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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 April 24, 2014. 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 by April 21st 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)

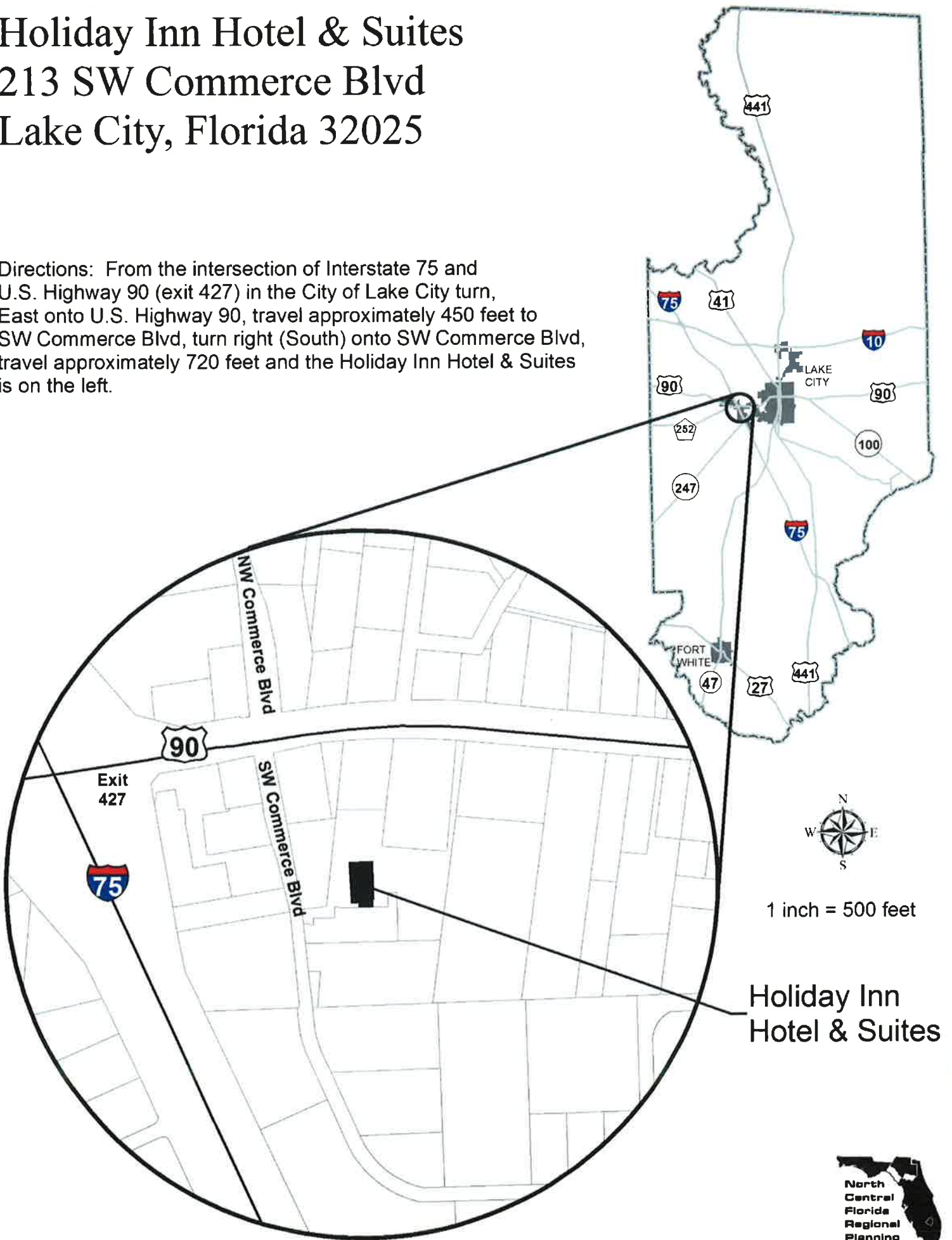
Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)

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

April 24, 2014
7:30 p.m.

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- I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS
- II. GUEST SPEAKER - Noel Munson, Strategic Planner
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- * III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 27, 2014 5
- * IV. CONSENT AGENDA - Monthly Financial Report - March 2014 15
- * V. CHAIR'S REPORT - Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation -
Cindy Roberts 21
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- * A. Executive Committee - Proclamation Declaring May 11-13, 2014 as
Travel and Tourism Week 25
- * B. Clearinghouse Committee 29

Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

- 1. #56 - City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- 2. #58 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- 3. #59 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- 4. #60 - Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

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promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.

VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

This agenda item provides an opportunity for citizens to address the Council on any matter not included on the agenda. The comment period is limited to three minutes for each individual. Speaker forms are available at the sign-in table.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*	A.	Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Report	31
*	B.	Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard	35
*	C.	Legislative Report	39
*	D.	Check Fraud Status Report	45

* See Attachments

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

March 27, 2014
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
Jim Catron, City of Madison
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Don Cook, City of Perry
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
Timothy Marden, City of Newberry
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne
Wayne Smith, Union County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Charles Williams, Hamilton County
Mike Williams, Madison County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

Brian Delburn, Florida Dept. of Transportation
Greg Evans, Florida Dept. of Transportation
Jordan Green, Florida Dept. of Transportation
Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water
Management District
Russell Simpson, Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Susan Baird, Alachua County
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs
Susan Bottcher, City of Gainesville
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua

OTHERS PRESENT

David Cobb, Florida Power & Light
Diana Davis
Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer
Mark Reichert, Florida Transportation Commission
Joe Riddick

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Jean Strong

Board Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

Chair Nobles asked that Item VI.B.3. - #54, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, which was received by staff after the meeting packets were distributed, be added to the agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Catron made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Roberts to add Item VI.B.3. - #54, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Nobles welcomed and introduced Diana Davis, wife of Council member Mayor Louie Davis, Joe Riddick, past member and former Council Chair from Bradford County, Greg Evans, Secretary for the Department of Transportation - District 2, Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer and David Cobb from Florida Power and Light.

