

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: April 5, 2010

Date Submitted: March 19, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Commissioner Alan Brock

Subject: Request Board Approval to Direct Staff to Research Joining Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC)

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board approval to direct staff to research joining Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). Wakulla County is one of 4 rural counties in Florida that are not part of a RACEC.

Background:

Florida's Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) are regions comprised of rural communities that have been adversely affected by extraordinary economic events or natural disasters. The designation of the three RACECs in Florida allows these regions certain provisions for economic development initiatives such as waived criteria and requirements for economic development programs. Additionally, funding is provided to the regions to help perform economic research, site selection, and marketing to produce a catalytic economic opportunity and a site in each RACEC designated for targeted economic development.

Analysis:

The attached map shows which counties are parts of which RACEC, and you can see that Wakulla, while deemed Rural, is not part of a RACEC. Of the 4 counties that adjoin Wakulla County, 3 are deemed rural, and all 3 belong to a RACEC.

Staff needs to determine if this is a strength or weakness for Wakulla County and our efforts for economic development. If it is a weakness, then the County should join a RACEC.

Options:

1. Direct staff to research RACEC, direct the County Attorney to review statutes for any changes that joining a RACEC might have for Wakulla, and determine if the Board should request Gubernatorial Order adding Wakulla to a RACEC, and if so, which one.
2. Do not proceed with staff research to join a RACEC.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachment:

1. Map Showing RACEC Counties