



Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

MEETING NOTICE

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on **March 26, 2015**. 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 strong@ncfrpc.org by March 23, 2015 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.***

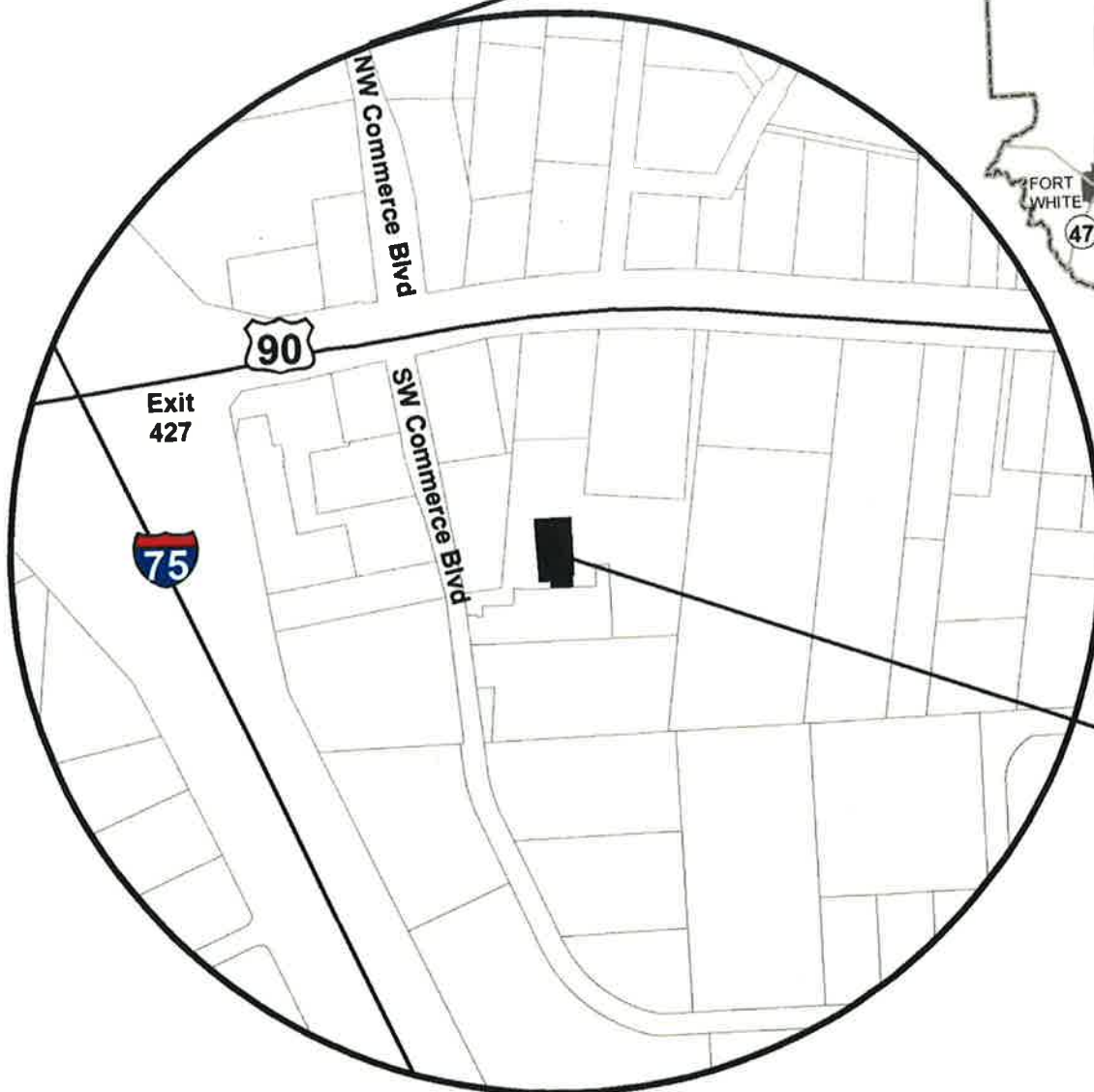
(Location Map on Back)

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.)

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.



1 inch = 500 feet

Holiday Inn
Hotel & Suites





Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 87th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653 -1603 • 352.955.2200

AGENDA

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

March 26, 2015
7:30 p.m.

Page

- I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS
- II. GUEST SPEAKER - Jim Wood, State Transportation Planning Administrator
Florida Department of Transportation
- * III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 26, 2015 5
- IV. CONSENT AGENDA
- * A. Monthly Financial Report - February 2015 13
- B. U.S. Economic Development Administration
Short Term Planning and State Grant Agreement 19
- C. Florida Department of Transportation
Joint Participation Agreement and Resolution 21
- * D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program
Local Coordinating Board Membership Certifications 25
- * E. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointments 35
 - 1. Kimberly Allbritton
 - 2. Sandra Buck-Camp
- V. CHAIR'S REPORT
- A. Introduction of New Members
- * B. Resolution of Appreciation - Charles Williams 41

- * C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation -
 - 1. Jeanne d'Eauede
 - 2. Alicia Fowler
 - 3. Casey Ladd
 - 4. Cara Ladnyk

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive Committee - None

- * B. Clearinghouse Committee 55

Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

- 1. #37 Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- 2. #38 City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- 3. #39 City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

- * C. Regional Planning Committee - Evaluation and Appraisal Report of
North Central Florida Regional Planning Policy Plan 57

- D. Program Committee - 2015-16 Overall Program Design 59

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.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- * A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Report 61
- * B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard 65
- * C. Legislative Report 67
- D. Letter to Governor Scott Concerning Regional Planning Councils 73
- * E. Letter from Congressman Yoho Concerning Innovation Award 81
- * F. Check Fraud Status Report 85

* See Attachments

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

February 26, 2015
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Jason Evans, City of High Springs
Scarlet Frisina, Columbia County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County
Everett Phillips, Columbia County
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne
Larry Sessions, Suwannee County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
David Sullivan, City of Perry
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Charles Williams, Hamilton County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

Jordan Green, Florida Department of Transportation
Roni Jordan, Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Craig Carter, City of Gainesville
Jim Catron, City of Madison
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
Doug Jones, City of Archer
Timothy Marden, City of Newberry
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
James Tallman, Union County
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Ed Booth
Sandra Buck-Camp
Allen Cherry
David Cobb
Renee Cobb
Bobby Crosby
Chris Doolin
Rita Dopp
Ralph Kitchens
Sheryl Rehberg
Justin Stankiewicz

STAFF PRESENT

Steven Dopp
Carmelita Franco
Scott Koons
Jean Strong

Board Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Spooner called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Patterson and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Spooner stated that there was a quorum.

