

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**  
**Glades Technical Advisory Committee**  
**Belle Glade City Hall January 15, 1998**

**Participants:** Anne Cronyn, Remar Harvin, Vivian Hunter, Clayton Hutcheson, Art Kirstein, Autrie Moore-Williams, Pam Nolan, Wendell “Bil” Phillips, Ken Schenck, Carl Seibert,, Gwendolyn Asia-Williams

**Staff:**

Vicki Silver, Chair

**CHAIR’S COMMENTS**

Ms. Silver noted that staff is finalizing planning of the County Commission’s 1/27 Glades Tour, and revised the agenda to begin with program updates, then address the Board Tour.

**WEST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Ms. Asia-Williams reported on several ongoing or planned developments including a 3-year plan to reorganize the offerings at West Tech (such as Diesel Repair, Health, Academics, and Communications) a process that will include private business partners. The Glades Central Correctional magnet is progressing, and a charter school at the old Glades Day location is scheduled to open next week. A meeting to discuss the possible reuse of Lakeshore Middle School as a community center has been scheduled for 1/20 in Commissioner Masilotti’s office.

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

Mr. Phillips reported on the recently prepared federal grant request which would fund expanded bus service from the Glades communities to childcare centers and coastal cities with major employers such as hotels, hospitals, and industrial plants accessible by Tri-Rail and small feeder buses. PalmTran will be the project manager for this grant, and notification of awards will be in February.

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

Mr. Hutcheson discussed the proposed Food, Fiber, and Horticulture Center which he will discuss on the BCC Tour. The first phase will be a needs assessment, and if the Center is found to be a feasible concept, design drawings and a budget and operational plan will be prepared. This project is conceived as a collaborative effort involving other counties, such as St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee, Hendry, and Glades. Staff will investigate similar models in other places. Pam suggested coordinating with Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council’s Overall Economic Development Plan.

**EDGE CENTER**

Mr. Seibert noted that the County’s preliminary report on County-assisted incubators affirmed the need for extended investment in the EDGE Center. The Center has held 2 of 5 seminars on business start-up, and the seminars have been very well attended, increasing from 27 to 33 participants from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also, to date, \$400,000 in private financing has been obtained by EDGE trainees.

### **CITY OF BELLE GLADE**

Ms. Hunter reported that the City has retained an engineering firm to start designing the improvements to the Business Park funded by the EDA (\$1.2 million). Ms. Cronyn reported that the Business Park feasibility study will be completed by February 1999.

### **CITY OF PAHOKEE**

Mr. Schenck noted that the Marina is being expanded by 24 slips and campground expansion is slowly underway. The Army Corps has removed Australian Pines at the shoreline, and the City, with assistance from the County Forester, planted oak trees for shade. Curb planters have been put in downtown and street trees will be installed within 2 weeks. MLK Park will soon have new playground equipment, funded by the County's Recreation Assistance Program and the state Recreational Development Assistance Program. State Road 715 improvements are being designed for construction within the next 1 to 2 years, and SR 15 design will include evaluating the feasibility of a roundabout. A 30-acre residential development, which will include design of a recreational complex for possible use by the YMCA is underway by Union Fidelity near the Pelican River Greenway. A downtown vacant lot planned for law offices is to be landscaped by community groups in the interim, prior to development. The African American Childrens Choir--25 children and 8 adults--will perform at local churches in late February.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

Ms. Nolan reported that the Glades area was not awarded a federal Empowerment Zone, but the County lobbyist will pursue a special Congressional appropriation. Only \$350,000 is to be available this year for Developing Regions, but the Cities will ask the County to increase this to \$650,000. A discussion took place about the need to develop a collaborative marketing effort for the area, rather than separate municipal or project-by-project efforts. Carl suggested looking at models from successful Empowerment Zone designees.

### **GLADES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

They have moved, but their mission continues. They have submitted a proposal to the City of Belle Glade regarding redevelopment of the Old City Hall building; they are considering applying for foundation monies to rehab the building in partnership with NOAH, a non-profit housing provider. A proposal was submitted to Housing and Community Development for development of a Heritage Center with mixed use. Additional MacArthur Foundation funding is being sought for phase 2 of Pot Luck in the Muck, the locally based histories performance; a Coordinator will soon be hired with Community Foundation money. The next performance is in May at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center at Palm Beach Community College; also at this location is a meeting 2/18 at 5:30 pm concerning formation of a Glades Arts Council.

### **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Cronyn noted that 54 applications were received this year, twice the previous year's applicants.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm.