IN THE MATTER OF:

JACKSON COUNTY TOURISM

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Jackson County Tourism Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
                    December 11, 2013
                    1:00 p.m.
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Pursuant to Notice
At the Library
Cashiers, North Carolina

Reported by:
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| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  | 1 ALL MEMBERS: Aye. |
| 2 | appearances | 2 MR. MEADS: Opposed? |
| 3 |  | 3 (No response.) |
| 4 | Clifford Meads, Chairman | 4 MR. MEADS: Great. |
| 5 | Mary Lanning | 5 MS. EDWARDS: Excuse me, Clifford. |
| 6 | Ken Fernandez | 6 MR. MEADS: Yes? |
| 7 | Debbie Hattler | 7 MS. EDWARDS: If I may, you may not have gotten an |
| 8 | Robert Jumper | 8 email, but Ashley Faulkner who is the other new member |
| 9 | Mickey Luker | 9 from Sapphire -- Clearfield Sapphire Windham is in |
| 10 | Alex Bell | 10 Nashville today or she would have been here. |
| 11 | Merrily Teasley | 11 She is very enthusiastic, delighted with her |
| 12 | Bob Dewes | 12 appointment, and I know she looks forward to coming |
| 13 | Julie Spiro | 13 next month. |
| 14 | Deb Watson | 14 MR. MEADS: It is good to have her. |
| 15 | Stephanie Edwards | 15 MS. EDWARDS: Uh-huh. |
| 16 | Vicki Greene, County Commissioner | 16 MR. MEADS: I believe we have two positive reports |
| 17 | Darlene Fox, Finance Director | 17 from Darlene. |
| 18 | Brian Peterkin | 18 So Darlene? |
| 19 |  | 19 MS. FOX: I will go over the financial report for |
| 20 |  | 20 the month of November. |
| 21 |  | 21 The cash balance is \$530,468.42. For October |
| 22 |  | 22 rentals we had revenues of \$87,378.16. And for the |
| 23 |  | 23 month we had expenses of \$26,858.08. And 149 units |
| 24 |  | 24 reporting. |
| 25 |  | 25 That is up 19 from the same month last year. And |
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|  | SPERLING \& BARRACO, INC. Page 3 | Page 5 |
| 1 | MR. MEADS: Welcome to the December TDA meeting. | 1 based on the percentage for the prior year's |
| 2 | I would like to start off by introducing Debra | 2 collections, we are seeing a 10-percent increase for |
| 3 | Watson who is going to be joining us next year and has | 3 November. And also the average for the year is a |
| 4 | come to share this meeting with us so that she can | 410.4 percent increase. |
| 5 | catch up on the marketing plan. | 5 MR. MEADS: Any questions of Darlene? |
| 6 | It is good to have you. | 6 A 10.4 percent increase is quite impressive, quite |
| 7 | MS. WATSON: Thank you. | 7 impressive. |
| 8 | MR. MEADS: Thank you for coming. | 8 Mitch Crisp who represents Dixon and Hughes who |
| 9 | Debra is with Landmark. | 9 did our audit, our annual audit for the TDA has a |
| 10 | Is that correct? | 10 report for us, as well. |
| 11 | MS. WATSON: That's correct. | 11 Mr. Crisp? |
| 12 | MR. MEADS: With Highland's office. | 12 MR. CRISP: Thank you. |
| 13 | It is good to have you here. | 13 I know some of you, but for those that I don't, I |
| 14 | Everybody I would assume is in receipt of the | 14 am the partner in charge of the audit services for the |
|  | minutes from the meeting we had in November. Are there | 15 TDA in Jackson County. |
|  | any additions, deletions, discussions to those minutes | 16 The County actually made the arrangements for |
|  | in lieu of that? | 17 auditing services for this year. But we work for you, |
| 18 | Would somebody like to make a motion to approve | 18 the board members. We answer to you. This is part of |
| 19 | those minutes? | 19 your fiduciary responsibility. |
| 20 | MR. FERNANDEZ: I will make a motion to approve. | 20 This authority is a component of the County's |
| 21 | MR. MEADS: All right. Thank you, Ken. | 21 financial reporting unit, but it is also set for legal |
| 22 | MR. BELL: I second. | 22 institutions and it has its own financial reporting |
| 23 | MR. MEADS: Thank you, Alex. | 23 responsibilities. |
| 24 | Any discussion on that? | 24 The Local Government Commission and the State |
| 25 | All in favor say aye. | 25 Treasurer's Office is also a party to our contract and |
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1 they are some of the clients with North Carolina General Assembly.
and communicated. There were none noted, no communication during this audit.

The financial statements are in the other binder. Those are the external financial statements for the Board.

They are somewhat different than financial reports 7 that those of you who come from a business background may be accustomed to because Governmental entities have
some unique financial reporting requirements and they have some unique terminology.

Generally though, they do follow the same accounting principles and reporting results of operations that you would be accustomed to seeing in a business entity.

The auditor's opinion that is included in those financial statements is unmodified. It states the financial statement prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. That is the highest level of assurance that we may provide as auditors from a professional standard.

The document also includes management discussions and analysis which is required by the Governmental Accounting Standard Board to enhance the financial reporting package.

That analysis contained certain highlights of
financial results and provides additional information regarding operations in a narrative format.

The balance sheet as presented on Page 7 provides information based on both fund accounting critical to Governmental entities and a more comprehensive financial position.

The authority at the present state, there are really no significant differences between those two.
The typical differences that you might observe would be the authority on capital assets as far as it had long-term liability.

The funds statements are focused on term resources and obligations only as in accordance with the post years obligations adopted by you.

The revenue and expenditure statement on Page 8 reflects the new tax revenues from January 1 through June 30th this last year and the expenditures incurred during that same period.

A special item is reported representing the transfer of assets from the previous TDA effective January 1 resulting in an overall surplus for the year of $\$ 295,899$. That surplus and then also reporting any fund balance going forward into the current year, the total fund balance is $\$ 202,209$ is available for appropriation of the 2014 budget.

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1 Mr. Jumper, I believe at the last meeting we talked about some grant stuff. And I believe you have a recap report.

MR. JUMPER: Me?
MR. MEADS: Yes.
MR. JUMPER: Oh, yes.
Yes. As a matter of fact, there were a couple of minor things that we had reviewed, the policies for the grant application.

And I asked Clifford and then Julie to take a look at it and make corrections that we had identified in the last meeting. And Julie has done so.

So I want to pass that out to you all. And you all can look at it and see if it meets your needs.

I'll take a bunch and pass them out.
MR. MEADS: Thank you.
Okay. Moving right along --
Yes, ma'am?
MS. HATTLER: Robert, can you point out the places where the corrections are that you did in here so we know exactly what was changed?

MR. JUMPER: Julie did the wording. If I could defer to Julie and have her --

MS. SPIRO: I think it was just the eligibility
clause. I know Stephanie had had a question about
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that. I think that maybe clears it up.
It was related to if an organization can apply
more than once or for more than one event or project.
So that is the rewording of that.
MS. EDWARDS: I think that is helpful. The
clarification is very helpful.
MS. SPIRO: That was the only change.
MS. HATTLER: Okay. Thank you.
MR. JUMPER: The process was primarily handled within the chamber. So there is not anything that the Board needs to do except approving the grant, perhaps. So there is not a need for us to bring any of the logistics in to the Board.

MR. MEADS: As it should be. That is good.
MR. JUMPER: Right.
MS. GREENE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to mention this again. The Township is not a legal entity. A town is, a city is, a village is. A township is a geographic entity. So you will not be -- We will not be receiving applications from a township.

MR. MEADS: Okay.
MS. GREENE: That could be put in local government and that would take care of it.

MR. MEADS: So noted.
MR. LUKER: Mr. Chairman, are you going to make a
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motion for approval on this or is this just for clarification?

MR. MEADS: I think a motion for approval would be helpful because I think this is as close as we are going to get right now. It clarifies some things. We are getting people asking for grants now. And I personally think a vote would be appropriate.

MR. LUKER: To move it into discussion, I'll go ahead and make a motion to approval the grant application as presented by Mr. Jumper.

MR. MEADS: That is great. That is helpful.
We have a motion on the floor to accept. Do we have a second?

MS. HATTLER: Second.
MR. MEADS: We have a second from Debbie.
Any more discussion on it?
MS. FOX: Under "Notification" it says all grants all grants are contingent upon approval of the appropriate fiscal year's budget. The County should be included in that.

MR. MEADS: We can make that change.
We have a motion on the floor. We have a second with accounting TDA.

MS. HATTLER: And the township.
MR. MEADS: And the township, absolutely.
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All in favor say aye.
ALL MEMBERS: Aye.
MR. MEADS: Opposed?
(No response.)
MR. MEADS: Great.
Robert, thank you.
Julie, thank you.
All right. Now for the headliner.
The Brandon Agency, we are glad to have you back. We have been anxiously awaiting this marketing plan for us. The show is all yours.

MS. HATTLER: I would like to introduce everyone.
Barry Sanders, director of new business of Brandon Agency. George Durant who is director of strategic planning. And Andy Kovan, director of planning creative strategy.