Chair Spooner welcomed and introduced Chris Doolin, Legislative Consultant Small County Coalition; Allen Cherry, County Coordinator from Madison County; Ed Booth, City Manager from City of High Springs; Bobby Crosby, County Administrator from Gilchrist County; Sandra Buck-Camp and Ralph Kitchens, members of the Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; Dave Cobb from Florida Power and Light and his wife Renee; Rita Doop, wife of Steven Doop; Justin Stankiewicz, Finance Director for Union County and Sheryl Rehberg, Executive Director of Career Source North Florida.

Chair Spooner asked that Item VI.B.3. Clearinghouse Committee City of Jasper Draft Amendment, a late arriving item received by staff after the meeting packets were distributed, be added to the agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion with a second by Councilman Bryant to add to the agenda Item VI.B.3. Clearinghouse Committee City of Jasper Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

II. GUEST SPEAKER - Chris Doolin, Legislative Consultant
Small County Coalition

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Chris Doolin, the Legislative Consultant Small County Coalition. Mr. Doolin stated that the Coalition's agenda was to give small counties a collective voice when dealing with the Legislature. He then spoke about the upcoming legislative session and issues impacting local governments in the north central Florida region. Chair Spooner thanked Mr. Doolin for his comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 22, 2015

Chair Spooner asked that the minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wilford to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - January 2015
- B. Experience North Florida - Sponsorship
- C. Transportation Disadvantaged Grant - Planning Grant Resolution - Fiscal Year 2015-16
- D. Transportation Disadvantage Program Local Coordinating Board Appointment

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

ACTION: Commissioner Patterson made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Spooner introduced new Council members, Commissioner Jason Evans from City of High Springs and Commissioner Everett Phillips from Columbia County.

B. Resolutions of Appreciation - Frank Ogborn

Chair Spooner asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for Frank Ogborn, who served as a Council member since January 2011.

ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wilford to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Frank Ogborn. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation
William Cummings
Donna Hagan
Betty Touma

ACTION: Ms. Lorene Thomas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation for the past services for William Cummings, Donna Hagan and Betty Touma. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Employee Certificate of Service - Steven Dopp - 30 Years

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Steven Dopp, who joined the Council Staff on January 2, 1985. Mr. Dopp currently serves as the Council's Senior Planner in Regional Planning, Economic Development and Transportation Programs. Chair Spooner presented a 30-year service Certificate of Service and a 30-year service pin to Mr. Dopp. Mr. Koons and Chair Spooner thanked him for his dedicated service to the Council.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - None

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Sandra Haas, Clearinghouse Committee Chair, reported that since the last Council meeting, the Council had received the following local government comprehensive plan amendment which was included on the Council agenda for consideration:

#35, City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment

In addition, she reported that the Council had received item #20, University of Florida Campus Master Plan Update, 2015 to 2025, for review and comment. She further reported that subsequent to the distribution of the Council meeting packets, the Council received the following late-arriving item which requires action prior to the next Council meeting:

#36, City of Jasper Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment.

She noted that a copy of the staff report for the late-arriving item was handed out at the Council meeting. She further noted that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier this evening and reviewed these items, the Committee found that item #20 the University of Florida Draft Campus Master Plan Update, as well as item #35 and #36 the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, would not be anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjoining local governments. Finally, she reported that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the University of Florida Board of Trustees, the respective local governments, and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Patterson, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning #20 University of Florida Draft Campus Master Plan Update, #35 - City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and #36 - City of Jasper Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Regional Planning Committee - Evaluation and Appraisal Report of
North Central Florida Regional Planning Policy Plan

Commissioner Beth Burnam, Regional Planning Committee Vice-Chair, reported that in a manner similar to the process required by local governments, every five years each regional planning council is required to perform an evaluation and appraisal of its Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The evaluation and appraisal process is a two-step process. The first step involves the preparation and adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report. The second step involves the preparation and adoption of amendments to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The purpose of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report is to evaluate the progress of the regional plan at achieving the goals and at implementing the policies contained in the plan. The Evaluation and Appraisal Report should identify those areas of the plan in need of revision based on new information, changes to Florida Statutes, or changing regional trends and conditions. Subsequent to the adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report, amendments may need to be prepared and considered by the Council for adoption based upon the recommendations contained in the Evaluation and Appraisal Report.

She reported that the Regional Planning Committee met on February 26, 2015 to continue its review of the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan focusing on the Affordable Housing Element. She further reported that the Committee will meet on March 26, 2015 to continue its review of the Plan focusing on the Economic Development Element.

VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Roni Jordan, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that the Northeast District continues to streamline permitting and review processes and provide assistance to permit holders and all regulatory customers to provide compliance assistance and outreach endeavors to ensure compliance with the Department's authorizations and regulatory requirements.

Jordan Green, Florida Department of Transportation, District 2 stated that Florida Transportation Plan sets priorities for the next 50 years. He explained that the Department has just started the five-year update of the Plan, along with the update of the Strategic Intermodal System Plan.

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

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 January 2015 monthly review report included in the Council meeting packet.

B. Chamber 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 February 2015 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2015 Legislative Session is scheduled to convene on March 3, 2015 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 1, 2015. He reviewed several bills that have been filed concerning regional planning councils and local governments. In particular, he discussed Senate Bill 484 by Senator Simpson that would delete all references to regional planning councils in all state statutes. In addition, he also discussed Senate Bill 562 by Senator Simpson that would have new proposed developments that would qualify as developments of regional impact only be subject to the state coordinated review process for comprehensive plan amendments and Senate Bill 832 by Senator Simpson that reduce the amount of information required by an applicant submitting a long-range master plan for a sector plan.

ACTION: Commissioner Cornell made the motion with a second by Commissioner Chestnut that the Council adopt a resolution opposing Senate Bill 832.

Following discussion, the maker and seconder of the motion agreed to withdraw the motion.

- D. Economic Development District Grantee Performance Report for the Period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

Mr. Koons stated that the Council is a federally designated economic development district by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. He reported that each year, the Council reports on job creation/retention, private sector investment and public sector investment for projects funded by the U. S. Economic Development District or other sources that implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy adopted by the Council.

He reported that for the period from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, an estimated 342 jobs were either created or retained, an estimated \$476,000,000 in private investment and an estimated \$21,000,000 in public investment occurred on five projects that implement the Strategy.

- E. Competitive Florida Partnership Program

Mr. Koons stated that last year the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity established the Competitive Florida Partnership Program to help rural communities value and market local assets and challenge them to set realistic goals for advancing their economic development vision. He reported that each year, the Department selects four rural communities to assist with designing and developing innovative strategies that promote partnerships, community design and a viable local economy thorough asset based economic development.

