



Representative Marti Coley (seated) was on hand for the grant presentation to the Sky team last week. Standing are (from left) Bruce White of White Starr, Inc., Dave Cartez, PHD, lead scientist for the Florida State Center for Advanced Power Systems, Ron Reid of Kore Consulting, Julie Starr Sanford of White Starr, Inc, Lupita McClenning of Zev Cohen, and Ryan Byrd of Kore Consulting.

Sky awarded \$1.8 million

BY KELLI PEACOCK
News Editor

Governor Charlie Crist's office presented a \$1.8 million grant award last week to the Sky development team for the Sky community proposed here in Calhoun County.

Bruce White and Julia Starr Sanford have joined forces through White Starr, Inc. to create Sky on the west side of Calhoun County in Clarksville. Sky is being proposed on a 571 acre site off Hwy 287 and Shelton Road, Boggs Grade Road, and Porter Grade Road. The community was planned by the renowned DPZ international planning firm and will be modeled after old world European villages while implementing the latest in energy efficiency technology and using the most advanced systems for protecting the environment.

Sky features 624 new home sites, an equestrian complex with miles of riding trails, public gardens, group agriculture with a farmers market, and over half the property set aside for agriculture and open space. The Sky lodge and conference center will provide much needed lodging for ecotourists who wish to visit Calhoun County. Sky is expected to bring many jobs to Calhoun County and stimulate positive ecological awareness here, while adding an estimated \$22,000,000 to the county tax fund within the next 12 years.

"Sky is positioned to be one of the country's most elegant and ecologically sensitive communities and we are very proud that the county and governor's office have acknowledged the inherent wisdom of the goals of the Sky project," Sanford remarks.

"We had the opportunity to meet the representatives on the Energy Commission and they fully support the concept of Sky and would like to see it as a model future devel-

opment style for Florida," says White. "Sky was selected to receive this grant over 180 other companies who were seeking the grant money to advance energy conservation in the state of Florida. This money is to pay for scientific and engineering research that will ensure that Sky is the most energy efficient residential development in this country. We will be working with scientists from the Center for Advanced Power Systems of the University of Florida, scientist and engineers from DEP, and our Sky team of engineers and scientists that are excited and dedicated to this task."

White went on to say, "The governor's office stated that it is a state objective for Florida to become the most energy efficient and environmental state in the USA. They had Sky listed at the top of the list as a model of development that can be used in order to meet this objective. The governor's office also stated that it is unpatriotic to not care about energy efficiency and environmentalism. We find these statements compelling and they are right in line with the philosophy of Sky."

According to a press release from Gov. Crist's office, through the 2006 Florida Energy Act, the Florida Legislature appropriated \$15 million for renewable energy technologies grants to stimulate capital investment in the state and promote and enhance the statewide utilization of renewable energy technologies, including ethanol and bioenergy.

"The grant program creates a receptive, inspiring environment for research," says Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp. "Investments in cutting-edge ventures ensure a stronger economy and a cleaner environment for the next generation of Floridians."

The funding was awarded to eight organizations, including Kore Consulting Group

that is coordinating the "Sky Renewable Energy with Optimal Supply-and-Demand-Side Integration Demonstration" project to study and develop strategies to successfully integrate renewable and sustainable energy technologies with the quality-of-life and environmental goals of the community.

"The Renewable Energy Technologies Grant Program encourages organizations and companies to invest in alternative energy technologies that can promote energy diversity, reduce pollution and promote economic growth," said DEP Secretary Michael W. Sole. "We are excited to award these grants to eight projects that are exploring new possibilities in renewable energy technologies throughout the Florida."

The targeted grant program is designed to advance the already growing establishment of renewable energy technologies in the state, including hydrogen, biomass, solar energy, geothermal energy, wind energy, ocean energy, waste heat and hydroelectric power. Grant proposals were evaluated by the state based on a number of different criterion, including cost share percentage, economic development potential, energy efficiency and how the project fosters public awareness of renewable energy technologies.

The 2006 Florida Energy Act takes the first comprehensive step toward a diverse, reliable and secure energy future by reducing regulatory barriers to expedite electric generation capacity and providing rebates, grants and tax incentives to drive the development of alternative fuel technologies. The four-year, \$100 million plan will diversify the state's fuel supply, reduce Florida's dependence on imported oil, spur economic growth and promote energy conservation and efficiency.