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## MEETING NOTICE

### NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on March 22, 2012. The meeting will be held at the Lake City Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida. Dinner will start at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

*Please call the Council at (352) 955-2200, or (800) 226-0690, or email [laine@ncfrpc.org](mailto:laine@ncfrpc.org) by March 19th to let us know if you will be attending the meeting. (You can call after hours and leave a message on voice mail too.) **THANK YOU.***

(Location Map on Back)

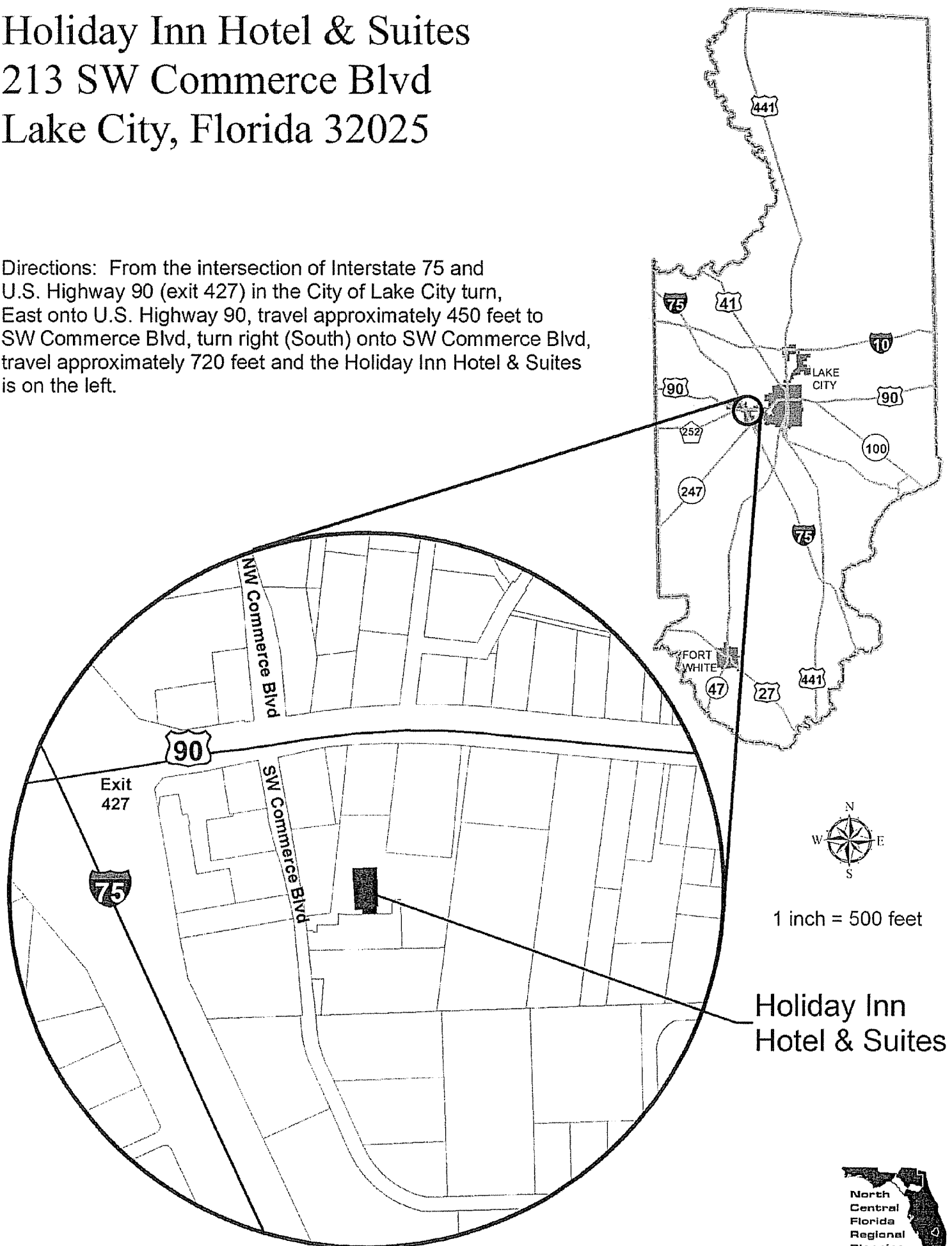
*Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)*

Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,  
by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources,  
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.

# Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd  
Lake City, Florida 32025

Directions: From the intersection of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 90 (exit 427) in the City of Lake City turn, East onto U.S. Highway 90, travel approximately 450 feet to SW Commerce Blvd, turn right (South) onto SW Commerce Blvd, travel approximately 720 feet and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is on the left.



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## AGENDA

### NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard  
Lake City, Florida

March 22, 2012  
7:30 p.m.

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

February 23, 2012  
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Susan Baird, Alachua County  
Susan Bottcher, City of Gainesville  
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper  
*Thomas Collett, Alachua County*  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County  
Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry  
**Roy Ellis, Madison County**  
**Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County**  
**Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville**  
Jason Holifield, Dixie County  
Jordan Marlowe, City of Newberry  
*James Montgomery, Columbia County*  
**Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak**  
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County  
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
**Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke**  
*Lorene Thomas, Dixie County*  
**Myra Valentine, City of Madison**  
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville  
*Charles Williams, Hamilton County*  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp  
Scott Koons  
Carol Laine  
Jean Strong  
Bryan Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT

**Stephen Bailey, Columbia County**  
Ben Boukari, Jr., City of Alachua  
Mike Byerly, Alachua County  
Todd Chase, City of Gainesville  
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County  
*Sandra Haas, Suwannee County*  
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville  
*Charles Maultsby, Taylor County*  
**Ronny Morgan, Hamilton County**  
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer  
James Tallman, Union County  
**Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County**  
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County  
Mark Wiggins, Taylor County  
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Dale Brill, Ph.D., Florida Chamber Foundation  
Allen Cherry, Madison County Dev. Council  
Diana Davis  
Dennille Decker, Lake City/Columbia County  
Chamber of Commerce  
Jordan Green, representing FL Dept. of  
Transportation  
Juli Puckett, Florida Chamber Foundation  
Jesse Quillen, Columbia County Economic  
Development  
Joseph Riddick  
Bo Taff, Foley Timber and Land Company  
Cindy Veas, Madison County Chamber of  
Commerce

**Board Members names are bolded**  
*Gubernatorial Members names are italicized*

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. with an invocation and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Ellis stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Ellis asked that Item VI.B.5. #50, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, which was received by staff after the meeting packets were mailed, be added to the agenda.

