

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
M E M O R A N D U M

DM-09-070

TO: ANTHONY J. SCHEMBRI, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
FROM: GARY W. MAIDHOF, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR
DATE: MARCH 2, 2009
SUBJ: DDS PROJECT STATUS REPORT – FEBRUARY

Land Development Code Update – The LDC critique has been accepted by the Board. The consultant (Duncan and Associates) has submitted a contract amendment and scope of work proposal for the LDC Appendices Update by Florida Engineering firm Wilson Miller. The contract was approved by the Board on May 8, 2007. A kickoff meeting with staff was held on 6/13/07. Due to the cost of the LDC Appendices update, that portion of the process will need to be phased over two years. Draft sections on administrative procedures, design incentives, drainage, signage, and parking have been circulated for internal staff review. The sign section has been circulated to stakeholders for comments. Staff met with the consultant on February 18, 2009 to discuss the proposed revisions.

Watershed Management Plan – The cooperative agreements with the water management district and the County were first approved on September 26, 2006. Six projects identified for FY 06/07. Crystal River Watershed, Tsala Apopka Outlet Watershed, Cardinal Lane Watershed, Center Ridge Watershed, Inverness Watershed, and the Homosassa River North & South Watershed. Fiscal Year 2007 added five more: Withlacoochee River, Shinn Ditch, Leslie Hefner Canal, Lake Bradley, and Floral City. Fiscal Year 2008 added two more: Homosassa South Fork and Chassahowitzka, for a total of 14 of the 20 watersheds identified. A local working group with DPW and DDS staff has been established. BOCC approved the 2010 cooperative applications at their 11/18 meeting. At the request of District staff, the Red Level watershed project has been deferred for one year. The District has submitted a draft contract for maintenance of the digital parameters/drainage model for staff review.

Transportation Planning Services (SB360) – representatives of Tindale Oliver & Associates conducted a Board workshop on the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan at a special meeting on February 5, 2009. The consultants have also completed a series of stakeholder interviews. Pursuant to BCC direction, staff is preparing adjustments to the CMS system to reflect a higher threshold minor traffic study. In addition, a projection is being considered for assumed vested roadway traffic. Arrangements are being made to route minor traffic studies to a engineer in the Division of Engineering instead of our transportation consultant, DRMP, Inc. Staff is monitoring proposed legislation that may affect local concurrency reviews.

Impact Fees – At their meeting on January 13, 2009, the BCC authorized staff to advertise for qualified consultants to prepare an update to the impact fee ordinance. The RFQ has been published and responses were due back to the County by February 25, 2009. Four submittals were received and are under review by the evaluation team. The update is projected to be completed by mid-summer.

Developers Diversified a/k/a Crystal River Pavilion – CPA/AA-09-04 – Proposed large scale amendment north of Bealls shopping center on US19, Crystal River. Approximately 250,000 sq.ft of commercial. Applicant requested continuance to 2nd cycle. Transmittal Hearing dates are tentatively April 2, 2009 (PDRB), and April 28, 2009 (BCC).

RIP/Sand Resources CPA/AA/PDO-09-02 – Frasure's Hull Peach Orchard area; proposed CPA/AA (or extractive expansion of existing mine. Withdrawn by applicant.

CPA-08-08 Crystal River Commons/Primerica – This is the Comprehensive Plan amendment portion of the Crystal River Commons project at the SE corner of Venable and US19 (formerly the Realti-Corp site). This amendment also has companion atlas amendment, planned development overlay and Development Agreement. The project proposes a large commercial development of approximately 399,000 (retail) and 125,000 (office/retail) square feet. BOCC workshop was held 7/15. Approved by BCC December 9, 2008. DCA found in compliance January 29, 2009.

DA-07-03 – Crystal River Commons/Primerica – Applicant requested expedited hearings so essential terms scheduled for BCC February 24, 2009. PDRB hearing will be March 5, 2009 and BCC hearing March 24, 2009.

Capital Improvements Element (CPA-08-05) – Revised due to new statutory requirements; Approved by BCC on 8/19/08 and sent to DCA. DCA has found element to be noncompliant, and staff has revised the element with DCA assistance. (CPA-09-07 scheduled for BCC March 2009).

CPA/AA-08-24 Katherine's Bay LLC – RV park addition on Halls River Road – Scheduled for PDRB March 5, 2009 and BCC March 24, 2009. A request for a formal quasi judicial proceeding has been received.