Welcome. We are ready to go.
MR. SANDERS: Thank you. We are delighted to be here. And we have been looking forward to this day for some time now.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you in the room. I have gotten to know Jackson County really well. It is a wonderful place and not a difficult place to promote. The challenge is coming up with a plan to do that.

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The other piece of housekeeping is this. This is a collaborative presentation. We don't present to anybody. We like to have conversations with you.

I am personally delighted there are so many people in the room. This is evidence that you care about this county, you care about this TDA and you care about the travel industry. And I just applaud your leadership, and more than anything else I applaud you for putting name tags around the table. You know who you are, but this will be is very, very helpful for us.

We titled this "Boosting Jackson County's Travel Industry through Integrated Marketing." And let's talk about semantics real quickly here, too.

We use tourism interchangeably, but not so. You are an industry. You affect the economy here. You bring revenue to the area. And in the end, you
decrease the tax burden on residents and businesses in this area.

Take a moment and let that sink in. That is how important what you do is. You are not just tourism, you are an industry with a palpable economic impact and it does reduce tax burden and increases the quality of life here; so take pride in that.

Every classic marketing plan starts out with an objective. We have to know where the bar is set and

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what we are charged with doing.
I have put forward six here. But actually the five that are really included in the marketing plan are what I'm going to address more in detail. And the sixth one you see here is something I will address in just a second.

First of all, we do want to bring the "Play On" brand to life. A brand is nothing you put on a shelf. You already know that. It is a living, breathing thing.

And if you are going to share it with your constituents, your visitors, we need to bring it to life. We need to take it out there in all the various avenues there are from public relations to social media, paid media to events and promotions, to a variety of things. And we want to bring that to life for you.

Secondly, we want to support the branding process through the research and testing. You have already gotten some research done. It is an ongoing thing. Research is something else you also don't put on the shelf because it is an evolving, dynamic thing because trends change, visitors change, patterns change.

Three, create awareness and desire to explore and fall in love with Jackson County. That is where the

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magic happens. While we frame you with research on the front end and measurement on the back, the fun stuff, the messaging, the creative media, the PR, the promotion stuff, social media and conversation; that is 5 what happens in the middle.
6 And then finally we do keep score. Our agency 7 will not recommend anything to you as a TDA that you can't measure. We hope that will make you happy. The old saying of "I know that 50 percent of my marketing works, I just don't know which 50 percent works;" not true anymore. We should know every single piece of data in every single thing that we do and how it performs for you. There are metrics in place to do that.

And then finally, Number Six, we want to work internally, not only in this county, but in the surrounding counties and in the North Carolina tourism landscape as well as the southeastern tourism landscape to build value in what you are doing with the TDA.

You need to continue to tell your constituents and your residents and the people that are in the travel industry here that you are the keeper of research, you are the leaders in thought leadership, you are an economic engine that drives a lot of revenue to come to this area, and take pride in that.

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1 Again I am delighted to see so many people in the room as evidence of this.

But we can really boil this down to really one
thing. And nothing really happens until somebody comes and stays in a room here. Room nights and heads and beds are what we are all about. I want to make sure that you know that, that there are a lot of other indicators that we can measure.

But when people come here and they stay, there are very real dollars attached to the fact that they have to deal with two things while they are here, sleep and eat. But then they are allowed to get out in this great community and enjoy everything that you have. So heads and beds are the primary drive of what we do, but it is not just anyone.

Jackson County isn't for everyone, and we know that. But it is for a lot of people, a lot of people who spend a lot of money who enjoy life that find this place very, very special.

And we want to make sure we deliver the right consumer to you. And that is where your research and your branding you have already done plays in as well as what we'll be able to do, too.

So this is something that is very, very important to me. I give this talk from time to time. Are you as

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a tourism, a DMO, in the inspiration or transaction business? Which do you think it is?

MS. LANNING: Inspiration.
MR. DURANT: Interesting.
This is something I want you to really digest here because this is a study that was done by Yesawich, MMGY Global, and Trip Adviser, and a few other tourism studies and they say this. Your guests and your visitors want you to inspire them by telling them stories and letting them know what is special about Jackson County.

We want to make it easy to buy. This is really, really critical. When we talk about a portal website and fulfillment, being able to field inquiries and channel leads and actually convert them to your properties here too, it is very important that it is easy for the consumer to do this.

And guess what. The old printed visitor guide is not dead. We in the digital business have tried to kill it, kill it, kill it, kill it, and it won't die.
People still want to hold things from time to time.
So fulfillment either from a digital standpoint or a written standpoint or a warm, living human being is very, very important. So make it easy to buy.

People want immediate gratification. They want it
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and they want it now. If it is hard to buy and if it is cumbersome to come into your website where they find where they want to stay, how they want to play and spend their money here, we will fail.

People want to trust you. That is where an authority is very, very important. Understand that this is a legal entity that you are. It is so, so important to the fact they trust you.

But I will tell you something else. They trust their friends and even strangers even more. So peer review has become a powerful part of what happens. Whether it is that burgeoning -- Excuse me for turning my back to you.

Whether it is that burgeoning monster which is Trip Adviser or social media or just asking, peer review is very important to this process.

So in the inspiration part of it you have to be very, very aware that your job is to inspire people to act. And once they come to you, you need to deliver these people and disburse them among all the different things to do in the county.

Post inspiration. Commerce should take place. This is the transaction part of it. This is what we keep store on. There are certain levels of awareness that we can measure, but this is really where the

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1 rubber meets the road here.

In today's economy, unless you have unlimited funds, the metrics of accountability usually becomes how many impressions that you get, how many leads you get, and how efficiently those leads were generated.
So these are the core measurements right here for transactions.

We believe -- And that is quick that I will get through this. We believe as you said that you can coexist, that you can brand and you can do transactions, too. And we have come up with the plan that will accomplish this.

And there is only one true way to do that. And let me show you here. This wheel is a continuum that is so very, very important. It used to be we were an era of specialists. Things could exist on their own. They could be independent.

Anymore now integration is so very, very important. A holistic view of marketing is where you need to be, those things that work like a fine tuned dovetail to help each other. The PR will enhance the paid, the paid will enhance the social, the research will verify that what we are doing is right, promotions will give people an experiential view, what happens here too, all working together, so very important.

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But all propped up by content. It is very, very important to speak with a voice that is unique to Jackson County and is unique to you and unique to Sylva, Cashiers, Cherokee, Cullowhee, and every place else. Everybody has their own uniqueness here. And these voices have to come through very, very loud.

The guiding strategy is -- And I'll zip through these. And this is for you as an organization. It is total transparency, number one. I like it. I love sitting here and hearing about the audit like we just heard a while ago and the numbers are out there for everyone to see. And you are clean and official and working efficiently and everything else, too.

Marketing should be that way, too. How you spend your constituent's and your stakeholder's money is very, very important. So transparency is key to this whole equation.

We lean on continued research to help people. Total integration we have already talked about. We believe that integration also translates to total engagement.

Marketing should be a two-way conversation. If you think it is only speaking to your guests now, that is wrong. They talk back to you now. They tell you what they like, they tell you want they want, what they

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don't want, the rates they will pay for it, how they want it delivered. So this two-way conversation is important.

Passionate development of a brand tribe, our marketing plan is based on loyalism and being an evangelist. Okay? It is very important to us. In fact, it is critical that in the decision-making process, once they have had the experience of sampling everything that is here, they talk about you. They tell their friends. They tell their neighbors and everybody else, too.

So we want to create a brand tribe for you. We communicate with them as if we are speaking to each individual's interest. We are fluid as trends develop.

I was telling Stephanie and Debbie a little bit earlier and someone else in the room that we used to write 18 -month marketing plans. And then we would do an annual marketing plan. And then we would do it for a half of a year.

We are writing marketing plans now by the three-month blocks. That is how fluid and dynamic everything is.

I'll talk about optimization in a little while. It is very important to understand that things change, that we'll be on top of that. It is a daily grind for

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us to look out and find out what is working, what is not working, and adjust accordingly.

And then finally we will report to you. You will hear us use our terminology and our promise of keeping score often, and we will.

The game plan is we are going to target conversions from marketing campaigns. We are going to embrace digital. We usually come in and have a real paradigm shift. We will take a 60 - to 70 -percent print budget that a client usually has of the tourism marketing business and flip that to 60 - to 75 -percent digital.

After we have been looking at what we have done here and the successes that you have had and the research that we have done, that massive shift can't take place right away. It is going to be more like the majority of it digital, but about 50/50 until we ease you into a situation to where you can depend on the more measurable digital assets we have out there.

Be specific. There are some very real seasonal differences with what you have here. There is some little micro seasons, too, choose and cut fund to extend the winter season back. Even though weather can be iffy in the spring, there are some things we can do to enhance that.

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MR. DURANT: All right. We talked about integration. I am going to get through this fairly quickly. But again I told you all, this is a collaborative presentation. Please raise your hand and stop me if you have a comment or a question.

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The challenges. First of all, we talked about wrapping up the front end of what we do for every client with research and on the back end metrics to measure how we did.

We will want to take advantage of things that you have already implemented here in your branding process, too. There is more to discover. I told you it is an ongoing process.