**ACTION: Commissioner Wells made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas, to add Item VI.B.5. #50, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 26, 2012

Chair Ellis asked that the minutes of the January 26, 2012 meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner, to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2012 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced and welcomed a member of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee in attendance at the meeting; Dennille Decker, Executive Director of the Lake City/Columbia County Chamber of Commerce. He also introduced Allen Cherry, Executive Director of the Madison County Development Council, Diana Davis, wife of Mayor Louie Davis, former Council member Joe Riddick, who served as Chair of the Council during 1995-96, Jesse Quillen, Director of the Columbia County Economic Development, Bo Taff, Vice-President of Foley Timber and Land Company and Cindy Veas, Executive Director of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Pro Tempore Valentine introduced Tim Bennett, the new City Manager for the City of Madison.

III. GUEST SPEAKER - Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy  
Dale Brill, Ph.D., President, Florida Chamber Foundation

Mr. Koons introduced Dale Brill, Ph.D., President of the Florida Chamber Foundation who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Foundation's initiative to develop a statewide, 20-year strategic plan to promote prosperity and high paying jobs, vibrant communities and global competitiveness. Dr. Brill stated that the framework to accomplish such a task is known as the Six Pillars for Florida's Future Economy. He noted that Six Pillars is a product of years of collaboration and research by the Florida Chamber Foundation, along with business, civic and government partners, which identifies the critical factors determining Florida's future: Talent, Supply and Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems and Quality of Life and Quality Places.

Dr. Brill further stated that the Six Pillars incorporates the work of a diverse range of stakeholders and their strategic thinking, including the Century Commission for a Sustainable Future, Florida Council of 100, Enterprise Florida, Inc., Florida University System, Workforce Florida, Inc., and 1000 Friends of Florida among others. The framework serves as an organizing force for strategic planning at the local, regional and state level and its real power is in the efficiency of harnessing fragmented viewpoints into a common and consistent conversation. He stated that more information about the Florida Chamber Foundation Six Pillars for Florida's Future Economy can be found at [flchamber.com/six-pillars](http://flchamber.com/six-pillars).

Chair Ellis thanked Dr. Brill for his presentation. Mr. Koons then presented Dr. Brill with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Council for his exemplary and outstanding leadership in promoting Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy and advancing prosperous and high paying jobs, vibrant communities and global competitiveness.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Planning Grant Resolution, Fiscal Year 2012-13

B. Selection of Gilchrist County Community Transportation Coordinator

Chair Ellis asked if there were any questions regarding the items on the Consent Agenda and requested that these items be approved.

**ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Ellis reported that there were no new members to introduce.

B. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Appointments

Chair Ellis asked that his appointment of Allen Cherry, Executive Director of the Madison County Development Council, Scott Frederick, Executive Director of the Taylor County Development Authority and Jesse Quillen, Director of the Columbia County Economic Development to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee be ratified by the Council.

**ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to ratify the appointments of Allen Cherry, Scott Frederick and Jesse Quillen to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

C. Resolution of Appreciation - Myra Valentine

Chair Ellis asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services to the Council be approved for Mayor Pro Tempore Valentine for representing the City of Madison since May 2001.

**ACTION: Commissioner Spooner made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Mayor Pro Tempore Valentine. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Koons then presented a 10-year Certificate of Service to Ms. Valentine for her 10 years of dedicated service to the Council, representing the City of Madison, including serving as Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer. Ms. Valentine then thanked the

Council for the Certificate of Service and for allowing her the privilege to serve the Council and the north central Florida region.

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Executive Committee - Assigned Fund Balance - Capital Reserve

Mr. Koons reported that during Fiscal Year 2010-11, \$25,701 for depreciation of building and equipment was applied to the capital assets of the Council. He stated that the Capital Reserve Fund is maintained at an amount approximate to the accumulated depreciation of building and equipment to cover one-time capital expenditures for building improvements/repairs and equipment replacement/upgrades. Mr. Koons stated that in order to maintain the Capital Reserve Fund at this level, the Executive Committee recommended that \$20,000 from the Council's unassigned fund balance be encumbered as part of the Capital Reserve Fund assigned fund balance to increase the amount for accumulated depreciation of building and equipment costs from \$450,000 to \$470,000.

**ACTION: Commissioner Wells made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to encumber \$20,000 of the Council's unassigned fund balance as part of the assigned fund balance to increase the Capital Reserve Fund balance for accumulated depreciation of building and equipment costs to \$470,000. The motion carried unanimously.**

### B. Clearinghouse Committee

Due to the absence of Clearinghouse Committee Chair Sandra Haas, Vice-Chair Thomas Hawkins gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening with a quorum present and reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments.

- #45 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #46 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #47 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #48 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #50 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda)

Commissioner Hawkins stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found that the comprehensive plans of Gainesville, Newberry and Bradford County, as amended, do not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance regional facilities or create significant adverse extrajurisdictional impacts. He reported that with regards to Item #47 City of Alachua Adopted Amendment, the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding a finding that the amendment may result in adverse impacts to a segment of the Regional Road Network as well as to segments of the Regional Road Network located in unincorporated Alachua County.

