



**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway
Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG)
Minutes from January 16, 2013 meeting
Sumter County Service Center
Powell Road, Wildwood, FL**

- I. Call to Order and introduction of guests** – Meeting was called to order by Chair Dan McCormic. Those in attendance included Dawn Cary (Sumter County Chamber of Commerce); Mike Palozzi (Shaw E&I); Robert Finck (Atkins, N.A.); Paul Remis (Dade Battlefield/City of Webster/Historical Society/Boy Scouts of America); Donna Lester (UF/IFAS Sumter); Judie Mueller (Webster Post Office); Kelly Williams (City of Webster, Mayor Elect); Deb Barsell (Sumter County BOCC); Betty Comis (Sumter County Public Works); and Garry Balogh (FDOT).

- II. Minutes** – Deb Barsell motioned to accept October minutes. Seconded by Paul Remis. Motion approved.

- III. Guest Speaker:** Betty Comis, Manager of the Sumter County Adopt-A-Highway Program discussed the program in Sumter County and the opportunities available to participants. She handed out material and an application. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of the CME participating in the near future, and inquired on what section of CR470 might be available. A point was brought up that the County may already maintain stretches of road (with inmates) and Scott Cottrell will research what sections of roads were already being maintained by the County inmate program. A decision on selection of a section to sponsor was tabled until the next meeting. The group also discussed beautification of certain exits along I-75 including the National Cemetery and Lake Pan exits. The Wild Flower and Landscaping improvements will involve Scott Cottrell as well, and Dan will meet with him regarding future County or DOT plans for upgrading the exits.

- IV. Sumter County Wayfinding Plan/Project Update.** Deb Barsell reports that the project is in a holding pattern and that she was meeting with Bradley Arnold on the implementation of the primary and secondary gateways. Deb also needs to get with Scott Cottrell on the installation of signs. The County is hoping to secure a contractor in the next few months to construct the signs and the 2012 funds set aside will be used to fabricate and install the Primary Gateway signs. Secondary signs should be able to be installed by the Sumter County Public Works, as well as the signs that are inserted into the Primary signs. She also indicated that all the cities in the County will have to participate in the countywide Wayfinding project.

- V. Designation Committee Report**
 - a) Corridor Management Entity and Progress:**
 - 1.** Mike reports that the finalization of the Designation Application document/CMP is being drafted and reviewed by Bob. Bob and Mike are going to get additional photos that reflect the community to submit with the application. The list of currently received Local Support letters was reviewed and Mike requested the rest of the letters be turned in as soon as possible. Kelly Williams requested a form letter and Dawn will send it to her. The City of Webster still needs to sign their CME Partnership Agreement/Resolution for the application. The middle of February is the time frame set to get the 1st draft document completed for CAG review. We would like to submit our Designation package to the SHAC for their April 24th, 2013 meeting. A review committee was set up to include Dan McCormic, Scott Cottrell (will be asked by Deb Barsell), Kelly Williams and Paul Remis.

2. 2013/2014 Elected Officers: Elected and stated as minutes indicated in December.
3. The CAG discussed the length of the meetings and the time frame used by other byways in the state. It was mentioned that rushing the meeting does not allow time to do business. Committee meetings were suggested to break down the important issues that the byway needs to concentrate on. This is to ensure that issues do not fall through the cracks. The group discussed some of Robert's Rules of Order for meetings.
4. Explore Sumter County: Dan McCormic brought up the Kayaking event being held next month from the Marsh Bend boat access and the opportunity for a trail down to the water possibly being completed beforehand. Explore Sumter County will also be approached to provide a letter of support.

VI. Marketing Committee/Event Planning Subcommittee Report

- The results of the booth at the Dade Battlefield Re-Enactment were discussed, held on January 5-6, 2013. Kelly Williams designed a "Plinko" game board to engage the public at our booth and hand out prizes. We need to start collecting prizes for future use of the Plinko board.
- Agritunity is being held on January 26, 2013. The CAG did not have any volunteers available to participate in this event.
- The Cowboy Crawl (March 23rd) will be the opportunity for the CAG to have their Designation phase community support event in conjunction with this pre-planned community activity. We discussed selling hotdogs to attract people to our booth and will need to get volunteers to help. The CAG plans on collecting signatures on Designation support petitions and discussed marketing materials and costs involved in printing. Our Ride Sumter card will be updated and sent to Dawn to get a price on printing. Deb indicated that we could print our own on cardstock material. Also discussed having a fact sheet available for volunteers that may not be aware of all the key points of the byway.
- A Civil War Re-enactment will be held February 23-24 in Webster. Paul is looking for volunteers. Putting this event on the State Byway website and our facebook site was discussed.

VII. District Scenic Highways Coordinator Report –Garry reported that the new Florida Scenic Highways Program 5-Year plan is to be finalized and distributed to all of the districts in the state soon. Visit Florida is allowing all the state byway groups to take over the Welcome Centers on April 5, 2013 at the I-95, US301, I-75 and Pensacola gateways to hand out materials. Chambers are also welcome. The CAG discussed organizing volunteers to go up there to cover a table.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned.

IX. Next Meeting Location – Did not discuss.

Respectfully submitted by: Dawn A. Cary, Secretary/Treasurer