He further reported that the City of Starke has recently been selected as one of the four rural communities to participate in the second year of the Competitive Florida Partnership Program. He noted that the City of Newberry and the Town of White Springs were participating rural communities in the first year of the Program. He also noted that Council staff was a participating stakeholder in the processes with these communities and is also participating in the City of Starke process.

- 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 Stanley 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 a letter was sent to Wells Fargo on May 13, 2014 requesting additional information concerning the disputed check. On September 24, 2014 a Notice of Arbitration and Statement of Claim was filed with the American Arbitration Association by Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman on behalf of the Council. On October 14, 2014 attorneys from Wells Fargo filed a Respondent's Answering Statement to the Statement of Claim.

Council Attorney Wershow reported that an agreement has been reached with Wells Fargo concerning a mutually acceptable arbitrator, Robert Cowles from Jacksonville, FL. He further reported that a preliminary arbitration conference was held on February 2, 2015 and that the parties have agreed to schedule the arbitration hearing for May 11, 2015 in Gainesville.

Mr. Koons reported that a press release has been prepared and has been reviewed by Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Council Cushman. He further reported that the press release will be released next week to regional and state news media.

Mr. Koons reported that Michael DePalma, Associate Planner, will be leaving the employment of the Council on February 27, 2015.

Chair Spooner informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on March 26, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

3/26/15
Date




Serving
 Alachua • Bradford
 Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
 Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
 Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Monthly Financial Report - February 2015

Please find attached a copy of the Monthly Financial Report for the Council's activities for February 2015. The following paragraphs discuss revenues and expenditures to the budget for the month and year to date.

Revenue

The total revenue for the Council for year to date is within budgeted figures. Revenue at the end of five months is 28 percent of budget.

Expenditures

The total expenditures for the Council for year to date are within budgeted figures. Total expenditures at the end of five months is 38 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

o:\carol\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\monthlyfinancereportfeb15.docx

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
February 28, 2015

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking / Savings	978,742
Accounts Receivable	328,072
Other Current Assets	41,235
Total Current Assets	<u>1,348,049</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,348,049</u></u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	1,033
Other Current Liabilities	95,451
Total Liabilities	<u>96,484</u>
Equity	<u>1,251,565</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>1,348,049</u></u>

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
February 28, 2015

SUMMARY STATEMENT

	Adopted Budget FY 2014 - 15	February 2015	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Revenue	1,688,600	67	478,759	28%
Expenses	1,688,600	100,623	640,406	38%

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
February 28, 2015

REVENUE

Account	Adopted Budget FY 2014 - 15	February 2015	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Program Development	24,800	67	23,877	96%
Regional Planning				
Regional Planning & Review	40,000	0	40,017	100%
Public Safety & Regulatory Compliance				
Homeland Security Activities	23,700	0	0	0%
Hazardous Waste Monitoring	42,400	0	4,694	11%
Local Emergency Planning Committee	93,500	0	10,098	11%
Hazards Analyses	9,100	0	0	0%
Transportation				
Gainesville Urbanized Area Transportation Planning	502,000	0	112,911	22%
Gainesville Urbanized Area Mass Transit	212,300	0	0	0%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Alachua County	24,200	0	7,256	30%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Region	173,700	0	52,086	30%
Economic Development				
Comp Econ Development Strategy & Tech Assistance	108,000	0	60,770	56%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force Staffing	35,000	0	14,820	42%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	39,000	0	34,000	87%
Vision North Central Florida			2,500	
Local Government Assistance				
General Technical Services	10,000	0	10,004	100%
City & County Planning Services	291,700	0	99,705	34%
Community Development Block Grant Administration	59,200	0	6,021	10%
Total Revenue	1,688,600	67	478,759	28%

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
February 28, 2015

EXPENDITURES

Account	Adopted Budget FY 2014 - 15	February 2015	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Audit	15,000	0	0	0%
Building Occupancy & Grounds	31,000	2,082	18,372	59%
Contractual Services	20,000	2,708	19,244	96%
Dues, Publications & Subscriptions	50,000	881	43,894	88%
Furniture & Equipment	15,000	0	4,077	27%
Insurance and Bonding	18,000	0	12,373	69%
Legal Costs	14,000	1,267	12,320	88%
Machine Rental/Maintenance	5,000	0	1,973	39%
Meeting Expenses	19,000	0	6,386	34%
Moving Expense	2,000	0	0	0%
Office Supplies	21,000	873	7,750	37%
Personnel Costs	1,270,700	88,932	477,757	38%
Postage	8,000	502	2,027	25%
Printing	2,000	0	442	22%
Recruiting	2,000	0	60	3%
Reproduction	13,000	0	5,063	39%
Telephone	7,000	379	3,057	44%
Travel	98,000	2,999	25,611	26%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	39,000	0	0	0%
Contingency	38,900	0	0	0%
Total Expenses	1,688,600	100,623	640,406	38%




Serving
 Alachua • Bradford
 Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
 Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
 Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: U. S. Economic Development Administration
 Short-Term Planning and State Planning Grant Amendment

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit a six-month extension amendment for the Federal Assistance for a Short-Term Planning and State Planning Investment Grant awarded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$200,000 and authorize the Chair to execute the time extension.

BACKGROUND:

The Florida Regional Councils Association is undertaking a Leadership Training and Capacity Building for Statewide Economic Development initiative. Funding for this initiative has been provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration in the form of a Short-Term Planning and State Planning Grant in the amount of \$200,000 being matched with an additional \$50,000 of Florida Regional Councils Association funds for a total project cost of \$250,000.

In order to qualify for a 20 percent match level, a regional planning council, serving as a U.S. Department of Commerce designated economic development district, with at least one county with a per capita income that is equal to or less than 50 percent of the average national per capita income, had to file the grant application. The only two counties in Florida that meet this criteria are Lafayette County at 48.7 percent and Union County at 49.7 percent. Thus, the Council was the grant applicant for this project with the understanding that the Florida Regional Councils Association is providing the \$50,000 in matching funds.

In order to complete all activities pursuant to the Leadership Training and Capacity Building for Statewide Economic Development initiative, including the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Retreat, retreat report and action plan, it is recommended that a six-month time extension amendment be filed with the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

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

o:\carol\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\eda short term grant2015.docx




IV.C.

Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Florida Department of Transportation
Joint Participation Agreement and Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit a 12-month extension amendment for the Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation to provide support for transportation planning and regional visioning for Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties and adopt Resolution No. 2015-03 authorizing the Chair to execute an amendment to the Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

BACKGROUND:

As you know, the Council entered into a Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the Department to provide the Council support for transportation planning and regional visioning for Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. The Agreement also requires coordination with neighboring regional planning councils and adjoining counties. In order to coordinate the planning effort with the on-going Future Corridors studies of the Florida Department of Transportation, it is recommended that a 12-month time extension amendment be filed with the Florida Department of Transportation.