Commissioner Hawkins further reported that with regards to Item #50, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda), the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding a recommendation to the City to consider adding Transportation Best Practices, as identified in the Regional Plan, to the City Comprehensive Plan. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the



respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #45, City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #46, City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #47, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #48, Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #50, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.

## VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity budget request for Fiscal Year 2012-13 submitted to Governor Scott does not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. In addition, the budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 submitted by the Governor to the Legislature does not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. He further reported that the House has adopted a \$69.2 billion Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget that includes a \$2.5 million appropriation for all 11 regional planning councils and the Senate Budget Committee has adopted a \$70.7 billion Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget that also includes a \$2.5 million appropriation for all 11 regional planning councils.

#### Growth Management

##### Senate Bill 842

Mr. Koons reported that Senate Bill 842 by Senator Bennett repeals provisions relating to the powers and duties of the Secretary of Community Affairs and functions of the Department of Community Affairs with respect to federal grant-in-aid programs; replaces references to the Department of Community Affairs with state land planning agency; repeals provisions relating to the Urban Infill and Redevelopment Assistance Grant Program; deletes provisions relating to the Coastal Resources Interagency Management Committee; deletes provisions excluding a municipality that is not a signatory to a certain interlocal agreement from participating in a school concurrency system; replaces references to the Department of Community affairs with the Department of Economic Opportunity; and deletes requirements for interlocal agreements relating to public education facilities.

Mr. Koons stated that with regard to the prohibition on referendums for comprehensive plan and map amendments, the bill states that any local government charter provision that was in effect as of June 1, 2011, for an initiative or referendum process in regard to development orders or local comprehensive plan or map amendments, may be retained and implemented.

The bill also affects regional planning councils as it requires regional planning councils, before accepting a grant, to determine that the purpose of the grant is in furtherance of its

functions and that will not diminish the Council's ability to fund and accomplish its statutory functions; and, it prohibits a regional planning council from providing consulting services to a local government, private developer, or landowner for a project for which the council will serve in a review capacity. He stated that all parties have agreed to compromised language which removes the grant language, removes the local government planning assistance language and significantly modifies the consulting services language. He stated that this language has been incorporated into the House companion bill, House Bill 7081 which has passed the House and has been sent to the Senate for their consideration. He stated that Senate Bill 842 is still in the Budget Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations.

#### Senate Bill 1180/House Bill 979

Mr. Koons stated that Senate Bill 1180 by Senator Bennett concerns developments of regional impact and requires that plan amendments proposing a development that is exempt from review as a development of regional impact follow the state coordinated review process; requires that reviewing agencies make only recommendations and comments regarding a proposed development which are consistent with statutes, rules, or adopted local ordinances that are applicable to all developments in the jurisdiction where the proposed development is located; provides legislative intent regarding the issues that may be considered during the develop-of-regional-impact review process; and requires that a local government having jurisdiction rescind a development-of-regional-impact development order, upon request, and upon a showing that all required mitigation related to the amount of development that existed on the date of rescission will be completed under a permit or other authorization issued by a governmental agency. Mr. Koons stated that the author of this bill has agreed to significant modifications and have removed most of the provisions that would have adverse impacts of limiting the ability of regional planning councils in reviewing large scale developments. He stated that both of these bills are still in committee.

#### Senate Bill 912/House Bill 603

Senate Bill 912 filed by Senator Bennett and House Bill 603 filed by Representative Weinstein prohibit a local government from applying transportation or school concurrency or requiring proportionate share contribution or construction for new development for a specified period; provides an exception; provides for an extension of the prohibition under certain conditions, provides application; provides for future expiration; prohibits certain counties, municipalities, and special districts from imposing certain new or existing impact fees for a specified period; provides an exception; provides for an extension of the prohibition under certain conditions; provides application; provides for future expiration. He stated that both of these bills are still in committee.

#### Water Management Districts

##### Senate Bill 560/House Bill 157

Mr. Koons stated that Senate Bill 560 filed by Senator Dean and House Bill 157 filed by Representative Porter authorizes water management districts to enter into interagency agreements for resource management activities under specified conditions; provides

applicability; requires districts to apply specified reservations, minimum flows and levels, and recovery and prevention strategies in determining certain effects of proposed consumptive uses of water; prohibits districts from authorizing certain consumptive uses of water; provides an exception; provides requirements for the challenge of specified rules.

Mr. Koons stated that the interagency agreements only apply to resource projects for which a measurable water resource benefit can be demonstrated for the geographic area of a local government or regional water supply authority. The consumptive use language applies in determining the effect of a proposed consumptive use of water on the water resources of an adjoining water management district. He reported that House Bill 157 unanimously passed the House last week and has been sent to the Senate for their consideration. Senate Bill 560 is still in the Budget Committee.

B. Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2011

Mr. Koons reviewed the quarterly financial report for the period ending December 31, 2011. He noted that the overall expenditure pattern for the operation of the Council for the three months ending on December 31, 2011 is generally on target when compared to the budgeted figures. He reported that the financial condition of the Council is sound and it is not anticipated that any occurrences in this fiscal year will change that situation.

C. Statewide Coordinated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Mr. Koons reported that working together through the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee, the executive directors of all 11 regional planning councils have agreed to update the respective comprehensive economic development strategies of their councils on a statewide coordinated basis using a uniform format and data set. He stated that at a meeting of staff representatives from all 11 regional planning councils held in Tampa on November 16, 2011, it was agreed to use the Florida Chamber Foundation Six Pillars as the organizing framework for the Strategy updates. The Six Pillars are Talent Supply and Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems and Quality of Life and Quality Places. Council staff is serving as the project manager and coordinating the development of the comprehensive economic development strategy on a statewide basis.

Mr. Koons further reported that Council staff will be working with the Council's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee to update the Council's Strategy using the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars and it is anticipated that the updated version of the Strategy will be recommended by the Committee to the Council for adoption later this year.

D. Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Regional Forums

Mr. Koons stated that as reported previously, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Division of Strategic Business Development is conducting regional forums to gather insights related to the creation of Florida's 2012-2017 Economic Development Plan. He stated that the objectives of these forums are to obtain insights from each region to determine what actions or direction the state should consider adopting to assist with

economic growth; and to identify the most important strategies to support the promotion of regional business formation, expansion, recruitment and retention.

Mr. Koons reported that on March 2, 2012, the Council, along with the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council, will be co-hosting one of the ten forums at the Santa Fe College Kirkpatrick Criminal Justice Training Center Institute of Public Safety located at 3737 Northeast 39th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida.

E. Florida Leaders Organized for Water

Mr. Koons reported that on February 13, 2012, the second meeting of the North Florida Water Supply Group was held in Lake City. The group established the name of the organization as Florida Leaders Organized for Water. They adopted a mission statement and a resolution urging the Legislature to fund an unbiased, scientific study of the Floridan Aquifer due to its critical implications on statewide water supply; to redesign of the decision-making process used to issue consumptive water use permits for withdrawals from the Floridan Aquifer that includes all stakeholders affected by proposed withdrawals; and to modify the excessive water management district permits granted in 2011 from "approved" to "probationary" status until an unbiased scientific study of the Floridan Aquifer has been completed. Columbia County Commissioner Ronald Williams was elected Chair and White Springs Mayor Helen Miller was elected Vice-Chair of the organization.

Mr. Koons further reported that the current local government members attending the Florida Leaders Organized for Water meetings are: Alachua County, Bradford County, Clay County, Columbia County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County, Hamilton County, Lafayette County, Levy County, Suwannee County, Taylor County, Town of Branford, City of Keystone Heights, City of MacClenny and City of White Springs. Council members Commissioner Lee Pinkoson from Alachua County and Commissioner Wesley Wainwright from Suwannee County are serving as representatives for their respective counties to the organization.

Mr. Koons stated that the Suwannee River Water Management District and the St. Johns River Water Management District have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to work together and have formed the North Central Florida Water Supply Partnership. He added that a meeting concerning the Partnership will be held in the City of Alachua on March 7, 2012.

Mr. Koons stated that, in accordance with Council action taken at the January 26, 2012 Council meeting, the February 23, 2012 Council packets were noticed via electronic mail with a link to the Council website where a full packet of the Council meeting could be opened and viewed or downloaded. He added that hard copies of the packets would be available at Council meetings.

Chair Ellis informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on March 22, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Ellis, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
3/22/12  
Date



**IV.A.**

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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Purchase Order with Apalachee Regional Planning Council to Assist  
with a Mass Evacuation Exercise at the State Emergency Operations Center

RECOMMENDATION:

**Authorize the Council to assist the Apalachee Regional Planning Council with mass evacuation exercise facilitation pursuant to a purchase order for a fixed fee amount of \$650.**

BACKGROUND:

The Council staff frequently works with other regional planning councils assisting with emergency preparedness exercises. In April 2012, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is facilitating a table top exercise for the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

The Council has been asked to provide assistance with exercise support for a mass evacuation exercise. Staff will serve as an evaluator for a mass evacuation exercise being conducted at the State Emergency Operations Center. This exercise will help emergency managers learn how to use the information compiled in the Statewide Regional Evacuation Studies completed by all 11 regional planning councils in Florida in 2010.

The Council will be paid a fixed fee amount of \$650 for these services.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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## IV. B.

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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council  
to Assist with Tactical Interoperable Communications Exercise  
Support at Camp Blanding

### RECOMMENDATION:

**Authorize the Council to assist the Northeast Florida Regional Council with tactical interoperable communications exercise implementation, planning and documentation pursuant to a purchase order for an estimated fixed fee amount of \$1,500.**

### BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has provided funding to the State of Florida for regional planning councils to assist with improving regional Tactical Interoperable Communications capabilities. Over the past five years, many of these exercises have been conducted at the Florida National Guard Camp Blanding. The Florida National Guard has contracted with the Northeast Regional Council to assist with one of its exercises to be held at Camp Blanding.

The Council has been asked to provide assistance for exercise support for the tactical interoperable communications exercise. It is anticipated that the Council will be paid a fixed fee amount of \$1,500 by the Northeast Florida Regional Council for these services.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council  
to Assist with Emergency Preparedness Exercise Support in Putnam County

RECOMMENDATION:

**Authorize the Council to assist the Northeast Florida Regional Council with emergency preparedness exercise implementation, planning and documentation pursuant to a purchase order for an estimated fixed fee amount of \$1,500.**

BACKGROUND:

The Council staff frequently works with other regional planning councils assisting with emergency preparedness exercises. In April 2012, the Northeast Regional Council is conducting an exercise for Putnam County.

The Council has been asked to provide assistance for exercise support for this emergency preparedness exercise. It is estimated that the Council will be paid a fixed fee amount of \$1,500 by the Northeast Florida Regional Council for these services.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council  
to Assist with Site Visits to Hazardous Materials Sites

RECOMMENDATION:

**Authorize the Council to assist the Northeast Florida Regional Council with conducting hazards site visits at chemical facilities regulated under Section 302 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act pursuant to a purchase order for a fixed fee amount of \$2,350.**

BACKGROUND:

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act facilities that have a threshold quantity of an extremely hazardous substance are required to notify its Local Emergency Planning Committee. Site visits are conducted to these Section 302 sites to collect emergency planning information.

The Council has been asked to provide assistance to the Northeast Florida Regional Council with these site visits. The Council will be paid a fixed fee amount \$2,350 by the Northeast Florida Regional Council for these services.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Selection of Madison County Community Transportation Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached resolution recommending that the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged designate Big Bend Transit, Inc. as the Madison County Community Transportation Coordinator for a five-year period effective July 1, 2012.**

BACKGROUND:

The Council issued a request for proposals for Madison County Community Transportation Coordinator on January 6, 2012. The Council received one proposal from Big Bend Transit, Inc. in response to the request for proposals.

