

## **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: Utilize 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 programs like Retail Academy that train and equip rural communities with the tools and education necessary to attract new retailers to their markets.

**Closing Remarks**, Co-Chairs