

**Minutes of the  
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy  
Committee Meeting  
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council  
421 SW Camden Avenue, Stuart, Florida 34994**

**Thursday, June 18, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

The following members and staff were present:

Martin County	Tammy Simoneau Kevin Powers
Palm Beach County	Paul Skyers Gary Hines Kevin Johns
St. Lucie County	Gwenda Thompson
Indian River County	Helene Caseltine Randy Riley
Staff	Greg Vaday Penny Myszkowski
Visitors	Bill Schutt

**Roll Call**

Staff called the roll and announced that a quorum was not present.

The Minutes of the last CEDS Committee meeting on April 9, 2009 will be approved at the next meeting.

**Roadmap to Florida Future, Southeast Region Strategic Planning Forum  
Gary Hines, Business Development Board of Palm Beach County**

Mr. Gary Hines stated that Enterprise Florida is in the process of updating the State's five year Strategic Economic Development Plan (2010 – 2015). The southeast region includes Indian River County to Monroe County. The forum will take place on Thursday, July 23, 2009 at the West Palm Beach Marriott from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. There will be two panels discussing regional. Speakers will include Frank Bilaneau on international commerce, Ray Ferraro, Broward County, on workforce development education, Commissioner Jeff Koons, Palm Beach County, on transportation infrastructure, and

Howard Hanson, Director of FAU Energy Technology, on alternative energy. Don Upton will be the facilitator. All attending will be welcome to engage in the dialog during the forum. Workforce issues will also be addressed. The South Florida Regional Planning Council will be invited to attend as well as the Treasure Coast Workforce Board.

Registration can be done online or call Gary Hines at 561-835-1008.

Greg Vaday said that Enterprise Florida has been invited to make a presentation to the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council Board at the July 17, 2009 meeting.

Kevin Johns asked what the Florida Council of 100 is. It is a CEO group that works with the Florida Chamber.

### **CEDS Project List 2009 -2010 Update**

Staff reviewed projects that were discussed at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. A list of sixteen projects that were considered for application for funds include:

#### Martin County

1. Manatee Pocket Dredging.
2. Indiantown Industrial Park.
3. Martin County Fiber Optic Project.
4. Witham Field Area Business Development Improvement Project. This grant is being pursued through their own grant writer.

#### Palm Beach County

1. Belle Glade City Hall Business Incubator – the Edge Center, a 501© organization is the applicant. The first phase of construction is underway. The next phase of the design and construction will be separate and applied for under EDA.
2. Glades Utility Authority – a new waste water entity. Application for funds will be made in July.
3. Lake Worth Park of Commerce – submitted May 12, 2009.
4. Seed Capital Fund – On June 30, 2009 there will be a meeting with a couple banks to seek New Market Tax Credit funds for this project. The New Market Tax Credit fund will also help recapitalize our microloan fund for \$1 million.

#### St. Lucie County

1. Flood Mitigation (underway) – has holdup in application at this time.
2. Indian River State College Training Complex (underway).
3. Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute.

Helene Caseltine asked how the Belle Glade Incubator project can be considered regional, as defined in crossing county lines. Kevin Johns said the incubator will do

training to create companies for two primary entities, the agricultural businesses and the inland port. The inland port will cover at least three counties with satellite locations. Six different companies have been proposed and they will use several of them. The Edge Center's scope of services will be to the agricultural communities around the Glades area in Palm Beach County and surrounding counties. The businesses that will be set up for the inland port will cover the same areas as well as Martin, St. Lucie, and Hendry County. The purchase of the Florida sugar land will put thousands of farmers out of business and they hope to set up public markets.

The question was asked as to whether this project could come under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Mr. Hines said that he has spoken with the USDA and they will not fund the project. The USDA does not consider Palm Beach County to be an agricultural, rural community because of the population and business on the east coast of the county. Greg Vaday said the USDA uses the county-wide unemployment statistics to determine eligibility.

Greg Vaday added that he has worked with the City of Stuart in getting a USDA grant for a small business improvement project in Stuart. The state office rejected it because Stuart as a rural community is approximate to the urban area of Port St. Lucie.

#### CEDS Project List 2009 – 2010:

1. Belle Glade City Hall/Incubator
  - Applicant - Edge Center
  - Phase I under construction
2. Glades Utility Authority
  - Applicant – Palm Beach County
  - Grant application being finalized
3. Lake Worth Park of Commerce
  - Applicant – City of Lake Worth
  - Grant submitted – 5/12/09
4. Seed Capital Fund
  - Applicant – Palm Beach County/Enterprise Development Corporation
  - Other funding sources being sought
5. Regional Cluster Study
  - Applicant – Office Depot Foundation
  - Grant submitted – 6/6/09

6. Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute

- Applicant – VGTI-FL
- Grant submitted 6/1/09

7. Regional Aviation Park

- Applicant – City of Sebastian
- Discussions underway with business beneficiary, LoPresti Aerospace

Staff said that project discussions will have to be finalized by July or August. The new EDA fiscal year starts October 1 and at that time the projects will enter the implementation phase.

The New Market Tax Credit meeting will take place at the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council office on June 30, 2009.

Staff mentioned he had a call from a woman in Martin County who has a solar energy product. She wants to market the product and needs money to do so. The process takes about six months.

**Public Comment**

None.

**CEDS Committee Comment**

Kevin Johns participated in the Southeast Florida Innovation Network and said that the Fiber Optic project is part of the Strategic Economic Plan with Palm Beach County and it is regional and global. All of the thirty-six active partnerships are designed to go out of Palm Beach County. A partnership has been formed with all of the colleges, county agencies, and the major companies that have wireless access. A strategy has been mapped out to connect through the university system which goes throughout the state. Pilot projects are being run in the poorest area of West Palm Beach in which free wireless computers are being given to kids in Dunbar Village. College students are working with the kids and parents to help them navigate on the computers. They have expanded to seven cities in Palm Beach County over the last year. Kevin Johns said that if we are going to compete in the global economy, we have to be smarter and faster than the competition.

**Public Comment**

None.

### **CEDS Committee Comments**

Helene Caseltine mentioned that she attended a conference in Raleigh, North Carolina and also toured the Research Triangle Park and learned about the businesses in the Park. Gwenda Thompson said that the information she saw on the Park showed many diversified businesses. The DVD on this business park is available on [www.pbcgov.com/edu](http://www.pbcgov.com/edu) under the 2005 Economic Summit (see Videos from Best Practices from Around the World – Industries of the Mind).

The next CEDS Committee meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.