

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting  
Via Communications Media Technology

March 25, 2021  
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Anthony Adams, Lafayette County**  
Mary Alford, Alachua County  
David Arreola, City of Gainesville  
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne  
Robert Brown, Hamilton County  
James Catron, City of Madison  
**Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County**  
Mark Clark, City of Newberry  
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak  
Louie Davis, City of Waldo  
**Thomas Demps, Taylor County**  
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer  
Travis Land, Suwannee County  
John Meeks, Levy County  
**Janice Mortimer, City of Starke**  
Tim Murphy, Columbia County  
Reina Saco, City of Gainesville  
Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville  
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler  
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County  
*Lorene Thomas, Dixie County*  
Donnie Waldrep, Madison County  
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County  
**Robert Wilford, City of Alachua**  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristyn Adkins, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Ben Glass, Suwannee River Water  
Management District  
Daniel Penniman, Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
David Tyler, Florida Department  
of Transportation

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper  
Mike Deming, City of Perry  
Linda Jones, City of High Springs  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
James Tallman, Union County  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County

OTHERS PRESENT

Margie Caparelli  
Diana Davis  
Susan Davis  
Edith Eudy  
Harriett Jones  
Sean King  
Stew Lilker

STAFF PRESENT

Lynn Franson-Godfrey  
Scott Koons  
Tara Tucker  
Lauren Yeatter

**Executive Committee Members names are bold**  
*Gubernatorial Members names are italicized*

I. INVOCATION

Noting a quorum of the Council being present, Chair Chestnut called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Vice-Mayor Mortimer gave the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council and guests pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Chestnut welcomed and introduced Marjorie Caparelli, Citizen, Suwannee County; Edith Eudy, Citizen, Suwannee County; Diana Davis, Executive Director, Alachua County League of Cities and wife of Council Member Louie Davis; Susan Davis, St. Johns River Water Management District and Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes - February 25, 2021
- B. Monthly Financial Report - February 2021
- C. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Membership Certifications
- D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointments
- E. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Chair Appointment  
Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Counties

Chair Chestnut asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

**ACTION: Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Clark to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

**ACTION: Commissioner Murphy made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Sean King, Chief, Office of Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels  
Suwannee River Water Management District

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Sean King, Chief, Office of Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels, Suwannee River Water Management District. Mr. King gave a presentation to the Council concerning the Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Program. Chair Chestnut thanked Mr. King for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT -

- A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation
1. Matthew Brooks
  2. Dale French
  3. Scott Pendarvis

**ACTION:** Commissioner Clark made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Alford to authorize the Chair to sign Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation for former Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board members Matthew Brooks, Chair, Local Elected Official, Levy County; Dale French, Regional Workforce Board Representative Levy County; and Scott Pendarvis, Local Medical Community Representative Dixie County. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force Appointment

**ACTION:** Commissioner Wheeler made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps to ratify the appointment by the Chair of Alachua County Commissioner Mary Alford to the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive Committee

1. Proclamation Declaring April 2021 County Government Month

Chair Chestnut stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation declaring April 2021 as County Government Month in the north central Florida region. He further stated that County Government Month is celebrated each April by counties across the country to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Wheeler made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Simmons to adopt the proclamation declaring April 2021 as County Government Month, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Proclamation Declaring April 5-9, 2021 Community Development Week

Chair Chestnut stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation declaring April 5-9, 2021 as Community Development Week in the north central Florida region. He further stated that Community Development Week is to bring attention to the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Clark made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davis, to adopt the proclamation proclaiming April 5-9, 2021 as Community Development Week, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Transportation Disadvantaged Program - Community Transportation Coordinator for Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties

**ACTION:** Vice-Mayor Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson, to approve attached Resolution No. 2021-16 recommending the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged designate the Suwannee Valley Transit Authority as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties for a five-year period beginning on July 1, 2021.

Margie Caparelli, Edith Eudy and Stew Lilker spoke in opposition to the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Commissioner Hope, Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee, reported that the Clearinghouse Committee met virtually via communications media technology earlier in the evening and reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

- #28 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ESR)
- #29 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #30 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ESR)
- #31 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #32 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #33 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR)
- #34 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-4ESR)

Commissioner Hope stated with regards to these items, the Committee found that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjacent local governments. He stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hope made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #28 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ESR); Item #29 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); #30 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ESR); #31 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); #32 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); #33 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR) and; #34 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-4ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Program Committee - 2020-21 Overall Program Design

Commissioner Demps, Program Committee Chair, gave the Program Committee Report. He stated that the Program Committee met virtually via communications media technology earlier in the evening to review a draft of the Overall Program Design for the coming year. Commissioner Demps stated that this document is to be used as a basis for the development of a budget and is also to give instruction to staff as to the work which is to be done during the next year. He stated that there are no changes proposed in the Overall Program Design which include new programs not previously discussed and/or approved by the Council. Commissioner Demps finally stated the Committee anticipates recommending the Overall Program Design to the Council for adoption at the May 27, 2021 Council meeting.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Ben Glass, Legislative and Community Affairs Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that the District is currently soliciting cost share river grant applications and that the applications are due on April 15, 2021.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed rural transit services.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. He stated that the Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. Mr. Koons stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the February 2021 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the February 2021 report.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. He stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. Mr. Koons noted that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars: Talent and Supply Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems, and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He reviewed the March 2021 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2021 Legislative Session convened March 2, 2021 and is scheduled to adjourn on April 30, 2021. He also stated legislative committee meetings began the week of January 11, 2021 and concluded the week of February 15, 2021. Mr. Koons reported on the status of bills of interest to the Council and its member local governments.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Mayor Mortimer thanked Council staff for the assistance provided to the City of Starke concerning planning and zoning matters.

Commissioner Stegall invited Council members to attend the Spring Showdown Drag Boat Race to be held in the City of Lake Butler on April 10, 2021.

Mayor Louie Davis thanked Chair Chestnut for conducting the Council meeting in an orderly manner.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Chestnut informed the Council that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on April 22, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.



Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair

4/22/21  
Date