II. GUEST SPEAKER - Mark Reichert, Florida Transportation Commission

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced and welcomed Mark Reichert, Assistant Executive Director, from the Florida Transportation Commission. Mr. Reichert presented an overview of current transportation funding in Florida and at the federal level and the challenges facing the state in securing future transportation funding sources. Chair Nobles thanked Mr. Reichert for his presentation and comments.

Greg Evans, District 2 Secretary for the Florida Department of Transportation, stated that the Florida Transportation Commission does an outstanding job of reviewing the Department. The Commission is currently in the process of reviewing the proposed Five-Year Tentative Work Program for District 2. He further stated that in September of each year, the Commission reviews the Department's performance measures. He added that during the review process in September 2013, the Department passed all of the performance measures.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 20, 2014

Chair Nobles asked that the minutes of the February 20, 2014 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mayor Spooner made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wainwright to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2014 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - February 2014
- B. Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Concerning Economic Modeling, Inc.
- C. U.S. Economic Development Administration Short-Term Planning and State Planning Grant Amendment

D. Florida Department of Transportation
Joint Participation Agreement Amendment and Resolution

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

ACTION: Commissioner Catron made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davis, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's Report.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Transportation for America's
Revenue Endorsement Resolution

Mr. Koons reported that the north central Florida region's economic future depends on having a top-notch transportation network that will allow the region to compete both nationally and globally while preserving our quality of life. Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Ananth Prasad has stated that full funding of the Florida Department of Transportation work program will continue the vision of creating a world class transportation system by delivering exceptional projects and providing significant return on investment. This work program will require federal funding in order to move forward.

Mr. Koons also stated that the federal trust fund dedicated to transportation is headed for insolvency, which could lead to the federal transportation program being halted in Fiscal Year 2015 and would adversely affect the undertaking of transportation projects to meet the transportation needs of our residents and businesses, potentially restricting our future economic growth.

Mr. Koons reported that Transportation for America, an alliance of business, civic, and elected leaders from across the country, has put forward an investment plan for the 21st Century that would save the transportation fund of the nation while making it more accountable and increasing local control. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council:

1. Endorse the Transportation for America's Revenue proposal for saving the nation's transportation fund; and
2. Call upon Congress and the President to act upon the recommendations therein prior to September 30, 2014.

ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to Adopt Resolution No. 2014-03, which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof, endorsing the Transportation for America's Revenue Proposal and to call upon Congress and the President to act upon the recommendations therein prior to September 30, 2014. The motion carried with 22 yeas and 3 nays.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Chair Sandra Haas gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed three local government comprehensive plan amendments.

#37 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

#38 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Ms. Haas stated that subsequent to the distribution of the Council meeting packets, the Council received the following late-arriving item which requires action prior to our next meeting.

#54 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (added to agenda)

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee found that the Dixie County and the City of Hawthorne government comprehensive plans, as amended, were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjoining local governments. She 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: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #37, City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment and Item # 54, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee found the City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan, as amended, was not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance. Furthermore, City items CPA 13-04, CPA 13-06 and CPA 13-07 were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to the Regional Road Network or adjoining local governments.

Ms. Haas further stated that significant adverse impacts may occur to segments of the Regional Road Network and to adjoining local governments as a result of City item CPA 13-08. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the City provide a transportation analysis of impacts to the Regional Road Network as a result of the City item CPA 13-08, and either add new policies to the City Transportation Element which prevent any identified adverse impacts or explain how existing policies contained in the City Comprehensive Plan prevent adverse impacts to the Regional Road Network.

Ms. Haas stated that alternatively, it is recommended that the City include Transportation Planning Best Practices contained in the Regional Plan as goals and policies in the City Comprehensive Plan and that such goals and policies clearly state that Transportation Planning Best Practices are applicable to areas located outside of the City Urban Service Area. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the City and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #38, City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Program Committee - 2014-15 Overall Program Design

Mayor Spooner reported that the Program Committee met earlier in the evening to review a draft of the Overall Program Design for the coming year. This document is to be used as the 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.

Mayor Spooner 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. Except for editorial changes, the document is essentially the same as the current year edition.

Mayor Spooner stated the Committee anticipates recommending the Overall Program Design to the Council for adoption at the May 22, 2014 meeting.

VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Russell Simpson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that the Northeast District Drinking staff is partnering up with Florida Water Rural Association will be conducting three workshops in May 2014 to assist Drinking Water Facilities in completing their required 2013 Consumer Confidence Report.

Jordan Green, Rural Area Transportation Development Engineer, Florida Department of Transportation District 2 - no report.

Carlos Herd, Water Supply Division Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that the Consumptive Use Permitting Consistency Rules became effective March 24, 2014. He also mentioned that the Department will be conducting a public hearing on April 3, 2014 on the proposed rule concerning Minimum Flows and Levels for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers.

