

SUMMARY OF MEETING
Glades Technical Advisory Committee
8:30 am April 23, 1998
Palms West Chamber of Commerce

Participants:

June Boglioli, Angela Morlock, Pam Nolan, Ken Schenck, Deborah Thatcher, Bill Wilkins

Staff:

Vicki Silver, Chair

This was a special purpose meeting focused primarily on consideration of whether to pursue designation Empowerment Zone again for the Glades area. Ms. Nolan noted that the deadline for submittal will be October 1, 1998, with funding available in 1999. Funding of the program has not been finalized; so although \$2.5 million is reportedly available nationwide, the USDA staff hopes Congress will appropriate another \$40 million toward this program, and they urge local government advocacy. Pahokee and South Bay representatives agreed that if \$3 million were awarded to the Glades area over 10 years, 3 cities and the unincorporated area sharing \$300,000, did not seem sufficient payback for the time and money involved. However, Economic Development staffers will be attending a USDA informational workshop in Shreveport, La. to obtain more information on this program.

In case the 3 Cities decide to pursue this funding source, the Overall Economic Development Program Committee authorized spending up to \$3,000 to engage professional facilitator Herb Marlowe to conduct public meetings and prepare a strategic plan. Mr. Wilkins recommended asking Mr. Marlowe to assess the 1995 Strategic Plan and determine how much work will be involved in updating it, perhaps with assistance from the County's grants procurement consultant Michael Langton. Ms. Silver suggested that having staff review the 1995 Plan and determine what we feel is needed could expedite this activity. She agreed to get together with Ms. Nolan to complete this task.

Some general discussion of the status of County planning and development efforts in the Glades area dealt with the following needs:

- To evaluate why developers don't locate projects in the area and provide more incentives for development then market the area;
- To involve more public and private sector decision-makers in the Vision to Action process;
- To organize sports events eligible for Sports Commission backing;
- To attract more middle class housing.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

