

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)  
Meeting of February 25, 2010  
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.  
Belle Glade City Hall**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Lt. Juan Batista, PBC Fire Rescue (PBCFR)  
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Pahokee  
Tish Burgher, QCA Inc. (Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)  
Linda Camardella, PBC School District  
Inger Cheves, Converge & Associates  
Kathleen Cole, PBC Human Services  
Karen Corbin, Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce  
Capt. Larry Easton, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Karis Engle, Glades Initiative  
Jesus Fuentes, American Engineering Group  
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)  
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Roswell Harrington, Resident of Pahokee / Keene Mobile Home Park /  
East Beach Family Emergency Depot  
Lt. Chris Keane, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Rec / Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)  
Roy "Mike" McGinnis, PBC Department of Health  
Angela Morlok, PBC Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Lt. Michael Morris, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Lt. Willie Powell, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Audley Reid, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Lt. Lynette Reid, PBC Fire Rescue (PBCFR)  
Ted Roberts, City of Pahokee  
Lt. Robert Sandt, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Sylvia Sharps, PBC Water Utilities Department/Glades Utility Authority  
Debbie Simpson, PBC School District Police  
Jeff Tarr, Resident of Pahokee  
Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Rashonda Warren, City of Pahokee  
William Wynn, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

Duane Gainer called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m., introduced himself, and welcomed attendees on behalf of the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners, Palm Beach County Administration, and Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization. He thanked the City of Belle Glade for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments, and asked attendees to introduce themselves.



## **2. Review of Minutes:**

The minutes of the January 28, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Jesus Fuentes made a correction to the January minutes, Department of Transportation report. To lay the friction course (top layer) the air temperature must be at least 65 degrees. For the structural layer, it must be at least 75 degrees.

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

### **Resident Education to Action Program (REAP)**

Duane Gainer stated that as of February 24, 2010 there are fifteen people registered for the Glades REAP session, which begins March 1 at the Bryant Auditorium. Typically not everyone shows up and completes the course. If too few people attend the first meeting, it may be cancelled and the funds currently allocated to the Glades may be re-allocated to the Coast where there are about 30 people registered. Houston Tate extended an appeal for community development directors to reach out to residents to participate in REAP. In the past, major projects have been funded by OCR, but those funds are no longer available. In order to continue serving the needs of their communities, residents need to be empowered to organize themselves, apply for grants and implement projects in their own neighborhoods. Mr. Gainer stated that at this point, only CCRT areas will receive funding from OCR. Capital projects will only be done in the unincorporated County and CCRT areas. Participation in REAP will enable cities and neighborhoods to pursue alternate funding sources. Ted Roberts asked if one is registered for REAP and the Glades session is cancelled, would they be able to attend the session on the Coast. Mr. Gainer replied that they could do so.

## **4. Subcommittee Updates:**

### **Truancy**

Linda Camardella asked about the status of the Truancy Committee. Mr. Tate stated that the committee has had some personnel changes and needs to be reformed. Lt. Michael Morris said he had been part of the committee, and in the beginning the Youth Empowerment Center was to have been the drop-off location for truant students, but that didn't come about. He stated that deputies take them back to school.

### **Canal Easement Drainage Issue**

Mr. Gainer stated that a committee needs to be established to work with the property owners where the drainage issues are. Mr. Harrington agreed to serve on the committee.

### **Correcting Addresses in the Glades**

On behalf of Captain Craig Prusansky, Lt. Lynette Reid read the following report:

"As of 2/13/10, all 215 records surveyed in Canal Point have been entered into the database and a copy of the discrepancies has been forwarded to Planning, Zoning, and Building for resolution. There were 33 address discrepancies out of the 215 records. We are waiting a reply from Planning, Zoning, and Building before we can go to the next step which is to submit the addresses to AT&T and PBC E-9-1-1.

A list of corrections for the MSAG (Municipal Services Address Guide - pronounced "Em-Sag") had also been forwarded to Brian Duffy at the PBC E-9-1-1 office on 2/13/10.



The MSAG defines what address ranges are valid within the 9-1-1 system. There were five significant errors found in the address ranges in Canal Point in the MSAG. These have now been corrected.