I believe, Barry, you had been requesting end contact with a variety of people, getting into deeper data. And that will help us, too. But we can never stop this pursuit of research to make sure that --

And Andy coined this phrase --
And I stole it, Andy, so forgive me.
We invite the consumer into the room because what you believe and what we believe may not always be what the consumer believes.

So the research is very, very critical to find out what they want from a Jackson County travel experience versus what we think they want. And that is classic pull marketing where they pull us through the process versus us pushing our message on them. So research is very critical to it.

I just wanted to put forth to all of you what we need to continue to keep in front of us here in terms

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of task. And they would be a solid visitor study that would yield a guest history and profile, focus groups that would continue to let's say pick your top market. The Raleigh Metro area, too.

We would want to get focus groups that measure their uses and attitudes there, too. Awareness and perception studies, conversation studies. That is very, very important not only that they like you and want to come here, but we find out the length of stay, how much they spent, party size, demographics; all those things, too, how they converted a competitor's space, who might be creeping into our space here and taking market share. We always want to find that out. And then of course economic impact.

And I will hammer this home for every TDA with whom we deal, is to continue to publish reports, all of you on the Board here to the community at large of the economic impact of the travel industry.

Paid channels. We will spend a little bit more time on this because, although an integrated approach is what we are touting here, and that includes all the channels I said, PR, owned, which can be social media and your website, and a variety of other assets, too. Paid, promotional, everything else; they all come together.

SPERLING \& BARRACO, INC. 8 most easily controlled and measured, as I said. Our 9 recommendations will deliver impressive impressions.

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|  | Page 31 | depending less and less on print allows us to optimize.

We can geo-target an area. We can get a street corner if you want to. And we can behaviorally target out there, too.

There is no reason to ever have wasted media expenditures. The tools that we have now and networks and all these targeting tools allow us to zero in on who you need to come here, where they live, and how this fits in with the project.

So the strategy would be building demand or loyalists, as I have said, while harvesting new visitors for Jackson County.

You will see when we hand out our media recommendation in a little bit that we get people while they are in the travel planning mode.

We have a saying at the agency called "Harvesting Intent." We want to put messages out there while people are looking. That could be Trip Adviser, while they are looking at peer reviews. It could be a travel site, a travel magazine.

We don't want to have to find them, educate them, sell them, get the lead, and convert them. We need to harvest intent while they are in the travel planning process.

We will utilize proven media to generate leads.
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And you'll see it in the plan, especially in more mature demographics as well as several exciting new opportunities to reach younger audiences for you, too.

You'll see a careful blend when we hand out our media. Three of our target media, and we have two, and it is maintaining your base of a little older, more affluent audience share. But, it also goes after a younger audience, too.

There is a nice study that Steve Morris did with Western Carolina on soft adventure and what is adventure travel. And while that won't engage everything there is to do in this county, again we can't do it all. That is indicative of getting an older audience, a full family audience, empty nesters as well as young people and young couples, too.

So adventure probably would be to create a theme and we would go along too. That is a piece of research we do.

Look for flights to feature a significant shift to digital, as I have said, peer reviews and geo and behavioral targeting. And that aligns with the creation of an inbound fulfilled source.

Does everybody know what inbound marketing is? It has really shifted so that when somebody gets a message and they come to you, there is a rich storehouse of

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information of color and visuals and information and content and how to and make it easy.

So when people are coming inbound finding out what they need to do, the most logical place to deliver this is in a robust, content-rich website in there that they can funnel in and then you can distribute them to all of the various communities and the properties in this area. And we will talk about that in a little while.

And this is very important right here, I am going to say this throughout the presentation,
"Optimization." And a good example of that is we may be placing an ad network buy in Atlanta. And we may be placing an ad network buy in Greenville/Spartanburg.

And in the late fall in Atlanta if it is not working well, but it is knocking them dead in Greenville/Spartanburg, we can turn it off in Atlanta and beef it up in Greenville/Spartanburg. Or if you find out it is underperforming and we need to give it more time, we'll do that, too. And that ultimate optimization is something that was just not available 10 years ago. It is really amazing stuff.

While paid media's lead times require getting out ahead of seasonal marketing, the paid channel is already integrated with planned public relations, social media, and interactive strategies.

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is close by. You know where your customers come from.
We know where your customers come from.

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In other words, when we do a paid campaign and placed marketing for you out there, it would be carefully thought out with an article we may be creating.

And let's use the choose and cut example. On Christmas trees in this part of the country, and we may place appropriate media there, too, social media posts will address it, your favorite stories about driving up to Jackson County and getting a Christmas tree may be one of the posts. Web content and pop-ups on the web to capture data may come along with it, too.

So this carefully integrated plan, all these things working together is what is the beauty of this marketing plan.

We will go after lead generators. And this is more active media. And it will have some passive media out there, too. And passive means there will be much more of this branding thing. We will get the "Play On" message out there for you and really paint a picture of what makes you special here.

This is kind of a point of conversation with us right now. We realize you have a compressed geographical footprint. This is not a fly market, it We know where your customers come from.

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But am I correct in saying that practically -- I won't use the word no -- there is a small data base now, email addresses and things like that?
We want to build that data base because we also do outbound marketing. The only way to do that is to cast a little wider net. So we are going to go a little bit out of your comfort zone geographically to see what interests we may be able to harvest in some pioneer markets nearby. And when we do that we can optimize it if they are worth it. Great, we found the honey hole of prospects that can come visit here. If not, we turn it off and go to another area.

But we will cast a little bit wider net than I believe you are used to doing simply to get a more of a vibrant and bigger data base to which we can remarket again. That is real critical. I will talk about that in a little bit.

Paid channel tactics. Both printed and online media deliver leads weekly. This is important to you. We are big on reporting. I will tell you that the crux of what we do is on a whatever basis you ask us to do it to deliver reports to you.

Many times our media outlets, Trip Adviser, some of the other ad networks can get them to us weekly. And if it is germane and we can act on it, we will.

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But we will deliver leads weekly to you and monthly so you can immediately begin to remarket them.

While the above inbound strategies are important, we are planning outbound communications with our new and repeat guests via carefully targeted e-blast
campaigns that will only increase in effectiveness as we grow our database.

You couldn't have forced me into email marketing six years ago. In-boxes were jammed up. Spam mail was just prevalent. It was just not something people looked at.

But with the increasing filters out there and the way that people are prequalified and opted in, it has become a real powerful force. They have already asked for information in some form from Jackson County. And we can communicate that to them directly on that interest.

MR. SANDERS: A great example is you asked about partnerships, Myrtle Beach Club Holiday, which is 90 golf courses and 70 hotels. They put all their money together. They have got 800,000 opt-in emails in their database. So they send out weekly specials to these 800,000 opt-ins emails. It is cheap and it works.

MR. DURANT: And it can be an newsletter. Usually an offer is attached because it incents people to act

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and you can measure that response to those emails, too.
And another strategy also is to incent people to refer a neighbor or a friend or somebody else, which further builds your data base.

Or you can link that outbound e-blast to social media and they can link directly from that email in a social conversation about all the great fun they have had here and that they intend to have in the future. So outbound would be very important.

Okay. We don't have enough budget to routinely engage in niche publications. I'm sorry, we don't. I would like to, again, as I said, do a campaign for each of your individual interests here. But we will touch on all those things in the general messaging we have out there. And we'll have some micro-campaigns, too.

But niche marketing as a general practice is not as efficient as a little more targeted mass marketing. I know you may think that is a dichotomy there, but anyway, a broader brush out there can broadcast and help us get more eyeballs and more general interest, too.

Highly segmented online campaigns specifically will give us the dynamic capability to target young, active travelers and separate targeting to mainstay affluent baby boomers. We feel like we can get them

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1 both.

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you all will be patient with them. But we are not
Tactics we will use, drilling down a little bit further -- You guys all need to know this. How familiar are you with all of the efforts of the State of North Carolina North Tourism Department's action on your behalf?
All of you? Most of you? They do a lot.
Obviously they are trying to generate intent and travel to the state of North Carolina. They are trying to distribute to the Coastal Region, the Piedmont region, and the Mountain Region, and then dribbling down even further to your individual communities, counties, and TDAs.

However, they are having trouble doing it. Their website right now is a mess and they know it. It is nothing I'm talking out of turn with. Other TDAs we deal with also find this.

And we want you to be there. So if you see us a little bit light on using the co-opportunities with the State of North Carolina to visit North Carolina right now, even though they have prequalified audiences, it is because they aren't quite refined in their process.

And listen, we have had to do from scratch
destination websites about the size that they have for the state. It is a monstrous undertaking. So I hope

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going to have you dialed in from here to the State of North Carolina right yet in our paid media strategies

2 until they have refined some of their processes there.

Is that a fair thing to say, those who know?
We will make cooperative opportunities available, those that I have talked about, which will expand and enhance what you are doing. And the obvious growing rush to mobile will shape our fulfillment in digital tactics.

It is very important to let you know, we never do interactive and website design unless it is responsive now.

Who knows what "Responsive Design" is?
(Hands shown.)
MR. DURANT: Very good.
It will optimize itself for whatever device you are using. We know the habits for planning and shopping and booking. They are delivered in a variety of ways.

Somebody might sneak a few minutes at work on their laptop and go home and research the destination on their tablet. And then while they are driving around they actually might book on their smart-phone.

