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# Coyle: No emergency meeting on Jackson Lab, delay could be a positive

By AISLING SWIFT

Posted December 7, 2010 at 12:55 p.m., updated December 7, 2010 at 7:57 p.m.

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Company CEO says it's make-or-break

COLLIER COUNTY — There will be no emergency Board of County Commissioners meeting Friday because the Jackson Laboratory project has been steadily moving forward, Commission Chairman Fred Coyle said Tuesday.

Delays that led to the Maine-based lab being unable to complete its state Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development application by Jan. 4 could benefit Collier County, according to Coyle, who suggested the Legislature next year could approve more funding, a larger match, for the lab to reduce the risk to the

county.

"I don't know if Jackson Lab is a good deal yet, but I'd like to perform responsibly," Coyle said. "...It's not a done-deal. There's no way the Board of County Commissioners will vote to get this project approved without answering the questions we've asked."

**Documents**

- Henning's memo and statement
- Coyle's letters re Jackson Lab
- State's reply to Coyle

**JACKSON**

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LABORATORY



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Day 4: Two Collier commissioners support Jackson Lab, Bar Harbor trip persuasive

The application process, litigation and court hearings, he said, will provide the county and residents with needed information to determine if it's a viable project. He noted Collier isn't required to go through the bond validation process, but it would expedite the process.

Even if it doesn't lead to the lab locating here, he said, it will provide information needed to diversify the county and improve its economy.

On Monday, Commissioner Tom Henning, who opposes the project, asked Coyle or a majority of commissioners to call an emergency meeting, citing the lab's failure to complete its application. The newest commissioner, Georgia Hiller, joined the opposition, likening Collier's economy to a "boat with a hole."

"It doesn't do us good to go outside our market and diversify when businesses here in the county are failing," Hiller said. "It makes absolutely no sense for us to allow existing companies to fail and at the same time turn around and recruit a business that has no track record of attracting other businesses."

Calling that a "bunch of bunk," Coyle pointed to communities such as Montgomery County, Md., that bolstered economies by creating scientific business clusters. Over 70 years, he said, Collier has grown through tourism, construction, real estate and agriculture, but they're more affected by economic downturns.

"We need a vibrant economy that isn't as affected by recession, so we need to diversify. We need to jump start it in some way," he said, blaming some opposition

on the national outcry over politicians and the economy.

"The people who are talking the loudest about transparency don't want us to get all the information and complete the process. Now why is that?" he asked, referring to residents questioning commissioners. "We just ask people to let us do our jobs."

The lab has proposed a 165,000-square-foot research building in eastern Collier that would create 200 jobs, with a future medical park potentially creating thousands more over a 20-year buildout. A rezoning hearing is set for Tuesday.

The project, set for Oil Well Road near Ave Maria University, already has attracted Athleticcode Inc. of California, which is partnering with the lab to explore the genetic basis of athletic injuries. The University of South Florida at Tampa, Edison State College and Florida Gulf Coast University also have signed letters of intent.

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Lab officials blame Congress for the delay in the application, noting state funding was contingent upon how much Medicaid funding Florida would receive. Congress approved \$700 million in enhanced Medicaid payments before the Labor Day recess.

Since then, according to Chuck Hewett, Jackson's executive vice president and CEO, discussions with Economic Florida Inc. are ongoing, but there's still no final agreement and a final application hasn't been submitted to state economic officials.

When the Legislature approved \$50 million in first-year funding, Collier was to get 120 days to come up with a local funding match and a March 1 deadline to begin construction or the state money is forfeited. Coyle, however, maintains construction began earlier, when digging on a lake began and fill being used for Oil Well Road.

The delay could still jeopardize the project because Governor-elect Rick Scott of Naples, a former CEO of the country's largest for-profit hospital chain, Columbia/HCA, considers it a bad deal for taxpayers. Outgoing Gov. Charlie Crist supported it.

Mike Hyde, the lab's vice president for advancement, agreed the change in state administration has caused setbacks.

"The turmoil at the state level has more or less brought an effective halt to the project," Hyde said, adding Scott is expected to appoint a new administration for the development office. "It's clear there's a new administration and there will be a new round of discussions."

He declined to detail the holdup with EFI, but added, "There's still a lot of talking to be done."

Arthrex, which makes biomedical devices, has sued to challenge the constitutionality of proposed state funding and citizens also have sued. Although the process isn't subject to state open records laws, Coyle noted Collier has been open and more will be disclosed, especially at court hearings. He provided letters he'd sent Hewett and Hart, seeking details and outlining the county's stance.