The Madison County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board recommended that Big Bend Transit, Inc. be designated the Community Transportation Coordinator for Madison County for a five-year period effective July 1, 2012.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,  
by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources,  
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.



RESOLUTION NO. 2012-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL  
PLANNING COUNCIL RECOMMENDING BIG BEND TRANSIT, INC. AS  
THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR FOR MADISON  
COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to recommend the Community Transportation Coordinator for Madison County, Florida;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council issued a request for proposals for Community Transportation Coordinator for Madison County, Florida on January 6, 2012;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council received one proposal from Big Bend Transit, Inc. in response to the request for proposals;

WHEREAS, Big Bend Transit, Inc. is willing to provide the services necessary to serve the transportation disadvantaged population in Madison County, Florida;

WHEREAS, Big Bend Transit, Inc. has the appropriate personnel, financial capacity, vehicle and equipment resources, experience and qualifications to serve the transportation disadvantaged population; and

WHEREAS, Big Bend Transit, Inc. has demonstrated plans to coordinate transportation services to maximize the effectiveness of the coordinated transportation system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL THAT:

In accordance with Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recommends to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that Big Bend Transit, Inc. be designated the Community Transportation Coordinator for Madison County, Florida for a five-year period effective July 1, 2012.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 22nd day of March 2012.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Ellis, Chair

(SEAL REQUIRED)







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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653 • 1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached resolution of appreciation.**

BACKGROUND:

The attached resolution of appreciation is regarding Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. Lynn Hodges has served as the Community Action Agency Representative on the Columbia County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since October 9, 1995.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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March 23, 2012

Ms. Lynn Hodges  
Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2104  
Lake City, FL 32056

**RE: Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program**

Dear Ms. Hodges:

On behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, I want to express our regret that you will no longer serve as the Community Action Agency Representative on the Columbia County Transportation Disadvantaged Board. Your knowledge and your concern for transportation disadvantaged individuals have made you a valuable asset to the Board.

As a token of our appreciation for your service, the Planning Council, at its regular meeting on March 22, 2012 unanimously approved the attached resolution. Thank you for taking the time to serve on this Board.

Sincerely,

Roy Ellis  
Chairman

Attachment

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Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,  
by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources,  
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.

## RESOLUTION

*WHEREAS, Lynn Hodges has served as the Community Action Agency Representative on the Columbia County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since October 9, 1995; and*

*WHEREAS, Lynn Hodges has ably discharged her duties as the Community Action Agency Representative on the Columbia County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Lynn Hodges for the dedicated service she rendered to the Columbia County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, and for her concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Columbia County and the State of Florida; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the community to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Lynn Hodges.*

---

*Roy Ellis, Chairman*

*ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL*

*March 22, 2012*

*Date*



**VI.B.**

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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Sandra Haas, Chair  
Clearinghouse Committee

RE: Chair's Report

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Clearinghouse Committee is 6:00 p.m., March 22, 2012 at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 213 SW Commerce Boulevard, Lake City. At its meeting, the Committee will review the following Committee-level items which require Council action. I will present an oral report on the Committee's actions and recommendations at the Council meeting held later that evening.

#### COMMITTEE-LEVEL REVIEW ITEMS

##### Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

- #52 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 12-1ESR)
- #53 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DEO No. 12-1ESR)
- #54 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DEO No. 11-2ESR)
- #55 - City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DEO No. 11-1ESR)
- #56 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 12-1ESR)

*Please be advised that the Clearinghouse Committee meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on Clearinghouse Committee Full Packet).*

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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Overall Program Design for Fiscal Year 2012-13

The Program Committee will be meeting on March 22, 2012 to develop a draft of the Overall Program Design for next year. The Overall Program Design is used as the basis for the development of a budget and is also to provide direction to staff as to the work which is to be done during the next year.

The Program Committee anticipates recommending the Overall Program Design to the Council for adoption at the May 24, 2012 Council meeting.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

### Budget

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity budget request for Fiscal Year 2012-13 submitted to Governor Scott did not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. In addition, the budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 submitted by the Governor to the Legislature did not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. As you know, the Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2011-12. However, Governor Scott vetoed the appropriation for regional planning councils. The Council's share of this appropriation would have been approximately \$179,000.

The House adopted a \$69.2 billion Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget that included a \$2.5 million appropriation for all 11 regional planning councils. The Senate adopted a \$70.7 billion Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget that also included a \$2.5 million appropriation for all 11 regional planning councils. The final \$70.0 billion Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget adopted by both the House and Senate includes a \$2.5 million appropriation for all 11 regional planning councils.

### Growth Management

**House Bill 7081**, formerly PCB CMAS 12-02, by the House Community and Military Affairs Subcommittee is a growth management glitch bill (companion to **Senate Bill 842** by Senator Bennett) **was passed by the Legislature**. The bill makes minor technical changes to the provisions of law affected by the Community Planning Act, which the Legislature passed during 2011. The bill is a glitch bill, with no substantive policy changes included, except for the following clarifications and exceptions that, although glitch related, could be considered to have policy implications. Grandfathering of local government charter provisions in effect on June 1, 2011, relating to a local initiative or referendum process for the approval of development orders and comprehensive plan or map amendments;

- Removing criteria that exempts certain municipalities from being signatories to the school interlocal agreement as a prerequisite to implementing school concurrency, because school concurrency is now optional, and restoring criteria to exempt certain municipalities from being a party to the school interlocal agreement;
- Extending the time for the state land planning agency and the Administration Commission to issue recommended and final orders, since the current time requirement is unworkable;

- Deleting a required annual report by the Department of Economic Opportunity related to the optional sector plan pilot program; and
- Providing a time requirement for the state land planning agency to issue a notice of intent for a plan amendment adopted pursuant to a compliance agreement.