DA-08-01 Crystal Pointe Phases II and III – BCC granted approval for staff to consider this application on 2/26/08. An outline of general terms discussed by BCC in January. Hearings for PRDB and BCC scheduled for April, 2009.

Floral City Community Plan - Staff has prepared a "Floral City Community Plan" and a "Floral City Special Overlay District." Florida Community Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization Grant (\$750,000) received to provide housing repair/restoration in the Floral City area. Staff met with representatives of the Floral City Heritage Council, and the revised draft went to HRAB. Community meeting held December 17, 2008, and PDRB meeting scheduled for April, 2009.

Crosland Developer's Agreement – The principal developer has withdrawn. The DA contains a provision that the land owner may assume the D.A. The Board has granted 30 days to the land owner to evaluate. This is rescheduled for Board review on March 10th.

AA-06-09/PDO-06-08 Stillwell for Lecanto Residential Partners, LLC – a planned development overlay for a residential subdivision on 75 acres. As submitted, the project is not meeting concurrency and applicant is working on resubmittal. Upon receipt it will be placed on PDRB agenda.

CPA/AAPDO-09-09 – West side of US 19 in Ozello area. Proposed for light industrial. PDRB recommended approval February 5, 2009. BCC hearing scheduled for February 24, 2009.

CPA/AA-09-06 – Sander Son Henigar Enterprises: South side of Crystal River – 486 in Hernando area. Proposed for PSO use in association with adjacent medical offices. PDRB recommended denial on February 5, 2009. BCC hearing held February 24, 2009 and the application was denied.

CPA-09-10 – Five Mile Radius. Staff was directed by BCC to remove restriction on increased density within five mile radius of Progress Energy Nuclear Plant. PDRB transmittal hearing scheduled for April 2, 2009 and BCC transmittal hearing tentatively scheduled for April 28, 2009.

CPA/AA-09-11 – Seven Rivers Presbyterian. Proposed to change existing church land to appropriate zoning of PSI (Public, Semi-Public, Institutional). PDRB transmittal hearing scheduled for June 4, 2009 and BCC transmittal hearing tentatively scheduled for June 23, 2009.

AA-08-16 & PDO-08-02 – John and Joanna Lawson – Cedar Key Fish House – Both applications brought before the PDRB on 11/13/08 and they chose to continue until the Comprehensive Plan designation questions are resolved.

Platting Activity:

PLT-05-63 Felicia Station (15-18-19) – 537 Lots
PLT-05-39 Sterling Hills (4,9-19-18) – 572 Lots
PLT-05-46 Hunt Club Villas (26&35-18-18) – 193 Lots
PLT-05-28 Cherry Oak Estates (29-20-18) – 95 Lots
PLT-05-19 Twisted Oaks (formerly The Fairways) (1&12-18-18) – 157 Lots
PLT-05-23 Southern Woods at SMW Phase V (21-20-18) – 71 Lots
PLT-06-05 Brentwood Villas VII (22-18-18) – 106 Lots
PLT-06-17 Allen Plantation (28,29,33-18-18) – 809 Lots
PLT-05-62 Crystal Pointe Unit 2 (23-17-17) – 106 Lots; revised development agreement has been proposed
PLT-05-64 Tarawood Phase II – 135 Lots

PLT-06-25 Oak Lakes – 978 Lots
PLT-06-36 Oak Village (Beverly Hills) – 130 Lots
PLT-08-09 Maylen Avenue Property (32-18-18) – 24 Lots

Anticipated Submittals:

Black Diamond/CR486 LLC – Proposed commercial (276,000 sq.ft.) and residential (144 single family, 384 townhouses) on NW corner of CR486 & CR491; traffic study submitted; PDO expected, but not yet submitted. Development Agreement proposed but not yet submitted.

Anchor Ridge – proposed 375,000 sq.ft. retail adjacent to Black Diamond/CR486 LLC project. Staff believes both projects qualify as DRIs. Traffic study denied since traffic counts done at non-peak times; expected PDO, but not yet submitted. The applicant has been in discussions with the County's transportation attorney. Per Agreement proposed but not yet submitted.

Ozello Trail Development – proposed big-box commercial on west side of US Highway 19. Applicant has met with staff regarding submittal requirements.