Among state officials, one letter shows, it's called "Project Peet."

"It's always been the practice in economic development circles to have a code name to protect the anonymity of organizations so they don't say ... who the prospective client will be," Hyde said, adding that state officials came up with the name two years ago while drinking Peet's Coffee and discussing the project with lab officials.

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**Georgia Hiller**  
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**Tom Henning**



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December 7, 2010  
1:07 p.m.

**1962 writes:**

Let the people of Collier County vote if we want Jackson Labs here. Thanks Tom Henning and Georgia Hiller.

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

December 7, 2010

**naplesred writes:**

1:11 p.m. Coyle said. "I don't know if Jackson Lab is a good deal yet".

Suggest removal And yet he continues to try and push this through at the taxpayers' expense. He would vote yes if a vote was held today. He's not waiting for any answers to any questions. And we all now know that he is a financial contributor to Jax Labs. Reply to this post This arrogant little man burns me up.

December 7, 2010 **goingup (Inactive) writes:**

1:15 p.m. "Now that would reduce our risk," Coyle said. "I don't know if Jackson Lab is a good deal yet, but I'd like to perform responsibly. ...It's not a done deal"

Suggest removal What? You've now disclosed the fraud and deceit you are trying to pull over our heads...right from your own mouth. This is what we have sitting on our board of those that are supposed to look out for us?!? Corrupt as they get. Reply to this post

December 7, 2010 **itmattershere writes:**

1:21 p.m. COYLE, YOU JUST LOST MY VOTE, AND OTHERS, HOPE YOU MAKE ALLOT OF MONEY ON THIS DEAL, BECAUSE I HOPE IT'S YOUR LAST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Suggest removal Reply to this post

December 7, 2010 **BigOrangeKitty writes:**

1:22 p.m. An important part of your JOB, Commissioner Coyle, is to LISTEN to the people you're supposed to represent -- and you're failing at this, big time.

Suggest removal Jackson Labs' failure to apply for state funding assistance offered you an absolutely perfect, face-saving way to back out of this whole mess. Reply to this post How many lawsuits do the citizens have to file before you'll listen, Commissioner Coyle? What's the count now, three? Your persistence gives credence to the rumors that you're getting something personally from this deal, Commissioner Coyle. You're wasting time and money on Jackson Labs when you could be doing some REAL good for the people of Collier County. (your JOB, remember?)

December 7, 2010 **gtreel5 writes:**

1:25 p.m. Oh pleez Ms Hiller. businesses are failing because Collier put all its eggs in the growth and construction basket which is currently in the toilet. Yes please lets continues to hide our head in the sand on economic development issues and oh yes please lets continue to fund Ms Nemechecks office so she can continue to hob nob at business cocktail hours while we all count how many dollars we are under water on our property values (assuming you haven't been foreclosed on yet). Jackson labs would be a viable option if the County taxpayers weren't funding private industry to the degree currently proposed.

Suggest removal Reply to this post

December 7, 2010 **flamom73 writes:**

1:27 p.m. How much is your kick-back Fred, you old thief.

Suggest removal Reply to this post

December 7, 2010 **TSCAV2008 writes:**

1:39 p.m. Businesses are failing because they are too dependent on the cyclic market which Collier County has gone through in the last 20 years. Keep feeding welfare to all the businesses here and they would just keep it for themselves. Let's wait and see what Jackson Labs comes back with before we start destroying a golden opportunity. So far, the opposition only want growth to stagnate but I haven't heard one good idea that they have to actually promote growth. On the

Suggest removal Reply to this post

other hand, let's let the brilliant general public vote on an issue that could change the landscape of this county forever. I'd rather let Obama decide.

December 7, 2010  
1:39 p.m.

**transplantOH writes:**

Suggest removal

Hooray for Coyle. Boo for Henning causing a ruckus with an emergency meeting. Just goes to show how outta whack his thinking is. He and Arthrex are determined to make us all look like idiots. Florida will surely not give Collier County a second look next time stimulus dollars come around.

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
1:47 p.m.

**naplesred writes:**

in response to **transplantOH**:

Suggest removal

Hooray for Coyle. Boo for Henning causing a ruckus with an emergency meeting. Just goes to show how outta whack his thinking is. He and Arthrex are determined to make us all look like idiots. Florida will surely not give Collier County a second look next time stimulus dollars come around.

Reply to this post

Go home and stay there. Ohio misses you and we never will.

