

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 23, 2006

TO: Pat Evans, Shawn Hartzer, Robert Jones, Cheryl Malin, Kerri Post, Diane Quigley, Brian Telfair

FROM: Mariano Berrios, Program Administrator, Florida Scenic Highways Program

CC: Bob Crim, Shannon Foor, Laura Haddock, Andy Nicol, Oxo Slayer, Lynne Marie Whately

SUBJECT: Scenic Highways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2006
Designation Application Review:

- Big Bend (Franklin and Wakulla County) Scenic Byway

A Scenic Highways Advisory Committee (SHAC) meeting was held on Thursday, October 12, 2006 from 2:00pm – 4:30pm at the Burns Building - Suwannee Room, in Tallahassee, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to review and provide a recommendation regarding the Big Bend (Wakulla and Franklin County) Scenic Byway Designation application.

INTRODUCTION

The meeting opened with the Scenic Highway Advisory Committee (SHAC) introducing themselves. SHAC attendees included Pat Evans, DEP; Shawn Hartzer, Department of Agriculture-Forestry; Robert Jones, DOS; Keri Post, VISIT FLORIDA; and Diane Quigley, DCA. Others in attendance were members of the Big Bend Scenic Byway Corridor Management Entity (CME); Andy Nicol, Carter & Burgess; and Oxo Slayer, Kimley-Horn.

Mr. Andy Nicol gave an overview of the meeting agenda and asked the SHAC to discuss their comments on the application.

DISCUSSION OF THE BIG BEND (FRANKLIN AND WAKULLA COUNTY) SCENIC BYWAY DESIGNATION APPLICATION

The proposed Big Bend Scenic Byway is approximately 171 miles in length along US 98 from the City of Apalachicola in Franklin County to CR59 in the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in Wakulla County, including a spur road to St. George Island (SR 300), and three (3) Forest Trails including SR 65 through

Tate's Hell State Forest; SR 267 through the Wakulla State Forest; and CR 375 through the Apalachicola National Forest. The corridor also includes short segments of local streets and county roads.

The SHAC acknowledged all of the hard work that the Big Bend Scenic Byway group has done in the past few years. The SHAC stressed the great value of this corridor and expressed their interest in this corridor as a member of the Florida Scenic Highway community. The following comments/recommendations were provided by the SHAC for consideration and incorporation into the Five-Year Corridor Management Plan (CMP) Update:

1. The seamless flow and connection of the parks throughout the area should be promoted and used as a national model.
2. The improvements to Panacea and Spring Creek are nice to see and should be kept up.
3. Fort Gadsden and Fort San Marcos are nationally significant historic resources. These should be promoted and preserved with all needed efforts.
4. There are many archeological resources in the corridor. Many of these need to be shared with visitors, but it is important not to advertise their exact locations in order to keep them undisturbed.
5. There is a concern about the development pressures in the area. The CME needs to keep on top of the issue and keep pressing the local governments to address preservation and to limit growth in coordination with the long-term efforts of the Corridor Management Plan (CMP). One method to consider may be the creation of a specific Land Use Plan for the corridor that addresses the wishes of the CME and the CMP. This would need to be prepared with direct consultation with the local communities and the local governments.

The SHAC completed their Evaluation of Applicant Corridor forms and voted 6-0 in favor of this candidate Scenic Highway for Designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

NEXT SHAC MEETING

The next SHAC meeting will be held in February 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Andy Nicol thanked everyone for coming and for his/her efforts with the Florida Scenic Highways Program. The meeting concluded at 4:30pm.