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Abbeville: United Abbeville Group Meeting

ABBEVILLE — A meeting of the United Abbeville Group was held on March 13, 2018, at 6:00PM at The Renaissance Retirement Center, 5 Frank Pressly Drive, Due West, SC 29639. Paul Bell, The Renaissance Retirement Center, opened the meeting with a warm welcome. Dinner was provided by The Renaissance Retirement Center.

Lee Logan began the meeting with updates on the Capital Projects Sales Tax. The “Penny Tax” would be utilized to benefit Abbeville County in funding projects to improve the communities in this county. “We are dedicated to fund projects to create jobs and opportunities,” Lee explained. This is an, “all or nothing, pay as you go, no bond,” investment in Abbeville County. Brad Evans, Freshwater Coast Community Foundation, gave an update on the Freshwater Coast Center for Rural Development (FCCRD) and its partners. He spoke about the work on the Abbeville Promise that will be beneficial to the students of Abbeville County that are graduating high school. The Abbeville Promise will allow these students to attend Piedmont Technical College (PTC) with no cost to them for tuition. Brad Evans also spoke about the advances that FCCRD, along with its partners, has made in Abbeville County, McCormick County, and southern Anderson County. Many opportunities have been created and many more are in the works for these counties. A collaboration between FCCRD, SCBDC, local consultants, and Piedmont Technical College has opened the door for workshops that benefit small business owners. These workshops offer professional development and business training in marketing, finance, start-up, human resources, bookkeeping, computer software, sales, investment, and social media. More than 100 businesses have participated in these workshops with an estimated 500 attendees of business owners and employees. There have also been many grants awarded to fund revitalization in the communities. In education and entrepreneurship, a Youth Entrepreneurship Education Program was created through a Business Plan Competition held at the high schools. There was also a Workforce Development Program created through the Abbeville County Education Week. The next person to speak was Dr. Betty Jo Hall. She gave a school update for Abbeville County. The meeting was finished out with Stephen Taylor giving the Strategic Plan update and both, Stephen Taylor and David Garner updating everyone on the litter campaign. The meeting was closed by Bryan McClain, Chairman.



CUTLINE: Brad Evans, FCCF, speaking during the United Abbeville Group Meeting at The Renaissance Retirement Center on March 13, 2018.