

What is the Western Sampson Commerce Group, Inc.?

The (WSCG) Western Sampson Commerce Group, Inc. is a North Carolina Secretary of State certified non-profit 501c3 organization, whose primary purpose is to promote economic and industrial growth within and around the towns of Autryville, Roseboro, Salemburg and nearby communities of Western Sampson County. As an approved NCSTEP (North Carolina Small Town Economic Prosperity) town, about three years ago members of the Roseboro STEP planning teams engaged in some long range planning sessions focused on identifying those strategies they felt might help stimulate more business activity, create jobs and promote community development in this area of the county. Participates in those planning sessions soon recognized that Roseboro needed to include the towns of Autryville and Salemburg, plus interested western Sampson business and community leaders.

One of our State approved NCSTEP business development strategies was to reactivate and amend the existing (RAED) Roseboro Area Economic Development Commission, Inc. and include new partners. We held several meetings and work sessions with the RAED leadership and area business and community leaders. After the RAED leadership approved a proposal to amend the organization, we began the work of setting up the Western Sampson Commerce Group, Inc. We also retained a local attorney, who guided us through the process and submitted the required documents to the North Carolina Secretary of State. At the annual March 2015 RAED meeting, twelve Board of Directors were elected. The Board is a good cross section of business owners, elected officials and community leaders in the Autryville, Roseboro and Salemburg triangle. The Board of Directors for the 2015-2016 program year are Jakie Faircloth, Pittman Horne, Joe Warren, Billy Smith, Kent Fann, Jim Blevins, Sonny Sullivan, Eddie Williams, Richard Barefoot, Robert Caison, Gary Culbreth and Roland Hall. The Board selected Sonny Sullivan-President, Robert Caison-Vice President, Richard Barefoot-Treasurer and Roland Hall-Secretary for one year terms. We currently have 27 members and welcome other potential members who want to help promote more growth and development in this area of the county. Persons interested in becoming members of the WSCG can pick up a short application form in Autryville, Roseboro or Salemburg, complete and mail it to Western Sampson Commerce Group, P O Box 218, Roseboro, NC 28382.

The Board of Directors meet monthly on a rotating basis, in Autryville, Roseboro and Salemburg. The main focus of the board is to engage in planning, working on goals and engaging activities initiatives that support the recently adopted mission statement, which is **TO ADVOCATE AND SUPPORT ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE LONG TERM GROWTH AND ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE IN WESTERN SAMPSON COUNTY.** The Board is in process of developing a list of goals. We are working in partnership with the Sampson County Economic Development Commission, Sampson County Planning and Zoning, Sampson Community College Small Business Center and the Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce. The Board is focused on promoting growth in Western Sampson County and it is particularly interested in more economic development and industrial growth opportunities along the new 4 lane NC-24 highway corridor, currently under construction and scheduled to open in 2017-2018.

Submitted by Roland Hall, Secretary