

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

**Meeting of September 23, 2004
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

Belle Glade City Hall – Conference Room “B”

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

Debby Blauvelt, Glades Community Development Center
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Arthur Kirstein, P.B.C. Cooperative Extension
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Absent:

Denny Abbott, Employer Services Executive, P.B.C. Workforce Alliance
Ralph Butts, City of Belle Glade Community Development
Dale Erickson, Erickson Farms
Joe Glucksman, Florida Housing Corporation
Douglas Green, City of Belle Glade, Workforce Development Center
Roswell Harrington, Sam's Investment Corporation
Iris Jackson, City of Belle Glade, Community Development
Kelly Johnson, Glades Initiative
Lillie Latimore, City Manager, Pahokee
Raoul Pierre-Louis, Business Loan Fund (Representative for John Brown)
Sandy Mercer, Canal Point Citizen
Matt Mills, City of Belle Glade
Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District
Theresa Newton, USDA/Rural Development
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Alan Schafler, CEO, EDGE
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD)
Barbara Spence, City of Belle Glade, Community Development
Andrea Stephenson, Glades Initiative
Clifford Stuart, Stuart Farm
Alice Thompson, Pahokee Chamber of Commerce
Autrie Moore-Williams, Glades Community Development Corporation

Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Gainer welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced himself and asked everyone to introduce herself or himself.

Review of Minutes (August '04 Meeting)

Mr. Gainer asked if there were corrections to the minutes. Corrections were: 1) Cesar (last name) to Cesar Asuaje; and 2) Angela Morlok – commented that the project in question is with the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Project #4137991, scheduled for reconstruction or improvement in 2005 – 2006, location is between State Route 80 & Avenue “A”.

Participant Updates and Comments

Duane Gainer, OCR, reported on the following:

- Hurricane Francis – The week after the hurricane, OCR staff visited CCRT neighborhoods to assess damages, special needs, and complaints of the community. Staff distributed a list of contact numbers for assistance in the community.

The group discussed hurricane damages that occurred in the Glades. The areas hit the worse were Pahokee and Canal Point. The group mentioned the assistance provided in the Glades. When going into the neighborhoods, it would have been more effective if a list of people with special needs were on hand.

Mr. Gainer asked if whether the County could have done something different or better during hurricane Francis. Someone mentioned that maybe communication could have been better. Two-way radios could communicate such needs as: a tree down, no electricity, and no gasoline.

Arthur Kirstein, P.B.C. Cooperative Extension reported on the following:

- Hurricane Francis - The ornamental type nurseries had the most damages. He talked about the affect of the storm relating to citrus, and the sugar industry.
- The organization gives County funds and grants for agriculture projects or for value added agriculture products. Mr. Kirstein talked about the funding or financing of agricultural related businesses.

Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), reported on the following:

- Working with the cities on concurrency reports to the Federal Government for starting their own transit systems. There are four (4) cities and one (1) CRA: Jupiter, West Palm Beach, Boynton Beach CRA, Boca Raton, and Delray Beach.
- A survey is being done in October on the Clewiston/Belle Glade bus. The purpose of the survey is to find out where the residents are going and why. Ms. Morlok commented that there was a discussion about cleaning the waterways and she was very pleased that on last Tuesday, Commissioner Masilotti made a point about including Lake Okeechobee when cleaning the waterways.
- Steam Locomotive Train – Nothing new this month, because of the hurricane and with the elections. Ms. Morlok mentioned that MPO would like a meeting with U.S. Sugar.

Debby Blauvelt, Glades Community Development Center, reported on the following:

- Focusing on the Voter's Education for upcoming election.
- Actively working with the Weed & Seed Program on crime.
- Mentoring programs for the youth and received a grant. Also received a grant for teaching English and Spanish. The ultimate goal is job placement.
- Still working on renovating old Belle Glade City Hall. This will include reviving downtown, and restoring buildings that have historic value. The cost will be approximately \$500,000. The largest benefactor is the State.

Questions/Comments:

Ms. Blauvelt inquired about the REAP sessions being held in the Glades. Mr. Gainer informed her that the sessions had been cancelled due to lack of RSVP participation. Someone commented that people might have planned to attend but did not notify OCR in advance.

Adjournment:

Mr. Gainer stated that if there were no other questions or comments, the meeting is adjourned. The next meeting will be held on October 28th.

Minutes prepared by:

Joyce Harrell, Secretary
P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

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