

**Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative Advisory Board Meeting
Northwest Florida State College, Student Services Building**

March 27, 2024

Nathan Sparks, One Okaloosa EDC Executive Director and John Schuliger, TCPI facilitator provided opening comments. Advisory Board members and guests were welcomed.

The Advisory Board mission and meeting agenda were overviewed.

Program Updates

SAF/IE Visit

- Ms. Dana McIntyre, 96TW reported. Members of the SAF/IE team visited the Eglin Complex in January for two days of targeted meeting; on and off installation to include attending the Eglin-Hurlburt CPP meeting held Jan 24.
- A meeting was held in town with developers and community leaders to discuss potential EUL opportunities surrounding the Eglin and Hurlburt land reservation.
- The desire exists to streamline the EUL process and to expand the process to include multiple consecutive projects at an installation.
- The 96TW will be hiring a new contractor to focus on the local EUL processes.

Military Installation Resiliency Review Update

- Eric Christianson, Planner Emerald Coast Regional Council reported and overviewed slides. Military installations rely on strong and resilient host communities to support them and their mission sets. The purpose of the MIRR is to identify the risks and opportunities that may impact installations and to identify mitigation opportunities outside the fence line.
- Jacobs Technology was engaged as the main contractor to oversee the process. A strategy will be created to address vulnerabilities. Categories will include infrastructure such as electric, water, sewer and transportation; emergency response capabilities; and quality of life such as housing, childcare and education. Electrical production and supply facilities has risen to the top priority as a high risk factor. Additional factors include encroachment and shoreline preservation.
- Next steps include finalizing findings report and distributing among community leaders; expected in July. Identify funding opportunities to accomplish mitigation goals.

Defense Support Initiatives Advocacy Outreach

- Kay Rasmussen, DSI manager reported. The DSI leadership team traveled to DC in March to meet with Congressional representatives. The electronic point paper was provided to DC staff in preparation of meetings; hard copy provided for review. Meetings were held on the Senate side the first day and the House side the second day. All meetings were productive and resulted in positive support of assistance requests. All respective NDAA and appropriation forms for the top priorities have been submitted. Follow up actions are underway.

Lines of Effort Updates

Infrastructure; Colonel Hammill, 96 CEG/CC

Traffic Work Group

- Eric Rushing, co-chair reported. Lt. General Bauernfeind hosted a second traffic roundtable at Hurlburt Field in February. The traffic congestion to the west of Hurlburt was highlighted as a

critical threat to AFSOC missions. Highlighted actions included; 1) construction of a Collector Road north of Hwy 98 in Okaloosa County; 2) Possible connector roads in Santa Rosa County; and 3) a potential new west gate. The next vector check is targeted for October timeframe.

- FDOT is building the funding package for a feasibility study of Hwy 85 expansion/realignment for the west side expansion plan.
- Construction bids for the bridge-to-bridge path are due March 27.
- An OLDCC DCIP application is being considered for the Traffic Management Center; installation commander letter of support is required.
- Efforts are underway to stabilize Hwy 98 shoreline on Okaloosa Island.

Education/Training; Colonel Davis, 96 MSG/CC

Career Readiness Work Group

- Col Davis shared that the volunteer TAP surveys are now mandatory and executed at the beginning of the TAP process. This will improve the data collection. The intent is to measure personnel choosing to remain in the area after separation, and to educate those that are unsure of the opportunities offered locally.
- Job Fairs and hiring events held since the last meeting were highlighted.
- An update from the volunteer TAP surveys was provided. The conservative cost savings since January 2022 in PCS and unemployment compensation is measured at \$937,598 with 52% of respondents saying they will stay in the area after transition, and 24% indicating they were unsure. This data is critical to measuring the success of this work group and is utilized by economic development partners to demonstrate the workforce pipeline.

Quality of Life; Colonel Wood, 1 SOMSG/CC

Childcare Work Group

- Tamera Gerstbrodie, Co-Chair briefed. The recent change in Florida FCC law has supported several home-based child care programs being established; Eglin currently has twelve applications.
- Hurlburt Field is expanding their CDC West facility to accommodate 24 additional infants.
- Kinderspot is a mobile application that allows military and DoD civilian families to find temporary short-term childcare at Air Force CDCs by subletting open spaces.
- Employee attraction and retention remains a focus at both installations.
- Eglin is moving forward to site and construct a new CDC in Crestview which will provide approximately 200 slots.
- Higher Ground Education is expected to break ground in Crestview in May.

Housing Work Group

- Randall Rowland, co-chair reported. The Hidden Oaks duplex home renovation program is delayed until April.
- Demolition of 100 Live Oak units will take place on Hurlburt and be replaced with apartments; following the Edwards AFB model.
- Negotiations continue between Okaloosa County and the 96th Test Wing for the potential North 9 207 acres for a mixed use development to include housing.
- Freedom Tech Park on Lewis Turner Boulevard will include 312 luxury apartments.
- The Eglin mobile home FamCamp is being expanded.
- An EUL opportunity is pending for a Poquito Bayou to include retail, office space and temporary lodging.

Oversight; Nathan Sparks, One Okaloosa EDC

Grant Funding Work Group

- Steve Loken, co-chair reported. Funding opportunities highlighted to include, OLDCC Defense Community Infrastructure Program, Florida Defense Infrastructure Grants, Federal Highway Administration Defense Access Road Program, and Florida Department of Transportation's Transportation Regional Incentive Program.
- Hurlburt Field leadership is preparing letters of support for multiple potential projects.

Emerging Topics

- Dale Marks reported and overviewed orphan parcel slide. The respective map was released in January to identify potential EUL opportunities; approximately ten. Lynn Dominique is assisting the 96TW with a comprehensive plan and centralized vision. Discussions are underway with AFCEC to streamline the EUL process and to approve multiple consecutive projects per installation. The draft RFP for the 98 acre UF REEF parcel has an original due date of March 29; that date will be extended.

Closing Comments

- OLDCC established the Public Schools on Military Installations grant program to construct, renovate or repair a public school to improve capacity or facility condition deficiencies; as prioritized in the Deputy Secretary of Defense's Priority List. This may be an opportunity to pursue in the future.
- Both Col Hammill and Col Davis will be PCS'ing this summer. Much appreciation is extended to them for their partnerships and contributions.
- The next Eglin-Hurlburt CPP meeting was targeted for April. The date will be confirmed.
- The next TCPI Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for June 12.

Meeting adjourned.