December 7, 2010  
1:56 p.m.

**alantheman writes:**

Suggest removal

Tom Henning is totally correct it is an emergency to stop this madness and the sooner the better. Jackson Labs is a total mistake. Henning is right to call for stopping it now.

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
2:02 p.m.

**mars2130 writes:**

Suggest removal

Finally some candor and a measured approach to Jackson Labs! Given the broad support of higher education and for-profit entities it would be irresponsible and short sided to prematurely dismiss a potentially positive, job creating project.

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
2:09 p.m.

**CAEP writes:**

Suggest removal

Who is Fred Coyle and what background does he have in business? He is another old \_\_\_\_\_ that needs to be replaced along with Coletta, the equipment rental maven.

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
2:13 p.m.

**PeopleSpeak writes:**

Suggest removal

"Coyle points to communities such as Montgomery County, Md., that bolstered their economies by creating a cluster of scientific businesses."

Reply to this post

Let's take this logic seriously, I fully support the comparison.

Let's find a part of FLA similar to Montgomery County.

Must:

1. Be part of major metropolitan area with over five million people
2. Have easy commuter rail access to and around metropolitan center
3. Have major interstate highway pass directly through
4. Be home to many well educated residents
5. Easy access to multiple major airports and Amtrak lines

Tell me again how Jonestown Phase II fits this profile?

NO JACKSON LABS!

No Collier-Monaghan Bailout!

Dissolve the EDC!

Eliminate the crooked Kommissioners and their Kronies!



December 7, 2010  
2:17 p.m.

### **Cody writes:**

Coyle its time for you to retire.....

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
2:48 p.m.

### **SDM5064 writes:**

Good to see the majority of the commission has the vision to see what something like Jackson can do for Collier County. Jackson would serve as an anchor and is already attracting major businesses that would enlarge the size of the Medical Park. The minute Jackson gets approved there will be an enormous amount of interest from many wanting to join this project. I would gladly give up a couple of Latte's at Starbucks to see this project come to fruition!

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
2:49 p.m.

### **tathiede writes:**

in response to [naplesred](#):

Go home and stay there. Ohio misses you and we never will.

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

I've been wanting to say that to "transplantOH" for some time now. I'm glad you said it. Go back to OHIO!!!!!!

December 7, 2010  
2:54 p.m.

### **angrytxpyr writes:**

Oh Freddy you such a voice of wisdom, "reduce our risk" WOW what an idea. Was that you intention when you blew all the TAXPAYER \$\$\$ fighting Dwight Brock and his auditor pen? Was that you intent when you went on a tirade at the commission meeting over the Sunshine law violations during the RAT FARM trip? Hey Fred why don't you eliminate TAXPAYER risk and QUIT??? Your an arrogant vindictive little old man and you should do us all a favor and GO AWAY!!! Fred Coyle is on record saying construction of the RAT FARM could start last Summer. What happened Fred? I bet you didn't really expect the unwashed TAXPAYERS take a close look at this multi-million TAXPAYER \$\$\$\$ give away to a Non-Profit and Barron Collier Corp now did ya Fred. Well this ain't the City Fred, your gonna have realize the TAXPAYERS want a voice in this and you are not the KING OF THE COUNTY. Meanwhile the Governor Elect is getting really good at the backstroke and has even spent some time practicing platform diving. How strange though that he is only working on one dive form and that just happens to be the politically famous "FLIP-FLOP" form. Lets see, hey at least its no where near the Billions HCA stole under his watch and the redirected Medicare \$\$\$ will actually go to a Non-Profit without TAXPAYER support, AHA H Mr. Scott, you might just want to avoid a comment on your FLIP-FLOP/BACK STROKE stuff and maybe plead the FIFTH. How much were the Jackson Lab & Barron Collier contributions to the Governor Elect??? Could be a Quid-Pro-Quo situation ya know.

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
2:55 p.m.

### **Oh\_Please writes:**

While Ms. Hiller likens our economy to a boat with a hole, her answer is to support our existing businesses? With what? How are we to shore up the real estate, construction, and tourism businesses Ms. Hiller? Since they represent 99% of the businesses here can she magically make people move or visit Collier County? Likely, she just means helping her pocketbook (Arthrex) which doesn't do a thing for us. How many companies have moved here because they're here? Hmmm, none. Meanwhile they just sit over there stomping their feet in the sandbox, and they don't want to let anyone else in.

