TO: Members of the Committee for a Sustainable Emerald Coast

FROM: Michelle Anchors, Chairperson and Robert Jones, Facilitator

RE: September 14, 2006 Organizational Meeting

DATE: August 24, 2006

Congratulations on your appointment to the Committee for a Sustainable Emerald Coast. This is a timely and important endeavor, and I am looking forward to meeting and working with each of you over the next 16 months. As the attached Executive Order suggests, we will be engaging in a concerted effort to help set the course for the Emerald Coast region's future over the coming decades. The challenges and opportunities are many and varied and will demand our collective efforts to generate a shared vision of success for the region and our communities.

We are lucky to have the facilitation services of the FSU Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium along with the FSU Institute of Government. These organizations will be working with the Committee and with me to ensure we create an appropriate work plan and have effective and efficient meetings. The Consortium recently facilitated the Committee for a Sustainable Treasure Coast’s 18-month effort and is presently assisting with a Central Florida Regional Visioning initiative involving seven counties.

Due to the tight timeframe under which we are operating, I am asking that you do everything possible to join us on September 14 for an important opening day-long organizational session. This will take place on the campus of Okaloosa Walton College in Niceville. I would like to extend my personal thanks to Dr. Bob Richburg for allowing us to use the excellent facilities of the college for this event. I have attached the draft agenda and we will provide directions to you at a later date.

To establish our future schedule, a calendar form is attached to help us identify the best available dates for the most members for our meetings in the remaining months of 2006. Please complete and fax or email the Consortium with your response indicating the dates that you have a conflict.

In addition, I am asking that you complete an online member pre-meeting issues survey by September 6 so we can use your responses to inform and shape our work plan and hit the ground running at our Organizational session on September 14. Please go to the following site to complete this survey:
http://consensus.fsu.edu/csec/survey/csecsurvey.html

Attached to this email are the following documents:

- The Draft September 14, 2006 Organizational Agenda
- The June 28, 2006 Governor's Executive Order setting forth the Committee charge
o A list of the Committee members
o A draft Committee work plan that will be reviewed and refined at the Organizational session.

I am looking forward to working together with you on this opportunity to help our region look over the longer term to ensure we have built a sustainable and livable region for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. I recently came across an ancient Chinese proverb that I believe nicely characterizes the time frame for our mission and work in the coming months, “One generation plants the trees, the next uses the shade.”

If you have any questions regarding the attached materials or the survey, do not hesitate to contact me directly at 850-863-1974 or by e-mail at: manchers@asglegal.com or Robert Jones, Director of the Consortium at 850-644-6320/ or by e-mail at rmjones@fsu.edu. I look forward to working with you at our opening session.