

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of October 23, 2008
9:30 am – 11:00 am**

Belle Glade City Hall

Minutes

Attendees:

Ramon Arosemena, American Engineering Group (AEG)
Jacques Beaubrun, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Tish Burgher, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
D/S Willie Brookins, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Stephanie Corinthian, City of Pahokee
Erika Dennard, City of South Bay
Dale Erickson, Canal Point Community Development (CPCD)
Duane Gainer, Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Rhonda Gallon, Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management / CERT
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point & CERT
Vivian Hunter, City of Belle Glade
D/S Stan Jackson, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Sylvia Jackson-Hamilton, Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department (WUD)
Roy McGinnis, Palm Beach County Health Department
LJ Margolis, Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation / Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)
Derrek Moore, City of Pahokee
Rod Myrick, GBF Engineering, Inc.
Annette Parchment, City of South Bay
Jeremy Ray, GBF Engineering, Inc.
Curtis Rice, Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue (PBCFR)
Ted Roberts, City of Pahokee
Houston Tate, Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Mitch Wilson, City of Belle Glade Code Enforcement

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Duane Gainer introduced himself and asked the group to introduce themselves.

2. Follow-up Issues:

Sylvia Jackson-Hamilton of PBC Water Utilities reported on:

- The boil water notices that went out a couple of months ago resulted from a drop in water pressure at the water plant. Boil water orders are mandated and automated when the water pressure drops below a certain point.
- Canal Point sewer project has been extended to the end of September 2009. \$400,000 in USDA grant money is not available until the project is completed; the

funds must be expended before they are reimbursed. PBC Water Utilities will front the \$400,000 to the City of Pahokee so the project can be completed.

- Water Utilities is also working with SFWMD grant money to address some significant infrastructure (leak) problems in the City of Pahokee.
- There is a concept for the Glades Utility Authority (GUA) whereby a utility will be formed with the three cities and the County. Town Hall meetings are being held in the three cities to inform the residents and determine if the GUA will move forward. The GUA would absorb the cities \$57.1 million water- and wastewater-related debt, help the cities develop processes to ensure that water bill payments are made, upgrade and maintain water infrastructure, and help the cities become self-sufficient in their water and wastewater management.

There was discussion on the re-designation of US 98 / SR 700 to just SR 700. The US 98 designation was moved to US 441 / SR 15. Dale Erickson read from a letter from Jane Wolf of DOT which essentially stated that the re-designation was a result of the usage load on SR 700. Concerns are that SR 700 will no longer be properly maintained and that there will be a public safety impact. Furthermore, the new US 98 route runs through three communities, whereas the original route went through no communities and was a shorter route to West Palm Beach. Jacques Beaubrun of DOT stated that the newly-designated US 98 will now receive more maintenance attention. Houston Tate reported that his office has communicated the concern with State Representative Priscilla Taylor on behalf of the CPCD group.

Mr. Tate stated that Canal Point has major issues with zoning and land use. The Canal Point board had a retreat to discuss the matter. They now have maps drawn out that show what they want in their zoning and land use. This can now be given to PBC Planning and Zoning. Mr. Tate's point is that when our communities organize themselves then they can articulate their situations, concerns and needs to the correct agencies as a group.

Mr. Tate shared a presentation which examined how GTAC can be more effective. The presentation focused on the development of Neighborhood Associations and community organization to strengthen the voice of the community. He said that when communities organize and express their needs in a unified, clear manner, they have much more opportunity to have their concerns addressed. They can bring those concerns to GTAC to begin to explore ways to address the concerns and accomplish the projects.

Duane Gainer reported on the previously-raised question about demolition of condemned buildings. He stated that there is money available to demolish six (6) buildings county-wide.

Concern was raised about the condemned tower in Pahokee. That tower is currently privately-owned. Mr. Tate suggested that a letter be written to GTAC so he can forward the issue to Code Enforcement.

3. Discussion/Updates:

Tish Burgher of DOT regarding the repairs to US Hwy 27, DOT has completed traffic shifts on US Hwy 27 at the Miami Canal. Work will begin soon in South Bay.

Chief Curtis Rice reported that PBFR is moving ahead with construction. South Bay station needs a right-of-way across US Hwy 27 west of Terry's Restaurant. Belle Glade's station is under construction at this time. The goal for completion is April 2009. Discussions are in progress with Pahokee about where to locate the station there.

Jacques Beaubrun of DOT reported on several additional areas where road repairs will take place. He stated that if there are any concerns or needs for road repairs, this committee should give those concerns directly to him, as he is the GTAC representative and will be able to make sure the issues are addressed.

Ramon Arosemena of American Engineering Group reported that his company is doing the work to replace the two bridges over the Miami Canal in Lake Harbor. The project should take about 15 months.

Annette Parchment of South Bay raised the issue of the proposed location for the South Bay Fire Rescue Station needing access. Chief Curtis Rice and Duane Gainer will follow up through their offices in communicating the need with DOT, as this is an opportune time to create the access while the road work is being done.

Ms. Parchment also reported on the development of a Neighborhood Association in South Bay.

D/S Willie Brookins and Stan Jackson discussed the golfing program and community center being developed in Okeechobee Center. Kids age 8 through 17 will be able to participate in the golf program.

Rhonda Gallon of Emergency Management / Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) described the CERT program, in which community residents are trained to respond in emergency situations until first responders can arrive.

Roswell Harrington reported that the flooding issues in southern Canal Point and northern Pahokee have been resolved, because FPL has removed the light poles from the swale which had provided the drainage.

Ted Roberts of Pahokee reported that they are on track to get grants from the NPG, PBSO and others to start work on beautification of downtown areas and a chess park in Rardin Park.

Derrek Moore reported that most of the work on the Pahokee Parks & Recreation project is done. He also reported that, following the model of the proposed Glades Utilities Authority, the three cities are discussing the possibility of doing a tri-cities sanitation

partnership, parks and recreation program, and other combined services to leverage budgets.

Mr. Moore reported that the City of South Bay is the host of the Annual Tri-Cities Barbecue, but that South Bay has asked that the Pahokee Marina be the location. The Barbecue will be held December 5, 2008.

Roy McGinnis reported that the Health Department has a program called Healthy Homes; it begins with nurses going into the homes of pregnant women. Then the Health Department goes in to check out the home. He said that most of them are not fit to raise children in, due to decay, structural problems, no smoke detectors and other issues. He said that most of the residents are renters who would like to be able to leave those locations but are unable to. Roswell Harrington suggested that CROSS Ministries be contacted for the possibility of doing some renovations. Sylvia Jackson-Hamilton stated that there is potential funding from HUD to address the matter. She gave Mr. McGinnis the contact name and phone number. Duane Gainer said that on the Coast they had gotten smoke detectors from Fire-Rescue, which was then installed by volunteers.

Roswell Harrington brought up the issue of people being unable to pay their rent and being evicted. Houston Tate said that there are other mobile home parks with the same issues. There was discussion about how to find ways of assisting these families.

The next GTAC meeting will be held at the Pahokee Chamber of Commerce on November 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The meeting date was moved up a week due to the Thanksgiving Holiday

The GTAC meeting for December will be held at the South Bay City Hall on December 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This meeting date was also moved up a week due to the Christmas Holiday.

Minutes prepared by LJ Margolis and Duane Gainer

Approved By Houston Tate, Director