

AGENDA
Glades Technical Advisory Committee
August 23, 2001 Belle Glade City Hall
9:45 – 11:15 am

1. Welcome and Introductions – Chair
2. Updates on Chair's Coordination Activities
3. Review of Minutes
4. Participant Updates

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
7/26/01 Belle Glade City Hall**

PARTICIPANTS: Doug Chozianin, Karis Engle, Helen Franke, George Gadson (FAU), Douglas Green, Wendell W. "Bil" Phillips, Carl Seibert, Michael Sklar, Ellen Underwood (South Florida Water Management District)

STAFF: Vicki E. Silver, AICP, Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Belle Glade and Pahokee representatives could not attend today because they were preparing TOOLKIT grant applications related to literacy/home ownership training and building rehab (Belle Glade) plus demolition of derelict buildings (Pahokee). The meeting began with a discussion of issues re: preparing the populace for job and business opportunities related to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP). Ms. Underwood stated that she would convey to her agency the group's concerns regarding qualifying local businesses for CERP contractual opportunities.

EDGE CENTER

Mr. Seibert reported that he obtained from the Water Management District a list of contractors eligible for the CERP and has been assessing their business development needs to determine the feasibility of meeting those needs locally. In the long-term, beyond the immediate construction jobs generated, he envisions the need for companies to be developed, with related needs for technological support. He also noted the potential to create environmental and research-related industries in the Glades. This offers entrepreneurial opportunities as well as a role for the EDGE Center.

PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Provost Dr. Helen Franke reported that they've been helping Belle Glade prepare their TOOLKIT application for a literacy program, which proposes 3 pilot areas tied in with community partners including PEPPY Headstart at the preschool level and Ameritech (a training provider). She also described the County's ongoing health and human services assessment (the Glades Initiative) for which Glades CDC is the fiscal agent and oversight is provided by the Glades Initiative Management Board (GIMB). One of the study's main accomplishments is a profile of dollars invested in Glades area health services. A major finding being explored is the potential to re-allocate the resources of the federally qualified health center to better serve community needs identified in the recent United Way countywide assessment. The second phase of the study will involve service improvement. Dr. Franke also stated that the short-term duration of human services grants (1-3 years) for the Glades area makes it difficult to sustain programs and talented staff. She also stated that non-profit entities are not accountable to each other, and neither are funders, so programs may be duplicative and inconsistent with each other and with the area's goals. Mr. Seibert asked that the County convey these funding issues to the consultant to

be hired to prepare the Glades areawide business development plan. Mr. Gadson also noted that churches are a major non-profit service provider.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mr. Green reported that the one-stop workforce center in Belle Glade should be ready for occupancy by September. Training of truck drivers and licensed nurses continues. They recently placed 15 employees in a business supervising prison inmates' food preparation and another 17 people will work in a new clothing store in Glades Plaza. Employers are increasingly calling to request trained staff.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Mr. Phillips reported that MPO colleague Angela Morlok has completed her survey of transit demands in the Glades; 688 responses are being tabulated by PBCC. The RFP to request a transit provider to serve the new route from Palm Beach County's Glades communities to Clewiston will be issued by 9/30.

PAHOKEE

City Manager Ken Schenck phoned in a report that developers have signed a letter of commitment with the City to redevelop and operate the Marina/Campground. A power plant planning to site in the city will triple the tax base and permanently employ 25. Mr. Chozianin stated that he continues to pursue development of an aquaculture business in Pahokee, and has obtained \$2 million of the \$3 million in financing needed.

GLADES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ms. Engle reported that Acting on the Vision has been addressing Belle Glade water issues ranging from residents' costs to the taste and smell of drinking water. They've scheduled a public meeting to get answers on these issues next Tuesday at 6 pm. The physical infrastructure committee has been doing cleanups; the next one is scheduled for South Bay 8/11. GCDC had a successful youth summit that addressed issues of teen pregnancy prevention and self-esteem. They are still pursuing hiring a grant writer. Palm Tran and Workforce Development Board are coordinating with GCDC on a workshop 8/15 to teach the public how to use bus service, and on 8/24 and 8/25 a job fair will be held focusing on the Wellington Green Mall job opportunities.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Glades grants recipients include Pahokee, \$150,000 for fire hydrant and sater valve replacement, Belle Glade, \$150,000 for rehab and demolition, and South Bay \$400,000 (the first of the 3 Special Pocket of Poverty allocations for the 3 cities), of which \$40,000 is going to improve the water treatment plant in response to a consent order; the County's Water Utilities Department is assisting with this project. This afternoon, HCD will lead a public workshop here at City Hall regarding the procedures for applying for \$1.1 million in economic development set-aside grants for business development/expansion. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