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

Attachment

o:\carol\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\fdotjointparticipationagreement2015.docx

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-03

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, 2015; 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 26th day of March 2015.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

IV.D.




Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program
Local Coordinating Board Membership Certifications

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Chair to sign the Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Madison and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Membership Certifications.

BACKGROUND:

The attached certifications are regarding Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes.

Please find attached the Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Madison and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Membership Certifications. These forms certify that the membership of the boards is established pursuant to Rule 41-2.012(3) of the Florida Administrative Code. These forms also certify that the membership of the boards represent, to the maximum extent feasible, a cross section of the local communities.

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

Attachments

t:\lynn\tdsp2015\vpclcbcert.docx

BRADFORD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION

Name: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Address: 2009 N.W. 67th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603

The Designated Official Planning Agency named above hereby certifies to the following:

1. The membership of the Local Coordinating Board, established pursuant to Rule 41-2.012(3), Florida Administrative Code, does in fact represent the appropriate parties as identified in the following list; and
2. The membership represents, to the maximum extent feasible, a cross section of the local community.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	ALTERNATE	TERM ENDING
Chairperson	Daniel Riddick	Tommy Chastain	No Term
Elderly	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2017
Disabled	Sherry Ruszkowski	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate	Patricia Bonesteel	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate/User	Patricia Fountain	Vacant	6/30/2015
Children at Risk	Alberta Hampton	Vacant	6/30/2016
Community Action	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2017
Public Education	Richard Sapp	Vacant	No Term
Department of Transportation	Sandra Collins	Janell Damato	No Term
Department of Children and Families	Amanda Bryant	Vacant	No Term
Department of Elder Affairs	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Department of Education	Jeffrey Aboumrad	Vacant	No Term
Agency for Health Care Administration	Alana McKay	Andrew Singer	No Term
Regional Workforce Development Board	Linda Tatum	Vacant	No Term
Veteran Services	Barbara Fischer	Vacant	6/30/2017
Local Mass Transit	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No Term
Transportation Industry	Steve Futch	Vacant	6/30/2016
Local Medical Community	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016

**COLUMBIA, HAMILTON AND SUWANNEE
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD
MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION**

Name: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Address: 2009 N.W. 67th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603

The Designated Official Planning Agency named above hereby certifies to the following:

1. The membership of the Local Coordinating Board, established pursuant to Rule 41-2.012(3), Florida Administrative Code, does in fact represent the appropriate parties as identified in the following list; and
2. The membership represents, to the maximum extent feasible, a cross section of the local community.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	ALTERNATE	TERM ENDING
Chairperson	Bucky Nash	Not Applicable	No Term
Local Elected Official	Beth Burnam	Not Applicable	No Term
Local Elected Official	Larry Sessions	Not Applicable	No Term
Elderly	Reverend Charles Burke	Vacant	6/30/2017
Disabled	Ralph Kitchens	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate	Jeanne d'Eauede	Louie Goodin	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate/User	LJ Johnson	Vacant	6/30/2015
Children at Risk	Colleen Cody	Audre J. Washington	6/30/2016
Community Action	Matthew Pearson	Vacant	6/30/2017
Public Education	Keith Hatcher	Vacant	No Term
Department of Transportation	Sandra Collins	Janell Damato	No Term
Department of Children and Families	Kay Tice	Jaime Sanchez-Bianchi	No Term
Department of Elder Affairs	Bruce Evans	Dwight Law	No Term
Department of Education	Jeff Aboumrad	Allison Gill	No Term
Agency for Health Care Administration	Alana McKay	Andrew Singer	No Term
Regional Workforce Development Board	Sheryl Rehberg	Jeannie Carr	No Term
Veteran Services	Clay Lambert	Ellis A. Gray, III	6/30/2017
Local Mass Transit	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No Term
Transportation Industry	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016
Local Medical Community	Sandra Buck Camp	Vacant	6/30/2016

**DIXIE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD
MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION**

Name: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
 Address: 2009 N.W. 67th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603

The Designated Official Planning Agency named above hereby certifies to the following:

1. The membership of the Local Coordinating Board, established pursuant to Rule 41-2.012(3), Florida Administrative Code, does in fact represent the appropriate parties as identified in the following list; and
2. The membership represents, to the maximum extent feasible, a cross section of the local community.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	ALTERNATE	TERM ENDING
Chairperson	Jason Holifield	Vacant	No Term
Elderly	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2017
Disabled	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate/User	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2015
Children at Risk	Tonya Hiers	Brooke Ward	6/30/2016
Community Action	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2017
Public Education	Tim Alexander	Vacant	No Term
Department of Transportation	Sandra Collins	Janell Damato	No Term
Department of Children and Families	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Department of Elder Affairs	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Department of Education	Jeff Aboumrad	Vacant	No Term
Agency for Health Care Administration	Alana McKay	Andrew Singer	No Term
Regional Workforce Development Board	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Veteran Services	Jerry Prater	Vacant	6/30/2017
Local Mass Transit	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No Term
Transportation Industry	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016
Local Medical Community	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016

**GILCHRIST COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD
MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION**

Name: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
 Address: 2009 N.W. 67th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603

The Designated Official Planning Agency named above hereby certifies to the following:

1. The membership of the Local Coordinating Board, established pursuant to Rule 41-2.012(3), Florida Administrative Code, does in fact represent the appropriate parties as identified in the following list; and
2. The membership represents, to the maximum extent feasible, a cross section of the local community.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	ALTERNATE	TERM ENDING
Chairperson	Marion Poitevint	Vacant	No Term
Elderly	Richard Esseck	Vacant	6/30/2017
Disabled	Leslie Esseck	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate/User	Jim McCrone	Vacant	6/30/2015
Children at Risk	Tonya Hiers	Brooke Ward	6/30/2016
Community Action	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2017
Public Education	Michelle Walker-Crawford	Julie C. Thomas	No Term
Department of Transportation	Sandra Collins	Janell Damato	No Term
Department of Children and Families	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Department of Elder Affairs	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Department of Education	Jeff Aboumrad	Vacant	No Term
Agency for Health Care Administration	Alana McKay	Andrew Singer	No Term
Regional Workforce Development Board	Jeannie Carr	Vacant	No Term
Veteran Services	Jim Mash	Vacant	6/30/2017
Local Mass Transit	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No Term
Transportation Industry	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016
Local Medical Community	Brittney Keeling	Krishna Stemple	6/30/2016

**LAFAYETTE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD
MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION**

Name: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
 Address: 2009 N.W. 67th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603

The Designated Official Planning Agency named above hereby certifies to the following:

