

Date: 5/10/23

Time: 10am-2pm

Location: Amite County

Attendees:

Pat Talbert	Jerry Norwood
Janice McKeller	Charlie Floyd
Ronnie Fisher	Angela Cockerham
Kenyon Jackson	B. Vines



Project Focus: Infrastructure

Framing Question: What would it look like if Amite County was known as the premier location in Southwest Mississippi for forestry-related business and industry to expand or locate?

Summary:

The meeting primarily focused on the upcoming addition of Claw Forestry and the team's efforts to support and ensure the success of their project. The following key points were discussed and decisions were made:

1. Highway Upgrade Requirement:
 - A critical requirement for Claw Forestry's project was the upgrading of the highway from a two-lane road to a four-lane highway.
 - However, the team was informed during their meeting with MDOT that this upgrade would not occur in the foreseeable future, which left them feeling discouraged.
2. Formation of "4 for 24" Coalition:
 - After deliberation, the team decided to form a coalition called "4 for 24" as part of the ASPIRE project, with the aim of highlighting the necessity of a four-lane highway in Amite County.
 - Ideas proposed for kick-starting the coalition included forming a regional team consisting of Woodville, Centerville, Gloster, and Liberty.
 - The team also emphasized the importance of researching and learning from other areas that have successfully formed coalitions.
3. Engaging Citizens County-Wide:
 - The team stressed the need to engage citizens county-wide in support of the "4 for 24" coalition.
 - Various methods were discussed, including attending festivals, hosting town hall meetings, and participating in county-wide events.

- The team highlighted the importance of creating a unified message by developing a general elevator speech that everyone would use to convey the same story.
4. Coalition Member Identification and Tasks:
- The significance of identifying coalition members who would actively promote the cause was emphasized.
 - Several tasks were outlined, including creating a logo, designing a pamphlet, developing a website with a QR code, and utilizing social media and news outlets to spread awareness.

The overall goal for Amite County is to become a catalyst for industry growth and education while ensuring safer communities for its residents. The team's focus on forming the "4 for 24" coalition reflects their determination to address the crucial need for a four-lane highway and garner support from both regional and county-wide stakeholders. By engaging citizens, creating a unified message, and executing various tasks, the team aims to generate awareness and advocacy for the cause, ultimately benefiting the entire county.

Date: 6/21/23

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Attendees:

Jennifer Kassinger	Jerry Norwood
Marc Measells	Kenyon Jackson
Jerry Norwood	Chris Henton
Tedric Ratcliff	Rep Cockerham

Objective: The team convened virtually to discuss the development of a formal coalition named "4 for 24" and establish a clear vision statement. The meeting focused on determining the necessary steps for the coalition's establishment and outlining the materials required for its success.

Key Discussion Points:

1. Formation of "4 for 24": The team commenced by addressing the purpose and goals of the coalition.
2. Vision Statement: The importance of a compelling vision statement was emphasized. It was agreed that a well-crafted vision statement is essential for effectively communicating the coalition's purpose to stakeholders and garnering support.
3. Next Steps for Coalition: The meeting participants discussed the immediate next steps required to move forward. Key tasks identified include:
 - a. Creating the Vision Statement.

b. Registering as a Formal Entity: Agreed to begin the process of making the group a registered agent. Rep Cockerham volunteered to research and outline the registration requirements.

c. Necessary Materials: Discussed the materials required to support the coalition's objectives, such as a website, promotional materials, and social media presence.

4. Finalizing the Overall Message: Recognizing the importance of a strong and coherent message, the team decided to finalize the overall message during the next meeting. Feedback will be gathered on the drafted vision statement, and any necessary adjustments will be made.

Conclusion: The team concluded the meeting with a clear sense of direction and purpose. By establishing the vision statement and defining the coalition's message, they laid the foundation for a successful "4 for 44" coalition. The next steps, including registration and material creation, are well-defined and will be accomplished in the coming 30 days. The team looks forward to reconvening in August to finalize the message and move closer to achieving their shared objectives.