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

Mayor Spooner announced that on April 4, 2014 the City of Starke at 12:00 p.m. will be revealing a new City seal to celebrate the 144th Anniversary of the City. She also stated that there will be an open house at City Hall following the revealing of the new City seal.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils. 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. He stated that the accomplishments of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven, are reported each month to the Council. He also highlighted several of the accomplishments listed in the February 2014 monthly activity report included in the Council meeting packet.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to develop 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. He further stated that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the Six Pillars benchmarked to the other 49 states. 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. He reviewed the March 2014 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2014 regular Legislature session convened on March 4, 2014 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 2, 2014. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity budget request for Fiscal Year 2014-15 submitted to Governor Scott does not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. In addition, the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 submitted by the Governor to the Legislature does not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. However, the House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee has included \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils. As you know, the Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2013-14. However, Governor Scott vetoed the appropriation for regional planning councils. The Council's share of this appropriation would have been approximately \$179,000.

Mr. Koons then reviewed the status of several bills of interest to regional planning councils and local governments.

D. North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership

Mr. Koons reported that the Stakeholder Advisory Committee met on February 24, 2014. The Committee discussed the revised Recovery Strategy for the Lower Santa Fe River Basin and heard a presentation on population and water demand projections. He stated the Committee also met on March 17, 2014 and heard presentations from water management district staff on water resource assessment methods as well as an update on the status of the regional groundwater model.

F. Check Fraud Status Report

Mr. Koons reported that on March 20, 2013, a fraudulent check in the amount of \$49,523.00 that was written on the Council's bank account was processed and paid by Wells Fargo. Also on March 20, 2013, Council staff filed an affidavit of check fraud concerning this matter with Wells Fargo. On March 25, 2013, Council staff filed a crime report concerning this matter with the Gainesville Police Department. On April 18, 2013, the Council Attorney sent a letter to Wells Fargo requesting that Wells Fargo remit to the Council within 30 days the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's account. He added that on June 3, 2013, attorneys for Wells Fargo responded via letter stating that Wells Fargo will not reimburse the Council for the \$49,523.00 released from the Council's account by Wells Fargo.

Mr. Koons stated that at their meeting on July 25, 2013, the Council authorized the Council Attorney to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00, to engage Stanley Cushman from the law firm of Scruggs and Carmichael to serve as co-counsel for the lawsuit and to designate Scott Koons, Executive Director, as the Council's representative concerning all matters related to such lawsuit. He stated that on August 6, 2013, a lawsuit was filed against Wells Fargo to recover the Council's funds.

Mr. Koons further reported that on September 9, 2013, Wells Fargo responded to the complaint by filing a Motion to Compel Arbitration. Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Cushman responded to the motion stating that arbitration does not apply to the dispute and have filed a motion for a hearing on the motion to compel arbitration. A hearing originally scheduled for October 30, 2013 in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida on the Motion to Compel Arbitration filed by Wells Fargo to resolve the dispute between the Council and Wells Fargo was rescheduled for January 24, 2014. Mr. Koons reported that at the conclusion of the hearing, the Circuit Court granted the Motion to Compel Arbitration.

Mr. Koons reported that Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Council Stanley Cushman are coordinating with the attorney of Wells Fargo on the selection of an arbitrator and scheduling of the arbitration hearing.

Chair Nobles informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on April 24, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

4/24/14
Date

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE JOINT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council entered into a Joint Participation Agreement, Financial Project Number 433775-1-18-01, on April 15, 2013 with the Florida Department of Transportation, as authorized under Section 339.12, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to receive support for transportation planning and regional visioning for Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties for the period ending June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will coordinate with neighboring regional planning councils and adjoining counties in order to accomplish said transportation planning and regional visioning; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will coordinate said transportation planning and regional visioning with the on-going Future Corridors studies of the Florida Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute a 12-month extension to the Joint Participation Agreement on behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council with the Florida Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute a 12-month extension amendment to the Joint Participation Agreement, Financial Project Number 433775-1-18-01, with the Florida Department of Transportation to accomplish transportation planning and regional visioning in a 13-county area.

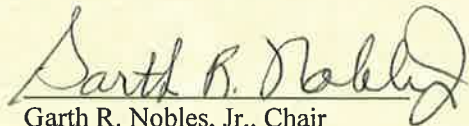
DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 27th day of March 2014.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:



Scott R. Koons, Executive Director



Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
ENDORING TRANSPORTATION FOR AMERICA'S REVENUE PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, the north central Florida region's economic future depends on having a top-notch transportation network that will allow the region to compete both nationally and globally while preserving our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, investing in important transportation projects will require more funding to ensure that goods can get to market and workers to jobs; and

WHEREAS, many transportation projects will require federal funding in order to move forward; and

WHEREAS, the federal trust fund dedicated to transportation is headed for insolvency, which could lead to the federal transportation program being halted in Fiscal Year 2015; and

WHEREAS, these crippling cuts will adversely affect the undertaking of transportation projects to meet the transportation needs of our residents and businesses, potentially restricting our future economic growth; and

WHEREAS, Transportation for America, an alliance of business, civic, and elected leaders from across the country, has put forward an investment plan for the 21st Century that would save the transportation fund of the nation while making it more accountable and increasing local control.