1. The membership of the Local Coordinating Board, established pursuant to Rule 41-2.012(3), Florida Administrative Code, does in fact represent the appropriate parties as identified in the following list; and
2. The membership represents, to the maximum extent feasible, a cross section of the local community.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	ALTERNATE	TERM ENDING
Chairperson	Curtis Hamlin	Vacant	No Term
Elderly	Martha Humphries	Vacant	6/30/2017
Disabled	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate	Cindy Morgan	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate/User	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2015
Children at Risk	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016
Community Action	Ricky Lyons	Vacant	6/30/2017
Public Education	Ritchie Page	Vacant	No Term
Department of Transportation	Sandra Collins	Janell Damato	No Term
Department of Children and Families	Kay Tice	Vacant	No Term
Department of Elder Affairs	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Department of Education	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Agency for Health Care Administration	Alana McKay	Andrew Singer	No Term
Regional Workforce Development Board	Sheryl Rehberg	Anthony Jennings	No Term
Veteran Services	Carlton Black	Vacant	6/30/2017
Local Mass Transit	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No Term
Transportation Industry	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016
Local Medical Community	Ginger Calhoun	Vacant	6/30/2016

**MADISON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD
MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION**

Name: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Address: 2009 N.W. 67th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603

The Designated Official Planning Agency named above hereby certifies to the following:

1. The membership of the Local Coordinating Board, established pursuant to Rule 41-2.012(3), Florida Administrative Code, does in fact represent the appropriate parties as identified in the following list; and
2. The membership represents, to the maximum extent feasible, a cross section of the local community.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	ALTERNATE	TERM ENDING
Chairperson	Ronnie Moore	Vacant	No Term
Elderly	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2017
Disabled	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate	Shanetha Mitchell	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate/User	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2015
Children at Risk	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016
Community Action	Matthew Pearson	Vacant	6/30/2017
Public Education	Gladney Cherry	Vacant	No Term
Department of Transportation	Sandra Collins	Janell Damato	No Term
Department of Children and Families	Karen Page	Vacant	No Term
Department of Elder Affairs	Rosa Richardson	Vacant	No Term
Department of Education	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Agency for Health Care Administration	Alana McKay	Andrew Singer	No Term
Regional Workforce Development Board	Sheryl Rehberg	Anthony Jennings	No Term
Veteran Services	Oliver Bradley	Vacant	6/30/2017
Local Mass Transit	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No Term
Transportation Industry	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016
Local Medical Community	Leila Rykard	Kimberly Allbritton	6/30/2016

**UNION COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD
MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION**

Name: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
 Address: 2009 N.W. 67th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603

The Designated Official Planning Agency named above hereby certifies to the following:

1. The membership of the Local Coordinating Board, established pursuant to Rule 41-2.012(3), Florida Administrative Code, does in fact represent the appropriate parties as identified in the following list; and
2. The membership represents, to the maximum extent feasible, a cross section of the local community.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	ALTERNATE	TERM ENDING
Chairperson	Woody Kitler	Vacant	No Term
Elderly	Donald Petit	Vacant	6/30/2017
Disabled	Bill McGill	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate	Doyle Archer	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate/User	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2015
Children at Risk	Alberta Hampton	Vacant	6/30/2016
Community Action	Matthew Pearson	Vacant	6/30/2017
Public Education	Mike Pittman	Vacant	No Term
Department of Transportation	Sandra Collins	Janell Damato	No Term
Department of Children and Families	Jaime Sanchez-Bianchi	Vacant	No Term
Department of Elder Affairs	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Department of Education	Jeff Aboumrad	Vacant	No Term
Agency for Health Care Administration	Alana McKay	Andrew Singer	No Term
Regional Workforce Development Board	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Veteran Services	Barbara Fischer	Vacant	6/30/2017
Local Mass Transit	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No Term
Transportation Industry	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016
Local Medical Community	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016




Serving
 Alachua • Bradford
 Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
 Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
 Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Appointments

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint Kimberly Allbritton as the alternate Medical Community Representative on the Madison County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and appoint Sandra Buck-Camp as the voting Medical Community Representative on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND:

According to Rule 41-2.012 of the Florida Administrative Code, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency, is responsible for appointing members to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. It is recommended Kimberly Allbritton and Sandra Buck-Camp be appointed to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards.

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



Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 26, 2015

Ms. Kimberly Allbritton
218 SW Third Avenue
Madison, FL 32340

RE: Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program

Dear Ms. Allbritton:

This letter is in regard to Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. The purpose of this program is to assist individuals who are unable to transport themselves because of age, disability or income status.

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency, is responsible for appointing members to the Madison County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. The Council appointed you the alternate Medical Community Representative on the Board at its March 26, 2015 meeting. Your term of appointment will end June 30, 2016.

Enclosed is information about Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program. We look forward to working with you to successfully plan and coordinate transportation disadvantaged services. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Lynn Godfrey, Senior Planner, at extension 110.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Spooner
Chair

Enclosure

t:\lynn\appt2015\madison\apptletka.doc



Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 26, 2015

Ms. Sandra Buck-Camp
P. O. Box 3667
Lake City, FL 32056-3667

RE: Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program

Dear Ms. Buck-Camp:

This letter is in regard to Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency, is responsible for appointing members to the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

The Council appointed you the voting Medical Community Representative to the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board at its March 26, 2015 meeting. Your term of appointment will end June 30, 2016.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to successfully plan and coordinate transportation disadvantaged services. The next Coordinating Board meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner, at extension 110.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Spooner
Chair

Enclosure

t:\lynn\appt2015\colhamsuw\apptletbuckcamp.doc



V.B.

Serving

Alachua • Bradford

Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist

Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison

Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation - Charles Williams

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Charles Williams.

BACKGROUND:

As a token of appreciation for his service on the Council since January 2010 and in recognition of his commitment and concern for the growth and development of the north central Florida area, the attached resolution of appreciation is recommended for approval by the Council.

Attachment

o:\carol\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\williams c res memo.docx

Resolution

OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Charles Williams has served a gubernatorial appointee from Hamilton County on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2010;

WHEREAS, Charles Williams has ably discharged his duties throughout his association with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Charles Williams for the dedicated service he has rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, and for his concern for the future growth and development of this area 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 region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Charles Williams.

Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

ATTEST:

Rick Davis, Secretary-Treasurer

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING
OF March 26, 2015.






V.C.

Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached resolutions of appreciation for Jeanne d'Eauede, Alicia Fowler, Casey Ladd and Cara Ladnyk.

BACKGROUND:

The attached resolutions of appreciation are regarding Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. Jeanne d'Eauede served as the Citizen Advocate on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since June 2013. Alicia Fowler served as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Dixie and Gilchrist County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since September 2014. Casey Ladd served as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Bradford, Dixie and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since June 2014. Cara Ladnyk served as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Bradford, Gilchrist and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since December 2014.

