

# **Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)**

**Meeting of January 26, 2006**

**9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Belle Glade City Hall**

## **Minutes**

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### **Present at the meeting:**

Denny Abbott, Employer Services Executive, P.B.C. Workforce Alliance  
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization  
Douglas Greene, City of Belle Glade Workforce Alliance  
Sgt. Linda Hamilton, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office  
Lillie Latimore, City Manager for City of Pahokee  
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Latoya Ricketts, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization  
Ken Schenk, Glades Community Development Center  
(Repr. For Autrie Moore-Williams)  
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development  
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade  
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

### **Absent:**

Debby Blauvelt, Glades Community Development Center  
Ralph Butts, City of Belle Glade Community Development  
Albert Dowdell, Police Chief, City of Belle Glade  
Dale Erickson, Erickson Farms  
Joe Glucksman, Florida Housing Corporation  
Douglas Green, City of Belle Glade, Workforce Development Center  
Cynthia Hammond, City South Bay  
Mark Huggins, USDA Rural Development  
Diana Hughes, City of Belle Glade  
Iris Jackson, cit of Belle Glade, Community Development  
Kelly Johnson, Glades Initiative  
Arthur Kirstein, P.B.C. Cooperative Extension  
Lillie Latimore, City Manager for City of Pahokee  
Raoul Pierre-Louis, Business Loan Fund (Repr. For John Brown)  
Sandy Mercer, Canal Point Citizen  
Matt Mills, City of Belle Glade  
Autrie Moore-Williams, Glades Community Development Corporation  
Bonita Moore, City of Belle Glade

## **Absent** (Cont'd)

Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District  
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Theresa Newton, USDA/Rural Development  
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development  
Thomas Padgett, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office & Canal Point Resident  
Andrea Stephenson, Glades Initiative  
Clifford Stuart, Stuart Farm

## **Welcome and Introduction**

Mr. Gainer introduced himself and asked everyone to introduce her or himself.

## **Review of Minutes (November Meeting)**

Mr. Gainer asked if there were corrections to the November minutes. Ms. Bell-Spence had a correction on page 4: change Mentor of Nights Disaster Committee to Men of Nights Disaster Committee.

## **Participant Updates and Comments**

**Duane Gainer, OCR, reported on the following:**

- Discussion on Emergency Hurricane Disaster – Mr. Gainer reviewed with the group comments made at the CCRT meeting after Hurricane Wilma: 1) Shelters should be open in case of mandatory evacuation; 2) There should be a shelter near mobile home parks; and 3) the importance of having a list that identifies senior citizens and homebound residents. He mentioned that OCR staff handed out tarps and did damage assessments of the CCRT areas & mobile home parks. In addition, OCR was directed to look into how to better coordinate resources for the CCRT areas.
- FY'05-'06 Funding Recommendations – were approved by the Board. The Board allocated \$3.5 million dollars. He named some of the requests made from the Glades: South Bay (street projects and commerce park); and canal point water project (gravity system to low-pressure system).

Douglas Greene commented regarding the REAP Sessions held in the Glades. He stated that the program was very well organized and that everyone attended should have benefited from the program.

## **Participant Updates and Comments** (Cont'd)

### **Duane Gainer, OCR, reported on the following:** (Cont'd)

- REAP Sessions (Glades) – Mr. Gainer briefly talked about the contest, named The America's Next Top Neighborhood. The participants were asked to come up with ideas for community improvement projects. Each of the five (5) community projects presented was awarded a grant. Mr. Gainer stated that he and LaToya Ricketts is scheduled to meet with the grant recipients today. The following projects are: Midnight Hoops (Fremd Village), The Refresh Seniors Program (Gazebo - Padgett Island), The Sugar Subdivision in Belle Glade (Neighborhood Garden/Planting), No Wind For Seniors in Okeechobee Center (purchase material to build shutters for seniors); and Community Building Project in South Bay (Community Barbecue event).

LaToya Ricketts commented that the application process went very well. The number of projects presented was far above their expectations and were very well prepared and thought out.

Lillie Latimore inquired about the status of the Home Beautification Program; with the maximum amount of \$3,000 per house.

- Home Beautification Program – Mr. Gainer stated that because of the damages from Hurricane Wilma, OCR and the contractor would be reassessing the houses selected. Presently, Mr. Wynn is working in Juno Ridge and he anticipates working in the Glades next. If you have any further questions, you may contact William Wynn at (561) 233-5168.