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

1. That the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council endorses the Transportation for America's Revenue proposal for saving the nation's transportation fund.
2. That the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council calls upon Congress and the President to act upon the recommendations therein prior to September 30, 2014.
3. That this resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

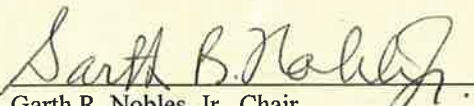
APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this 27th day of March 2014.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL



Scott R. Koons, Executive Director



Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair



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April 17, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SRK

SUBJECT: Monthly Financial Report - March 2014

Please find attached a copy of the Monthly Financial Report for the Council's activities for March 2014. The following paragraphs discuss revenues and expenditures to the budget for the month and year to date. Status of the adjusted general fund balance of the Council at the end of the month is also provided on the attached Monthly Financial Report.

Revenue

The total revenue for the Council for year to date is within budgeted figures. Revenue at the end of six months was 41 percent of budget.

Expenditures

The total expenditures for the Council for year to date are within budgeted figures. Total expenditures at the end of six months are 41 percent of budget. It is anticipated that the year should end with revenues exceeding expenditures.

Conclusion

In conclusion, staff is pleased with the financial condition of the Council. The adjusted general fund balance should remain at an acceptable level at the end of the fiscal year.

Overall, as is regularly reported, the financial condition of the Council is sound. Staff is not aware of anything in the current fiscal year that will change this situation. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

Attachment

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)

March 31, 2014

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking / Savings 1,270,267

Accounts Receivable 456,841

Other Current Assets 29,845

Total Current Assets 1,756,953

TOTAL ASSETS 1,756,953

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable 24,440

Other Current Liabilities 125,796

Total Liabilities 150,236

Equity 1,606,717

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 1,756,953

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
March 31, 2014

SUMMARY STATEMENT

	Adopted Budget FY 2013 - 14	March 2014	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Revenue	1,969,300	167,384	815,089	41%
Expenses	1,969,300	142,391	816,688	41%

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)

March 31, 2014

REVENUE

Account	Adopted Budget FY 2013 - 14	March 2014	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Program Development	23,900	1,020	15,986	67%
Regional Planning				
State Planning & Review	50,000	0	50,000	100%
Developments of Regional Impact Review	15,000	0	0	0%
Public Safety & Regulatory Compliance				
Homeland Security Activities	57,000	8,700	8,700	15%
Statewide Hurricane Evacuation Study	10,000	0	3,473	35%
Hazardous Waste Monitoring	42,400	0	0	0%
Local Emergency Planning Committee	93,500	19,443	37,884	41%
Hazards Analyses	9,700	0	0	0%
Transportation				
Gainesville Urbanized Area Transportation Planning	621,000	17,838	149,794	24%
Gainesville Urbanized Area Mass Transit	170,000	52,556	105,056	62%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Alachua County	24,200	8,728	15,643	65%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Region	173,600	57,762	110,015	63%
Economic Development				
Comp Econ Development Strategy & Tech Assistance	108,000	0	60,750	56%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force Staffing	35,000	1,337	1,337	4%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	43,000	0	34,000	79%
Vision North Central Florida			2,500	
Local Government Assistance				
General Technical Services	10,000	0	10,000	100%
FDEO Economic Profile		0	12,500	
City & County Planning Services	307,000	0	136,242	44%
Community Development Block Grant Administration	176,000	0	61,209	35%
Total Revenue	1,969,300	167,384	815,089	41%

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)

March 31, 2014

EXPENDITURES

Account	Adopted Budget FY 2013 - 14	March 2014	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Audit	15,000	0	14,500	97%
Building Debt Service	11,200	0	10,563	94%
Building Occupancy & Grounds	40,000	2,255	15,312	38%
Contractual Services	72,000	23,050	42,090	58%
Dues, Publications & Subscriptions	47,000	935	33,222	71%
Furniture & Equipment	15,000	0	8,674	58%
Insurance and Bonding	17,000	0	9,766	57%
Legal Costs	12,000	1,979	11,027	92%
Machine Rental/Maintenance	5,000	1,086	3,493	70%
Meeting Expenses	20,000	0	7,552	38%
Moving Expense	2,000	0	0	0%
Office Supplies	30,000	1,165	8,809	29%
Personnel Costs	1,397,200	95,884	570,998	41%
Postage	8,000	545	3,392	42%
Printing	3,000	0	695	23%
Recruiting	2,000	0	0	0%
Reproduction	12,000	604	6,130	51%
Telephone	7,000	488	2,865	41%
Travel	97,000	14,400	39,785	41%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	43,000	0	27,815	65%
Contingency	113,900	0	0	0%
Total Expenses	1,969,300	142,391	816,688	41%



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April 17, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SK*

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Cindy Roberts.

BACKGROUND:

The attached resolution of appreciation is regarding Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. Cindy Roberts served as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards from August 2007 to April 2014.

If you have 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,
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April 25, 2014

Ms. Cindy Roberts, Human Resources Manager
Elder Options
100 SW 75th Street, Suite 301
Gainesville, FL 32607

RE: Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program

Dear Ms. Roberts:

On behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, I want to express our regret that you will no longer serve as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. Your knowledge and your concern for transportation disadvantaged individuals have made you a valuable asset to the Boards.

As a token of our appreciation for your service, the Planning Council, at its regular meeting on April 24, 2014 unanimously approved the enclosed resolution. Thank you for taking the time to serve on these Boards.