However, the bill was amended to include language that affects regional planning councils as it provides that regional planning councils may provide consulting services to a private developer or landowner for a project, if not serving in a review capacity in the future, except that statutorily mandated services may be provided by the regional planning council regardless of its review role.

**House Bill 979** by Representative Diaz (companion to **Senate Bill 1180** by Senator Bennett) concerning developments of regional impact **was passed by the Legislature**. It requires that comprehensive plan amendments proposing certain developments follow state coordinated review process; limits scope of certain recommendations and comments by reviewing agencies regarding proposed developments; revises review criteria for regional planning agency reports; provides that specified changes to development orders are not substantial deviations; provides exemption from development of regional impact review for certain proposed developments; revises conditions under which local governments are required to rescind development of regional impact development orders; provides presumption that certain agricultural enclaves do not constitute urban sprawl; establishes qualifications for designation as agricultural enclave for such purpose and establishes exceptions from definition for designated protected areas.

**Senate Bill 912** by Senator Bennett and **House Bill 603** by Representative Weinstein would prohibit a local government from applying transportation or school concurrency or requiring proportionate share contribution or construction for new development for a specified period; would provide an exception; provides for an extension of the prohibition under certain conditions, would provide application; would provide for future expiration; would prohibit certain counties, municipalities, and special districts from imposing certain new or existing impact fees for a specified period; would provide an exception; would provide for an extension of the prohibition under certain conditions; would provide application; would provide for future expiration.

The prohibition mentioned above would have been until July 1, 2015, unless authorized by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the local government's governing authority. The prohibition would not apply to proportionate share contribution or construction assessed on existing developments before July 1, 2012. These same dates apply to the impact fee prohibition, but the bill further states that any governing authority of a local government imposing an impact fee in existence on July 1, 2011, must reauthorize the imposition of the fee.

**Senate Bill 912 died in the Committee on Community Affairs. House Bill 603 died in the Community and Military Affairs Subcommittee.**

**House Bill 4003** by Representative Diaz (companion to **Senate Bill 188** by Senator Flores) **was passed by the Legislature**. It repeals provisions relating to the Urban Infill and Redevelopment Assistance Grant Program, to terminate the program; and conforms cross-references to changes made by the act. The bill repeals Section 163.2523, Florida Statutes, which provides for the establishment of the Urban Infill and Redevelopment Assistance Grant Program. The grant program is linked to the "Growth Policy Act" passed in 1999 to address urban infill and redevelopment. In Fiscal Year 2000/2001, the Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million to the grant program. The Legislature has not appropriated any funds to the grant program since 2000/2001.

#### Water Management Districts

**Senate Bill 560** by Senator Dean and **House Bill 157** by Representative Porter would authorize water management districts to enter into interagency agreements for resource management activities under specified conditions; provides applicability; would require districts to apply specified reservations, minimum flows and levels, and recovery and prevention strategies in determining certain effects of proposed consumptive uses of water; would prohibit districts from authorizing certain consumptive uses of water; would provide an exception; would provide requirements for the challenge of specified rules.

The interagency agreements would only apply to resource projects for which a measurable water resource benefit can be demonstrated for the geographic area of a local government or regional water supply authority. The consumptive use language would apply in determining the effect of a proposed consumptive use of water on the water resources of an adjoining water management district.

**Senate Bill 560 died in the Budget Committee. House Bill 157 was unanimously passed by the House.**

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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Growth Management >

## Growth bills moving in House, Senate as opposition fades

Bruce Ritchie, 02/28/2012 - 05:18 PM

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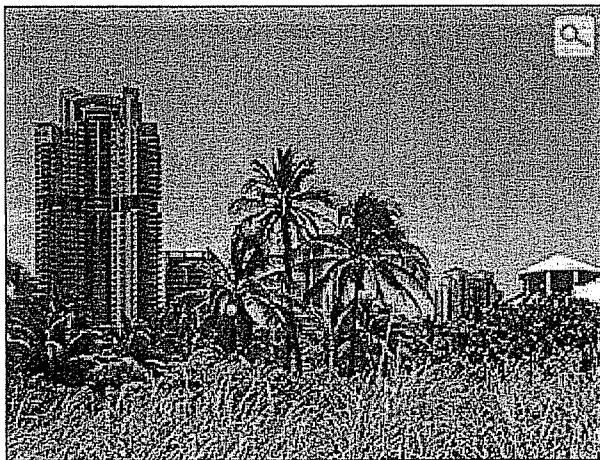


Photo Credit: Alan Phillpot

A pair of growth management bills that had raised concerns with regional planning councils and environmentalists were amended to reduce opposition and passed by a Senate committee.

The 2012 session has been fairly quiet on growth management issues. House and Senate leaders said they didn't want to deal with controversial growth issues this year after the sweeping changes approved last year.

**SB 842** was supposed to be the main "glitch" bill to take care of problems created by last year's

legislation. But the bill had raised concerns among the state's 11 regional planning councils, which review some local land-use decisions.

The bill had banned the councils from both providing paid planning services for the cities and counties and then reviewing their land-use changes.

A bill amendment on Monday removed the language that concerned the councils following similar House action two weeks ago. **HB 7081** passed the House 101-13.

"I am very pleased they have listened to our concerns and modified the language," **Scott Koons**, chair of the **Florida Regional Councils Association's** Executive Directors Advisory Committee said Tuesday.

Last year's growth law changes prohibited local referendums on land-use changes. To settle a legal challenge filed by Yankeetown, **SB 842** would allow those referendum requirements in cities that had them prior to June 2, 2011.

Another bill, **SB 1180**, creates an alternative review option in cities and counties that haven't been exempted from the state review process for larger "developments of regional impact."

The **Association of Florida Community Developers** supports SB 1180 to allow cities and counties to opt out of review if they choose to provide faster approval for projects.