Mr. Gainer stated that at the January CCRT meeting, there was a concern about not having available contractors to handle the work in the Glades areas. Also there was an inquiry regarding the need to increase the number of approved contractors certified by Palm Beach County. The group began to discuss this issue.

Ms. Latimore inquired if the Home Beautification Program would be offered again this year. Mr. Gainer stated that he did not have a copy of the report with him and he would bring a copy of the report to the next meeting.

- GTAC Meeting Dates – The building in Canal Point was destroyed and also the church was damaged. The next meeting is scheduled for Pahokee.
- OCR is working on a Street Lighting Program. He briefly talked about the process for neighborhoods to get streetlights. If you need further information, you may contact Bret Baronak at (561) 233-5388.

## **Participant Updates and Comments** (Cont'd)

### **Duane Gainer, OCR, reported on the following:** (Cont'd)

- OCR Infrastructure Improvement Program – This is the first time this program is being offered. These funds will assist with providing infrastructure Improvements in the CCRT residential areas.
- Neighborhood Partnership Grant (NPG) – This grant allows neighborhood groups to receive up to \$20,000 per neighborhood improvement project. He briefly gave examples of projects done in the past by neighborhood groups.

### **Denny Abbott, P.B.C. Workforce Alliance, reported on the following:**

- Development Regions Grant Workshop – Coordinated by Pam Nolan to be held at Belle Glade Workforce Alliance on February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00pm – 5:00pm. He encourages business owners to attend the workshop. OCR's Business Frontage Improvement Program's funds have been combined with the Economic Development's Development Regions Grant Program.
- A group of business owners in the Glades discussed a need for an economic development community-based organization representing the entire Glades. A workshop was held on January 17<sup>th</sup> & January 24<sup>th</sup> and over 100 community leaders, and business owners participated in both workshops. A preliminary meeting with the Commissioner, Economic Development Office, etc. was held to discuss this concept and requesting their support.
- Projects that are impacting the Glades – 1) Water Treatment Plant (Bricker Highway) is beginning construction. He met with the project superintendent to discuss workforce & labor needs; as well as to inform them of businesses in the Glades that provide products, and services in relation to a water plant. This is a \$42 million dollar project; which will be going on for the next two (2) years. As a result of this meeting, the project superintendent solicited services from eight (8) businesses; 2) Dike Rehabilitation (north of Canal Point) is underway to start construction. This is a \$19.6 million dollar project. He also met with them to discuss opportunities for workforce & labor needs, and for businesses in the Glades; and 3) Water Everglades Restoration Project – There are eight (8) projects; a total of two (2) contracts were awarded. The work should start soon. He will also be meeting with them to discuss providing workforce & labor needs, as well as businesses providing products or services. Also Mr. Abbott stated that he made a suggestion about having food available for the workers on the site. In regards to this, he spoke with Linda to see if she would like to provide this type of service for the company.

Angela Morlok, MPO, stated that she was contacted regarding the Van Pool Program by one of the companies. The company is looking at working with MPO to provide the transportation for the workers to the sites. Mr. Greene stated that he was the person that recommended they contact her. Ms. Morlock commented thank you to Mr. Greene.

Lillie Latimore suggested that the group inform or notify each other about these and other types of opportunities. Ms. Latimore stated that she recently sent Autrie Williams, GCDC, information on grants relating to transportation.

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

- She requested a copy of this information be sent to Autrie Moore-Williams.
- Glades Tour - She will be contacting the cities regarding a tour of the Glades. The tour is to enlighten people of the transportation needs, and projects that need funding in the Glades. She will be taking 14 people on the tour. The group began to comment regarding transportation and the tour. Mr. Gainer asked Ms. Morlock to contact Pastor Broadbent, from Canal Point, regarding transportation issues mentioned at the GTAC meeting held in Canal Point.

Ms. Bell-Spence commented on an issue, brought up at her staff meeting, regarding not having any emergency transportation plans. For instance, evacuating people out of the area in case of an emergency. The group began to comment regarding this issue, and some of the comments were: the plans will depend on the type of disasters, transporting people out by bus, and number of cars on the road.

Ms. Williams-Moore inquired about the status of construction on 441 North. Ms. Morlock stated that she does not have any information today, but will give an update at the next meeting.