CC Investments I, Inc. – SE corner of CR 486/CR491 – Proposed Development Agreement to address exchange of land between Developer and County as a result of CR486/CR491 intersection improvements; providing for development accommodations with respect to remaining property intended for mixed commercial and professional office use. Draft is underway.

Meadowcrest DRI – Proposed Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) application to delete approximately 139,400 SF of industrial space to be built, and substitute therein 220 units of multifamily residential. Applicant is in due-diligence stage, but no formal submittal has been made.

Hollinswood Harbor – Proposed large scale project on west side of US-19 north of barge canal. Would contain residential and commercial components as well as marina. Applicant plans to also propose new land use district for use. Tentitively called "port." Expected to be submitted to start hearing in June, 2009.

River Lodge RV Park Expansion – Proposed large scale project on east side of US-19 north of barge canal. Expected to be submitted to start hearings in June, 2009.

Commercial Permits:

Boys and Girls Club of Citrus County – Roosevelt Blvd in Beverly Hills – 5500 sq ft social club – At Finals.

River Lodge Resort – N. Suncoast Blvd, just over barge canal – under new ownership – applications received for replacement and upgrade of all facilities on site. 30 Day Temporary CO's issued.

Hitches and Accessories – Homosassa – 2400 sq ft metal building – Permit issued, under construction.

Alexander Dental Laboratory – W. Norvell Bryant Hwy – 5600 sq ft, 3-unit building – Permit issued and under construction.

Homosassa North Retail on 19 – approx. 25,000 sq ft of retail – Resubmittal still under review.

Brannen Bank records storage 10,000 sq ft 2 story, Thomas St.- Site & building applications awaiting resubmittal.

Key Training Center TV station - 3,900 sq ft building for WYKE – Received CO and Compliance.

Times Square II shopping center on S. Prospect; 12,000 square feet – Site application awaiting resubmittal.

CVS Terra Vista – Site & building applications issued.

Turbine Broach Company – Overdrive Circle in Hernando – 15,000 sq ft jet turbine manufacturing – site and building applications issued and under construction.

Alternative Waste Services – Overdrive Circle in Hernando – 4,500 sq.ft. office /warehouse for recycling & waste removal – site application resubmittal under review.

Smitty's Auto – Cardinal in Homosassa – 2,500 sq.ft replacement auto garage – applications approved, issued and under construction.

SunTrust Bank – Hwy 19 & 98 – 3995 sq.ft. bank – site application approved. Issued.

Alugubelli Buildings – Hwy 491 & Regina – @ 5015 sq.ft. each – two new & one replacement office building – awaiting pickup.

Citrus County Chronicle – 11,000 sq.ft production addition & interior remodel to existing building – scheduled for CO and Compliance.

Citrus County Hospital Board – S. Hwy 19 – 21,000 sq.ft. medical plaza – permits issued – under construction.

Vigliotti Butterfly Attraction – Cardinal / Hwy 19 – CO and Compliance issued.

Jallo Car Wash Addition – SE corner of 44/491 – Detached carwash at existing service station – site & building under review.

Dollar General Store – Corner of Deltona/Citrus Springs Blvd – 9100 sq.ft. – Site & building approved and awaiting pickup.

Superior Residences Phase-I – 39,000 sq.ft Assisted Living Facility – Site permit issued & building approved, awaiting pick-up.

Citrus County Utilities—MeadowCrest – Waste water treatment facility expansion – under construction.

Hampton Inn – Hwy 19 across from the Playhouse – 41,000 sq.ft. hotel – Site awaiting resubmittal under review & building application approved, but awaiting site approval.

Seven Rivers Hospital – 11877 sq.ft. 3rd floor remodel of south wing rehabilitation unit – Routed for CO and Compliance.

Seven Rivers Hospital – 3500 sq. ft. operating room addition – Routed for CO and Compliance.

Seven Rivers Hospital – 3700 sq. ft. interior remodel of Central Sterile Decontamination and Recovery rooms – Routed for CO and Compliance.

Patel Convenience Store – 4800 sq.ft., replacement building for a convenient store with two additional office units – Project completed, issued CO and Compliance.

US19 – Seven Rivers Professional Center (next to the hospital) – 51,000 sq.ft. Permits issued; under construction. Near completion for Phase I. Some buildings CO'd; some not completed.

Summerhill @ Meadowcrest – Phase I, Condo buildings 1 & 2. Phase I site permit correcting deficiencies prior to compliance re-inspection. Phase two postponed.