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

Kudos to Mr. Coyle for remaining strong in the face of all of this nonsense. A hard choice must be made to meet the future. Does the County make the decision to take the harder path of trying to predict and meet the needs of this potential opportunity, or do they just sit by, do nothing, and let his opportunity and history leave us behind? At least Mr. Coyle has the sense and patience to make

sure we analyze the deal fully before deciding one way or another. Frankly, I prefer this approach versus just killing it because of the misinformed ramblings of a few.

December 7, 2010  
3:09 p.m.

#### **napleschik writes:**

in response to **gtree15**:

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

Oh pleez Ms Hiller. businesses are failing because Collier put all its eggs in the growth and construction basket which is currently in the toilet. Yes please lets continues to hide our head in the sand on economic development issues and oh yes please lets continue to fund Ms Nemechecks office so she can continue to hob nob at business cocktail hours while we all count how many dollars we are under water on our property values (assuming you haven't been foreclosed on yet). Jackson labs would be a viable option if the County taxpayers weren't funding private industry to the degree currently proposed.

That's what she said idiot!

December 7, 2010  
3:14 p.m.

#### **neoonnot writes:**

in response to **PeopleSpeak**:

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

"Coyle points to communities such as Montgomery County, Md., that bolstered their economies by creating a cluster of scientific businesses."

Let's take this logic seriously, I fully support the comparison.

Let's find a part of FLA similar to Montgomery County.

Must:

1. Be part of major metropolitan area with over five million people
2. Have easy commuter rail access to and around metropolitan center
3. Have major interstate highway pass directly through
4. Be home to many well educated residents
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Tell me again how Jonestown Phase II fits this profile?

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No Collier-Monaghan Bailout!

Dissolve the EDC!

Eliminate the crooked Kommissioners and their Kronies!

My exact thoughts... How stinkin' ludicrous. Is this the best Coyle can come up with? Holy cow, it'd be like comparing Bonita to Philadelphia.

And this whole BS about "the scientific community" doesn't suffer as much in an economic downturn. If that was the case, why isn't Jackson doing so well in "diversified" California? CA is in the pits worse than any location across the country and they are "diversified" economically. Maybe he's referring to university or college settings, the likes of which this isn't (all due respect to AMU, but it's not a technology/sciences school).

December 7, 2010  
3:33 p.m.

#### **napleschik writes:**

This has been a gross misuse of tax dollars. This entire process should be stopped at once, and a full investigation should ensue. The expense money paid for any county employee to go be wined and dined in Maine needs to be reimbursed by JL as part of a settlement. The Sunshine Law lawsuit actually has some legs. Removing these people will be our pleasure!

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
3:48 p.m.

#### **cornandbeans writes:**

transplantOH -

Suggest removal



Reply to this post I mean commissioner Fiala. You slipped up ..."make US look like idiots." Who's US, Donna. You, Coyle and Coletta?

Donna, resign. You're 72, had a good run, and need to go out to pasture.

It's not your place to save CC. It's your place to stop the spending, debt accumulation, and communist control of individuals in this county.

You are the problem, Donna. Not the commentors on the NDN.

December 7, 2010  
3:53 p.m.

**cornandbeans writes:**

Suggest removal  
Reply to this post

OhPlease-  
How do we shore up existing businesses? Easy. Eliminate impact fees, reduce permitting fees, fire contractors licensing committee, rewrite land use code so individuals actually can do something with the property they buy, ...  
Otherwise, get the stinken commissioners out of the way of business and industry!!

December 7, 2010  
3:55 p.m.

**cornandbeans writes:**

Suggest removal  
Reply to this post

neoconnot-  
Perfect! Please email your response to all commissioners.

December 7, 2010  
3:58 p.m.

**PeopleSpeak writes:**

Suggest removal  
Reply to this post

in response to **cornandbeans**:  
transplantOH -  
I mean commissioner Fiala. You slipped up ..."make US look like idiots." Who's US, Donna. You, Coyle and Coletta?  
Donna, resign. You're 72, had a good run, and need to go out to pasture.  
It's not your place to save CC. It's your place to stop the spending, debt accumulation, and communist control of individuals in this county.  
You are the problem, Donna. Not the commentors on the NDN.

Had a good chuckle there!

Wouldn't that be the greatest if transplant was actually Fiala and had a big OOPS in giving it away in that post!

Speaking of transplant... what do the experts tell us to do with exotic invasives that crowd out others, monopolize resources for themselves, and try to take over?

December 7, 2010  
4:07 p.m.

