

**Golden Triangle Business Roundtable
Minutes
September 19, 2006**

John Durkay called the meeting to order and welcomed members, guests, plant managers, and local government representatives.

Committee Reports:

John reported that the CII Committee continues to work with the Texas Workforce Commission.

The Workforce Initiative Committee, chaired by Jim Griffith is reviewing how many skilled workers are needed in the Golden Triangle for job projects in the next four years and the issues that may impact the community such as housing for those workers. The committee is off to a good start. They have met with educational facilities, economic development councils, city managers, and Chambers of Commerce to look at all kinds different issues associated with this whole phenomenon.

Mark Viator reported on government affairs. Mark commended the Workforce Initiative Committee for their work on workforce and housing problems. Mark reported that appropriation funds are coming and we are fortunate to get 100% reimbursement. Of the four hundred and twenty eight million dollars that is coming to our state we need to see that Southeast Texas gets as much of that as possible. One of the things taking place with the housing issue is that there are many developers seeking to come into the area. There will be significant investment for housing such as work camps, RV Parks etc.

John reported for Earl Marsh stating that the labor survey will go out in October. We need good solid and rapid response to the survey.

John Durkay reported for the Legal Committee. We are getting close to election time. The Chemical Security Bill is on the fast track and ready to go. Background screening is going to become mandatory. These regulations will probably come out of the Coast Guard Homeland Security with heavy involvement by the FBI and United States Attorneys Office.

Alan Brown reported for the Safety Committee. The 15th Annual Contractor Safety Awards Banquet was well attended. Alan announced the winners and their categories again and they were given a round of applause.

Alan presented Judge Carl Griffith with his corrected plaque for Outstanding Business Leadership in Southeast Texas.

John announced our **speaker for October 17, 2006 is Dr. Paul Szuch, President of Lamar Institute of Technology.** He has some interesting views on craft development.

Program

Each of the following gave a brief report about their organizations projects in the construction industry.

Associated Builders and Contractors – John Bernard

Associated General Contractors of Jefferson County – Barbara Mulroy

Sabine Area Building and Trades – Anthony Volentine