

APPENDIX 4
RESPONSE LETTER TO D.O.S.

APPLIED SUSTAINABILITY ENTERPRISES, LLC
2489 SURF ROAD
PANACEA, FL 32346

May 12, 2009

Mr. Frederick P. Gaske, Director
Florida Department of State
Division of Historical Resources
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Re: Panacea Mound (Archaeological Site 8WA84)
Wakulla County

Dear Mr. Gaske:

Applied Sustainability Enterprises, LLC is a consultant to **Florida Foresight, Inc.**, the Wakulla-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that—in cooperation with the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners—has taken the lead over the past several years in the publicly-supported effort to create a **BIG BEND MARITIME CENTER** in Panacea.

On March 13, 2009, you wrote to Ms. Cheri Albin, Florida Communities Trust, Department of Community Affairs, with regard to “Review and Comment on the *Big Bend Maritime Center Management Plan/Florida Communities Trust Number 07-057-F7/Wakulla County/DHR Project File No. 2009-1207.*” It was only recently that we received a copy of your letter as part of a large packet of related materials forwarded to Florida Foresight by Wakulla County.

With the authorization of Florida Foresight, I am writing to respond to questions you posed with reference to the Panacea Mound, which you noted the Florida Master Site File indicates is within the project area of the proposed Big Bend Maritime Center.

In fact, we believe that: (1) not only does the Panacea Mound **no longer exist**, but what appears may have been its original location is now the site of a long-abandoned home, overgrown with trees and bushes; and (2) the original site of the Panacea Mound is **not within**—but is directly adjacent to—the project area of the proposed Big Bend Maritime Center.

My ASE colleague Diane Delaney and I have lived in Panacea since 1998. In these 11 years we know that the Panacea Mound has not been in existence. We do not know when it disappeared, but local tradition suggests that a considerable portion of

the roadbed material for the nearby (and thus possibly quite appropriately named) Mound Road actually was derived from the Panacea Mound.

Under the circumstances, we would suggest that: (1) it would be difficult, if not impossible, to plot the original site location of the Panacea Mound with full precision; and (2) there is no way to review the potential impact of the proposed development of the Big Bend Maritime Center on a historic site that, in fact, no longer exists.

We will continue to pursue this inquiry with the Wakulla County Property Appraiser's Office, however, in the hope that earlier historic records may be available to shed further light on this situation. If we succeed in uncovering new information, we will advise your office and the FCT promptly.

In the meantime, it goes without saying that: (1) even though, as stated above, we believe that the proposed location of the Big Bend Maritime Center does not include the original site of the Panacea Mound, the Center would certainly wish to incorporate in its interpretive plans whatever details can be established about the Native American heritage of the Dickerson Bay area, as well as—with DOS approval and cooperation—to display any related artifacts that may be discovered in the process of creating the Center.

In this regard, I can assure you that the organizers of the Big Bend Maritime Center understand that they:

(a) would be required to notify the DHR immediately if any evidence is found to suggest an archaeological or historic resource at the project site;

(b) must include a mechanism to coordinate with the DHR on the protection and management of archaeological and historic resources; and

(c) must ensure that the collection of artifacts or the disturbance of archeological and historic sites is prohibited unless prior authorization has been obtained from the DHR.

As this project proceeds, it goes without saying that the organizers would welcome any guidance, assistance, or support that the DOS might be able to provide.

May 12, 2009

For the present, we hope that the enclosed color photos of the area in question, which were taken on May 11, 2009, will help in part to explain the current situation of what we believe, in some previous period, was the Panacea Mound.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Lesh
Co-Director, Applied Sustainability Enterprises, LLC

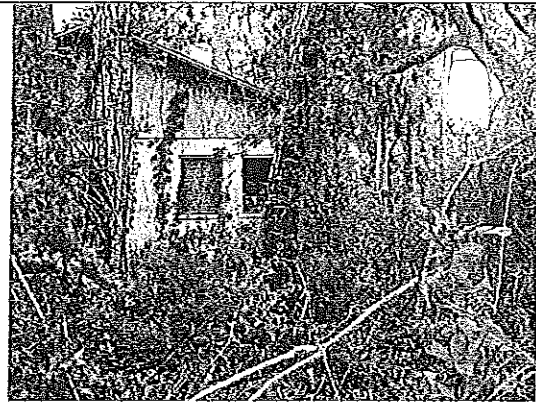
Enclosures: Color Photos of Current Appearance of Prior Panacea Mound Site

Cc: Ms. Cheri Albin, Florida Communities Trust
Mr. William Lowrie, Executive Director, Florida Foresight

Panacea Mound



Clark Street with mound site



Side view of house on mound site



House on mound site as viewed from project site property



Project site house sites on lot adjacent to Crum Drive