

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
May 24, 2001 Belle Glade City Hall**

PARTICIPANTS: Doug Chozianin; Marcia Boli, Terence Downing and Valerie Morris (Housing Partnership), Karis Engle, Doug Green, June Howard, Carole Ann Huysse, Ken Schenck, Michael Sklar, Barbara Bell Spence, and Kay Zaccagnino

Unlike previous meetings, this one began with an open-ended discussion about tourism development, and how various participants' programs relate to tourism. For example, youth entrepreneurship opportunities and artistic performances programmed at the local campgrounds were discussed as means of "jump-starting" demand. This discussion led to regular reporting as follows.

EDGE CENTER

Ms. Howard reported that she has been marketing the County's Enterprise Zone (in Riviera Beach/West Palm Beach, Belle Glade and South Bay), counseling them on sales tax incentives. She has filed applications for 3 businesses to obtain tax credits, and has been tying these incentives together with the Business Loan Fund. The goal is 75 businesses by 9/30; to date 40 businesses have been assisted. Pahokee may also have its first EZ applicant.

EDGE also participated in the Development Regions Grant program, assisting 4 business applicants, and the entrepreneurial service center is doing well. The Business Loan Fund is opening a satellite office in the Glades within the next 2 months.

Ms. Spence noted that an RFP will be issued within the next few months for businesses to provide transit from Belle Glade to Clewiston; this is an excellent entrepreneurial opportunity.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mr. Green reported that a meeting will be held in Belle Glade 6/9 9:30 to 11:30 to take applications for employment at Wellington Green Mall, which opens 10/1/01. A Job Fair is scheduled for 8/24 and 8/25 at the Crown Plaza Hotel; job preparedness workshops are held every Wednesday. More than 60 people including high school guidance counselors came to a recent Town Hall meeting on job preparedness. Ms. Zaccagnino offered to help Mr. Green arrange meetings at various public schools. Mr. Green expressed interest in focusing on Everglades restoration ("CERP") related job opportunities at the September meeting of the Glades Employers Advisory Board. Ms. Spence and others advocated areawide support for facilitating Glades businesses' eligibility to meet federal and state procurement requirements for CERP. The group expressed disappointment at the legislature's cuts to adult education at PBCC.

PAHOKEE

Mr. Schenck noted that the School Board is moving forward with plans to reuse the former hospital for teacher apartments and meeting rooms. The City is working with the proposed Marina redevelopment team to explore federal and state permitting feasibility.

YOUTH ISSUES

In response to questions about summer youth programs, Ms. Zaccagnino explained that the School District's programs have a very limited capacity, and Mr. Green noted that WDB is still working out details on the Workforce Investment Act-sponsored year-round programs that were supposed to replace summer youth employment programs. The net result is no summer employment programs and fewer overall activities for young people. Mr. Downing described his recording company, which teaches young people practical skills but also provides a means of expression not offered in many other settings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.