ChristWay Fellowship Hall – 11295 sq.ft. church – construction completed – under review for compliance

Cypress Ridge Commercial Center – Cypress Boulevard (SMW) – 4,000 sq.ft dental office building #4 – application approved and ready for final processing.

Racetrac Service Station #783 – US 19 & 98 area – 5019 sq.ft. station – application awaiting resubmittal.

Love Auto Mall a.k.a. Johnson Select Motors – buildings 3 & 4 routed for CO and Compliance. Applications for buildings 1 & 2 awaiting resubmittal.

Nature Coast EMS – 8600 sq.ft. Administration & Training Facility – undergoing compliance inspections.

Plantation Inn expansion – Phase II, 2-story hotel suites – site application awaiting pickup & building applications awaiting resubmittal – property annexed into the City of Crystal River.

The Centers –10,200 sq.ft. adolescent treatment facility expansion – under construction – building at finals.

Walden Woods III Club House – clubhouse completed and compliance issued.

Sunflower Springs, Assisted Living Facility (80,940 sq. ft) – 30 Day Temporary CO.

Chassa Oaks p.k.a. Samos RV Park - Phase 1 – 3700 sq.ft. clubhouse received certificate of occupancy – site compliance currently deficient; RV lot permits being acquired individually.

Greek Orthodox Church – 7600 sq.ft. under construction and at building finals.

Emergency Operations Center – CO and Compliance issued.

Sheadan Park Plaza – CR 488 – 3-building, 18 unit – applications awaiting resubmittal.

Nature Coast Orthopedics – CR491 & W. Flare Lane – 16,862 sq.ft., 10-Unit retail center – applications awaiting resubmittal.

Riverside Resort – Site & building applications awaiting resubmittal.

Lake Rousseau Mini-Storage – CR488 west of 495 – Phase I awaiting CO & Compliance approvals; Phase II has been postponed.

Lossing Plaza – SR491 south of CR486 – 7078 sq ft, 5-unit retail plaza - site approved and awaiting pickup & building applications awaiting resubmittal.

Damato Commercial Center – 8-unit retail plaza located west of SR44/486 intersection; Site & building applications awaiting pickup.

Cypress Crossing LLC – SR44 west of CR486 – 6-building medical – building “E” nearing finals, building D resubmittal under review, building applications A, B, C & F awaiting resubmittal.

Black Diamond Tannery – Crigger off CR491 – 18,400 sq.ft. alligator-hide tanning facility – Certificate of Occupancy issued; business is in full operation. Certificate of Compliance issued.

Joseph Capital Management – Audubon Park, Beverly Hills – 11,700 sq.ft. office building – building application approved / site application awaiting resubmittal.

New Commercial Submittals

Racetrac #833 – 19 and 490 (Old Texaco) – under review.

Citrus County Utilities – Sugarmill Woods Water Treatment Plant Expansion – under review.

Wilson Medical Center – 3627 sq. ft. Medical – under review.

Building Division Activities

The Building Division is a Special Enterprise operation which means its income is derived solely from the revenue generated from permit fees. The economic down turn in the construction industry has resulted in income loss to the degree where reserves are utilized to meet monthly operational expenses. This is continually monitored to ensure reserves are utilized to the lowest level possible.

The Building Division has taken a number of steps to address the income shortfall. They have included:

- A staff reduction from 53 positions to 24 positions
- Transferred 11 vehicles, computer work stations and other related items to various departments and divisions
- A fee schedule increase (first adjustment since 1997)
- Drastically reduced all expenditures/purchases to critical status levels
- Adjusted the work week of all Building Division employees to a 32 hour work week (reduced staff levels occur on Monday & Fridays)
- Not filling open positions as employees leave to alternative positions with the reassignment of their duties to remaining staff.

Despite all these efforts, a recent evaluation by Building Division senior staff and the Office of Management & Budget have identified another staff reduction maybe necessary to ensure solvency through this calendar year.

While conducting staff reduction, Building Division has worked closely with other county departments, and divisions in an effort of internal co-operation to assist in placing Building Division staff into other available positions within the county, where ever possible.

Due to the staff reduction, Building Division has also adjusted their organizational chart to reflect a reduction in staff levels from 53 positions to 24 positions currently.

Building Division is also considering several other possible creative solutions in an effort to reduce expenditures and slow the utilization of the reserve funds.