The bill also says that counties must approve requested land-use changes for agricultural lands that are surrounded by industrial, residential or commercial lands.

An amendment on Tuesday said those agricultural areas cannot exceed 650 acres and must be 95 percent surrounded by other land uses. **Sen. Mike Bennett**, R-Bradenton and bill sponsor, said the amendment is needed to prevent local politicians from punishing landowners who don't support them.

**Eric Poole**, representing the **Florida Association of Counties**, told a Senate budget subcommittee that the proposal runs counter to last year's growth management law changes. Legislators last year said the changes were needed to give local governments responsibility for land use decisions.

The bill provision "has the effect of usurping our legislative authority when it comes to making land use decisions," Poole said. He said the association appreciates the amendment to narrow the applicability of the law change but still opposes the bill.

**Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla**, R-Miami, said he favors the bill as a former county commissioner and an attorney who works closely with local government.

"I think one of the things we have to look at is local governments when given that opportunity [and they abuse that power]," Diaz de la Portilla said. "I think it is incumbent upon the Legislature to create circumstances where local governments are not allowed to act arbitrarily and capriciously and deny people their property rights."

Both bills passed the **Budget Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations** and have one more committee stop. **HB 79**, the companion to SB 1180, is on the House calendar for final adoption on Wednesday.

*Reporter Bruce Ritchie can be reached at [britchie@thefloridacurrent.com](mailto:britchie@thefloridacurrent.com).*

Filed in: [Growth Management](#)

Tags: [Growth Management Law](#), [Land Use](#)

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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Foley Master Development of Regional Impact Status Report

On November 5 and November 12, 2009, a pre-application conference was held with the applicant and review agencies for the master development of regional impact to begin the review process. The Foley Timber and Land Company intend to submit an application for Master Development Approval for the Foley Master Development of Regional Impact. The project is located in Taylor County and is designed to implement the Taylor County Vision 2060.

A Master Development of Regional Impact is intended for projects consisting of multiple Developments of Regional Impact covering an extended period of time. A Master Development Agreement between the Council, the local government, and the Applicant specifies that increments of the project will be reviewed for regional impacts similar to a traditional development of regional impact, ensures that anticipated regional impacts are adequately addressed and clearly defines specific information requirements for the review of subsequent project increments.

The revised development is anticipated to consist of 25,673 residential dwelling units, 2,083,300 square feet of retail commercial, 1,570,000 square feet of office, 650,000 square feet of industrial/warehousing, 900 hotel rooms, a 840,000 square feet of hospital/medical use and 473,500 square feet of post-secondary educational/institutional uses.

Transportation methodology meetings were held with the applicant and review agencies on December 1, 2009 and December 17, 2009. Following the December 17, 2009 transportation methodology meeting, the County had received from the Florida Department of Community Affairs the Objections, Recommendations and Comment Report concerning the County Evaluation and Appraisal Report amendments which include portions of the Taylor County Vision 2060. Based upon the Objections, Recommendations and Comment Report, the applicant had requested that future transportation methodology meetings not be scheduled until the County responds to the objections raised by the Florida Department of Community Affairs in the Objections, Recommendations and Comment Report. The County recently responded to the Objections, Recommendations and Comment Report and adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report amendments. The final transportation methodology meeting was held on September 8, 2010. The Master Development Agreement among the applicant, County and Council concerning the review process was approved by the Council on October 28, 2010.

On December 8, 2010, in accordance with the transportation methodology, a meeting attended by the applicant, County representatives, state agencies and Council staff was held to review pass-by trips, background traffic and modeling for trip distribution and assignment of project trips.

On June 14, 2011, a meeting was held between the applicant and Council staff to discuss a proposed development of regional impact related Comprehensive Plan amendment for the project. The applicant has submitted both the development of regional impact Comprehensive Plan amendment and the Application for Master Development Approval for sufficiency review on July 25, 2011.

Council staff, along with other state and regional review agencies, had 30 days to review the Application for Master Development Approval for sufficiency to determine whether adequate information has been submitted by the applicant to determine the impacts on regional resources and facilities. On August 22, 2011 Council staff requested additional information from the applicant. On October 25, 2011, the applicant responded to the first sufficiency request.

On November 17, 2011, based upon the applicant's response to the first sufficiency request, Council staff issued a second request for additional information from the applicant. On November 23, 2011, the applicant responded to the second sufficiency request. Council staff, along with other state and regional review agencies had 30 days to review the Application for Master Development Approval for sufficiency to determine whether adequate information has been submitted by the applicant in response to the second sufficiency request to determine the impacts on regional resources and facilities.

On January 5, 2012, the Clearinghouse Committee met in Perry, Florida to review the Application for Master Development Approval and make a recommendation to the Council. On January 26, 2012, the Council reviewed the Application for Master Development Approval and recommended to the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County, Florida approval of the Application for Master Development Approval, subject to 14 Council Conditions and 64 applicant commitments. On February 21, 2012, the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County, Florida held a public hearing concerning the Application for Master Development Approval and adopted a development order approving the Application for Master Development Approval consistent with the 14 Council Conditions and 64 applicant commitments.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Regional Forums

As previously reported, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Division of Strategic Business Development, in partnership with the 11 regional planning councils, is conducting regional forums to gather insights related to the creation of Florida's 2012-2017 Economic Development Plan. The objectives of these forums are:

- Obtain insights from each region to determine what actions or direction the state should consider adopting to assist with economic growth; and
- Identify the most important strategies to support the promotion of regional business formation, expansion, recruitment and retention.

Section 20.60, Florida Statutes, requires the Department to develop a five-year strategic plan, Florida's 2012-2017 Economic Development Plan. This is the first plan of its type and it will be designed to address new trends, technologies and infrastructure needs that have developed and are anticipated for the future of Florida. Additionally, the Plan will provide the foundation for the second level of effort that will create a long-range state-wide vision and plan for Florida's future. The regional forums will provide invited stakeholders an opportunity to assist the Department with the development of the Plan.

