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**EGLIN INSTALLATION GROWTH COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2007**

MINUTES

The Eglin Installation Growth Executive Committee meeting was held October 3, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in the Okaloosa County Water & Sewer Building, 1804 Lewis Turner Blvd., 3rd floor small conference room. The meeting was attended by Board of County Commissioner Chairman Don Amunds, Jim Curry, County Administrator, and Jeff Fanto, Growth Project Coordinator. The Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) was represented by Rich Tenga and Peter Bahm. EIGC members in attendance were Colonel Dennis Yates, 96ABW/CE, Chip Hunt, 96ABW/XP, Ft. Walton Beach Mayor Mike Anderson, Ret. Lt. General Gordon Fornell, DSI, BRAC, Lois Hoyt, Citizens Committee and Larry Sassano, EDC.

Chairman Don Amunds called the meeting to order.

Rich Tenga thanked everyone for attending and stated the JLUS Public Meeting #2 held in Niceville this morning was productive. He was particularly pleased that the Air Force would be providing some of the noise data that can actually go right into one full blown JLUS. This information will allow us to move right through the entire JLUS, with the consultant aboard, to re-scope the Scope of Work and get it working all the way through and actually get this done and work it into the Growth Management Plan.

He said the committees are coming together [working with the EIGC and Sustainable Emerald Coast] and figuring out most of the growth issues. The latest growth numbers from Eglin AFB is 3,600 or 3,700 and that's part of the study we need to know. As we go into the Growth Management plan, if you have a lot of information that you've pulled together on issues and possible solutions, we don't want to re-package what we already know. That was the initial thought when OEA first started this was to go into the communities and help them put together all of the issues and have an implementation plan, or at least some recommendations on how to adjust for the growth. Of the twenty growth sites where BRAC has been applied, nineteen of those are Army and one is Air Force. There are no Navy sites. The nineteen Army sites are a little bit ahead. They know their numbers and have pretty much gone through and hired consultants to start working the Growth Management Plans. Mr. Tenga stated that as they're going through this they have learned some lessons, such as, what are we going to do with these plans now and how are they going to be implemented.

Once it's decided what the various committees want to do there will be a period of transacting the changes. The OEA does the initial planning but they do not go as far as pouring concrete for new roads, etc. They will assist in the planning up to getting the consultant on board and when he does, he should have a pretty good idea of what the bed-down is going to be. We need to use this time now to package a good Scope of Work and get it to the point where it can be consolidated into a comprehensive growth management plan. The next phase will be deciding [taking roads as an example] the engineering studies on how many lanes, bypasses, how high, how wide, etc. will be needed. We have not reached this point yet, but OEA wants to help in the transacting process and hiring the consultant. They will also assist in finding the funding resources outside of their organization when we go into construction.

OEA has decided to host a Growth Summit in St. Louis, Missouri on December 11-13, 2007. The objective is to get all of the growth communities together. The nineteen Army installations that are already under way will be there and available to share their information. Federal agencies will be there and OEA will be talking about how this whole transaction with ideas will work. Tenga asked the committee members for any ideas or issues they would like to see on the agenda and what should go into the Scope of Work that the consultant can do for them when implementing those ideas.

Jim Curry advised part of the difficulty is that most of this information is decision driven in terms of the community trying to plan the growth that's going to take place and use the Army Special Forces unit that's coming, where it's going to be, and how can we help, from a planning standpoint, to assist with the infrastructure and things of that nature. Once these things are identified everything else is pretty much standard; structure needs, access, transportation, housing, utilities and so forth.

One of the problems is not knowing the real number of military personnel coming to the area. Commissioner Amunds stated we still have to be flexible because things are going to continue to change as we go forward.