**bikerboy60 writes:**

Suggest removal  
Reply to this post

The Nattering Neanderthals of Negativity are determined to put Collier County back into the stone age with their rabid opposition to science-based economic development. The Jackson Lab is a highly respected, highly credentialed organization in the science world, and most right-thinking places would love to have it expand in their own back yard. It would diversify Collier's tired old economy and spark new life, new opportunities and new jobs. Keep on sniffing out this deal, Mr. Coyle and the majority commissioners, because if you don't nab the Lab somebody else surely will!

December 7, 2010  
4:07 p.m.

**q45mm writes:**

Suggest removal

VOTE TO FIRER ALL COMMISSIONS THAT ARE IN OFFICE BECAUSE THEY TOLD JACKSON LABS TO HOLD OFF FOR MORE MONEY NEXT YEAR.VOTE NO NO NO NO TO JACKSON LABS,PEOPLE OF NAPLES,YOU

Reply to this post CANT BE THAT STUPID.A COMPLETE WASTE OF MILLIOS OF OUR MONEY.WE DONT HAVE IT TO SPEND.IF THEY WERE DOING SO GOOD,THEY WOULD NOT BE IN Naples looking for free money.

December 7, 2010 4:09 p.m.

**Hollywoody writes:**

Hillar must be pretty stupid based on her logic or bunk she speaks.

Suggest removal We need diversity like Jax lab but their price is too high.

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010 4:47 p.m.

**Cody writes:**

in response to **bikerboy60**:

Suggest removal

The Nattering Neanderthals of Negativity are determined to put Collier County back into the stone age with their rabid opposition to science-based economic development. The Jackson Lab is a highly respected, highly credentialed organization in the science world, and most right-thinking places would love to have it expand in their own back yard. It would diversify Collier's tired old economy and spark new life, new opportunities and new jobs. Keep on sniffing out this deal, Mr. Coyle and the majority commissioners, because if you don't nab the Lab somebody else surely will!

Reply to this post

Are you for real? Even if Jackson Labs is all you say it is, it still shouldn't get a free ride on taxpayer money.....unless the taxpayers have a say.....THAT IS THE ISSUE!!

December 7, 2010 5:12 p.m.

**flvsmom writes:**

in response to **bikerboy60**:

Suggest removal

The Nattering Neanderthals of Negativity are determined to put Collier County back into the stone age with their rabid opposition to science-based economic development. The Jackson Lab is a highly respected, highly credentialed organization in the science world, and most right-thinking places would love to have it expand in their own back yard. It would diversify Collier's tired old economy and spark new life, new opportunities and new jobs. Keep on sniffing out this deal, Mr. Coyle and the majority commissioners, because if you don't nab the Lab somebody else surely will!

Reply to this post

How come they haven't found a CEO after 8 months? Woychik originally promised to stay on board until a replacement was found, but now he is bailing in January. If they are so great you would think executives would be lining up for the opportunity.

"Jackson Lab CEO to leave in January"

"Eight months after announcing his intention to step down as head of The Jackson Laboratory, Richard Woychik on Tuesday said he will leave the post in January to take a job with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences."

<http://www.mainebiz.biz/news47222.html>  
[http://presszoom.com/story\\_162596.html](http://presszoom.com/story_162596.html)

December 7, 2010 5:16 p.m.

**flvsmom writes:**

Isn't it nice the Coyles can donate money to Jackson Labs and get a tax break while the rest of us get the bill.

Suggest removal

How many locals can you find on the Jackson Labs donor list?

Reply to this post

<http://www.jax.org/annual-report/2010...>

December 7, 2010  
6:24 p.m.

**jimjabber2 writes:**

Coyle is, and has been, full of lies and deceit from the very beginning of the Jax deal:

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

- He cooked up the deal behind closed doors with Colliers and self serving politicians like Richter, Grady and Hudson
- Bought an economic study (WEG Report)full of misrepresentations, lies and far out projections; none based upon facts
- Denied the voters a say on the 260M tax by ignoring the taxpayers and scheming with the evil Coletta and Fiala
- Ignored the Productivity Committeee findings and recommendations because it did not support the decision that had already been made by the power brokers
- Did not allow even a discussion among the BCC on the possibility of a voter referendum
- Disgraced the term " public servant" by perfecting the art of listening with a "tin ear" and ignoring the public's input

All of the above and more....and now Coyle takes another "spin" that further discredits his name as an elected official in Collier County.

Coyle, please know that wherever you or your family go in this county, you will be haunted by the fact that you are dispised by the community you are supposed to represent.