It is very important that if someone calls PBSO or Fire-Rescue on either 911 or on a non-emergency line, and there is an issue with response (either from PBSO or Fire-Rescue), I need to know about it as soon as possible. I am the main contact for this project, and if I am not made aware of a problem (or a potential problem), then I cannot get it fixed.

The Glades 911 Addressing Project is now on Twitter and Facebook. You can find links to those pages and up-to-date status of the project at our website:  
<http://can911findyou.kkpss.info/> . My e-mail address is also on that website.”

Mr. Harrington reported that someone is using a map based on the Property Appraiser’s map, which was based on plats, which are incorrect. He stated that most of the PBSO and PBFR personnel do not live in the Glades, are unfamiliar with the area, and can be misled by the map. Mr. Harrington said he has seen this map on the PBSO website.

**ACTION ITEM:** Lt. Chris Keane stated that he will get with Capt. Craig Prusansky, who has the most detailed knowledge of the mapping for Palm Beach County, and see what this situation is.

#### **Temporary Housing**

No update.

#### **5. Participant Updates:**

##### **East Beach Family Emergency Depot (EBFED)**

No update.

##### **Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)**

Mr. Tate introduced Dr. Audley Reid, PhD, OCR’s new grant coordinator. Dr. Reid stated that OCR is now focused on assisting partners to find grant funding for projects they would like to accomplish. He has developed an Excel spreadsheet inventory of different categories of grants. OCR has access to information on government grants, foundation grants and private grants. Grants geared toward community organizations that have 501(c)3 status will be included in the inventory. The ability to obtain 501(c)3 status is one benefit of REAP participation. A new benefit this year is that OCR will pay the fee for 501(c)3 application. OCR will provide assistance in applying for grants, but will not apply for the grants on behalf of the communities. The grants that OCR will focus on will be relevant to what the communities are doing, and will be manageable for the communities. A newsletter will be sent out with information on the grants, and they will be announced at CCRT and GTAC monthly meetings. OCR is looking at obtaining Foundation Center software, another grant resource, and will report when it has been obtained. Sylvia Sharps stated that the hard copy of Foundation Center can be found at the Palm Beach County Library. Jeff Tarr asked, “What is a grant? Is it ‘free’ money?” Mr. Tate replied that each grant has its own eligibility requirements. Some require matching funds. Ms. Sharps stated that a grant is a resource or a form of assistance that is related directly to your project, and



you must meet the requirements for the funding. Different grants have different funding sources, including individuals, foundations and others.

#### **Department of Transportation (DOT)**

Jesus Fuentes noted that there is minimal representation from South Bay and no representation from Lake Harbor. The detours in his project affect Lake Harbor, but no-one from that community attends the GTAC meetings. Mr. Tate will reach out to those communities to attempt to encourage their participation. Mr. Fuentes reported that the US Highway 27 project is 90% completed. Cold weather is delaying the project. The South Bay street lights are complete and working and the old light poles are being removed. The only detour now is at the Lake Harbor Bridge.

Tish Burgher reported on behalf of Scott Ryder that the "hot in place" project is delayed because of the cold weather. If the cold weather continues, the detour will stay in place a little longer.

#### **Pahokee – Barbara Bell-Spence**

Ms. Bell-Spence reported that on 02/27/10 at 5:30 p.m., Pahokee Parks & Recreation will present a Black History program with the students who participate in the Parks & Rec program. On Friday 03/05/10 there will be a Unity March Kick-Off Rally at Bacom Point Road and South Lake Avenue. On 03/26/10 there will be an FCAT bash called Pahokee Parties with a Purpose to celebrate the anticipated accomplishments of the students and to promote academics as well as sports. The event is to let the students know the community supports them. It will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Anquan Boldin Stadium.

#### **Glades Initiative – Karis Engle**

Ms. Engel distributed the new resource guide, which is also available on-line. The resource guide was funded by a grant from last year's REAP session. She mentioned several upcoming meetings, trainings and events. She stated that weekly updates, which are sent out in e-blast, are also available on the website. Upcoming meetings and events are listed on the website at <http://www.gladesinitiative.org>.

#### **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Angela Morlok**

Ms. Morlok reported that Belle Glade has developed four city-wide bus routes which connect with PalmTran and with the Clewiston bus route. Already people are utilizing the system. MPO has been working with FRHEDI to set up a bus system all around Lake Okeechobee and is looking for private funding for it. MPO would like to make a presentation on this in a couple of months when the plan is coming together.