- Ms. Morlock further commented regarding the tourism project. The American Railroad Heritage Association is in the process of sending a letter of support to the cities in regards to implementing a tourist train. Ms. Morlock talked about the plans for the tourist train.

## **Participant Updates and Comments**

**Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development, reported on the following:**

- Rehabilitation of Homes Program – The list has opened up again to qualify low-and moderate-income residents. If you are interested in placing your name on the list, you may contact Amin Houry at (561) 233-3624.
- Community Development Block Program – HCD is currently evaluating applications submitted for this program. The evaluation process should be completed by mid March '06. The recommendations will be presented to the Board in June for approval.
- Hurricane Relief Program – This program is for residents that had hurricane related damages; and that did not have insurance, nor did not receive money from FEMA. For more information, you may contact Catherine Longworth at (561) 233-3617 or website [pbcgov.com/HCD](http://pbcgov.com/HCD).

Ms. Bell-Spence commented regarding a lack of contractors to handle the work in the Glades. The group began to discuss issues they are having with contractors: performance, incomplete projects, and penalties.

Mr. Ken Schenich, Glades Community Development, stated that he had no updates today.

Douglas Greene inquired about grants for an individual resident that would like to build their own house. Mr. Schenick commented that multi-family housing under the Commission on Affordable Housing Program, and under the Home Investigation Program, there are two (2) grant programs called: multi-family competitive, and multi-family rental programs. He further explained those programs. Ms. Bell-Spence mentioned the Replacement Housing Program, which may assist if your house is in a deplorable condition. Mr. Schenick commented that if you would like further information on the Home Investigation Program, you may contact Keturah Joseph at (561) 233-3650.

Mr. Gainer mentioned that he is interested in inviting someone to do a presentation on HCD's Hurricane Relief Program.

## **Participant Updates and Comments** (Cont'd)

**Douglas Greene, City of Belle Glade Workforce Alliance, reported on the following:**

- The agency continues to play a vital role in the lives of all the residents in the Glades through communicating with the cities, and the college. Over the years, one of the basic problems is lack of skilled labor. Therefore, in conjunction with the college, Workforce Alliance has implemented a construction course. This course starts on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Approximately thirty (30) participants have registered. The class is a six (6) week course, Monday thru Wednesday, 4:00pm – 8:00pm, held at the West Technical site. Mr. Greene stated that although Workforce Alliance philosophy is workforce, they would be concentrating on training. In reference to the possibility of a hotel coming in the future, Workforce Alliance has plans of implementing a hospitality course.
- National Emergency Grant Program – This program was put in place after the hurricane. Through this program, they have sent over 200 clients that provided assistance with cleanup of the city, clerical assistance, and assistance to non-profit organizations.
- They continue to work closely with FEMA; going to the sites talking to people about unemployment, handing out flyers, and assisting people in various capacities. Workforce Alliance still has staff in a RV Park site in South Bay.
- Job Fairs – In reference to companies needing employees, and wanting to hold a job fair event, Workforce Alliance has space for this type of an event.
- On The Job Training Program – They encourage the employer to participate in this program. The Workforce Alliance will provide one half of the employee's hourly pay. Currently they have on the job training in Air Conditioning and Real Estate.
- Daily Orientations – are held Monday thru Friday at 10:00am to 11:00am.
- Computers available – used for preparing resume's, and for job search.
- He talked about the new possibilities in the Glades: Hotel, and the Everglades Restoration; which will bring jobs.

LaToya Ricketts, OCR Staff, inquired whether the construction courses would be offered on going throughout the year. Mr. Greene commented, yes.

Also Ms. Ricketts inquired about advertisement for the Job Fair events. Mr. Greene commented that they advertise by local radio station, television, flyers, & etc.. Also once the Job Fair has been posted, within 24-hours you can access this information on the computer.

Mr. Gainer inquired if whether there were a list of the jobs and the plans regarding the Everglades Restoration Project. Mr. Greene commented that there is a listing of the types of jobs for this project, and there have been several meetings held. The group began to discuss the plans involved in restoring the water.

**Sgt. Linda Hamilton, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office, reported on the following:**

- Shopping Spree event – This event was for victims of Hurricane Wilma. A total of 100 families went shopping.

**Comments and/or questions:**

None

**Adjournment of Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on February 23, 2006 in Pahokee.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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