Animal Services

A public workshop on the proposed revisions to the Animal Services Ordinance was held on February 11th. Turnout was strong. The Ordinance is scheduled for BCC review on March 24th.

The 2009 Dog Obedience classes are scheduled to begin the last week of March. We have had great turnout and participation.

Procurement for the Crematory unit has begun. We hope to have this installed and up and running by the end of the 3rd quarter.

We are currently gathering information for the Volunteer Training Program, it is designed to teach basic animal handling to the volunteers that walk the dogs. This will cut down on "scratch and quarantine" issues.

Animal Services Statistical Information for January

Licenses sold 193
Adoptions 121
Returned to owners 42
Transferred to Rescue Groups 17
Died while in confinement 7
Dead upon arrival 1
Euthanized
 Owner requested 27
 Medical 36
 Cat 25
 Dog 11
 Raccoon 0
 Aggression 36
 Cat 35
 Dog 1
 *Time/Space 90
 Cat 63
 Dog 27

Code Enforcement Activities

As of this date, Code Enforcement staff has issued approximately 541 Citations for first offense violations of the watering restriction and 7 citations for second offense violations of the watering restrictions. The total amount received from the citations is \$48,350.00. Several cases have been appealed to Judge Yerman and testifying in court is great experience for the officers to learn how to present their cases.

The Customer Service Requests in Hansen are being utilized by the entire staff in Code Enforcement to track complaints and status. Reviews are being made to verify that all comments are in the log notes. All abated complaints are being inspected to ensure the files are investigated and every effort is made to diminish repeat complaints on the same address. Efforts are underway to ensure each Code Enforcement Officer is adequately trained to utilize Hansen to provide the most current statistics of the complaints.

The Code Enforcement Officers completed the Level III FACE Training in January and the results of their final exam should be received in February, 2009. Many positive comments about the training were received. It was evident at the January 21, 2009 Code Enforcement Special Master Hearing that the Code Enforcement Officers had utilized their training for testifying at a hearing.

The Code Enforcement Officers and staff received their new uniforms from Fann Emblem. The uniforms are professional in appearance.

Code Enforcement Monthly Report – January – 2009

1. Case Sources

Complaints filed.....	340
Building Division complaints.....	1
BOCC complaints.....	8
CCSO.....	11
Citizen complaints.....	166
Code Enforcement Section generated.....	71
Community Development complaints.....	2
Department of Development Services complaint.....	1
Engineering Division complaints.....	1
Environmental Health Department complaints.....	2
Fire Safety.....	1
Internet complaints.....	3
Road Maintenance Division complaint.....	5
Title Company requests.....	68
Total complaints registered.....	340

2. Investigation Summary

Accessory Use complaint.....	1
After-the fact Development Order complaints	34
Business in a residence complaints	10
Commercial vehicles parked in residential district complaints	1
Driveway apron violations	2
Expired Development Order.....	1
Failed compliance inspection complaint.....	1
Illegal dumpsites	40
Illegal occupancy of an R.V. complaints.....	14
Illegal sub-division of land complaint.....	1
Junk, debris & abandoned property	57
Livestock/Animal complaints	5
Living in accessory structure complaints.....	1
Mandatory water connection complaint.....	1
More than one structure on single lot complaint.....	1
Noise complaints.....	2
Obstruction of public right-of-way complaints.....	5
Property research requests	68
Sign permit complaints.....	2
Site checks.....	3
Storage on a vacant parcel complaints	3
Swimming pool complaints.....	1
Tree removal complaints.....	3
Unlicensed vehicle complaints	26
Unsafe structure complaints.....	9
Water/irrigation investigations	47
Total cases investigated.....	339

3. Active cases

Current case load.....	317
NOV/NOH issued	132

Unlawful signs removed from ROW 204

4. Resolved Cases..... 188

5. Code Enforcement Hearing Activities

Cases heard and considered by the Special Master..... 20

Cases guilty..... 19

Cases continued 0

Cases not guilty..... 0

Cases withdrawn 1

6. Water Restrictions

Water restriction investigations 47

Water citations issued in January 41

Mitigated investigations..... 5

Case pending 1

Total citations issued 548

Water citation fines collected to date \$48,350.00

Housing Services Division Activities:

Pre bid conference, orientation and contractor walk throughs occurring in the Floral City area under the 2007 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for 10 replacement homes and 2 home repairs projects. Bids and awards in March and construction will commence shortly thereafter.

