

## NCBDC Director's Report April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

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Since the time between our last meeting and today I was out of the office for almost an entire week helping my son with his swine project for the Suwannee River Fair. The show and sale was a huge success as always and it was great to see the community come together to support our kids!

Upon my return to work I traveled to Tallahassee to stand in support of HB1427- Rural Communities This bill will create the office of Rural Prosperity and increase the annual allocation for rural counties from \$10 Million to \$50 Million. The bill passed the commerce committee unanimously and after speaking with several of my colleagues while in Tallahassee should pass the full house with no problems(fingers crossed obviously).

While in Tallahassee, at the request of Commissioner Mills and Mrs. Tisha Whitehurst I met with Senator McClain and Representative Johnson(seperatly) to encourage them not to support Senate Bill 1664 and HB 1221. Both indicated they were not in favor of those bills!

### Website

- Since the last BOCC meeting We recorded 13 unique visits with 9 of those being out of county and first time visitors.
- We continue to add fresh content to help keep our site relevant in on-line searches. Our latest articles: <https://www.naturecoast.org/news-and-media/p/item/61872/meet-levy-countys-communities!>

<https://www.naturecoast.org/news-and-media/p/item/61871/get-to-know-levy-county-fl!>

### Sherrill Industrial Park

- The demolition of the old GP plant foundation is finally complete. This gives Mr. Sherill tons and tons of crushed concrete to us for building roads and laying pads within the Park. Mr. Sherill spent well over \$1,000,000 for this portion of the project.
- I am working with Mr. Sherill to plan a workshop with county staff, et al.
- The goal of the meeting is formulate a plan for a partnership between the county, Mr. Sherill, and a developer to start developing the park. If we are looking for the opportunity to invest in jobs for our citizens this is our biggest asset to date!

### Project Kiwi

- In early December, I participated in a Zoom meeting with the developers, their engineering firm, and the Town of Bronson's engineering firm to discuss extending city water and sewer services to the site. Initially, a high-level cost analysis was provided, but the developers requested a more detailed analysis of the buildout and timeline.

- The developers contacted me about a potential deal-breaking issue. Although I cannot disclose the specifics, I successfully resolved the problem with two phone calls. Following this resolution, the developers confirmed they are moving forward with the project.

## **Project Zucchini**

- I am working with the city to overcome the wastewater hurdle of the project. Unfortunately the city does not have the capacity to handle the needed daily amount of wastewater the project is estimated to produce.
  - I am working with DOT to establish a plan for the needed/requested traffic light on highway 19.
  - I spent the day last Wednesday with the consultant working on a plan for different scenarios for the “unknowns” of project Zucchini. As with any project there are always unknown variables and we continue to work to have as many answers and back-up plans as possible.
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Questions?

Thank you for your continued support as we work to advance economic opportunities in Levy County!