And all of our digital designs right now, not
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while we are driving, Andy.
MR. KOVAN: No.
MR. DURANT: But, anyway -- And responsive design allows the design -- the information that the content created can deliver that tourism prospect to you to optimize itself for all of those screens. There is a second screen, a third screen, a fourth screen; and we can go digital all day long. But anyway, it is a beautiful thing.

Here are the numbers. Total print impressions, we deliver a little over 7.5 million minimum online impressions. This is bought a little bit different, as you well know, anybody who buys in this space, you buy impressions are guaranteed. That will be almost eight million.

And right here is about the allocation of where we are looking for this particular strategy for the paid side.

And you all want to know budgets on the paid side here. This is the allocation for a Plan A that would utilize roughly $\$ 250,000$ of paid media. And you see graphically the representation of digital versus print.

As time goes on, we would want this to increase and be larger. It is just the most efficient thing to do. It is the world we live in now. But this is the

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best we can do right now to protect some strongholds that you have.

A more modest budget to make sure that if there are allocations or dedications of monies that you may have for visitor service, for instance, or something like that that we bid a little more conservative in the approach and we have a plan that also addresses a $\$ 200,000$ budget here.
This is where I talked about broadening the reach. We know this is where -- plus half-backs and everybody else -- this is where the action is right now. We want to farm and pioneer a little bit up the eastern seaboard right here in certain seasons where they can't get things there that they can get here and make sure that we can do some damage right there.

As they become effective, we increase. We never get away from the core marketing budget right here. We can increase, and if, for instance, something doesn't happen that we intended to effect in this area or down in Florida, we can decrease and optimize there, too.

It is important for you to note that these all are part of some regional buys, too. The reason that some of these regions are in here is it was just the type of buy the print publications that include a Maryland, a 5 New Jersey, or a Pennsylvania or New York, too. And

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1 you clearly see this on a media plan, so don't worry

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This is a $\$ 250,000$ paid media plan for 2014. It is heavier in the first half of the year.
MR. DURANT: The correct order is to look at the brief first which is the 8 -and-a-half by 11 sheet, and look at the rationale by which we have approached this. And while we don't like to, as Barry says, kill a lot of trees, this is best consumed in a print version right here. If you will allow me to toggle back, get my glasses here -- none of you need to do this --
speaker: I was hoping you would hold that across.
MR. DURANT: But the strategy you see here is to reach travelers while they are planning. This is very important. We will go nowhere where there is not already intent.

You hear us use that phrase "harvest intent." It is very important to know that while they are travel planning is where we are going to get them. And we have designed, as you see in the spreadsheet, a variety of mechanisms to do that.

The secondary approach here, which is just as important as I talked about active and passive media, passive will do your branding for you. They will be out there with great messaging. PR will help us there. Social will help us there to paint a picture of your personality and the unique character of your people and

[^0]places here.
But our active media is designed to generate
leads. When we stand in front of you guys next we will say, "Well, how did you do?" I guarantee "How many leads did you generate?" will be one of the questions. How much did it cost to generate those leads? What is the quality of those leads? How were they handled? To whom were they given?

And all of these things are very, very important. And our digital assets all on the website allow us to manage those leads in a very professional manner for you.

MR. LUKER: Let me address this. But what is the difference between the green and the yellow on here?

MR. DURANT: I will have to look at my sheet.
MR. SANDERS: If it is the green it is the --
MR. DURANT: Added values. Added value is yellow.
We have never put together -- As Barry well said, we talk about this often, we don't buy ads, we buy a program. And I guarantee when we get a paid strategy out there for you two things are going to happen. We are going to negotiate the heck out of it and get you the very best price. These are proprietary prices that we negotiated with our buying power.

The second thing of three that we are going to do

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is we are going to get added value. We won't stop with buying the program that they recommended to us. We are going to layer on top of that with digital bonuses, with impression bonuses, with leads, with other direct marketing opportunities they give us. So we leverage added value galore for you.

And many times we can get at least a one to one paid versus added value to negotiate into our plan.
People hire us most often for what we do that is not obvious than is obvious because we negotiate and get added value. So that is the green and yellow.

MR. SANDERS: And if it is not performing we would contact the media outlet and let them know and ask for something for additional added value.

The other thing that, having been in the travel industry for so long, our media people have very good relationships with the travel industry media. And that goes a long way.

A lot of times if an opportunity comes up they will call us first just based on relationship. We don't treat media reps like vendors, we make them our friends. We spend time with them. Because media relationships is the key to the rates and the added value we see there.

MR. DURANT: We take care of them. You know, we
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1 are good fiscal managers and stewards of the money. We

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out of Houston --
Houston is a huge market for us. We got a direct plane value, $\$ 169$ round trip. And those market are just exploding. They have got a lot of money.

I guess just generally I would rather see a little more emphasis on those markets.

MR. DURANT: Point well taken. And that is good intel for us.

I will tell you truthfully, why you didn't see
that here, number one, these are generally very, very, very separate and distinct regions. They are not as
easy to buy and bundle with your core market right
here. So while we are buying this we get a little bit
of this. We don't get this unless it is Southern
Living or somebody like that that can give us a good regional buy there, too.

So a lot of times were we to add these, it would be at a great incremental cost. Not discounting is what you are talking about. But it would be at a great incremental cost. A lot of these are bundled with these buys which makes it a little bit easier.

Having said that, we are all about listening to your intel and you tell us where they are coming from and truly assessing what constitutes "exploding." Is it a thousand? Is it 20,000 people? You know, we

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1 would like to know that, what's better, who they are, are they affluent, are they young, are they households without children; those types of things. I would covet any intel that you could give us there. That would make us smarter.

Again, we are collaborative, so we want to know these types of things.

MR. SANDERS: So guest histories from the various properties, income, accommodations from people in the room would be great. This is a starting point, but we don't know as much as we hope to know. With your help, we could get a lot more educated in what we are doing here. So that data would be gold.

MR. DURANT: Really this is a disclaimer. We have spent a lot of time in this county and we have spent a lot of time researching. But again, we would never presume to know enough yet until we get to sit at the table with you and plan.

MR. JUMPER: The cost of online advertising must be on a continual rise. It is interesting to see in this report that your -- your print media, to buy the same amount of impressions it costs just a much to buy online media.

MR. DURANT: And the thing that you don't get, you don't get as much waste online because some character

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in a geode and behavior will target them where you may get some wasted circulation in a Triple A publication or even Southern Living and folks like that, too.

So there is a little bit of economy there in terms of efficiency. But also too I think it is reflective of declining circulation.

I can remember some of the -- the greats that just came out of nowhere like Coastal Living that went from nothing to that thick and now it is back to this (indicating).

And it is just expensive. It is tough. There are a lot of compelling reasons.

And I love it. I still love the whole USA Today. I like what we did with the iPad, but I like to have the whole US Today. I like to read magazines. But I may be unusual. Maybe it is my age, or whatever it may be. But consumption habits have really driven cost.

Point well taken, though. Thank you.
Okay. Other channels here, too. We are keenly aware that credibility, credentials, who you are, the legitimacy of this place as a destination and all the wonderful things, we couldn't buy enough ad space to communicate that. We like to tell stories. In our PR Department --

How many people are in our PR Department total
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between the offices now, Barry?
    MR. SANDERS: Six.
    MR. DURANT: Six?
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This staff is working around the clock all the
5 time to get story opportunities, feature opportunities,
6 family tours, travel tours, a variety of things with
writers, your blogs; everything else too to make sure
we can get your message out there, too.
We recently had a campaign and we are very, very
proud of it. It is one of our gold standards in
Beaufort, South Carolina where we helped them get the
designation come to life. Beaufort, the happiest
seaside town in America.
And what is remarkable about that is that they are
small. They are up against San Diegos and people like
that, massive people that have voting power. But
through social media and our PR coverage of the area we
were able to leverage that. And as a result, it then
got on the radar of USA Today and NBC Today and was
featured on both of those national outlets as a result
of this.
So you can see how it can mushroom. And it only
takes one great story like Jackson County, something
that has happened in one of your towns, one of the
regions along that wonderful 107, spying the scenic
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beauty. It only takes one great story out there to
catch interest.
So we leverage PR to the hilt. It also tees up
our paid and social initiatives, again all in concert
with our total integration.
So on the strategies we would immerse ourselves
locally so that we speak with the Jackson County voice.
And this is very important. You live here. You
know the nuances. You know the syntax. You know
everything that there is that makes you unique.
Speaking with your voice and using your local story
telling, your local resources, local PR people here,
assets that you have both human and technological, they
are so important. So we make sure we work closely with
you to help you get this voice that only you can send.

We leverage media relations to go on our positive media coverage, foster open communications with area restaurants, hotels, venues, outfitters and attractions. That is where we go back, not from a paid standpoint, but from a PR standpoint and can go niche by niche and write stories.

Identify and create newsworthy events and
celebrations in a maximized effort -- excuse me -- by
keeping Visit North Carolina informed and up to date on Jackson County news.

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The tactics we deploy would be an editorial calendar to make sure we plan it throughout a calendar year and make sure that something that happens in November and December as planned March/April or July and August.

