

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
8/23/01 Belle Glade City Hall**

PARTICIPANTS: Doug Chozianin, Karis Engle, Pam Nolan, Wendell Phillips, Ken Schenck, Carl Seibert, Michael Sklar, Alice Thompson

STAFF: Vicki E. Silver, AICP, Chair

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Sklar reported that the Economic Set-Aside grants are due 8/28. In response to a question, he promised to check with Ed Lowry to obtain more information on the pending revolving loan fund mentioned at the Set-Aside grants workshop in Belle Glade.

GLADES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP

Per Ms. Engle, they are still seeking a grants writer. A successful town meeting was held, attracting more than 100 people, and it included translation headsets. The City of Belle Glade held a meeting on their water supply with DEP and the Health Department. Health concerns regarding chlorination have been expressed. The Crafts Guild is seeking a storefront facility to display products, and "Pot Luck in the Muck" has attracted a local high school drama teacher. A CDBG contract has been executed for \$147,000 to renovate the Old Belle Glade City Hall. Belle Glade has hired a new Parks Director. The Chair mentioned conversations between Treasure Coast Regional Planner Greg Vaday and Barbara Bell Spence with the City of Belle Glade regarding possible park planning assistance from Treasure Coast, and referred Ms. Engle directly to Mr. Vaday. Additional Kellogg funding for Acting on the Vision (AOV) is being pursued. The Fiscal group of AOV is helping prepare a grant application through the County's Neighborhood Partner Grant Program. Members were asked to contribute news to the GCDC Community Calendar.

EDGE CENTER

Mr. Seibert reported that he has been helping a client obtain bank loans and he prepared a Set-Aside grant application for a Belle Glade business. He just renegotiated his County contract for next fiscal year, and it was the smoothest process ever. Ms. Nolan noted that his efficient reporting paid off. Carl expressed concern about the lack of coordination with the Business Loan Fund (BLF) in siting their County-assisted loan officer at GCDC's offices, instead of the EDGE Center, with whom BLF works very closely. Ms. Nolan commented that this was not a contractual condition, so the County had no control over the staff person's location.

PAHOKEE

Mr. Schenck reported that the Bising Group is on the verge of obtaining its needed permits from the Army Corps to redevelop the Marina/Campground. Mr. Seibert has been helping expand a business that hauls sugar waste. Sam's Investment Corp. in Canal Point, another EDGE client, is still seeking financing from the Small Business Administration. They were recently rejected by the BLF for a second time; EDGE is concerned that BLF staff is not reading the application materials. Mr. Chozianin reported that he is still pursuing USDA funding and has been working with a grantswriter regarding his aquaculture facility.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Ms. Nolan reported that two Development Regions grant recipients in the Glades may lose their funding if they do not fulfill their obligations by early fall. Staff will be updating the federal (USDA) benchmarks to retain the Glades' eligibility for possible federal grants, by 9/12/01. The County is about to formally receive federal grants for an areawide business plan and CERP and

LOST business and job training totaling \$114,000, and the Workforce Development Board and EDGE Center are preparing scopes of services to qualify for the training dollars. Staff is also pursuing a federal tax incentive program, the Rural Renewal Communities.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.