



NEWS RELEASE

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Wakulla County Receives Grant to Fund Road Improvements in Wakulla Gardens:

Crawfordville, Florida – At the May 17, 2010 Board Meeting, the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners accepted \$459,251.00 in grant funds from the Department of Community Affairs, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG).

The majority of the funds will be limited to the historic Wakulla Gardens subdivision for gravel surfacing of 21.17 miles of roads. In addition, the grant also provides that at least 14% of the total funds will be used towards affordable rental housing activities such as rehabilitation and rental assistance for disaster related activities for low and moderate income recipients through the County's Housing Department.

The use of the funds is restricted to disaster recovery activities for events specifically related to Gustav, Ike and Tropical Storm Fay for which the President declared a major disaster. During the disaster and heavy rainfall events, the roads in the historic Wakulla Gardens subdivision became impassable causing obstruction to emergency responders such as emergency management, medical and fire services, law enforcement, humanitarian providers and to school system transport vehicles. The gravel surfacing of the roads in Wakulla Gardens is intended to stabilize the roads so the gravel remains pervious as to not exacerbate flooding, and yet keep the road surface stable enough for ease of access by the residents and all others who travel these roads on a daily basis.

“The Board of County Commissioners recognizes the significant challenges faced by the residents of Wakulla Gardens. This grant will be used to greatly improve their roads. The Board thanks our grants personnel for the excellent work in obtaining this grant and is deeply appreciative of the Department of Community Affairs for their support and guidance in making it possible”, commented Commissioner Howard Kessler.

This project will enable the County to provide a workable mitigation solution to the road flooding situation at this historic subdivision while continuing to seek other ways and means to identify the necessary funds to eventually pay for a permanent stormwater solution and paved roads. It is anticipated that this project will commence late June.

For additional information related to this story, please contact Jessica Welch, Policy & Public Information Coordinator at (850) 926-0919 or jwelch@mywakulla.com.