On March 2, 2012, the Council and the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council co-hosted, along with the Department, a regional forum on economic development at the Santa Fe College Kirkpatrick Criminal Justice Training Center, Institute of Public Safety, located at 3737 Northeast 39th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. There were 78 stakeholders in attendance at the Forum.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Florida Leaders Organized for Water

As previously reported, the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners hosted a tri-county public meeting and forum in Lake City with the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners and the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners to discuss north Florida water issues on November 29, 2011. The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners took action to establish a multi-county work group to engage a hydrologist and discuss what steps need to be taken and what studies need to be conducted to potentially challenge the consumptive water use permit issued to Jacksonville Electric Authority by St. Johns River Water Management District in May 2011. The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners also took action to appropriate \$250,000 to fund the work group and pay for environmental monitoring services and other needed services. The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners also asked other counties and local governments in the region to join in the effort.

On January 23, 2012, the North Florida Water Supply Group held its first meeting in Lake City. The meeting focused on organizational matters. It was agreed to have the Columbia County Attorney would draft an interlocal agreement to form a Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, interlocal agreement agency to address north Florida water issues.

On February 13, 2012, the second meeting of the North Florida Water Supply Group was held in Lake City. The group established the name of the organization as Florida Leaders Organized for Water. They adopted a mission statement as follows: **“Identify and implement measures necessary to permanently secure abundant fresh water supply so adequate levels and flow are assured for the People, Agriculture, Business, Industry, Tourism and Environment of North Florida.”** The group also adopted a resolution urging the Legislature to fund an unbiased, scientific study of the Floridan Aquifer due to its critical implications on statewide water supply; to redesign of the decision-making process used to issue consumptive water use permits for withdrawals from the Floridan Aquifer that includes all stakeholders affected by proposed withdrawals; and to modify the excessive water management district permits granted in 2011 from “approved” to “probationary” status until an unbiased scientific study of the Floridan Aquifer has been completed. Columbia County Commissioner Ronald Williams was elected Chair and White Springs Mayor Helen Miller was elected Vice-Chair of the organization.

On March 12, 2012, the third meeting of the Florida Leaders Organized for Water was held in Lake City. The group heard presentations from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, St. Johns River Water Management District and Suwannee River Water Management District concerning the foundation of a joint stakeholder group between the two water management districts called the North Central Florida Water Supply Partnership. Six individuals representing water users, local governments and environmental groups from each district will be appointed to the Partnership to provide oversight to the coordinated efforts of the two districts concerning the development of a common water model and water supply plan. The group also heard presentations from the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute, Lake Area Water Alliance, Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District, Santa Fe Lake Dwellers, Save Our Suwannee, Inc., Santa Fe River Spring Basin Working Group, Our Santa Fe River, Inc., North Central Florida Tea Party and Audubon Florida. In addition, I made a presentation to the group concerning the Council and the water resource policies of the recently updated North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The current local government members of the Florida Leaders Organized for Water are: Alachua County, Bradford County, Clay County, Columbia County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County, Hamilton County, Lafayette County, Levy County, Suwannee County, Taylor County, Town of Branford, City of Keystone Heights, City of MacClenny and City of White Springs. Council members Commissioner Lee Pinkoson from Alachua County and Commissioner Wesley Wainwright from Suwannee County are serving as representatives for their respective counties to the organization.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Florida Rural Economic Development and Tourism Summit

The 2012 Florida Rural Economic Development and Tourism Summit is being held March 14-16, 2012 in Havana, Florida. The Summit is being hosted by Opportunity Florida, Inc., the administrator for one of the three designated rural areas of critical economic concern. The theme of the Summit this year is "Rethink Rural."

The 2012 Rural Economic Development and Tourism Summit will focus on several issues facing rural areas. These include changes in the way the State of Florida is focusing on these issues and partnerships with such entities as education and the military. Agenda items will include a legislative update, self-sustainability by economic development organizations, tourism and funding sources.

As you know, the 11 regional planning councils are federally designated economic districts by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Bryan Thomas, Economic Development Program Director for the Council, Patricia Steed, Executive Director of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Patrick O'Neil, Senior Economic Development Planner, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and I will be presenting at the Rural Economic Development and Tourism Summit on a panel concerning regional planning councils serving as economic development districts. The session focuses on regional economic development activities, including the statewide coordinated update of comprehensive economic development strategies based upon the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars framework, as well as economic analyses on policy and investment decisions that support local economic development efforts.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 15, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Keep It Local Florida

*Keep It Local Florida* is a cooperative program among the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities and Florida School Boards Association. The program is committed to preserving local control - the idea that a one-size-fits-all approach to government does not work. The Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities and Florida School Boards Association believe that Tallahassee should not be dictating how local communities operate because what works for Pensacola may not work for Palm Beach.

According to the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities and Florida School Boards Association, an amendment placed on the 2012 Ballot by the Legislature imposes a new non-homesteaded property tax cap, effectively putting every city and county in the same one-size-fits-all box while providing tax breaks to out-of-state residents at the expense of year-round Florida homeowners. *Keep It Local Florida* recently commissioned a scientific survey. The poll of likely Florida voters finds that passage of the Legislature's Non-Homesteaded Property Tax Cap is uncertain. The measure, slated to appear on the General Election ballot in 2012, gains just enough support to achieve the 60 percent threshold required for the passage of constitutional amendments. Nearly 40 percent of Florida voters are already opposed to the amendment, and the poll indicates that support for the measure could drop below the 60 percent threshold by Election Day. For more information about the latest "home rule" news and updates or to learn more about *Keep It Local Florida*, visit [www.keepitlocalflorida.org](http://www.keepitlocalflorida.org).

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,  
by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources,  
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