You continue to sell us all down the river and we will not forget, ever!

December 7, 2010  
6:37 p.m.

**w00tw00t writes:**

me thinks he dost protest too much ...

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

there is definitely something more going on here than just trying to bring a business into town ... this doesn't pass the smell test. It never did, but reading his words carefully, it's clear there's much more to the story. Let's hope NN digs deeper and finds out just what it is.

December 7, 2010  
6:39 p.m.

**w00tw00t writes:**

BTW, if they go through the bonding process to "speed things up" - there will be NO END to the amount of things they will want to bond out (which means spend your money on backed up by bonds) ... NO END ever.

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
6:41 p.m.

**beekeeper writes:**

I concur with the statements as to the arrogant and deprecating attitude that Coyle exhibits as to those who dare disagree with his imperial pronouncements. Total disregard for the report by the Productivity Committee as they did not agree with him. Sarcastic renderings from the dais as to those that dare disagree from the podium. Gushy genuflecting to those who favor the grand Scheme. And Athleticcode? A start up company looking to feed at the public trough with Jackson.

One question that Coyle and other Jackson supporters have not answered: if the forecastec returns are truly as the Believers assert why is there no substntial private capital in this deal? Simple question. Never answered.

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
7:06 p.m.

**conchsoup writes:**

In Lytle's video interview with Collier Enterprises' Blake Gable on this page, Gable says we have to wait and see who Rick Scott assembles on his Economic Development Transition Team before we'll know how Rick Scott will decide whether or not the Jackson Labs deal is good for Collier County..... Recognize any names on Rick Scott's economic development transition team?:

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

Tammie Nemecek, President, Collier County Economic Development Council  
Tom Conrecode, VP Government Affairs, Collier Enterprises

<http://flapartners.com/article.php?id...>

Unbelievable!

December 7, 2010  
7:22 p.m.

**angrytxpyr writes:**

in response to **flvsmom**:

Suggest removal

How come they haven't found a CEO after 8 months? Woychik originally promised to stay on board until a replacement was found, but now he is bailing in January. If they are so great you would think executives would be lining up for the opportunity.

Reply to this post

"Jackson Lab CEO to leave in January"

"Eight months after announcing his intention to step down as head of The Jackson Laboratory, Richard Woychik on Tuesday said he will leave the post in January to take a job with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences."

<http://www.mainebiz.biz/news47222.html>

[http://presszoom.com/story\\_162596.html](http://presszoom.com/story_162596.html)

To answer your question about finding a RAT FARM CEO: The guy has no intention of leaving until the big question is answered. If Coyle and Cronies somehow manage to separate local TAXPAYERS from \$130,000,000 and Tricky Rick has mastered the BACK STROKE & FLIP-FLOP this guy will get a HUGE BONUS. He's just sticking around until he is certain its either dead or he's got some extra spending money. Just ask yourself, if you were on your way to a new job and your employer all of a sudden offered a big bonus (A REAL BIG BONUS) to you to stay on an additional year would you still quit and go somewhere else only to start all over again??? Jackson Labs stands to get an easy \$260,000,000 from TAXPAYERS with little or no effort so don't think for a second that the sitting CEO ain't gonna get at least a percent or two of that or \$1,000,000-\$2,000,000. Oh and don't think for a second that he isn't in the market for a real estate investment possibly in OREGONE! Non-Profits are all about begging for money and its main source is TAXPAYER \$\$\$, They give their CEO's bonuses according to the amount of revenue they bring in from any and all sources. That blogger "bikerboy" AKA "pinkscooterfella" is a Colye/Grady RAT FARM tool and the best reply to it is NO REPLY. I wonder just how many Jackson Lab board members or benefactors are down here in SWFL and are at this very moment registering on this blogg sitee just so they can attack ANGRY TAXPAYERS with legitimate concerns over this massive theft of TAXPAYER \$\$\$\$. I have noticed more New England license plates than normal this year!!!

December 7, 2010  
7:41 p.m.

**maverick1 writes:**

Hiller makes a statement about failing companies in naples being allowed to fail. Hiller, we are not big government. If a business is failing due to poor operation, we do NOT want to step in and start that boondogle up. I am very wary of that save everybody kind of talk. taxpayers are not here for bailouts.

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
8:23 p.m.

**bsdetecter writes:**

Two huge red herrings in the JAX matter:

Suggest removal

That funding this science park will only cost "a couple of lattes at Starbucks" and another that the opposition to the project is confined to a few Neanderthals who don't understand the great potential of Collier County belatedly joining the army of other municipalities seeking to become a center of developmental science.