General Fornell agreed the real number is important to know and also the timing. He stated that in our case, we're tied a little bit by policy, in trying to hold these two massive Special Forces and the bed-down of the Joint Strike Fighter as a single entity; wherein reality, there could be some separation which would give each of them a little time to do additional planning and an opportunity to do a little better ground work for whatever is required on both sides. In these nine areas we have had quite active committees working in each of those areas and then part of this big Sustainable Emerald Coast, there's a greater granularity in the data. A lot of work has been done but the integration of all those things is crucial. Some of the projects, like transportation, are moving along quite nicely, but some of the others are grandiose in scheme which will require additional planning. It would be beneficial if the people that interface with the Corps of Engineers could attend the Summit. There could be real estate issues, Corps of Engineer issues, environmental issues and all sorts of things that need to be integrated together. He asked if OEA could

assist in this integration of all the efforts because we don't want to have to go back to the starting point.

Colonel Yates stated some of the things he has been able to partner with [which he feels is important as we identify requirements for the community at large] is to try to align those efforts to where we can maximize; whether it's permitting requirements with the State or a variety of environmental considerations when partnering with the County. Right now, much of the beach restoration that is now going on is being partnered instead of going in separately for the same kind of permit. We have many different communities that may be touched by this same issue and it would be better if we could address those as a single entity. We don't want to defuse our efforts but unite them and move forward.

Larry Sassano advised there is a practice in place that former Governor Jeb Bush put into place at the State level and with a project this large it could be implemented. A point person has been identified in each of the regulatory agencies you can go to and they will be your coordinator for that agency.

General Fornell stated that Eglin is the only Air Force growth project and we could be a front runner or a model in this kind of activity, which he feels gives us some opportunity to set the standard in our relationship with the County and the Base and even the Feds.

Mr. Curry asked if there was an agenda for the Summit and Mr. Tenga advised it was currently being drafted. Curry also stated that neither he nor any of the Commissioners would be able to attend because of a Board of County Commissioners meeting. Tenga said they hoped to have a Growth Summit once every six months and if anyone had any topics they would like to see on the agenda to let him know.

Commissioner Amunds was pleased that there would be one contact person [hopefully] from the regulatory agencies for information without getting passed along.

There was a discussion about the regulatory agencies being from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). They are typically the ones that have the money for construction.

Jeff Fanto asked if growth communities will be identified and will there be some streamline mechanism in place. He said he doesn't know much about EDA and hopes local government can navigate through it to get things done in a timely manner. He also asked if they would entertain ideas streamlining their processes for identifying growth communities to make their services more readily available.

Two state representatives, (Bryce Harris, with the Governor's office and Rocky McPherson with Enterprise Florida), have committed to attending the Growth Summit and it's possible to have a mini summit at the state level. This would give us a solid front going to a Federal summit and being the only Air Force participant in Florida would give us some strength.

General Fornell asked Colonel Yates if an agenda item could be added on the next Commanders Meeting with Governor Crist to address some of the issues raised in our meetings.

Fanto stated the majority of the information contained in the Scope of Work has already been done by the different committees. We are now focusing on making it more representative of the desire to make it a transactional approach as opposed to just a pure planning effort. When this is all said and done and we're coming to a conclusion and we have a consultant that is ready to provide the information, which group should it be delivered to, or should it go to each County and municipality.

Workshops, public hearings and having each committee adopt the Scope of Work were discussed. Details can be worked out at a later date.

Mr. Fanto will be updating the progress at the next Eglin Vision 2015 Meeting and it was suggested he also update the Work Force Summit in May, 2008.

Everyone that has agreed to attend the Growth Summit are the most knowledgeable people to attend. They have worked closely with Sustainable Emerald Coast and have learned a great deal from them.

Mr. Fanto stated once he receives everyone's input from all of the various committees he will compile it and present it to the Executive Committee for final approval.

Mr. Tenga advised if he could get this information to his Technical Review Committee by November it might be possible to hire the consultant by January, 2008. This is a process we don't want to rush into and he would like the qualified applicants come before this group and present what they can do and how they would go about it.

This committee will also need to come up with a cost figure for the Scope of Work. This figure will include salary, operational expenses, and other expenses.

Eglin has estimated that they will have a draft report for their BRAC Environmental Impact Study available in March 2008. The report will provide four different scenarios that will identify bed down and operating locations for the forces projected to come to Eglin, namely the Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center and the 7th Special Forces Group.

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