Added value opportunities for paid channels, you have seen those in yellow. Those are some of the things we do, some of our added value and PR leveraging. Host trips to the area. If we can get them to come, "they" being the media to come try you and sample you, that is good, if we can get them here and sample what you are doing. Trial is the point.

Field organic media inquiries and qualify leads, solicit information from Chamber and TDA members. We treat you all as reporters. Everybody in this room is a reporter. We would love to have you give us
information on a regular basis, some things that we may not know about unless you tell us.

Communicate media highlights and PR efforts to stakeholders and members. And this is just internal horn tooting of the wonderful job that you are doing as a TDA. And then of course the standard news release development and distribution and follow up.

Barry, we have some other handouts here, too?
MR. SANDERS: Yes.
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This represents the universal possibilities when you look at the media. So what we have done is come up with a -- we will call it a target list of the media that we would talk to on your behalf.

And, you know, it is comprised of general media, of what we call Tier One, which is a national publication. And then you break it down by weddings, meetings, outdoor, food, and golf.
So these are the people that we are going to target with the press materials to be developed to tell the Jackson County story.

The outdoors is the biggest category. And within that we can promote the "Play On" mindset and that type of brand position for the county. We can talk about fly fishing. We can talk about your waterfalls. We can talk about a lot of outdoor things.

So that is where the meat and potatoes are on that list. There are no promises in PR, but we average 15 to 1 for our PR clients. So for every dollar that they spend towards public relations, we deliver $\$ 15$ in media coverage.

So PR is the best bang in marketing. It is probably the least expensive thing you can do with the biggest potential.

And just like you, for Coastal Living and USA
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Today coverage, within a 45 -day period it is a dream come true. We hope to do something like that.

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| 1 less media people out there. They are overworked. I |
| 2 don't want to say they are lazy, but if you make it |
| 3 easy for them, they will write for you. And we load |
| 4 them up with press kits and video. |
| 5 So we just kind of fish where the fish are, find |
| 6 out what opportunities are out there. |
| $7 \quad$ And really we sell you to them directly. We are |
| 8 |
| 9 |
| pleasantly persistent. |
| 10 | MR. BELL: The press kits, you guys would --

[^1]coverage.

2
3

MR. DURANT: Those are both actually important. We use the word "collaboration" a whole lot. They many times will ask us from outbound efforts. I will let you in on one of the big keys, which is the editorial calendar that we have.
And almost always, even when we come up against that blank screen and that blank sheet of paper, we can't have that story idea, we have tapped everything else too that we could find, editorial calendar and say, as you said, wow, the best waterfalls in the world. And right. So it is a unique situation and fun, very fun.

Nothing thrills us more, we could control a banner ad or an ad in a magazine. But when we see it appear in print, something neat that is happening Jackson County, it is really a cool thing. We love it.

Earned channel. In our purchase journey we talk about consideration, trial, the experience of buying. And then it jumps into a moment of truth, as I call it, a trigger point.

Once they come here and they have really enjoyed what they have experienced in Jackson County, we want them to talk about it. And that is where remark is. That is where social media comes in as a very, very

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## powerful tool.

And social media has even gotten segmented now. As look at the demographics it shows to Facebook, Pintrist, Instagram, You Tube; everything else. The demographics have shifted; how it is used, the frequency of which it is used, the voice in which it is used and engagement and everything else, too. It is very, very important.

And there is a big reason that this has been
successful. Advertising and marketing, up until about eight years ago was what, interruption. Okay?
Everything we did interrupted your daily grind, your life, your routine, everything else, too.

Social media is the ultimate permission-based market where people go out and they gather information because they want to and they talk to people like them.

And the reason that social media is successful is the very same reason that Trip Adviser has become an 800-pound gorilla, because people are interested in your opinion, your opinion, and your opinion. And they'll trust me, you, more than they will sometimes even an authority or DMI. So peer review is very, very important. In this sort of social media it really, really comes into play.

Owned channel strategies. We create a consistent
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proactive social media content campaign across key platforms that focus on what Jackson County audiences 3 find interesting and valuable so that they, your fans, are continually engaged in the content and want to share with their friends.

If you do the math and get 30,000 likes, and I'm 7 using just that old, archaic Face Book measurement that is not it is all about -- times an average now, Barry, of over a 200 likes per -- fans per like, friend per like?

MR. SANDERS: Yes, ingrown.
MR. DURANT: You do the math there. You could have a 20 -million person media machine, literally 20 million impressions pretty quickly. So we make sure that we engage very, very relevantly, too.

And content also has to have context. We use content a whole lot, too. But if it is not in context with the right season, the right voice, the right time, whatever the deal may be, it will fail.

MR. BELL: Can I ask a question?
MR. DURANT: Yes, please.
MR. BELL: You guys referred to fly fishing a couple of times, which got my ears perking. But when you look at the list, there is nothing -- no magazines that are directly related to fly fishing.

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now. People don't book with social media, they plan with it. And most often it would lead up to a

1 trip and then something would happened in a booking 2 process and they get away from it.

Then postexperience or during the experience I'll use a lot of the social media outlets, too, in the platform that we engage. But it is real interesting, it is a role in this overall matrix that we have.

And finally one of the big things that we always set as the goal for our social media campaign is we always want to be among the top three referrals to our website. When they are ready to book, we want them to go bam and link right to our website, look at all the wonderful things there are to do in the portal website and then distribute and refine their interest, a locale or something to do while they are here and then book from there.

So we always want social media when we do our analytics every month and look at it to show us it is among the top three referrals to our website.

Tactics. Social media is a customer service tool. You can't talk to everybody. Not everybody will engage you personally. But a lot of times, heaven forbid when there may be that one or two negative comments where somebody didn't get a positive customer service experience following a vacation here, social media, if monitored properly, can be a great customer service

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tool.
We implement a blog that focuses on all areas interested in the area, therefore, increasing visitor visibility. You get other people writing for us. There are also indexes, as well.

We develop new social media platforms, wholly integrate You Tube and Pintrist along with enhancing existing platforms that amplify your voice and put it in print exposure.

But also let me see if I can say this right so we will all understand here. Of all the things that people do when they go online, 90 percent of the time after they go online they look at video. Video content is critical, very, very critical.

And this is such a visual destination. Would you agree? So you know that a picture is worth a thousand words. I think a video is worth a million or a billion words.

And we have some strategies there that I think will be very exciting.

MR. SANDERS: So one thing our clients love about us with social media is we are proactive. So if any of you tried to do social media in-house on your own, I hear a lot of people on Monday morning, "Oh, crap, what are we going to talk about this week? What are we

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going to post? What are we going to tweet?"
So what we do is about the middle or the end of the prior month we get together as a team and we come up with a monthly content calendar.

So that is what we are about to pass out. And this is just done kind of in a vacuum by our social media team. But this -- We have already kind of s thought through what we would talk about in the month of January if we had the opportunity. So this just gives you an idea of the tone and the personality of our social media conversation.

And we have got people fresh out of -- They are whippersnappers out of college that do nothing but work on social media content.

So this makes it easy. You don't have to worry about what you are going to do. It is out 30 days ahead. And you can change it, of course. But it just gives people peace of mind knowing what their conversation is going to be for the next 30 days. We are going to post twice a day, we are going to tweet once. And it just seems to give our clients a lot of peace of mind knowing.

But, you know, this is not done in a vacuum. We have a monthly call with our clients. And this is how this calendar happens. We don't spend a lot of time,

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but hey, what is going on in your area or with your company next month, what do we need to talk about. Because things change, opportunities come up.

So it is fluid, but at the same time it is your roadmap for your social media program. And the beauty is this content goes out across Face Book, across
Twitter. If it is video, it goes to You Tube. If it
is photos it goes to Pintrest. So it is a
cross-platform content calendar. But it really helps
make life easier for everybody involved.
MR. DURANT: We had a recent interesting occurrence.

Have any of you ever been to the Boone Hall Plantation in Charleston?

The owner is a single owner. He lives on the property. He is kind of a curmudgeon. He is a great guy and I love him to death. But all that he cared about in social media was beating Magnolia Plantation.

And so we languished around 12,000 likes when we first started working with him. And he didn't look at the other levels of engagement that we measure like EdgeRank and all the other things that really are the true quality of social media, not just likes.

He was just so focused on those likes. So he challenged us to catch Magnolia by the end of the year.

1 And this challenge came in August during the months of October and November.

One of our -- Alex reported this morning in an email we just passed them. We got 10,000 in the course of 3 months. And it was a real, real, real integrated campaign through social media. And there were some techniques that we used to beef it up.

And every now and then a client will challenge us. And we will take on the challenge and do it. And now he is not so focused on that archaic measure of social media, just raw likes in volume. But now he is like, "Tell me a little more about engagement. Tell me a little more about reputation management. Tell me more about cross media -- I mean cross-platform applications."

So, anyway, that was a nice little success story and a great attraction, too.

MR. SANDERS: So we have about 44 social media clients or agencies. So we have a full team on that that knows the toolbox because it changes all the time.

I'm too old to figure it out. Luckily we have hired people that know every element, they know what is next.

So with that said, that is the fastest growing part of our agency, the social media. It is the most

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interesting form of marketing. It is changing
everything.
MR. DURANT: Mr. Zuckerberg is always trying to capture our data and change Face Book. So we have to do certain things, too.