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

Attachments

t:\lynn\appt2015\rpcresmemo032615.docx

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, Jeanne d'Eauede has served as the Citizen Advocate on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since July, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne d'Eauede ably discharged her duties as the Citizen Advocate on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee 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 Jeanne d'Eauede for the dedicated service she rendered to the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, and for her concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties 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 Jeanne d'Eauede.

Carolyn B. Spooner., Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

March 26, 2015

Date

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Alicia Fowler has served as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Dixie and Gilchrist County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since September 2014; and

WHEREAS, Alicia Fowler ably discharged her duties as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Dixie and Gilchrist 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 Alicia Fowler for the dedicated service she rendered to the Dixie and Gilchrist County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards, and for her concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Dixie and Gilchrist Counties 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 Alicia Fowler.

Carolyn B. Spooner Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

March 26, 2015

Date

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Casey Ladd has served as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Bradford, Dixie and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since June 2014; and

WHEREAS, Casey Ladd ably discharged her duties as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Bradford, Dixie 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 Casey Ladd for the dedicated service she rendered to the Bradford, Dixie and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards, and for her concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Bradford, Dixie and Union Counties 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 Casey Ladd.

Carolyn B. Spooner Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

March 26, 2015

Date

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Cara Ladnyk has served as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Bradford, Gilchrist and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since December 2014; and

WHEREAS, Cara Ladnyk ably discharged her duties as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Bradford, 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 Cara Ladnyk for the dedicated service she rendered to the Bradford, Gilchrist and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards, and for her concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Bradford, Gilchrist and Union Counties 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 Cara Ladnyk.

Carolyn B. Spooner Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

March 26, 2015

Date



VI.B.

Serving

Alachua • Bradford

Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist

Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison

Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Sandra Haas, Chair
Clearinghouse Committee

RE: Chair's Report

I. COMMITTEE-LEVEL REVIEW ITEMS

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Clearinghouse Committee is 6:00 p.m., March 26, 2015 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.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

- #37 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 14-1ESR)
- #38 - City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 15-1ER)
- #39 - City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 15-1ER)

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).

v:\chouse\meeting\chairreport.docx



VI.C.

Serving

Alachua • Bradford

Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist

Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison

Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report

In a manner similar to the process required by local governments, every five years each regional planning council is required to perform an evaluation and appraisal of its Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The evaluation and appraisal process is a two-step process. The first step involves the preparation and adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report. The second step involves the preparation and adoption of amendments to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The purpose of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report is to evaluate the progress of the regional plan at achieving the goals and at implementing the policies contained in the plan. The Evaluation and Appraisal Report should identify those areas of the plan in need of revision based on new information, changes to Florida Statutes, or changing regional trends and conditions. Subsequent to the adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report, amendments may need to be prepared and considered by the Council for adoption based upon the recommendations contained in the Evaluation and Appraisal Report.

The Regional Planning Committee met on February 26, 2015 to continue its review of the plan focusing on the Affordable Housing Element. The Committee will meet on March 26, 2015 to discuss the Economic Development Element.

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

o:\carol\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\srpp ear memo3-19-15mtg -.docx




Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 87th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Overall Program Design for Fiscal Year 2015-16

The Program Committee will be meeting on March 26, 2015 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 28, 2015 Council meeting.

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

o:\carol\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\opd memo 2015-16.docx




Serving
 Alachua • Bradford
 Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
 Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
 Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity 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 February 2015 Monthly Activity Report highlighting the activities of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven.

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

Attachment

o:\carol\council.mtg\cne\mtgmemos\frcamonthlyreportmarch2015.docx



Sheri Coven
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
sheri.coven@flregionalcouncils.org
(850) 294-0526

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: February 2015

OUTREACH

- Developed and issued FRCA's Winter 2015 electronic newsletter, which focused on RPC "tools in the toolbox," economic modeling, and promotion of the FRCA annual report.
- Arranged a meeting between Bryan Koon, Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and Brian Teeple, Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Florida Regional Council and Chair of the FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee, as well as Chris Rietow, Executive Director of the Apalachee RPC, to discuss funding for hazardous analyses and the implications of Senate Bill 484 on RPC emergency management functions.
- With confirmed support from the West Florida and Apalachee RPCs, sent a letter to Sherri Martin, Chief of the Bureau of Economic Development, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, supporting redesignation of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Opportunity (formerly known as the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern).
- Continued to reach out to staff from the Florida Department of Transportation, District 3, to encourage their continuation of the District's transportation planning contracts with the Apalachee and West Florida Regional Planning Councils.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in or attending the following: a meeting of the Rural Economic Development Initiative, Florida Defense Support Task Force, Safe Mobility for Life Coalition, and Florida State Emergency Response Team Stakeholders Group, as well as Enterprise Florida, Inc.'s monthly teleconference.
- Attended a meeting of the Florida Department of Transportation's Florida Transportation Plan/Strategic Intermodal System Plan Update Steering Committee.
- Attended the American Planning Association, Florida Chapter's annual Public Policy Workshop.
- Attended and helped staff the Florida Civic Advance inaugural annual conference, which was an initiative of the Florida Consensus Center.
- Distributed funding announcements from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Transportation, and U.S. Economic Development Administration.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Helped FRCA's Executive Director, Ron Book, and Brian Teeple, Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Florida Regional Council and Chair of the FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee, craft a letter to the Governor explaining the role and value of RPCs.
- Attended/monitored numerous committee meetings in the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives and reviewed and summarized relevant pieces of legislation as needed.
- Created and distributed two Legislative Highlights reports covering four 2015 Interim Committee Weeks and issued several iterations of FRCA's bill tracking report.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Updated the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs job description to reflect practices that have evolved over the past three years and recognize the existence of and need to implement FRCA's first Strategic Operating Plan.
- Updated the FRCA Website to address regular maintenance issues and post meeting agendas and summaries.
- Prepared for and participated in the February 12-13 FRCA meetings.
- Finalized the logistics, secured speakers, developed agendas, and drafted meeting summaries for the March 12-13, 2015 FRCA meetings.



Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

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 March 2015 Scorecard.

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

Attachment

o:\carol\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\flchamberscorecardmar15.docx

THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

The Metrics that Help Florida Leaders Secure Florida's Future

[Search the Scorecard](#)
[Log In to Your Scorecard](#)
[HOME](#)
[ABOUT THE FOUNDATION](#)
[TRUSTEES](#)
[BLOG](#)

[Current News](#)
[2030 Metrics](#)
[County Data](#)
[Interactive Chart](#)
[My Metrics](#)
[Tourism Indicators](#)

Since 2010, Florida's Private Sector Businesses Created 651,300 Jobs for Florida Families

DID YOU KNOW? Florida job creators added 12,800 private-sector jobs over the month of September which helped lower Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to 6.1%, down two basis points to one of the lowest since the recession began. Nine of the ten major industries across Florida experienced positive over the year job growth through September, with only government employment showing a decline over the year. In September, 66 of Florida's 67 counties saw unemployment drop.

