

Coffee County Strategic Planning Committee

Jan 19th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Claude Morse, Lynn Sebourn, Jimmy Hollandsworth, Dennis Hunt, Ron Fuller, Brent Willis, Robert Norfleet, David Young, Dennis Hunt

Guest: Dr. John Schmisser, Executive Director, University of Tennessee Space Institute

Chairman Sebourn called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

The committee met with Dr. Schmisser to discuss the role of UTSI in the community and cooperative efforts between UTSI and county government.

Topics discussed included:

- An overview of the mission of UTSI in the community.
- Dr. Schmisser's goal of positioning UTSI as a regional hub for aerospace and defense industry presence in southern Tennessee.
- Fostering workforce development in middle Tennessee, including creating a workforce development environment which integrates technical training through entities such as TCATs, (Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology), undergraduate training, and graduate research and design programs to provide a well-rounded workforce in Middle Tennessee to support the aerospace and defense industry.
- The need for affordable housing for UTSI students in the area and to assist in recruiting additional students.
- Strengthening relationships between researchers and students in Knoxville and UTSI.
- Expanding the reach of UTSI research and student recruiting into the Huntsville aerospace and defense market.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 pm.