Reply to this post

On the first point, people are concerned with the cost simply because they are being told they will be forced to finance the entire quarter of a billion dollar tab to get the project off the ground. There are fewer than 100,000 county households

available to be tagged with the utility tax -- so that means with interest over 20 years, retiring those bonds will cost every contributing household around 5 thousand dollars over time. That's a lot of lattes!

On point 2, we all know a referendum would send the present giveaway boondoggle down to defeat by a 5 to 1 margin. Very few of those votes would be against research or science. They would be from voters rejecting the notion of forced investment in an enterprise that no sentient private sector financial advisor would consider worthwhile.

Additional considerations: Collier is simply late to the party. The "center of research" fad peaked at about the same time as the housing bubble. Remember when investing in real estate was also deemed to be "recession proof?" There are no recession proof industries except in the blather of politics -- elastic verbal gymnastics intended solely to get a political hack past one election to the next.

Can any of you "JAX deserves a free ride at taxpayer risk" advocates find an area of the country that did not suffer from this Bush-Obama financial disaster? Florida dipped its toes in the research waters in 2004. As a result, that effort has "created" a total of 460 new research jobs in the state, paying an average wage of \$66K/yr. -- but at a cost of a million dollars each.

Give me a million dollars and I'll find a way to make a pig fly.

This is all politics. Absolutely NO substance in any of it.

Elected officials and their hired minions hope you are too stupid to keep up with the fast dance of phony issues and illusory solutions intended to obscure the hidden agenda.

Clue to the JAX hidden agenda: Watch the flow of money -- not who or to what entity the funding is initially handed to, but in whose pockets the net dollars are likely to repose in the end game.

A 'valid and paramount' public purpose?

Dump the cliches and the sound bites. Address the JAX taxpayer donation in the context of how it is of "paramount" public benefit and purpose. If the estimates and conclusions of that "Washington Group Study" represent your best shot at providing supporting evidence, throw it in.

Nobody, least of all this newspaper, has even hinted at a fundamental understanding of this pivotal challenge.

December 7, 2010  
8:36 p.m.

**Panther309 writes:**

in response to **conchsoup**:

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

In Lytle's video interview with Collier Enterprises' Blake Gable on this page, Gable says we have to wait and see who Rick Scott assembles on his Economic Development Transition Team before we'll know how Rick Scott will decide whether or not the Jackson Labs deal is good for Collier County.....

Recognize any names on Rick Scott's economic development transition team?:

Tammie Nemecek, President, Collier County Economic Development Council

Tom Conrecode, VP Government Affairs, Collier Enterprises

<http://flapartners.com/article.php?id...>

Unbelievable!

And Reinhold Schmieding of Arthrex is also on the team. Is that also, "unbelievable!"?

December 7, 2010  
9:10 p.m.

**beekeeper writes:**

Suggest removal

Just when we thought that the Emperor had worn all his new clothes, Coyle throws on a new robe..that the fill for Oil Well Road dug from a lake by the

Reply to this post developer qualifies as the start of construction of the Jackson Lab project. Is it possible that the digging and use of that fill for Oil Well Road was part of an agreement in APRIL 2005 between the developer and Collier County to accelerate the 4-laning of Oil Well Road? NAW! Never! BUT read for yourself, at the Clerk's website, Official Records Book 3802, Page 2557. WOW! All of the creative juices are flowing..

December 7, 2010  
9:21 p.m.

**Cody writes:**

bsdetecter...thank you for taking the time to explain what intelligent already know....do your homework people.....this is a fiasco in the making....

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
9:23 p.m.

**beekeeper writes:**

and the supplement at Official Records Book 4502, Page 2581,

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
10:30 p.m.

**tommyboy18088 writes:**

Who are the fools who repeatedly vote for this old idiot? He does not care about his constituents. Why is he afraid to put ANYTHING on the ballot. His ego is the one of the biggest I have ever seen. Time to join Mr. Halas! Pick it in Gomer. You are an embarrassment,

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

December 7, 2010  
11:48 p.m.

**Woodlands writes:**

in response to **bikerboy60:**

The Nattering Neanderthals of Negativity are determined to put Collier County back into the stone age with their rabid opposition to science-based economic development. The Jackson Lab is a highly respected, highly credentialed organization in the science world, and most right-thinking places would love to have it expand in their own back yard. It would diversify Collier's tired old economy and spark new life, new opportunities and new jobs. Keep on sniffing out this deal, Mr. Coyle and the majority commissioners, because if you don't nab the Lab somebody else surely will!