Since December of 2010, Florida has added 651,300 private-sector jobs and we have dropped five percentage points in unemployment, reducing Florida's unemployment rate from 11.1% to 6.1%. Our state has experienced 50 consecutive months of positive job growth and Florida's annual job growth rate has been better than the nation's rate since April of 2012.

Forecasts from the July meeting of the Florida Economic Estimating Conference suggest that, assuming no significant changes, Florida is forecasted to add approximately 200,000 over the year as it marches back to its peak employment by 2016.

As we project forward to 2030, population growth and demographic changes are going to play a big part in Florida's future workforce. Based on Florida Chamber Foundation estimates, we will need to create close to two million net new jobs across the state to maintain a six percent unemployment rate. "The kind of jobs we create will define the kind of Florida we live in," said Chamber Foundation Executive Vice President Tony Carvajal. "As the global landscape continues to evolve and Florida positions itself as the leading place for talent and economic opportunity, we will need to maintain a focus on the diversification of our economy in every community in order to achieve global competitiveness, high wage jobs, and vibrant and sustainable communities."

Is your community experiencing the benefits of the economic recovery of the last four years? What kind of activities would you like to see the state continue, or avoid, as we continue our growth? How is your community and industry preparing for the economy of tomorrow? Tell us your story



Employment - Monthly

Florida Net 12-Month Job Creation



206.9K



SCORECARD NEWSLETTER

Provide your email address to receive monthly Scorecard updates

SUBSCRIBE

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...



Serving
 Alachua • Bradford
 Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
 Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
 Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

The 2015 regular Legislature session convened on March 3, 2015 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 1, 2015. The legislative interim Committee schedule was, as follows:

- Week of January 5, 2015
- Week of January 20, 2015
- Week of February 2, 2015
- Week of February 9, 2015
- Week of February 16, 2015

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

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

Senate Bill 484 by Senator Simpson relates to regional planning councils. Requires the state land planning agency to identify parties that may enter into mediation relating to the compatibilities of developments with military installations; requires electric utilities to notify the county, rather than the regional planning council, of its current plans to site electric substations; authorizes local governments to enter into agreements to create regional planning entities; revises the requirements for the statewide emergency shelter plan to include general location and square footage of special needs shelters by county rather than by regional planning council region. **Referred to Community Affairs Committee; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development; and Appropriations Committee. Passed Community Affairs Committee as an amended Committee Substitute. The bill is now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development.**

This bill as amended removes regional planning councils from certain state statutes and transfers their duties and responsibilities to other entities.

House Bill 873 by Representative Mayfield relates to regional planning councils. Repeals provisions creating regional planning councils and regional planning agencies; repeals provisions specifying duties of such councils and agencies; transfers duties formerly performed by such councils and agencies to state land planning agency or local governments, as appropriate and; authorizes local governments to create regional planning entities. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in the Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT

Senate Bill 562 by Senator Simpson relates to developments of regional impact. Requires plan amendments proposing a development that qualifies as a development of regional impact to be subject to the state coordinated review process; provides that new proposed developments are subject to the state coordinated review process and not the development of regional impact review process. **Referred to Community Affairs Committee; Transportation Committee; and Rules Committee. Passed by Community Affairs Committee. The bill is now in the Transportation Committee.**

House Bill 579 by Representative Gaetz relates to developments of regional impact. Requires plan amendments for developments that are developments regional impact to follow the state coordinated review process; provides that certain proposed developments that are considered developments regional impact are subject to the state coordinated review process and not the developments regional impact review process. **Referred to the Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

SECTOR PLANS

Senate Bill 832 by Senator Simpson relates to sector plans. Requires that comprehensive plan amendments that propose an amendment to an adopted sector plan follow the specified state-coordinated review process; establishes that this section is intended to promote development of a long-term vision for conservation, development and agriculture on a landscape scale; provides that an applicant may request a preapplication conference with the local government that has jurisdiction before filing an application for a detailed specific area plan, subject to certain requirements; requires the applicant for a detailed specific area plan to transmit copies of the application to specified reviewing agencies for review and comment. **Referred to Community Affairs Committee Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee and Fiscal Policy Committee.**

House Bill 933 by Representative LaRosa relates to sector plans. Revises provisions regarding adopted sector plans; long-term master plans, and specific area plans; revises dates for recording conservation easement for certain lands; authorizes certain water permit durations to be commensurate with certain development orders; provides permitting criteria in certain situations; clarifies public interest test; specifies rule of statutory construction. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee and State Affairs Committee. The bill is now in the Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY WEB PAGE

House Bill 75 by Representative Combee relates to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity web page. Requires the Department to create a web page accessible through its internet website that provides certain information; provides purpose of web page; requires the Department to collect all local business information available to the Department; requires the Department to request relevant local government to provide any otherwise unavailable information; requires local governments to provide notice of changes in information collected by the Department; authorizes local government entities to provide summary that includes certain information for the Department's web page.

The new website is to be solely dedicated to the collection and publication of data and information that are relevant and of significance to the creation of new business within the state or the expansion of existing businesses within the state. The purpose for doing so is to (a) provide a comprehensive overview of conditions that exist within the various cities and counties of the state that are conducive or advantageous to the creation of new businesses or the expansion of existing businesses; (b) enable prospective employers both within and outside the state to effectively and accurately evaluate the business climate of cities and counties within the state; and (c) provide prospective business owners and operators and cities and counties within the state with immediate access to specific charges and costs related to the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a business in any city or county within the state. The Department is given until January 1, 2016 to collect the data then post it to its web page "as soon as practicable." The bill includes a lengthy list of the specific information that is to be collected. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local Government Affairs Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

Senate Bill 232 by Senator Hays relates to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Requires the Department to create a web page accessible through its internet website that provides certain information; provides the purpose of the web page. **Referred to Commerce and Tourism Committee; Community Affairs Committee; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Committee; and Fiscal Policy Committee.**