And I had a staggering statistic brought up to me last week. It is past 550 now. Google has rewritten their algorithms for search 550 times over the past year.

So just when you think you got it figured out -And they are doing this for our benefit. So when someone is truly searching for a vacation destination, that organic search and all the things that make you legitimate do take place, too. But social media is also trudging right along behind Google in terms of complexity and rewriting algorithms.

So just when you thing you have got some technique that can trick the system, they change it. So our guys stay on top of this on a regular basis. It is really staggering stuff.

MR. SANDERS: We are near the end.
MR. DURANT: I'm running out of breath here. That is good.

I have been hoping somebody would interrupt me. Strategies and initiatives for our website

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1 fulfillment overview. This is the most critical part about what you do. We appreciate all of the efforts that have gone into your individual companies, the web presence of your sites and the rich content that you 5 have, the stories that you tell, the way you interact with the client.

9 for us now is to create a marketing campaign that will 10 have interest generated in such a powerful manner. And data and the leads and the people and the eyeballs of visitors craving information about you that we have to create a formal website for you so that the people can go to one trusted service, get the information they need.

What did I say earlier on? Quickly, easily, and
from a trusted manner, and then be able to either self-guide themselves and go to information about Cashiers or go to information about fly fishing or go to information about the best time to come to cut your Christmas tree, or whatever the deal may be. And they can be distributed from that portal website.

It also captures data. It is so important -- I
can't tell you how important it is to build your data base because again if they have opted in, you are

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already talking to them, we need to continue that dialogue and conversation.

Remember I said marketing is a two-way 4 conversation? This is so true. This website should be able to do that in a very efficient manner. And we $\sigma$ also have some tricks of the trade to up your email acquisition on your website, too.

Also this is very, very important, too. For our real estate clients, virtual version right here. We consider -- We used to consider a tour if somebody came to a real estate development and they engaged a salesperson and they tour the property. Now they have a virtual tour that is just as high quality.

What is the average number of web sites, Barry, that people visit before they buy usually?

MR. SANDERS: It is 22.
MR. DURANT: Twenty-two. They have shocked you to death. They look at the competition. They look at other destinations. And that experience where they do take that virtual tour of that 22 , you need to be memorable. So that is very, very important.

The other most important thing is this, the analytics. We constantly, on a monthly basis, because we create custom dashboards for our clients, a lot of folks do, so we can only deliver what you need to find

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1 out: Where they came from, where they entered the site from, how long they spent on this page, the actual traffic and the critical path that they took while they were there, user sessions, habitual behavior, media sources that actually got their attention to get them to the website, where they linked out of; all those different things. And then there are some other quantitative things that really can help you, too.

So these analytics on the back end are very, very important to your success, too. And it can also help you determine how to spend your ad dollars.

You are looking at it. What we may believe to be true -- I will just use your example, which is a great one, wherever you are looking at, the greater DC area to come here, too. We may find that unsolicited, organically that Louisiana and Texas come to the website wanting to find out about Jackson County. So we redirect dollars. It is a great tool to find that out.

So website and fulfillment strategies include combining the unique locales, all the various things in and around Jackson County to do into a single destination and a single digital portal to manage data and inquiries.

Content, content, content. It has to be relevant.
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It has to be rich and it has to be fresh. It can't just sit there.

You want to a research engine to kick you out, be stable.

Complete optimization for maximizing organic search. It is optimization that is my favorite thing about the digital space right now. Again it allows us to change almost realtime our strategies.

Fully responsive design. We talked about that a while ago. It is critical nowadays. Just don't do a website if you don't think it is responsive.

Engaging visitor interface. We will make it pretty. While it has to be work and be functional and easy to navigate, it does have to be pretty and reflect that unique personality that is Jackson County.

Both automated and customized inquiry fulfillment. There will be some automated things that you won't be able to actually talk to someone at $1: 00$ in the morning while they can't sleep and they are looking for that next great vacation. So we will have some automated responses as well as conventional responses.

Robust data capture for outbound campaigns. Customize analytics for timely reporting. And create a user-friendly content management system.

CMS is the acronym for this. The CMS system is so

[^2]important because it allows you back-in access to the website so you don't have to pay web developers like us
3 to make a simple change, a date change for a festival
4 or something that may need to be added in a certain
5 area or a rate change or just some descriptive data
6 a happy to. But we feel like you don't have to. So content management is very, very important.

I want to let you know one of the sites we did, and this was a bear to take care of. This would be sort of kind of our vision for Jackson County where the promo space would feature the umbrella destination here, which is Wilmington and Beaches. And you would obviously be able to do Cashiers or Cherokee or Cullowhee or Sylva or wherever right here and then drill down to all the various things to do in those areas.

Or when you come to the umbrella destination, if you just really want to find out things to do in a photo gallery, you can do that, too. But this
maintains the uniqueness and it maintains the character
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of all of the components that make up this county.
MR. SANDERS: We are not proposing that we do away with Julie's site and Stephanie's site. If you think about this, what we are thinking about is creating a pyramid.

So this new portable site is the top of the pyramid for the County. It has the words "Play On."
It is where that campaign lives. It is the front door to Jackson County.

From there we feed the Chambers and we feed everybody in the room leads. So I want to make that is clear.

And the reason we are showing this is because we have the same dynamic with Wilmington. Wilmington is historical and then you have the three beach towns. So we are taking all of that into consideration with this opportunity.

But you need a Jackson County portable site to tell the story. It is the first place they go to. And then we can distribute them wherever they want to go from there.

We have already mapped it out. So just like an architect with a house, this is our first shot at what this portal website would look like. So here are your house plans for the Jackson County portal site.

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10 MR. LUKER: So you are saying this is a caveat to 1 it? Just kidding.

MR. SANDERS: It is just a line item, I guess.
MR. BELL: Is it a bargaining tool?
MR. DURANT: You see how complex this is.
Barry, if you will walk us through it. It is a classic destination website.

And again, it is so critical again for it to work and work quickly.

Even load times are important. You know how people get really disenchanted with a site if it takes more than three seconds to load. So it is very important that all the code in that foundation of the house -- we use house analogies all the time -- they are solid, they are firm and they are well rounded and they work very beautifully.

MR. DURANT: Barry, again reiterate that those same things you see as navigational would be the same hings for the individual destination within Jackson County.

MR. LUKER: That is part of the $\$ 250,000$ plan?
MR. SANDERS: No.
MR. LUKER: What?
MR. SANDERS: The 250 is for the paid plan. I'm

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Furnishing those rooms in the house is another story all together. But fast load time and easy navigation and watch of navigation is very important.

MR. SANDERS: I think the document speaks for itself in terms of how we would map out the site in erms of primary navigation and secondary navigation and what you guys could control through the CMS.
So this would come with your input and with your approval. And then from there we would start the actual design process. But it always starts with a good, sound architectural plan.

MR. LUKER: What do you see that value, cost value?

MR. SANDERS: The cost? We are looking at $\$ 40,000$ or $\$ 50,000$ for a portable site. Maybe we can do it for less.

But from our experience in creating the Wilmington site and the Beaufort Chamber site, and many, many others, that is about what it would take.

MR. LUKER: And then this would be maintained in-house?

MR. SANDERS: We would maintain the site. We would host the site. We would provide search engine marketing to the site. So it would be our -- We would be the keepers of the site.

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1 The content management system would allow people in this room to go in and make low-level, easy changes if needed.

MR. BELL: I assume the $\$ 40,000$ or $\$ 50,000$ would 5 be the original fee. What would the next year
maintenance be, the fee for that that we could budget for?

MR. DURANT: That is a good question. It is hard to know because we would have to look at scope. And I am not going to give you the pat answer of we don't know until we find out.

We would have to look at scope, how much you are doing on your own, how much we are doing.

We want a website to live in its form for at least three years. But in three years it has to change. So we would hope we would set up the architecture to where it had a lifespan that would last around three years and then we could freshen it up and change it after that.

So it would drop dramatically unless you add functionality, some type of data capture or some --

MR. SANDERS: Every site is different. I really can't say.

MR. DURANT: I wish I could answer, but I just don't know. It depends on complexity. We have had

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some sites that are autopilot. There are some that require continual addition and enhancement. So we could give you some scenarios.

MR. PETERKIN: Don't you think to spend money to draw people to that site --

MR. SANDERS: And that is out of the paid -- out of the 250 . That is where we are driving eyeballs to the site.
speaker: That is still in the 250 ?
MR. DURANT: Nobody wants the greatest website nobody ever sees. So what you invest in it -- All of our efforts from fulfillment, whether it is print, PR, or social or digital, will be geared to getting people either to come here or to go to this website and get more information, buy more, stay longer, do whatever the deal may be.

But this will be the fulfillment service. Every message we have out there is going to be going to this URL in trackable manners, too.

Yes?
MS. TEASLEY: Which of these blocks on this diagram would have the actual names of the town? Is it the Masthead Navigation?

MR. DURANT: Yes, absolutely.
Everything you see on there we would add really
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above Masthead.

MS. TEASLEY: Above?
MR. DURANT: Yes, right there, so it would take on this look so that you could go --

MS. TEASLEY: So the recognizable town names would be on the first page?