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

Collier remains in the stone age because of corrupt small town political hacks, political pay offs and public tax dollars funneled to the Colliers. You can sniff this deal all you wish and it still stinks! This incentive program has not worked anywhere in the state. It sure won't work here in the middle of nowhere.

December 8, 2010  
12:15 a.m.

**almasonlybar writes:**

in response to **Oh\_Please:**

While Ms. Hiller likens our economy to a boat with a hole, her answer is to support our existing businesses? With what? How are we to shore up the real estate, construction, and tourism businesses Ms. Hiller? Since they represent 99% of the businesses here can she magically make people move or visit Collier County? Likely, she just means helping her pocketbook (Arthrex) which doesn't do a thing for us. How many companies have moved here because they're here? Hmmm, none. Meanwhile they just sit over there stomping their feet in the sandbox, and they don't want to let anyone else in.

Suggest removal

Reply to this post

Kudos to Mr. Coyle for remaining strong in the face of all of this nonsense. A hard choice must be made to meet the future. Does the County make the decision to take the harder path of trying to predict and meet the needs of this potential opportunity, or do they just sit by,



do nothing, and let his opportunity and history leave us behind? At least Mr. Coyle has the sense and patience to make sure we analyze the deal fully before deciding one way or another. Frankly, I prefer this approach versus just killing it because of the misinformed ramblings of a few.

Your only fault is that you haven't been here long enough to appreciate what happens when our few and proud get behind something which is not even a little bit transparent. We're not in Kansas anymore.

December 8, 2010  
1:53 a.m.

**SunStar writes:**

Suggest removal  
Reply to this post

\$150 million of tax/public money into a single company that offers just 200 jobs in 3 years! Something smells bad here... If it was 2000 jobs we'd understand! It's in their business interest for Jackson Lab to come to Florida because of all the hospitals/clinics and warm weather. They cannot go to California as it's very expensive over there! So, why should we spend all this money on just one company?

December 8, 2010  
4:40 a.m.

**angrytxpyr writes:**

Suggest removal  
Reply to this post

Hey Freddy, Good morning arrogant & vindictive old fool hope you had many many thoughts of quitting overnight. Once this project is declared DOA and the Rat Farm CEO doesn't get his bonus and you are denied yet another real estate deal in OREGONE you still have to deal with the other issues your ignorance/arrogance has allowed to fester. Certificate of need by NNFD, the complete breakdown of any leadership in the County Mangeler (not misspelled) orifice, the Dianne Flagg debacle, and lets not forget the monumental mess that you and your cronies have created at EMS and its Director Jeff(not a chief)Paige. The begining of the end of your political career in this county rides on Tricky Ricks ability to FLIP FLOP & BACKSTROKE without being held ACCOUNTABLE. Where is RADIONEWS guy when you need an unhealthy and derogatory debate on supposed conservatives that he so blindly supports? To call Fred and his cronies RINO's is an insult and dis-service to all the real RINO's and DINO's who wear that label proudly. Fred(rip van)Coyle you are just an arrogant and vindictive old man and the TAXPAYERS are tired of you retaliating against us because we don't blindly support your RAT FARM/Ava Maria/ Barron Collier/ Kraft Construction/ your real estate sales Bailout effort. You truly are an embarrassment to the elected office of a County Commissioner!!!

December 8, 2010  
6:41 a.m.

**hope4us writes:**

Suggest removal  
Reply to this post

in response to **Andy\_Dufresne:**  
*(This comment was removed by the site staff.)*

People with economic agendas. What exactly does that mean? If you mean creating opportunities where individuals can find employment which then ultimately allows them to live and contribute to our community--then let's proceed in a reasonable discussion. Check your wording the next time. This community needs a shot in the arm - we need companies that will diversify the economy and pull us out of this mess. We have focused too much on consumer growth - supported by construction and all that is needed to furnish household. Now we're left with too many houses and not enough people that can afford them because THERE ARE NO JOBS! Jackson Labs is a legitimate company with a legitimate track record - the unfortunate aspect how this has been presented is 1) no viable business plan (that has been communicatd) that substantiates the investment at that level and 2) and the ultimate price tag is just too much for this community to wrap its arms around - let's figure out how to make this work at a reasonable and justifiable level of investment. Stopping the personal attacks and the theory around corruption and hidden agendas just isn't constructive nor true.

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