jessica Chesnutt- City of Selma
Dan Cooper- BWSC
Tom Creger- Norwood Neighborhood Association
Ron Farley- Burr & Foreman
Elaina Fowler- Fowler Williams & Means LLC
Robin Futch-WRS
Randall Gammon- City of Cordova
Rodney Hames- MACTEC.
Chief Billy Hewitt – City of Tarrant
Joseph Holt- NACOLG
Preston Huddleston- MDB
Robyn Jackson-RPCGB
Wendy Jackson- Freshwater Land Trust
Jackie Livingston- EPA Region IV
Debra Love- DHL Analytical Lab
Mike McCowan- PPM
George Monk- City of Anniston
Amos E. Moore- City of Selma
Louis Montgomery- Bhate Environmental
Bill Morrison- Alabama Dept. of Revenue
Andrew Murr- BWSC
Larry Norris –ADEM
Rosie O'Brien- UAB- Center for Urban Affairs
Mayor James Perkins Jr. - City of Selma
Dr Chris Reaves- UAB- Center for Urban Affairs
Jymalyn Redmond- GMC
Ray Richardson- City of Mobile
Sherri Rollins- Office of Congressman Mike Rogers
Staff- Office of Congressman Mike Rogers
Staff- Office of Congressman Mike Rogers
Staff -Office of Congressman Mike Rogers
Adrienne Royster- Independent Grant Writer
Mayor Jack Scott- City of Cordova
Mayor Phil Segraves-City of Guin
L'Tryce Slade- Slade Consulting

John Smith- BWSC
Jennifer Stone- BWSC
Jesse Tremaine- Wells Fargo
Mayor Loxcil Tuck- City of Tarrant
Camilla Warren - EPA Region IV
Amy Wertheimer OMI, Inc.
Gary White- Bhate Environmental
Brad Wilson- Office of US Senator Richard Shelby
Bob Wilkerson- Task Force Chair

Task Force Chair Bob Wilkerson:

Wilkerson provided a brief introduction and comments regarding the Task Force's impressive achievements and substantial impact on brownfield redevelopment awareness in Alabama. He provided a short report on his recent presentation before the *Region IV New Grantees Conference* in Charleston SC, and the positive response from the audience to Task Force deliverables and achievements highlighted in the presentation: A PDF of the PowerPoint is available on the Task Force webpage at www.rpcgb.org. Wilkerson congratulated the Task force for contributing to deliverables that are drawing the interest of initiative leaders from across the Southeast, with particular interest from: The State of Georgia, the City of Louisville, Ky. and The State of North Carolina. Wilkerson summarized the Task Force's success as the result of partnership and collaboration which has produced innovative results toward accommodating redevelopment interest of both public and private sectors.

Jesse Tremaine- Sr. Vice President-Wells Fargo, Energy Industry Group:

Wilkerson thanked Jesse Tremaine and Wells Fargo for serving as a co-sponsor for the event providing coffee and pastries for the morning session. Tremaine addressed the audience providing a brief overview of services Wells Fargo can provide toward mitigation of risk and financial obstacles typical to brownfield redevelopment projects. Jesse can be contacted at: (865)-588-5900 or by email: jesse_tremaine@wellsfargois.com

Ann Carpenter- AICP Georgia Tech Research Institute:

Ann Carpenter presented information on Georgia Tech's Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities: (TAB) program. Especially timely is the Center's mission for assisting communities with grant application development. The program can assist with a variety of additional issues such as review of technical documents and reports under an assessment process, identify potential sources of funding for clean-up and redevelopment, and assist with redevelopment planning and visioning. Ann can be contacted at (404)-407-8044 or by email: ann.carpenter@gtri.gatech.edu

Camilla Warren: EPA Region IV- Project Manager Alabama Brownfields:

Camilla Warren provided the audience with a tremendously valuable presentation consisting of helpful hints for developing successful applications. Warren opened the presentation with commentary regarding the highly competitive nature of the annual brownfield grant awards, setting the stage for her presentation of how to compete successfully for the highly sought awards. As a seasoned program expert with substantial grant review experience, Warren provided insight regarding the process and how to develop "stand-out" applications that result in greater potential for funding. Warren informed the audience that 2008 grant applications will be due on October 12, 2007. A PDF of Warren's PowerPoint is available on the brownfield page at www.rpcgb.org. Camilla can be contacted at: (940) 562-8519 or by email at: warren.camilla@epa.gov.

Panel Discussion:

Wilkerson introduced a panel hosted by a group of successful grantees with varying roles including: grant writing, public outreach, administration, and executive oversight. Camilla Warren served as panel moderator. Participants included:

Dr Chris Reaves: UAB- Center for Urban Affairs

Martha Cato: City Clerk-City of Valley Alabama

Mayor James Perkins Jr.: City of Selma, Alabama

Each panel member provided opening comments regarding their respective experiences and roles with awarded grants. Dr Reaves addressed issues including: how the process begins, the critical need to identify a local champion for project leadership, and technical aspects of developing the grant application. Martha Cato addressed the issue of how to engage the public through successful outreach activities with the community through the phenomenal story of the City of Valley's acquisition of brownfield properties including Langdale and Riverdale Mills. Mayor Perkins provided valuable enlightenment by defining experiences and lessons learned from The City of Selma's brownfield redevelopment project. Mayor Perkins highlighted the many aspects that must be addressed for successful brownfield development including considerations for: economic development, environmental improvement, funding and liability considerations, and public opinion. **Audience participation was excellent during the panel discussion:** Questions and dialogue between audience and panel members provided grounding for many of the concepts and strategies discussed earlier in the seminar.

Larry Norris: Alabama Department of Environmental Management:

Larry Norris presented a comprehensive overview of ADEM's Brownfield program. Included in the presentation were highlights of the Voluntary Clean-Up Program (VCP), Revolving Loan Funds, and the Alabama Brownfields Tax Abatement legislation. Norris described multiple advantages for property owner participation in the VCP, including various liability protections offered through the program. The presentation also included examples of the economic impact of brownfield redevelopment in the City of Montgomery, Alabama. Larry Norris can be contacted at: (334)-279-3053 or by email at: lan@adem.state.al.us

Brad Wilson: Alabama District Director: Office of US Senator Richard Shelby:

Wilkerson introduced the 2007 Grant Awards segment of the program expressing the Task Force's appreciation for the interest and support of **US Senator Richard Shelby** in the awarding of grant funds to four Alabama communities who developed successful grant applications for the 2007 grant cycle. On behalf of the Senator, Alabama Director Brad Wilson provided a message of congratulations to the Cities of **Anniston, Cordova, Valley, and The Freshwater Land Trust** of Jefferson County. Each received a \$200,000 brownfield grant; a total of \$800,000 in federal brownfield program funds into the State of Alabama for 2007. USEPA provided ceremonious checks to each community and public relations photos were taken.

Dan Cooper- Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc Montgomery Office:

On behalf of Dan Cooper, Andrew Murr announced lunch sponsored by BWSC. Andrew thanked Dan and Lynn Weldon of BWSC's Montgomery office for arranging great accommodations and hosting the seminar event at the Alabama Homebuilders Association meeting facility, and for providing the outstanding catered luncheon.

Following lunch and networking, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.