

A Report of the Glades Collaborative Meeting 10-24-13 run in conjunction with The Glades Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

My apologies for not getting there until 10:00. These notes are from 10:00 on. I tried to include many of the thoughts being expressed though I did not get all the names of people saying them.

Are we still doing things that way that we used to and still getting no results?

We hope that as a Guardian group we can get information to people in a quicker way.

Suggestion: We know door to door works, can we use another way getting information to people. Should we do a survey? E.G. What is the best way to get information to you?

We could ask questions like: Did you see my flyer, sign, door hanger, etc.? Should we have a billboard on the road? Note: Without door to door you miss the dialogue. People will listen to those they respect.

DOT Scenario when introducing a new project: 1. Town Meeting; 2. Posters around town; 3. Send out weekly press release by email; This is all done 2 – 4 weeks in advance of the project. 4. Open house with contractor and DOT where questions get answered.

This is for construction project. There are design meetings as well.

How does somebody get into the bid process?

We have to be proactive. Whatever the business we need to know what is coming down the pike. Find out from District 4 DO. How do we look out for people who are fighting to find jobs? How do we break barriers? You need to know the contact for District 4.

One big issues is lack of community involvement because the people doing the hiring don't know the people here who want the jobs. They want the community for statistics but not for input only and therefore money is made in the Glades and then leaves the Glades.

If we target people first and then the project, it would help a great deal. We don't ask people what they need. When you talk to HUD people and people doing planning, they don't know how to reach people. Why is it so difficult for people to know about possibilities? We don't know how to make personal connections. We need a way to fund finding out how people need information. Give us a grant and go into community. We need to find out and get the experts who know how to do this and get it done.

We are talking how the business can bid and how the citizen can get information. How do we get businesses certified and connected?

Use the bus routes to advertise with signs and/or flyers. Many routes in the Glades are available.

Locations and things that become consistent are a great source of news. Churches can give updates as well.

Can we get cities to give our businesses and contractors information at the beginning of the processes?

Churches will reach people through families and are a source of people they can trust. Maybe the fourth Sunday could be the Sunday that churches pass out information to people that would be good information about jobs.

Mrs. Miller would like to propose is that we write a grant to get logistical help and do paperwork, copying and schedules, help us design a structure for speed.

Sample Questions: How do we get information stations for people to find information? How to we involve churches? How do we involve the Chamber of Commerce?

Maybe we could tap professors or a class project. Students would be good. A bit of history: When Dr. Frank was provost at PBCC and the Everglades Restoration was being planned, a major effort got together to list jobs, salary ranges, education, etc. Workforce Alliance was going to get people to see if they were qualified. And pay for training. Training was set up. It fell apart.

We need a community grant for one expert to do the structuring. A little \$5000 grant would be helpful.

Community Enhancement: We would like to be contact point as well. We have been talking to everybody to start something. One problem: We don't have inter-loco agreements with the schools for Community School projects in the Glades?

Job and Construction is what I am about – traveling and working in every day and see the disadvantages and advantages.

We really need to commit to getting some success so the success will bring in more people.

How do we communicate?

One thing the college has learned: With 47% unemployment rate people want job now – not 2 years from now. **I need food right now but you need to sacrifice now to be ready for tomorrow. Pay now or pay later.**

Solid Waste Authority had electrician positions, but people had to be trained at a cost of \$4500. State college would do training and Workforce Alliance would fund it. Transportation was arranged, too. We couldn't get 10 people to sign up for the class.

Have to get the message out – **train now for the future.** How do we get people to work and go to school? The college can be flexible and making class schedules.

Problem and reality: 85% of 47% unemployment can clear Level 2 screening.

Note: The web site www.Peoplefirst.myflorida.com lists jobs that are available with DOT.

We have to stop planning and get busy doing the solution.

Today we have excellent input. This is what we need to be doing in order to get things done.

At the Glades Collaborative, we communicate with 18 incredible people. They say we know what the issues are, but we need to move forward with solutions. How do we move forward? We need a facilitator who will help us put all this together.

Carol: I have given Franz the Creole copies of the Master Plan meetings. This is a Grant Funded plan – 3 year grant –to produce a master Plan for the Glades. We are looking for a major overview of the Glades. They are documenting infrastructure issues. Basic stuff is being looked at like water pipe condition. What industries could be focused on the Glades? You have to have good water pressure.

We need a capital improvement plan like the major cities. This would spread out funding for continual improvement. We have all day Saturday meetings planned on Nov. 2nd at PBCC. Tech Center room 109. 10:00 – 3:00 and a follow up meeting at the Pahokee City Chambers on Nov. 16th. With same timeframe. There will be an office open the following week from early until late to have input into the process in both Belle Glade and Pahokee.

Our next meeting will be at November 21st