

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)**  
**Meeting of September 24, 2009**  
**9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Canal Point Community Center**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Pahokee  
Maria Bello, PBC Planning Division  
Regina Bohlen, FRACC  
LaClaire Bowdry, Pioneer Park Beacon Center  
Tish Burgher, GCA Inc., (Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)  
Kate Cole, PBC Division of Human Services (PBCDHS)  
Karen Corbin, Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce  
Raquel Diaz, City of South Bay  
Captain Larry Easton, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Zina El-Daghal, Canal Point Community Development  
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident  
Lt. Chris Keane, PBC Sheriff's Office  
Selena Lamotte, PBC Sheriff's Office Youth Intervention Program (PBSO YIP)  
Mike Roy McGinnis, PBC Department of Health  
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Rec / Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)  
Angela Morlok, PBC Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Warren "Skip" Reasoner, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Scott Ryder, C3TS Architects / DOT Consultant  
Steven Stokes, Target Engineering Group (Consultant for DOT)  
Jeff Tarr, Pahokee Resident  
Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
William Wynn, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Duane Gainer called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m., introduced himself, and welcomed attendees on behalf of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commission, Palm Beach County Administration, and Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization. Mr. Gainer thanked the Canal Point Community Development group for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments, and asked the group to introduce themselves.

**2. Review of Minutes**

Minutes of the August 27, 2009 meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections or comments. Mr. Gainer invited other cities to do a narrated tour, similar to that which South Bay hosted in August.

### **3. Discussion / Updates**

#### **Intermodal Logistics Center / Inland Port – Maria Bello**

As a result of questions raised during the South Bay tour in August, Maria Bello gave an update on the Intermodal Logistics Center (ILC), a.k.a. Inland Port. The County's involvement is only one aspect of the ILC. Mrs. Bello is involved in the land use portion. The ILC is a warehouse and distribution center facility. There are several around the country, usually off-site from the host port. The ILC provides a facility at a lower land cost than the seaport, and can offer better transportation availability. A study showed that there were several sites around the Lake Okeechobee area that could serve as an ILC for all of the ports in the area – Port of Palm Beach, Port Everglades and the Port of Miami. Three hundred and nineteen acres of the Florida Crystals/Okeelanta site were requested to be designated for industrial use by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The BCC also decided to allow other property owners to request an industrial land use designation to be used only if they were selected as the ILC site.

The County was involved in the development of an overlay amendment, but shortly after it was sent to the State, it was learned that the Port of Palm Beach had already begun its selection process. Therefore, there was no longer a need for the overlay, because it wouldn't help any other property owners, so the BCC decided not to adopt the overlay amendment. With the Florida Crystals/Okeelanta amendment, there were questions about whether there was really a market need for the ILC, and if it goes through, how it would impact the restoration of the Everglades. The questions and objections were addressed and the BCC adopted the amendment. The original wording of the Florida Crystals/Okeelanta amendment tied the project directly to the Port. The BCC dropped that wording because it is clear that the Port of Palm Beach is considering sites outside of Palm Beach County. It was not clear when the ILC would move forward. Florida Crystals said that even if they didn't develop the ILC with the Port of Palm Beach, they could still develop an ILC independently. The Florida Crystals/Okeelanta amendment will undergo the second part of the State review, to be finished mid- to late October. If the State finds that the amendment is in compliance, they can go ahead unless challenged by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. If not, the State would have to list the concerns and the County would have to enter a settlement process to address the concerns. If approved, that is also subject to challenge. If the BCC is unable to resolve the concerns, it then goes to an administrative hearing.

For the Port of Palm Beach's site selection process, the second part of the Request for Proposals has a deadline of early October. There are six qualifying sites which can continue in the process, and they have until October 9th to prepare the proposals. There is not a specific time set for making those decisions.

Updates can be found at [www.FloridaILC.com](http://www.FloridaILC.com). It appears that the Port of Palm Beach and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) are going to begin to move independently on the project. FDOT seems to be taking a step back and wants to do additional studies. That will take a little more time. The Port of Palm Beach intends to continue to move forward on a more aggressive schedule.

Florida Crystals has become a little disassociated with the Port of Palm Beach, and the Port of Palm Beach has become a little disassociated with FDOT.

The question was raised, is there room for two ILCs? Mrs. Bello stated that if the market would only support one, then there may be two smaller projects, or it would be a race to see who gets there first. The County supports getting the ILC somewhere in Palm Beach County, and Florida Crystals has stepped up with a potential location. The only authorized industrial use of Florida Crystal's 319 acres would be light industrial use associated with an ILC.

Mrs. Bello mentioned the virtual inland port in Kansas City and said that it could be possible we might end up with several locations. [http://www.kcsmartport.com/sec\\_about/about.htm](http://www.kcsmartport.com/sec_about/about.htm)

It was asked if the ILC would generate jobs for the Glades. Mrs. Bello replied that Port would be better to address that question. However, employment projections were examined and it was stated that more than 20,000 jobs would be created by 2020. In the short term, it has been estimated that there will be 1600 jobs created.