MR. DURANT: Absolutely. Absolutely.
That is why I wanted you to see this example.
If someone chose to do so, they could find out everything there is to do in New Hanover County and go to "Things to do. Places to see. Events. Send me a visitor's guide;" or whatever the deal may be. Or they can say, "I already know all that. I just want to find out when the fireworks are at Carolina Beach" so they could go there. So all of your municipalities or your townships are protected.

MR. KOVAN: And this is a static image of this website. If you go to this site you can see this giant picture, it changes out. So this is Downtown Wilmington. The next shot may be a scene of Carolina Beach. The next shot could be Kure Beach.

You would have that same type of architecture here showing Sylva.

MR. SANDERS: We promote the entire county with a rotating page.

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MR. DURANT: And, in fact, when you go to, let's just use Sylva as an example, when you go to Sylva it has Carolina Beach. The promo panel which is this, would be imagery you need of Sylva. So that is the cool thing about it. These micro-sites, so to speak, are really the way to go with a portal website. And you have it in front of you.

Any questions on that before we move on?
We are near the end, y'all, I promise you.
Again you have seen how we have built integration here. We want to generate curiosity and consideration and love for the Jackson County product that can be done in PR and social right-of-way and inexpensively.

We want to control the number of impressions that you get and how they target markets measurably with paid media. We want to wrap that with research to make sure that we are talking to the consumers we need to and that leads and fulfillment are done properly. We want to have a place for them to come to buy this product, which is your website. So you see how the integration all works together how and it is maintained as a machine.

This is an idea of how an overall marketing budget, using that integration I just talked about, would flesh out.

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MR. SANDERS: That is our next title. We would like to -- I think that is a separate discussion about the logo and "Play On." I think we would look forward to that because we have some ideas. I think that is its own planning session. What does that mean to you guys? How can we bring it to life?

MR. DURANT: All right. I talked about the front end being research, the middle being all that stuff you just saw, and then the back end is keeping score.

I won't go over all this right now with all of
you. But every one of the disciplines and the channels
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you see that we deploy have measurements to them. This is how we measure our effectiveness. So take a look at that, if you would, and digest it. If you have any questions about these key performance indicators, please feel free.

We have very sophisticated software and human resources that pay a lot of attention to the reports, and especially with a public entity like a TDA. Those reports are very, very important to you.

All right. Steps to Success. Roadmap for integration. Ongoing research; marketing plan development, which we have brought to you today; creative campaign development, which will be the messaging we would apply to those media; execution across all these channels. Track it and then campaign, optimization, continually tweaking it, refine it, go from DC to Texas to wherever and continually optimize it.

Again, we would never and have never said here is the plan, set it in place, we'll see you next year. It is a daily, weekly, monthly effort. And that optimization is a very big part of it.

We have a timeline that we published and it doesn't show up here, I don't know why. Anyway, you'll see it in the handout when you get the data.

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MR. SANDERS: There are bars going across for each of the action items on the left. It goes month by month, how long it would take to do those. So we'll walk through that. That could start as soon as you guys are ready.

MR. DURANT: And then finally we feel like this is important. There is not a DMO destination CVV or TDA that we deal with that we also don't spend time selling the value of what you do for your constituents.

It is very important that the people who fund you, the taxes that help support you, the people who benefit from the efforts that you put forth in this area --

We know all the things, they are communicated with. And we want to continually make sure that they know that you have economic impact, you create tax relief, revenue generation, and an overall improvement of quality of life just by doing what you do with the TDA.

Now I'm going to take a breath and let Andy take the floor and lead us into a quick discussion of where we are with the brand.

And Andy, if you will jump up and just tell us what is next on that, we can kind of put a vote on this.

MR. KOVAN: I think the idea here is an idea,
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"Play On" is pretty intuitive. But before we got into the creative development and really bring in this idea to life we want to do a planning session with the key stakeholders, the people in this room to understand what this means to you and how we can bring it to life and how it is relevant to the consumer.

We are exited about working with it. We just want to again gauge some more perspective on the intent.

MR. DURANT: And along with this, to your question, one of the things that would be yielded from this would be URL monitor, you know, the way you are referred to and these things, too.

So this needs to be given a face now that you have a brand position. It needs to be applied to the message.

MR. SANDERS: And it represents a significant PR opportunity, going down the road we understand what it means. Part of our PR effort would be to unveil the "Play On" to the travel industry and to the consumers.

You really can't do that until you start marketing it. So I talked to our PR team about how soon can we launch the plan from a PR standpoint. She said, "Show me the goods. Where is it? Show me a magazine where you see the 'Play On.' Show me the website."

So once the marketing machine is built and we can
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say "Play On," go check it out, it lives here, here and here, so it is a PR opportunity. It is going to give you guys some momentum, an identity.

And people across the state of North Carolina are

a sleepy, little mountain town. They are doing
7 something. They know what they stand for and they are
8 shouting it from the mountains. It creates a PR
9 bonanza for you if you do it right.
MR. LUKER: You brought the plan, Plan A and Plan B. And you brought this. So you have got $\$ 200,000$, $\$ 250,000$. And then you have got a $\$ 50,000$ website.

What would be the timeframe on that?
MR. SANDERS: On the website?
MR. LUKER: Yes.
MR. SANDERS: Once we have the creative done we are going to need at least 12 weeks from that point to program the site and make it finished. It is not a -It is a long process. We have to test it once we finish it. I wish it was faster.

MR. LUKER: So you are halfway through 2014 at a minimum?

MR. SANDERS: I think we would be ready for the season, be ready for late spring, the best we could do. We could do it in phases. We have had clients

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where they said, "I got to have the site up in eight weeks. Maybe you could do a Phase One site and then behind the curtain finish it up."

We can work with you on that.
Some of that might be photography. Do we have the photography we need to build a great site? If not, we might have to wait. There are a lot of factors in.
Because visually it has got to knock people dead.
MR. DURANT: Questions or comments?
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a question.
MR. DURANT: Yes, sir.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You have $\$ 250,000$ in the budget plus $\$ 50,000$ to create the website. Is the maintenance for the website part of the $\$ 250,000$ or is that going to be above and beyond the budget that has been set?

MR. SANDERS: That would be above and beyond. The total budget -- I'm aware that the total funds for the TDA is in excess of $\$ 600,000$ or something like that.

I don't think we know enough about what the real number is to go against this marketing plan yet. We have an idea of it. I'm not so sure that I have a firm number to work on.

So we are not trying to dance around the budget, but at the same time we are not exactly sure what that

[^3]number is based on.
MR. DURANT: That is not something we were prepared to hear. We knew hard numbers would be asked about. But it is sort of kind of a moving target right now. We have recommended a plan. And we feel comfortable we can deliver all of the components for X amount within the understood budget.

But until we know -- To Barry's point, we need a little more information.

MR. MEADS: It is going to need to go back to the finance committee and to the marketing committee to not talk globally, but talk specifically so you guys could get closer to this moving target.

MR. SANDERS: That would be helpful.
MR. MEADS: $\$ 600,000$ is $\$ 600,000$. But when you start taking big chunks out of it, we are already
committed, we are not close to what you all have here.
MR. DURANT: Understood.
MS. EDWARDS: Barry, do I understand too that on the content management side, the more that we can provide to you, whether it is the photography or the information, event calendars, that helps reduce the cost overall, would it not, on a maintenance basis?

MR. SANDERS: It would.
And we would love to work -- There are people in SPERLING \& BARRACO, INC.

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this county that could help us with PR stories and ideas. And we want to utilize those. We don't want to do it in a vacuum. And it just works better that way, if we have participation from the client side.

It doesn't have to be the committee. It could be anyone in this room that has an interesting story or a business angle. That would help.

You know, if you have great photography, that saves thousands and thousands of dollars.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: For those of us that are not on the Board, if we have input or questions, who do we go to? Clifford? Stephanie? Or directly to you all?

I am interested in hearing that. What is the correct --

MR. MEADS: You can funnel it through either Stephanie or Julie, depending on what part of the county you are from. They will get with Robert or one of his representatives, I would guess.

MR. SANDERS: That would be fine. We would welcome that.

And that is an opportunity. I mean, just off Highway 107, if you branch out, there is so much cool stuff there, the rock and stuff that I didn't even know existed. There is a lot to talk about there.

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1 MR. DURANT: Is there anything else? We want to make sure that --

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| 1 you wanting this to go back now into subcommittee now |
| 2 that we have gotten this? |
| 3 MR. MEADS: I think we need to take a good, hard |
| 4 look at it and let the dust settle and come up with |
| 5 some numbers. There are some things that we have to |
| 6 discuss. |
| $7 \quad$ We have the RFP getting ready to go out for PTR |
| 8 |
| 9 |
| 9 |

meeting for 30 minutes before this meeting, whatever.
I'm looking to you for some timeframes as to say, okay, in a week we are going to have this back into the subcommittees or whatever and start looking at it. And when are we due in these other proposals and things?

MR. MEADS: I can't answer the other proposal, that is yet to go out. I don't know what the status is of that right now, to be honest with you. It is
probably worth going out if we have something. That is what we need to look at.

I don't think that there is any reason from the Board why we couldn't come to some form of a formal vote at least by the next meeting, if not the following meeting. That would be Robert's decision at that particular point in time.