#### **Human Services – Kate Cole**

Ms. Cole reported that with all the recent cold weather, Community Action (561-996-0660), Human Services (561-996-1630) and the Department of Senior Services are working to spend down the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds. She reported that the Human Services summer camp program is accepting applications.





## **PBSO**

Capt. Larry Easton reported that he and Lt. Chris Keane met with COP volunteers about participating in REAP.

Capt. Easton reported that the First Tee and Midnight Hoops program deputies were all awarded the US Department of Justice US Attorney's Office with the Outstanding Officer award for their work in those programs.

Lt. Keane reported that as a result of the presentation he made at GTAC, \$7,500 has been raised for Habitat for Humanity's project in the Glades. Habitat for Humanity has decided to personally fund the pre-construction (\$50,000) on the first home in Pahokee in hopes that as people start to see hammers and nails going on, they will step up to support and assist. The ultimate goal is building a village or two in the Glades region.

## **SHARE**

Mr. Harrington distributed SHARE order forms.

## **Glades Utility Authority (GUA) – Sylvia Sharps, GUA Board Clerk and Special Projects Coordinator**

At a previous meeting, Barbara Bell-Spence had raised the issue of senior citizens on fixed incomes being unable to meet the bill payment date. This issue resulted in Ms. Sharps being asked to attend the GTAC meeting to answer questions about GUA. Ms. Bell-Spence stated that she had subsequently found a source to assist the elderly.

Ms. Sharps stated that the GUA customer service office is located next to the new Regional Water Treatment Plant on Hooker Highway. Monthly meetings are held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., usually on the third Wednesday of each month. They rotate among the three cities, with four months at each city.

Mary Jo Walker asked if GUA is looking at being able to receive payments on-line, and Ms. Sharps said they are investigating the possibility.

Ted Roberts stated that many people take their lunch periods to pay their bills, which happens to coincide with the lunch period of the person responsible for accepting the payments. Ms. Sharps said that issue has been brought before the board for consideration.

Roswell Harrington stated that Canal Point has suffered from lack of water pressure for fire suppression. Ms. Sharps stated that the fire flow issue is being addressed by GUA. Funding is being pursued to address the issue, because neither Canal Point nor GUA has the money to pay for the necessary work. Mr. Gainer stated that GTAC has been looking at the issue of fire flow for several years. There is not an overnight solution. Significant funding is needed to replace old pipes that will not handle the higher water pressure. The first step in providing the water was to build the new Water Treatment Plant. Ms. Sharps stated that the County is working to replace all the piping in Canal Point, Pahokee, Belle Glade and South Bay.



Mr. Harrington asked, on behalf of Kim Erickson, if GUA has been established as an independent entity.

**ACTION ITEM: Ms. Sharps will find out and will send the answer to Mr. Gainer.**

Jeff Tarr asked if GUA and other County departments are competing against one another for funding. Ms. Sharps said that there is no competition between County entities for funding. Different types of funding are available for different types of projects. Many grants are applied for in collaboration with other County departments.

Ms. Sharps encouraged attendees to call Congressman Alcee Hastings' office to let him know the needs of the community. She gave the phone numbers for GUA director Jim Stiles (561-493-6109) and for herself (561-876-5553, email slsharps@pbewater.com).

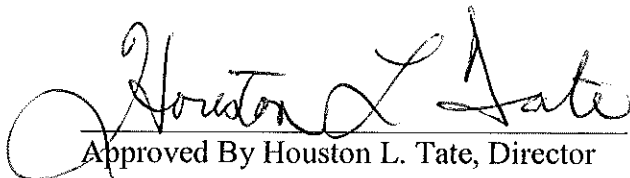
**Four-Laning of SR 15 – Roswell Harrington**

Mr. Harrington suggested that economic stimulus money might be used to four-lane the section of SR 15 from the intersection of Hooker Highway north to the intersection in Pahokee, as proposed about 20 years ago.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

***The next GTAC meeting will be held on March 25, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Pahokee Parks & Recreation Department Wellness Center, Behind the Historic High School Building, 360 E. Main Street, Pahokee.***

Minutes prepared by Duane Gainer and LJ Margolis.



Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director

