

BCEDC Board of Directors



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February 9, 2026

Dear Community Leaders,

It has been our pleasure to serve as board members of the BCEDC. Throughout our tenure, we have maintained a laser focus on diversifying the local economy, creating quality jobs for residents, and expanding the tax base to move our community forward. As we close our ninth year of operations, BCEDC is approaching \$1 billion in investment and 3,500 jobs, positioning our region among the top-performing economic development regions in South Carolina. Throughout this work, we have taken our fiduciary responsibilities as board members seriously.

This letter provides clarification in response to recent reporting on the BCEDC audit.

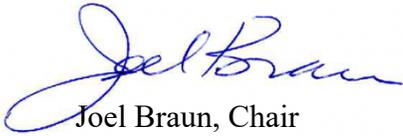
Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation recently completed an audit for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, which identified a technical asset-classification issue related to a land acquisition dating back to April 2025. Because proceeds from the eventual sale of these properties will be returned to the County upon the sale of the land, they are properly considered contingent assets. As part of the audit process, this was brought to the attention of our current accounting firm, and it was determined by the accounting professionals that an adjustment should be made to properly characterize the asset. BDEDC immediately complied with the recommendation to accurately reflect the transaction. The asset classification at issue related to the acquisition of 14.77-acres on Parker Drive in Beaufort, SC. This property remains an asset of BDEDC, and consistent with our agreement with the County, all proceeds from a future sale will be returned to the County. Both the purchase and the terms of this arrangement have been discussed in multiple public meetings.

BDEDC appreciated the recent audit process and found the observations helpful as we continue strengthening our operations. We continue to work closely with our accounting services provider to ensure our financial reports accurately reflect the unique nature of economic development activities. We have also implemented a more detailed standard operating procedure for reviewing and documenting complex financial transactions to strengthen our transparency and improve communications to relevant parties.

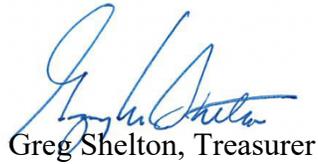


BCEDC remains committed to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in its operations. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us. Thank you for your continued support of economic development in Beaufort County.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel Braun".

Joel Braun, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Shelton".

Greg Shelton, Treasurer