Sincerely,

Garth R. Nobels, Jr.
Chair

Enclosure

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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, Cindy Roberts has served as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since August 2007; and

WHEREAS, Cindy Roberts ably discharged her duties as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Cindy Roberts for the dedicated service she rendered to the Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards, and for her concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union 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 Cindy Roberts.

Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

April 24, 2014
Date



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April 17, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SRK*

SUBJECT: Proclamation Declaring May 3-11, 2014 as Travel and Tourism Week

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached proclamation declaring the week of May 3-11, 2014 as Travel and Tourism Week.

BACKGROUND:

The Original Florida Tourism Task Force was created as a task force of the Council 22 years ago. It is now a 10-county independent tourism marketing interlocal agreement organization. The mission of the Original Florida Tourism Task Force is to "Promote the natural, historic, and cultural attractions of the north central Florida region to increase the number of visitors and extend their stay. The goal is to enhance the area's economy, image, and quality of life through expanded revenues and employment opportunities. At the same time, the region will encourage the preservation of the resources which bring focus to the area."

The week of May 3-11, 2014 is *National Travel and Tourism Week* as declared by the Travel Industry Association. Activities are planned throughout the United States and Florida to support and celebrate the tourism industry.

It is recommended that the Council adopt the attached proclamation declaring the week of May 3-11, 2014 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida.

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,
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PROCLAMATION

DECLARING MAY 3-11, 2014 AS TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS, tourism brings over 94 million visitors annually to the State of Florida, generates over \$4.6 billion in annual sales tax revenues and employs over one million persons;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of tourism to the north central Florida regional economy and quality of life;

WHEREAS, local governments, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council support tourism opportunities in north central Florida; and

WHEREAS, local governments, businesses, chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council are working together to support this vital part of north central Florida's economy and all who play a role in tourism to ensure that north central Florida continues to be a place where traditions will be created and continued for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby declares the week of May 3-11, 2014 as Travel and Tourism Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 24th day of April 2014.

ATTEST:

Daniel Riddick, Secretary-Treasurer

Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

SEAL:



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April 17, 2014

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., April 24, 2014 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

- #56 - City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 14-1ESR)]
- #58 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 14-2ESR)
- #59 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 14-1ESR)
- #60 - Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 41-1ESR)

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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April 17, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Report

The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils. 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.

The Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying-out the following objectives.

- Ensure regional planning councils are effective service organizations to the State of Florida, its local governments, and the citizens they serve;
- Ensure regional planning councils are consensus builders and problem solvers, and serve as conveners of the region by helping to articulate those multijurisdictional issues that need resolution;
- Encourage and promote opportunities for regional planning councils to become partners in state programs and initiatives, while promoting the unique themes of each region within the state and legislative environments;
- Monitor substantive state and federal legislative issues for the benefit of its members, and promote mutually supportive policy positions among the regional planning councils;
- Represent regional planning councils in national organizations, such as the National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Development Organizations, and SouthEast Regional Directors Institute; and
- Foster relationships and partnerships and coordinate with state, regional, and national associations and organizations; non-profit entities; public-private partnerships; the Governor's Office; state agencies; and others, on issues of mutual interest and concern, and with whom the Association shares mutual goals and programs.

Please find attached the March 2014 Monthly Activity Report highlighting the activities of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven. This report addresses outreach, resource development/capacity building, legislative and administrative activities.

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

Attachment

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MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: March 2014

OUTREACH

- Met with Bill Killingsworth, Director of the Division of Community Development for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, and Sherri Martin, Rural Coordinator Supervisor for the Division, to determine the eligibility of regional planning councils under Section 288.018, F.S. (Regional Rural Development Grants), which may be possible, provided grant proposals increase local economic capacity and are not regional planning council project specific.
- Met with Gail Stafford, Compliance Administrator at the Florida Energy Office, to explore a collaborative partnership between the Office and the regional planning councils on a grant application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration.
- Met with Jason Hight, Biological Administrator at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, to reinforce collaboration with the agency.
- Spoke to Nick Wiley, Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, to remind him that regional planning councils can help the Commission reach out to local governments as needed.
- Spoke to Jeff Hendry, Director of the Florida Institute of Government and North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP), to confirm that the NFEDP's Economic Development Academy included a component that explained the role of regional planning councils as federally designated economic development districts and provided Mr. Hendry with appropriate educational materials.
- Continued to work with representatives from the Florida Chamber Foundation to create on-line regional scorecards for each council, which were beta tested during the last week of March and officially unveiled on March 31, 2014 (see <http://floridarpcscorecard.com/>), along with a press release from the Florida Chamber Foundation, which was provided to each of the councils and may be tailored for us in their respective regions.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, attended meetings of the Small County Coalition; Florida Transportation Commission; Florida Defense Support Task Force; and, Rural Economic Development Initiative; and participated in Enterprise Florida's monthly conference call for its economic development partners.
- As FRCA's newly appointed representative to the participating industry support organizations that assist Emergency Support Function 18 (Business, Industry, and

Economic Stabilization), attended a coordination meeting at the State Emergency Operations Center and reviewed and provided comments on revisions to the Emergency Support Function 18 Standard Operating Guidelines and the Emergency Support Function 18 Appendix in the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