All fees were paid and SHIP eligible clients assisted that were under mandatory utility connection in Chassahowitzka.

Our housing replacement project in Lecanto is 90% complete.

Staff continues to prepare for Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The State plan has been approved by HUD. Department of Community Affairs is awaiting their signed agreement with HUD. Citrus County has filed a Notice of Intent to Apply for our allocation of \$1,478,164 for Acquiring and Rehabilitating Abandoned and Foreclosed Housing and a supplemental allocation of \$693,256 for the same purposes but with the intent that this allocation be used for Rental Housing to serve very low income households. Discussions with potential partners continue. Areas of greatest need being identified. Staff has attended 4 technical workshops through Florida Housing Coalition

and the Florida Department of Community Affairs application workshop. Public hearing will be held this month and the application submitted by April 6.

Final awards were made and all contracts executed with Habitat for Humanity for \$225,000 to complete nine homes in 2009 and Florida Low Income Housing Associates \$100,000 to complete 4 homes through the SHIP Not for Profit Developer Set-Aside.

SHIP audit was completed on 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 fiscal years and Citrus County received a perfect score.

The Local Housing Assistance Plan was amended by resolution and the Housing Incentive changes or those recently adopted were added based on the triennial report. Other technical administrative and strategy revisions that had been recommended by the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) were also added.

In working with Nature Coast Ministries to establish an organized Angel Food Ministries distribution for both the east and west side of Citrus County, that will bring another low cost food supply once a month to those in need, services have expanded. Two additional churches in west Citrus have joined the efforts and the orders have doubled every month since December. Orders for March were close to 400 and direct delivery and distribution will occur soon in Citrus County.

The rental portion of Nature Walk has been approved by a new private mortgage lender and is subject to final approval by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation in mid-March. Final closing will occur shortly thereafter and this development will provide 50, affordable, 3 bedroom family rentals in Crystal River. Construction is already underway of the infrastructure and 50 owned affordable units will also be constructed and some of the homeowners will receive SHIP assistance.

Other Activities of Note:

2010 Census – Registration complete. Isolated workstation (per federal requirements) established; local update of census addresses (LUCA) has been completed and transmitted to the Census. Their follow-up questions have been answered. Census has also requested revision of census tracts to reflect recently annexed areas for cities, and staff has been working on this.

Staff has been attending Regional Transportation meetings to facilitate regional coordination on transportation project. These include TBARTA meetings, Chairs Coordinating Council meetings, and FDOT District 7 regional meetings.

FDOT Regional Transportation Model - November 6, 2008; Discussed CCC Regional Plan - Status Update, Corridor Definition and Hotel / Motel.

Appeal A08-02 Nature's Resort – The hearing officer heard oral arguments on this appeal on February 11, 2009. A ruling is expected in 30 to 45 days.

TBARTA Land Use Working Group was on November 7, 2008; Discussed 2035 Population & Job Growth Forecasts, Master Plan Phase Three Networks and Transit Oriented Land Use Scenarios

TBARTA Board Meeting was on November 14, 2008; Phase Three Master plan discussed; Bob Clifford (FDOT-D7) was selected as Executive Director at the October Board meeting

CCC and TBARTA Plan Coordination meeting was held on November 19, 2008; Requested by MPO staff directors to coordinate the CCC regional LRTP and TBARTA Master Plans.

The first meeting of the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Formation Committee was held on February 20th. The next meeting is set for March 20th.

The Florida Springs Task Force has been re-established. I am continuing to serve as the local Government representative and attended a meeting on October 30th. The January 29th meeting was cancelled due to the State's new travel limitation policy.

On January 23rd I was a guest speaker at the North Central Rural Planner's Network meeting in Trenton, Florida. The topic was "Preparing for Future Growth." About 40 people representing 20+ jurisdictions were in attendance.

Gopher Tortoise Workshop – Staff continues to participate in FFWCC hosted workshops to assist in development of procedures and rule making to protect this species now classified under the threatened status.

USFWS Comprehensive Conservation Plan (Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge) – Staff participated in a government agency scoping meeting in January and will be participating and assisting the service in creating a 15-year conservation plan for the refuge; a community scoping meeting was held in February.

GWM:ab

cc: Planning and Development Review Board

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