The South Florida Water Management District and the Department of Environmental Protection have been very active in reviewing the Florida Crystals/Okeelanta amendment to ensure that Everglades restoration projects and the acquisition of US Sugar will not be impacted.

At this point, with the various parties involved and the six locations under consideration, the location and implementation of the ILC is far from settled.

It was suggested that a future GTAC meeting be a panel consisting of representatives of Florida Crystals, the Port, FDOT, and County Planning to discuss and answer questions on the many factors involved.

#### **4. Subcommittee Updates**

**Correcting Addresses in the Glades** – Chief Curtis Rice reported on behalf of Captain Craig Prusansky. Lake Harbor will be working with County Code Enforcement to ensure that residents put their addresses on their homes correctly. Canal Point data is currently being input. There still seems to be an issue with SR 700/Connors Highway (formerly US 98). The CAD system still defaults to US 98. Updates can be found at <http://can911findyou.kkpss.info/>. Mr. Tate expressed appreciation for Captain Prusansky's efforts.

**Truancy** – Lieutenant Chris Kcane challenged attendees to become involved in Taking Stock in Children, a mentoring program in the middle and high schools in the Glades. The students and parent/guardian sign a contract to meet certain standards for staying in school. The mentor meets with the student for about 45 minutes a week during lunch time. The student is eligible for a two year scholarship at a Florida college. About 10 PBSO staff members are involved as volunteer mentors. Taking Stock in Children's Pahokee office can be reached at (561) 924-3430.

#### **5. Participant Comments / Updates**

**Lake Okeechobee Regional Initiative (LORI)** – Mr. Tate noted that the County's Information Technology department is looking at the possibility of partnerships to bring broadband to the Glades. The next meeting for the LORI group will be October 1st in Clewiston. This is a commitment from both Palm Beach County and Hendry County Commissioners to join forces

and start making progress in the Glades. More information is available at <http://www.collinscenter.org/?page=broadband>.

**2010 Census** – Mr. Tate reported that the Office of Community Revitalization (OCR) coordinated and facilitated a meeting with the U.S. Census Bureau to assist the Tri-Cities in submitting their Partner Support Program application. Mr. Tate further stressed the urgency for each of the Glades municipalities to contact Angela F. Johnson, Partnership Specialist, at (561) 859-3275. The Census data is used to distribute congressional seat; make decisions about community services and distribute \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year.

**Foreclosure Solutions** – There will be a meeting October 3 with Freddie Mac, Housing and Urban Development and others to discuss alternatives to foreclosure.

**Re-Entry Transit Fair** – There will be a meeting involving Palm Beach County, Criminal Justice, and Weed and Seed to discuss how to provide jobs and facilitate transition for people who have served their time in jail and are ready to re-enter society.

Mr. Tate reported that:

**Grant Opportunities** – Audley Reid of OCR will be working exclusively on grants and research. OCR will provide information on available grants and will offer a new resource center at Vista Center. County funding is becoming more and more limited. It will be crucial for cities, agencies and residents to become involved in the pursuit of alternative funding. The technical assistance will be available through OCR.

**OCR Programs** – REAP and Neighborhood Partnership Grant programs will continue. Neighborhood Link is a new program of OCR. Details can be found at <http://www.pbcgov.org/ocr/communityresources.htm>. Cities are encouraged to develop their own web sites and methods of spreading information to residents.

**Florida Department of Transportation** – Steve Stokes gave an update on SR 15. The bridge is now open. The first phase of milling and surfacing is being done. The work should be completed around the first of the year. In mid-October, there will be a nighttime closure on the bridge for the State to perform a load test.

Scott Ryder gave an update on SR 700. Phase Three of the detour includes a new guardrail. The plan is to continue working through the sugar cane harvest season. Hatton Highway is being used on two phases of the detour. The resurfacing, a County project, has been completed.

Tish Burgher gave an update on US 27. The concrete bridge deck has been poured. Both bridges should be open before the end of the year, earlier than the proposed January timeframe.

**Canal Point** – Zena El-Daghar expressed appreciation to Mr. Tate and OCR staff for the assistance Canal Point has received. She said that when the sewer line was put in, it stopped short of the area where economic development could occur. OCR coordinated and facilitated a community meeting with the residents of Canal Point and County Commissioner Santamaria.

The meeting focused on obtaining support from Commissioner Santamaria to authorize the extension of the Canal Point Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project to ensure economic development for the area. After considering the inputs and needs of the resident, authorization for the sewer extension was granted.

**Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** – Barbara Bell-Spence urged attendees to help encourage residents of all ages to participate in CERT training.

**Chess Park** – Barbara Bell-Spence stated that the project, funded through the OCR's Neighborhood Partnership Grant program, has been completed. Residents are taking advantage of the opportunities of the park.

Houston Tate challenged each city to bring in 5 residents to the next meeting. He said that when residents become involved, the elected officials find it better to support their public deliberation by translating their public action to authorize resources to solve community problems.

**The next GTAC meeting will be held at the Belle Glade City Hall on October 22, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Minutes prepared by Duane Gainer and LJ Margolis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Houston L. Tate", written over a horizontal line.

**Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director**