- Prepared and submitted to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity a performance report, which evaluated the progress regional planning councils have made toward implementation of the *State Strategic Plan for Economic Development*.
- Distributed funding announcements from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Department of Commerce; U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and, U.S. Economic Development Administration.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Revised FRCA's legislative talking points to provide further guidance to those who may have the opportunity to meet with their legislative representatives or the Governor.
- Issued a March Legislative Highlights report and four bill tracking summaries.
- Reviewed newly filed bills for the 2014 Legislative Session and monitored legislative committee meetings held during the month.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Participated in two conference calls with FRCA President Patty Asseff (Commissioner, City of Hollywood) along with Jim Murley (SFRPC) and Brian Teeple (NEFRC) to determine how to best demonstrate progress being made on implementation of the FRCA Strategic Assessment Retreat recommendations.
- With feedback from each of the regional planning councils, created a short term action plan that demonstrated progress on the FRCA Strategic Assessment Retreat recommendations pertaining to the creation of Gubernatorial Advisory Committees and improving communication among the councils and between the councils, their stakeholders, and the press.
- Prepared the February FRCA meeting summaries; participated in the March FRCA meetings; identified and confirmed presenters for the April FRCA meetings; and, addressed any required meeting logistics.
- Began making preparations for the June FRCA meetings, which will be held in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference, including securing meeting space and a booth in the Exhibit Hall.



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April 17, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

The Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. 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.

The Scorecard reports metrics for each of the Six Pillars benchmarked to the other 49 states. 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. Please find attached the April 2014 Scorecard.

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

Attachment

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THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

The Metrics that Help Florida Leaders Secure Florida's Future

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Tax Day - It's Here.

We dread it more than any other day. It has been ranked as one of the top three most stressful days of the year. We collectively spend over **\$165 billion dollars** complying with it. And when you send in your forms, you are one of more than **131 million** to be processed. It's Tax Day.

The very first U.S. income tax was levied in 1861 to help finance the Civil War and was three percent of income over \$800 (the equivalent of \$20,500 today). However, the most common form used – the 1040 – **wasn't introduced until 1913**, and was just three pages long (with instructions). By contrast, the instruction book for the current 1040 comes in at **207 pages**, with an additional **13 pages of tax tables**. According to the **Tax Foundation**, in 2014, Americans will spend more money on federal, state and local taxes (\$4.5 trillion) than they do on housing, clothing, and food COMBINED.

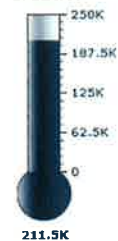
In Florida, we are fortunate to be one of only seven states without a state-levied income tax. That fact is a major factor in Florida's current ranking as the fifth best tax climate in the U.S. However, with the fourth-largest population (and about to pass New York and become the third largest), the overall burden of taxation must fall somewhere.

The Sunshine State relies heavily on a combination of property taxes (which average \$1,368 per capita), a six percent sales tax (with local options to increase in half-percent increments), various use taxes, and a corporate income tax on net income over \$50,000.

So, how does the Sunshine State rank in business taxes in comparison to other states? **Florida businesses pay approximately 13.4 percent of their gross profits in taxes each year – one of the largest shares in the U.S.** In addition, when comparing business taxes to state GDP, 6.1 percent of Florida's GDP is made up of business taxes – the 5th highest share in the U.S.



Florida Net 12-Month Job Creation



FLORIDA JOBS

SCORECARD NEWSLETTER

Provide your email address to receive monthly Scorecard updates

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Ranking Florida



Key Indicators



Home Foreclosures

As Florida continues to recover from the housing market collapse, trends in home foreclosures provide insight into Florida's progress through the extended recovery.



Consumer Confidence

The Florida Consumer Confidence Index measures residents' perceptions of personal finances now compared to a year ago and expectations of U.S.



Population

Florida has the 4th largest population in the U.S., estimated at just over 19 million in April 2012.



Unemployment Rate

Florida has a labor force of over 9 million, ready to meet the workforce needs of businesses.

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April 17, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

The 2014 regular Legislature session convened on March 4, 2014 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 2, 2014. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity budget request for Fiscal Year 2014-15 submitted to Governor Scott does not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. In addition, the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 submitted by the Governor to the Legislature does not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. However, the House Fiscal Year 2014-15 adopted budget includes \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils. As you know, the Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2013-14. However, Governor Scott vetoed the appropriation for regional planning councils. The Council's share of this appropriation would have been approximately \$179,000.

The following paragraphs provide a summary of bills of interest filed to date.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN LOCAL REFERENDUM

House Bill 189 by Representative Boyd relates to Growth Management. Revises restrictions on initiative or referendum process in regard to local comprehensive plan amendments and map amendments. The bill broadens the exception to the prohibition on using a referendum process in regard to a comprehensive plan or map amendment by deleting the limitation that the exception must involve "more than five parcels of land." **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local and Federal Affairs Committee; and Economic Affairs Committee. Passed by the Local and Federal Affairs Committee, Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee and Economic Affairs Committee. Passed by House on First Reading.**

Senate Bill 374 by Senator Detert relates to Growth Management. Revises restrictions on an initiative or referendum process with regard to local comprehensive plan amendments and map amendments. The bill broadens the exception to the prohibition on using a referendum process in regard to a comprehensive plan or map amendment by deleting the limitation that the exception must involve "more than five parcels of land." **Referred to Community Affairs; Commerce and Tourism; and Rules. Passed by Community Affairs, Commerce and Tourism and Rules. Passed by Senate on Second Reading.**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

House Bill 395 by Representative Perry relates to Growth Management. Requires local governments to address protection of private property rights in their comprehensive plans; requires comprehensive plan to include property rights element that addresses certain objectives; requires counties and municipalities to adopt land development regulations consistent with property rights element. **Referred to Economic**

Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local and Federal Affairs Committee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.

DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT

House Bill 241 by Representative Gaetz relates to Developments of Regional Impact. Deletes certain exemptions for dense urban land areas. The bill deletes Section 380.06(29)a.2. and (29)a.3., Florida Statutes, removing the exemption for dense urban land areas that are within a county and located in an urban service area as defined in Section 163.3164, Florida Statutes, and which are in a county with a population of at least 900,000 but do not have an urban service area. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local and Federal Affairs Committee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

Senate Bill 372 by Senator Galvano relates to Developments of Regional Impact. Deletes certain exemptions for dense urban land areas; revises the exemption for any proposed development within a county that has a population of at least 300,000 and an average population of at least 400 people per square mile. The bill deletes Section 380.06(29)a.2. and (29)a.3., Florida Statutes, removing the exemption for dense urban land areas that are within a county and located in an urban service area as defined in Section 163.3164, Florida Statutes, and which are in a county with a population of at least 900,000 but do not have an urban service area, which is identical to House Bill 241. However, it also revises the exemption in Section 380.06(29)a.4., to apply to a county with an average population of at least 400 people per square mile and a population of at least 300,000, and does not have to be located in an urban service area. It previously applied to a county with a population of at least one million, with no square mile requirement, although it did have to be located in an urban service area. More specifically, eight counties were exempted from state review of proposed "developments of regional impact" under 2009 legislation. This bill would extend the exemption to Brevard, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Sarasota and Volusia Counties. **Referred to Community Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations; and Rules. Passed by Community Affairs, Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Appropriations. The bill is now in Rules.**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

House Bill 7023 by Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee relates to economic development. Revises provisions relating to transportation concurrency, impact fees, loan programs, urban redevelopment, Space Florida, Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund contributions, and rural areas of critical economic concern. This bill streamlines applicable sections of Chapter 290, Florida Statutes, to increase flexibility in the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program by removing certain application requirements and competitive scoring criteria and allow grants to be used for economic development projects. The bill also rebrands Florida's Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern to Rural Areas of Opportunity. In addition, the bill exempts the development of small businesses from having to comply with impact fee, concurrency, or proportionate share requirements for transportation impacts for three years. The bill also makes other changes proposed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and replaces Enterprise Florida with VISIT Florida as the entity to assist Space Florida in developing its marketing plan. **Referred to Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee, and Economic Affairs Committee. Passed by Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee, and Economic Affairs Committee. Passed by House on First Reading.**

ENTERPRISE ZONES

House Bill 141 by Representative Powell relates to Florida Enterprise Zone Act. Revises date of repeal of Florida Enterprise Zone Act. The bill changes the date to repeal the Florida Enterprise Zone Act from December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2025. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Finance and Tax Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. This bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY WEB PAGE

House Bill 235 by Representative Combee relates to Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Requires the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to create web page accessible through its Internet website that provides certain information; provides purpose of web page; requires Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to collect all local business information available to Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; requires Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to request relevant local government to provide any otherwise unavailable information; requires local governments to provide notice of changes in information collected by department; authorizes local government entities to provide summary that includes certain information for Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's web page. The bill creates Section 288.112, Florida Statutes, requiring the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to create a new web page on its website devoted solely to the collection and publication of data and information relevant to the creation or expansion of new businesses within the state, for the following purposes: (a) provide a comprehensive overview of conditions that exist within cities and counties that are conducive to the creation and expansion of new businesses; (b) enable prospective employers to effectively and accurately evaluate the business climate in various locations throughout the state; and, (c) provide prospective business owners and operators within the state with immediate access to specific charges and costs related to the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a business. The bill provides the specific list of criteria to be collected. The Department is given until January 1, 2015 to collect the information and post it as soon as possible thereafter on its website. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local and Federal Affairs Committee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. House Bill 235 has been withdrawn.**

FREIGHT LOGISTIC ZONES

House Bill 3 by Representative Ray relates to freight logistic zones. Defines "freight logistics zone"; authorizes county or two or more contiguous counties to designate geographic area(s) within its jurisdiction as freight logistics zone; requires adoption of strategic plan which must include certain information; provides that certain projects within freight logistics zones may be eligible for priority in state funding and certain incentive programs; provides evaluation criteria for freight logistics zones. The bill requires the freight strategic plan to be compatible with the applicable local government comprehensive plan and adopted long-range transportation plans of a metropolitan planning organization. **Referred to Transportation and Highway Safety Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. Passed by Transportation and Highway Safety Subcommittee, Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee, and Economic Affairs Committee. Passed by House on First Reading.**

Senate Bill 136 by Senator Ring relates to freight logistic zones. Defines the term “freight logistics zone”; authorizes a county, or two or more contiguous counties, to designate a geographic area or areas within its jurisdiction as a freight logistics zone; requires the adoption of a strategic plan that must include certain information; provides that certain projects within freight logistics zones may be eligible for priority in state funding and certain incentive programs; provides evaluation criteria for freight logistics zones. The bill requires the freight strategic plan to be compatible with the applicable local government comprehensive plan and adopted long-range transportation plans of a metropolitan planning organization.

Referred to Transportation; Commerce and Tourism; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; and Appropriations. Passed by Transportation, Commerce and Tourism and Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation. The bill is now in Appropriations.

LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS SINKHOLE TESTING

House Bill 315 by Representative Stark relates to Land Development Regulations. Requires local land development regulations to include sinkhole testing. The bill amends Section 163.3202(2), Florida Statutes by adding new subparagraph "j" as stated above. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local and Federal Affairs Committee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

Senate Bill 376 by Senator Soto relates to Local Land Development Regulations. Requires local land development regulations to provide for sinkhole testing. The bill amends Section 163.3202(2), Florida Statutes, by adding new subparagraph "j" as stated above. **Referred to Community Affairs; Commerce and Tourism; Banking and Insurance; and Rules.**

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

House Bill 611 by Representative Beshears relates to Rural Areas of Opportunity. Increases value of tax credits for certain eligible businesses; provides additional tax credit for certain businesses located within rural area of opportunity; authorizes certain eligible businesses to apply for ad valorem tax reimbursement in specified amount; provides for sales tax refund for certain eligible businesses; increases maximum amount of grant funds that regionally based economic development organizations may receive from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; deletes provision that caps tax refund amount for certain qualified target industry business tax refund applicants; exempts certain businesses from requirement that tax refunds be reduced in absence of specified amount of local financial support; revises definition of term "rural enterprise zone" to include rural areas of opportunity; specifies that rural area of opportunity shall be designated as rural enterprise zone; renames "rural areas of critical economic concern" as "rural areas of opportunity." **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Finance and Tax Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

SPRINGS

House Bill 49 by Representative Stewart relates to Springs Revival Act. Requires water management districts to identify certain springs, develop certain plans and submit certain reports; authorizes districts to adopt rules and issue orders. By October 1 of each year, requires each water management district, with appropriate technical support, to identify first and second magnitude springs that are in decline based upon historic average water quality and flow levels, and which are not identified in the Florida

Department of Environmental Protection's rule for impaired water bodies. By July 1, 2015, each water management district must develop a five-year plan to restore historic average water quality flow levels to

the springs that are identified as described above and in the rule for impaired water bodies. Also beginning July 1, 2015, quarterly progress reports are required. **Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee; Rulemaking Oversight and Repeal Subcommittee; and State Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee.**

Senate Bill 76 by Senator Soto relates to Springs Revival Act. Requires water management districts to identify certain springs, develop certain plans, and submit certain reports to the Governor and the Legislature; authorizes the districts to adopt rules and issue orders. By October 1 of each year, requires each water management district, with appropriate technical support, to identify first and second magnitude springs that are in decline based upon historic average water quality and flow levels, and which are not identified in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's rule for impaired water bodies. By July 1, 2015, each water management district must develop a five-year plan to restore historic average water quality flow levels to the springs that are identified as described above and in the rule for impaired water bodies. Also beginning July 1, 2015, quarterly progress reports are required. **Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Community Affairs; Appropriations; and Rules.**

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



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April 17, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SRK

SUBJECT: Check Fraud Status Report

On March 20, 2013, a fraudulent check in the amount of \$49,523.00 that was written on the Council's bank account was processed and paid by Wells Fargo. Also on March 20, 2013, Council staff filed an affidavit of check fraud concerning this matter with Wells Fargo. On March 25, 2013, Council staff filed a crime report concerning this matter with the Gainesville Police Department.

On March 28, 2013, Council Attorney Jonathan Wershow and Council staff briefed the Executive Committee concerning this matter. On April 18, 2013, the Council Attorney sent a letter to Wells Fargo requesting that Wells Fargo remit to the Council within 30 days the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's account. On April 25, 2013, Council staff briefed the Council concerning this matter. On June 3, 2013, attorneys for Wells Fargo responded via letter to Mr. Wershow's letter stating that Wells Fargo will not reimburse the Council for the \$49,523.00 released from the Council's account by Wells Fargo.

On July 25, 2013, the Council authorized the Council Attorney to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00 and designate Scott Koons, Executive Director, as the Council's representative concerning all matters related to such lawsuit. In addition, the Council authorized the Council Attorney and the Executive Director to contact federal and state law enforcement agencies to discuss the fraudulent check processed and paid out of the Council's bank account by Wells Fargo.

On August 5, 2013, Council Attorney Wershow and I met with Mr. William Cervone, State's Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida to discuss the check fraud incident. Mr. Cervone offered the assistance of his staff to work with the Gainesville Police Department to secure the bank records relating to the check fraud incident.

On August 6, 2013, Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Council Stanley Cushman filed a five-count lawsuit in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida, against Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's bank account.

On September 9, 2013, Wells Fargo responded to the complaint by filing a Motion to Compel Arbitration. Wells Fargo alleges that disputes related to the Council's checking account are to be resolved by an arbitrator. Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman responded to the motion stating arbitration does not apply to the dispute.

A hearing was scheduled for October 30, 2013 in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida on the Motion to Compel Arbitration filed by Wells Fargo to resolve the dispute between the Council and Wells Fargo. However, the hearing was rescheduled for January 24, 2014. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Circuit Court granted the Motion to Compel Arbitration.

Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman are coordinating with the attorney of Wells Fargo on the selection of an arbitrator and scheduling of the arbitration hearing.

Please find attached a summary of legal fees incurred to date concerning the lawsuit.

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

Attachment

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Wells Fargo Lawsuit
Legal Fees

April 24, 2014

<u>Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>
August 2013	\$1,383
September 2013	\$2,253
October 2013	\$3,445
November 2013	\$180
December 2013	\$0
January 2014	\$2,760
February 2014	\$1,410
March 2014	<u>\$2,502</u>
Total	\$13,933