Because you can't swallow the whole thing. But we could get comfortable with parts of it and start having Brandon put together some things while other chips get into position.

MR. LUKER: I agree. I just think at some point --

MR. MEADS: We are there.
MR. LUKER: -- we have got to do something.
MR. MEADS: We are at that point. I believe we are right at that point. I don't think it is today,

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but it is certainly within the next two or three
meetings.
MR. LUKER: Thank you.
MR. MEADS: Ma'am?
MS. HATTLER: When we started this, when the marketing committee started this plan, it was on the benefit of the Board going towards the goal of having a marketing company that would be completely encompassing most of the different things that we were doing, the media plan, public relations, doing all of the different things.

But I think that this is what they have done beautifully to show us all parts of bringing it together.

MR. MEADS: Great job.
MS. HATTLER: I was sitting on the marketing committee and -- the chairman of it. It has been extremely difficult to handle all these things together.

So I think as we are looking over it for the next month, I think it would be very beneficial to keep in mind the ease and the convenience and probably a much better outcome if we keep it with an agency.

We have certain things that we want to break out. Obviously we have some media that has already been

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1 placed. That they can deal with.
that retail center that is associated with the motel.
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1 Those will include significant esthetic improvements to 2 increase the visibility along Highway 107.

And many of you actually pass this property on the west side of 107 at Slab Town Road just north the crossroads.

And although not yet formally announced, I understand there will also be a new restaurant in the complex. And that is going to be a welcome -- an added amenity for Cashiers area visitors.

This weekend the Chamber will host the 39th annual Christmas Parade which also is an attraction for out of town visitors who return every year as part of their tradition.

The event will be streamed live on the internet. We have been promoting that regionally to reinforce that there are compelling reasons to visit in November and December after the mountains fall leaf season.

The Sapphire Ski Area also opens this Saturday. And early indications are it is going to be a great year. They already anecdotally are enjoying strong bookings in anticipation of a good snow season and the snow making equipment is already in use.

2014 looking ahead is the 60th anniversary of the Sapphire development. And we are planning to help them maximize that market exposure for the occasion.

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I believe Ken mentioned at the last meeting we are working with the folks at Sapphire to ensure that we create as much synergy as possible on mutual promotion and tourism support there.

I will distribute quickly -- Or I will let Julie do her program first. I will distribute the 2014 major community events calendar that includes many of the activities that were supported by TDA grant funds for the purpose of promoting overnight stays. And we have already input this information on Visit North Carolina or visitnc.com's website. It began efforts to capitalize on the public relations activities that are related to those.

As usual, we have compiled the inquiry tracking data and lead responses which revealed -- I will make sure those are handed out.

We also have a directory with our new members' names for your convenience. And I will circulate that to you digitally.

We have also received a number of requests for the TDA grant funding which Robert addressed. And I think it will be important. We are looking forward to working with the Board on that to ensure that those opportunities align with the overall marketing strategy.

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1 In closing, I want to mention that Steve Morris who has been talked about, the director of Hospitality 3 and Tourism Department at WCU recently spoke here in Cashiers to the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley. And he 5 reiterated -- quantified exactly what George was 6 discussing today, the importance of a successful 7 tourism industry here in the county.

He talked about the impact on restaurants, retailers, and all the other businesses. And his presentation was very well received among that audience.

And I believe Rich Prise -- Is he still here?
If I may, I will take the opportunity, he is the
new director of economic development for Jackson County
and he is with us here today. And I wanted to
recognize him, but also thank him for his interest and support acknowledging the importance of tourism affairs and the extended community development across the county.

So with that, I wish everybody a happy holiday. I am looking forward to working with the TDA Board for a very productive 2014.

I'll make these available as soon as Julie has completed her report.

MS. SPIRO: There are two things there for you.
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There is the monthly inquiry reports and such. There is also a grant evaluation form here completed by the
WNC Pottery Festival. They were a recipient of TDA
money. And as required, you are supposed to complete a
5 grant evaluation form and return it within 30 days, and
they did do that. So there is that form for you to
read over.
Just a couple of quick things. On November 25th
Rachel with Our State Magazine contacted me. And this
is a direct follow up to information we sent to
Elizabeth Hudson of Our State, our former PR rep Craig
Disti had pitched the Sapphire Valley Outhouse Race to Elizabeth.

I sent him a CD of photographs that I had from 2012. And I sent Rachel those photographs. And luckily Kelly Dawson had a bunch more.

Thank you, Kelly.
And we sent those to Rachel at Our State. She got with Steve Martell at Sapphire, talked with him. And hopefully we are going to have a good story in Our State coming out.

Following up on visitnc.com, they are having some growing pains there. We have uploaded about 56 photos to go with the accommodations and restaurants. And it takes sometimes five to eight days for those updates to

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appear. So I would appreciate your patience if you
2 have sent photos to upload, it just takes some time.
3 It does show up, but it takes a while.
We also updated the social media links for anyone on that.

Alex, I will give you just a moment. I thought you might want to mention the WNC Fly Fishing Expo you just participated in.

MR. BALL: That was with the Asheville Ag Center. It was a great event.

We gave out over or right at 500 maps and about a thousand chapsticks. We had a lot of inquiry.

A good thing, a lot of people from Tennessee and Alabama, some Louisiana people were there, as well. So it wasn't just people from Buncombe County that were there, they were from all over the area.

It went very well. And hopefully it will be good next year.

MS. TEASLEY: Julie?
MS. SPIRO: Yes?
MS. TEASLEY: May I mention something that just happened yesterday? We had guest come in with a great, big, beautiful book called "A Hundred Years of Dining." And they are all restaurants in all the states in the United States that are over a hundred years old. And

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Balsam was in there, too.
(Applaud.)
MS. SPIRO: I have to mention this last. I
bragged very heavily on Merrily's wonderful article in Our State Magazine last month. We are still getting inquiries from that. I hope it helps her bookings, as well. So I applaud the efforts there at Balsam
Mountain Inn.
Also the Fly Fishing Federation, the Southeast Fly Fishing Federation has booked the Ramsey Center for 2014, May 15th and 16th.

Luminares is this weekend again, this Friday and Saturday. The fireworks are Saturday night 8 p.m, weather permitting.

The Sylva Christmas parade is this Saturday at 2 p.m. And New Year's Eve at Balsam Mountain Inn, you need to make a reservation for that. And Harrah's Cherokee is having ZZ Top in concert at 10:30 p.m. And all the restaurants are staying opening in light of the New Year's Eve Special.

Merry Christmas.
MR. MEADS: Thank you.
I think at this point I will turn the --
Yes, ma'am?
MS. HATTLER: Before you turn it over to Robert, I
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want to say to the Board and to the commissioners that it has been an honor to serve on this TDA Board. I was very excited and very happy that we have accomplished

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10 know you have a wonderful group of people coming forward and I wish you the best.

And if there is anything that I can help you with in the future, any information or anything I have I will be glad to share.

And thank you so much.
MR. MEADS: Before I was going to turn it over to
Robert, I was going to thank you for the work that you did this year. There was a lot of it. We had to crawl before we walked. And it was a tough process. But I thank you very much.

And as well, I thank all the other Board members here for the help that you have given me this year.
The audit report looks good. The bank account records look good. The platform in which we move into in the future looks very, very exciting. "Play On" is going

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1 to be around here for a long, long time. I think that a lot of good happened this year.
have a personal agenda coming into this, but I did when

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I got on the Board. And I continue to have it.
I was born in Harris Hospital. I was raised in Sylva in the Jackson County community. I went to Sylva-Webster. I am not a Smoky Mountain, I'm a Sylva-Webster guy, the class of '79. Western Carolina 6 University class of ' 83 .

I have worked and lived in this area and I have been working in this county all of my life. I love
Jackson County, I love it to death.
Tourism is important to the Jackson County community. But we are not working for the sake of tourism, we are working for the sake of Jackson County.

And I want us to work towards that unified goal of making our community better through tourism, not making tourism better and then think about the community secondly. So that is my only agenda.

I have no politics in the running. I have no other agenda than the success of Jackson County through tourism.

Thank you for the time to say that.
I have asked three folks to step up and take charge of some committees. I have asked Clifford to be the head of the marketing committee. I have asked Brian to take care of finance and Alex to take care of government. They have all three accepted. So I will

[^4]be working with them.
If at all possible, next week is an executive committee meeting together quickly to talk about the marketing plan and the PR plan and whether those are going to be integrated or separate issues.

Certificates of appreciation.
Deb, we have a little gift for you, too. I will get that as soon as we adjourn.

And Clifford, thank you, sir. That is a nice autograph you can keep forever.

MR. MEADS: It has the right logo on it.
MR. JUMPER: Quickly, you have your meetings on -typically on the third Wednesday, right, not the second? So the next one would be -- What is the date of the next meeting, January, I think the 15th.

MR. LUKER: It is the 15th.
MR. JUMPER: Everybody okay with the 15th at 1:00?
I like communication via email. You can send me texts. An email is the easiest way for me to remember to follow up with you. So if you have any questions or concerns, by all means if you want to call and talk to me on the phone, that is great. But probably the 22 easiest and best way would be email.

And the last thing on the agenda is public comments.

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