

SUMMARY OF MEETING
Glades Technical Advisory Committee
Belle Glade City Hall February 19, 1999

Participants: Vivian Hunter, Art Kirstein, Pam Nolan, Danielle Penuel, Ken Schenck, Alice Thompson, Bill Wilkins

Staff:

Vicki Silver, Chair

CITY OF BELLE GLADE

Ms. Hunter reported that a second draft of the Business Park feasibility study is pending, and the Belle Glade Economic Board is preparing to hire a marketing professional to promote the business park. Mr. Wilkins noted that other factors, such as provision of quality housing and schools, must be considered by the City in developing and marketing the business park. Ms. Nolan added that the mix of businesses is also important, so that one type of business does not dominate the park.

CITY OF PAHOKEE

Mr. Schenck reported that the Everglades Hospital is being considered for partial reuse, such as a clinic, while the lawsuit is being resolved. A discussion took place regarding the teaching of nursing in the Glades. It was agreed that Palm Beach Community College should consider teaching nursing on the Glades campus because hospitals throughout the county are having to recruit nurses overseas. Union Fidelity, a private non-profit corporation, is seeking a Rural Development grant to attract businesses to the Farmers Market area; they will meet with the federal Rural Development agency next week to discuss this development. Ms. Nolan encouraged Mr. Schenck to apply for Community Contribution tax credits for various community projects within the state Enterprise Zone. Ms. Silver noted that the Old High School project would be a likely candidate, because of its visibility and the need for building materials to renovate the building. A discussion ensued about the desirability of redeveloping the City's Marina, and Ms. Silver mentioned possible funding sources for the City to pursue, such as state-administered Community Development Block Grants for economic development. The City Manager noted that he is asking the Department of Community Affairs to consider use of Community Development Block Grant funds for more than one purpose per year; the City is currently limited to one use of the grant funds yearly. In other progress, the City has planted 2 gateways and has obtained recreational development monies for MLK Park and the Marina. The 3/9 bond issue would also fund improvements to these 2 sites. The Foodland supermarket is seeking to relocate to a better site; however, another 5-acre site has been hard to locate. A discussion of how to demolish and redevelop derelict properties ensued, and Ms. Nolan and Ms. Silver suggested ways to resolve this issue.

AGRICULTURAL ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

Mr. Kirstein provided an overview of the proposed Food and Fiber Center, for which a needs assessment is being conducted. The long-term concept would involve connection with West Tech, and the overall concept includes other counties around the Lake plus St. Lucie County.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Ms. Nolan described several grant programs mentioned in a publication by Enterprise Florida, for which she agreed to distribute further information to committee members. It was agreed that Enterprise Florida needs to improve its effectiveness in distributing information. She also noted that the Developing Regions Grant program is being proposed at an allocation of \$50,000 per region instead of the \$75,000 in prior years; this may increase depending on the actions of County Commissioners in the next few weeks.

BELLE GLADE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ms. Penuel mentioned that the City of Belle Glade had asked the Chamber to head up its beautification efforts, and the board declined because they felt the City should take the lead on this issue. However, they will be glad to serve as partners with the City.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.