

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
6/28/01 South Bay City Hall**

PARTICIPANTS: Doug Chozianin, Karis Engle, Helen Franke, Douglas Green, Caroleann Huyse, Michael Jackson, Pamela Nolan, Wendell W. "Bil" Phillips, Ken Schenck, Carl Seibert, Barbara Bell Spence

STAFF: Vicki E. Silver, AICP, Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

The Glades Assessment Report is being distributed to County staff within one week, after which it will be reviewed by GTAC. Recent meetings attended:

- ❖ In Moore Haven, the state Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED) presentations on Lake and economic development resources; staff participated in informal discussions about: a) expanding the 6-county Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative (**FHREDI**) to represent the Glades municipalities and the Immokalee area of Collier County, to conform to the boundaries of the Central and South Florida **Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern** and b) the FHREDI group requesting state staffing dollars for a project to be determined that would serve the entire RACEC.
- ❖ In West Palm Beach, the Glades Restoration Consortium, chaired by state senator Ron Klein, involves entities involved in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (**CERP**), plus Glades municipalities, County staff, and County Commissioner Tony Masilotti; meeting focused on socioeconomic impacts of the CERP
- ❖ In Riviera Beach, Transportation Subcommittee of Workforce Development Board and meeting on state Toolkit grant program; the former discussed survey of Clewiston employers and Glades residents' transit needs, the latter explained allowable expenses--primarily training for needy families, including computer equipment; transit education grant request may be submitted in second round of Toolkit program due 7/27.

BELLE GLADE

Ms. Bell Spence noted that the first tier of the City's clean-up campaign—demolition of brick buildings off 5th Street--begins 6/28. They are working on a joint Toolkit grant proposal with the other 2 cities, including CERP training in partnership with the School Board, West Tech, PBCC, and Ameritech to certify job skills and form collaboratives of trades such as carpentry and plumbing. The Chair recommended coordinating with Cathy Noel of Workforce Development Board, who is administering the CERP job training grant which the County procured from USDA concurrent with a grant for the Glades areawide business development plan. Mr. Schenck pointed out that the Water Management District already has issued an RFP for two management teams.

SOUTH BAY

The 3 cities at their last 6/18 Tri-Cities league meeting developed a task force to address CERP job creation and business development opportunities. Mr. Jackson explained the importance of this task force and stated that each city will have 3 representatives on this task force. The City of South Bay is developing a collaborative effort involving all stakeholders. Space is being readied for several tenants at the Park of Commerce, and the City will apply for a \$750,000 transportation grant from Enterprise Florida to extend the road through this site. Bids by contractors on the Depot and Railroad Cottage are anticipated within 20 days.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Ms. Nolan presented materials prepared by Northwood Business Development Council to promote business development, noting that Enterprise Florida has state matching grants to identify unconventional business attractors. She also noted that this year 4 projects in the Glades received Development Regions grants, totaling \$82,000 and reflecting the technical assistance by the EDGE Center. The funding cycle for Community Development Economic set-aside grants opens July 2. Mr. Green agreed to coordinate with HCD on helping place residents in the jobs created by this grant program. Ms. Nolan also mentioned that she has been working with the state on the new Rural Enterprise Zone program, created in the last legislative session, and further information is pending as it becomes available. Mr. Jackson recommended networking with the two chambers of commerce in the Glades with regard to publicizing this program.

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Ms. Huysse distributed flyers on a business training program sponsored by the FAU Small Business Development Center; she has received 10 calls about this program. She also noted that several youth entrepreneurship efforts continue, including a rap group which recently incorporated and is working on a business plan with assistance from the EDGE Center, and a printing company producing tee shirts with pictures of fish.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mr. Green reported that the one-stop workforce center's renovation is scheduled for completion by 9/30. He is also talking to the cities about using their buses, recently acquired from the County, to transport residents to training programs. The 3 cities are coordinating with Mr. Green on hosting a joint meeting to educate residents about needed job skills.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Mr. Phillips reported that his MPO colleague Angela Morlok has been surveying transit demands at public places such as city halls throughout the Glades to determine needs for bus service. Funding has been obtained from FDOT to extend service from Palm Beach County's Glades communities to Clewiston, and

Workforce Development Board has been seeking funding for a series of kiosks with touch screens telling residents how to access childcare facilities by bus.

PAHOKEE

Mr. Schenck reported that developers have signed a letter of commitment with the City to redevelop and operate the Marina/Campground. Demolitions of derelict buildings with CDBG funding have been scheduled within the next few weeks. A power plant has recently shown interest in siting within the city. Mr. Hoffman has asked the Health Care District for a 6-month extension to do due diligence on the former Everglades Hospital to reuse the building as a learning center and teacher residences. He is awaiting a contract from the School District. A bid has been awarded to continue renovation of the old Pahokee High School. Mr. Chozianin stated that he continues to pursue development of an aquaculture business in Pahokee, seeking financing and ancillary businesses such as retail fish and vegetable operations, and has discussed training needs with Mr. Green.

GLADES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ms. Engle reported that a teen summit is scheduled for 6/30 at Glades Central. A recent presentation on Wellington Green Mall job opportunities by the mall manager drew 40 people on a Saturday morning. Candidates for economic development grant writer are being interviewed. Yearly work plans have been prepared by the Acting on the Vision committees, and the committees have been assessing condition of parks in each community, with a goal of clean-up and repair. Ms. Engle also described how she approached unincorporated neighborhoods such as Okeechobee Center and Fremd Village to determine possible interest in the County's Neighborhood Improvement grant; an application was submitted for Fremd Village. GCDC is also coordinating with a consultant and with Doug Green of Workforce Development Board on Project CORK, dealing with provision of services to the homeless, such as food and shelter.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.