FREIGHT LOGISTICS ZONES

House Bill 257 by Representative Ray relates to freight logistics zones. Defines freight logistics zone, authorizes county or two or more contiguous counties to designate geographic area or areas 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 defines a freight logistic zone as a grouping of activities and infrastructure associated with freight transportation and related services within a defined area around intermodal logistics center as defined in Section 311.101(2), Florida Statutes. It allows a county or two or more contagious counties to designate a geographic area or areas within its jurisdiction as a freight logistics zone. The designation must include a strategic plan adopted by the county(ies) that includes a map depicting the geographic area of the jurisdiction and identification of existing or planned freight facilities or logistics clusters; existing transportation infrastructure; existing workforce availability; existing planned local, state, or federal workforce training capabilities; any local, state, or federal plans concerning the movement of freight; and financial or other local government incentives to encourage new development, expansion of existing development, or redevelopment with the proposed zone. The plan must include documentation that it is consistent with applicable local government comprehensive plans and adopted metropolitan planning organizations long-range transportation plans. Projects within these zones that are consistent with the state's Freight Mobility and Trade Plan may be eligible for priority state funding and incentives. Criteria for determining that eligibility are included in the bill. **Referred to the Transportation and Ports Subcommittee; and Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee. Passed by Transportation and Ports Subcommittee; and Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee. Passed by House of Representatives.**

Senate Bill 956 by Senator Simpson relates to freight and logistics. 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 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; and provides evaluation criteria for freight logistics zones. **Passed by Community Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development.**

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

House Bill 551 by Representative Perry relates to private property rights. 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 Government Affairs Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

Senate Bill 1424 by Senator Evers relating to property rights. Requires local governments to address the protection of private property rights in their comprehensive plans; requires comprehensive plans to include a property rights element that addresses certain objectives; and requires counties and municipalities to develop regulations consistent with this element within a specified timeframe. **Referred to Community Affairs Committee; Judiciary Committee; and Fiscal Policy Committee.**

WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION AMENDMENT

Senate Bill 586 by Senator Dean relates to water and land conservation constitutional amendment. Provides that specified distributions to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund are not subject to the service charge under Section 215.20 Florida Statutes repeals provisions relating to beach erosion control project staffing, funding for the state beach management plan, and the Florida Preservation 2000 Trust Fund; requires specified public recreation projects to have been selected through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's competitive selection process prior to the release of funds. **Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; and Appropriations Committee. Passed by Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government as an amended Committee Substitute, and Appropriations. The bill is now in Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee.**

House Bill 1291 by Representative Boyd relates to the water and land conservation constitutional amendment. Terminates obsolete trust funds and provides for disposition of balances; revises distributions of documentary stamp tax revenues into certain trust funds; revises distributions of revenues upon sale of certain lands; reenacts the Land Acquisition Trust Fund; deletes obsolete provisions relating to use of bond and trust funds proceeds; and conforms provisions. **Passed by Agricultural and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee. The bill is now in the Appropriations Committee.**

AGRITOURISM

Senate Bill 594 by Senator Stargel relates to agritourism. Prohibits a local government from enforcing an ordinance, regulation, rule or policy that prohibits restricts, regulates, or otherwise limits an agritourism activity on land classified as agricultural land. **Referred to Agriculture Committee; Community Affairs Committee; and Rules Committee. Passed by the Agriculture Committee, Community Affairs Committee; and Rules Committee. This bill is now on Senate Calendar for Second Reading.**

House Bill 569 by Representative Combee relates to agritourism. Prohibits local governments from enforcing local ordinances, regulations, rules, or policies that prohibit, restrict, regulate, or otherwise limit agritourism activities on land classified as agricultural land. **Passed by Local Government Affairs Subcommittee as an amended Committee Substitute.**

WATER CONSERVATION

House Bill 605 by Representative Porter relates to water conservation. Authorizes local governments to adopt certain residential and nonresidential landscape irrigation conservation measures; authorizes water management district governing boards and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to issue water shortage notice in public information release and post such notice on the district's or the Department's website; directs water management district governing boards in affected and adjacent counties to issue certain orders and provide certain notice when emergency conditions exist due to water shortage. **Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee; Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; and State Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee.**

There is no companion Senate bill.

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




IX.D.

Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Governor Scott Letter Concerning Regional Planning Councils

As you know, Governor Rick Scott had requested certain information concerning regional planning councils. In response to the Governor's request, the attached letter from Ronald Book, Executive Director, Florida Regional Councils Associations, dated February 17, 2015, was sent to the Governor.

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

Attachment

o:\carol\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\govscottletter.docx

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.



Ronald L. Book, P. A.
LAW OFFICES
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

February 17, 2015

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL

Dear Governor Rick Scott:

Thank you for meeting with Senator Simpson and me on February 3, 2015. In response to your questions, I put together these brief answers that will demonstrate why regional planning councils (RPCs) are not only the logical but the necessary and appropriate entity to carry out the functions described below.

What are RPCs and What do They do?

RPCs have existed throughout the Nation since the 1950s to meet local needs and administer certain federal programs. Today there are approximately 550 organizations similar to Florida's RPCs throughout the U.S.

Florida's RPCs are state sanctioned associations of local governments that are governed by Boards of Directors comprised of 2/3 local elected officials and 1/3 gubernatorial appointees.

RPCs perform the following primary functions:

- They serve as sub-state program/policy delivery entities for state and federal government, including:
 - serving as the state's Local Emergency Planning Committees;
 - administering the transportation disadvantaged program in rural areas of the state on behalf of the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged; and,
 - administering federal revolving loan funds, including those for Brownfields, that result in job creation.
- They provide technical assistance to their local governments, including:

REPLY TO:

- ☐ Harbour Centre - 18851 N.E. 29th Avenue, Suite 1010 - Aventura, Florida 33180 - Telephone (305) 935-1866 - Fax (305) 935-9737
- ☐ 104 West Jefferson Street - Tallahassee, Florida 32301 - (850) 224-3427

The Honorable Rick Scott
Florida's Regional Planning Councils
February 17, 2015
Page 2 of 6

- regional economic impact analysis modeling to help local governments and economic development organizations make decisions regarding incentives for new or expanding economic development projects;
 - grant writing and administration to bring economic development and infrastructure funds to the state, such as the one written by the North Central Florida RPC that secured over \$4 million in infrastructure grants to help enable Klausner Lumber One locate on the Suwannee County Catalyst Site and one written by the Treasure Coast RPC that resulted in a \$364,000 grant to the City of Fellsmere to build critical roadway infrastructure for Florida Organic Aquaculture; and,
 - developing local mitigation strategies that must be in place to receive federal mitigation assistance program funds resulting from presidential disaster declarations.
- They are the “conveners of their regions” to address issues that are of greater-than-local concern, including:
 - the regional forums held by the RPCs in FY 2011-12 on behalf of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to gather suggested strategies and recommendations to support development of the *State Strategic Plan for Economic Development*; and,
 - the 90 public meetings and workshops with community leaders and elected officials conducted by the Treasure Coast RPC since 2012 to gather public input pertaining to All Aboard Florida.

Generally RPCs' program/policy functions fall into the following three major categories:

- Economic Development/Job Creation
- Emergency Preparedness Planning, Training & Exercise
- Land Development and Growth Related Activities

Additional RPC programs are typically dictated by local needs and priorities and include, but are not limited to, transportation, affordable housing, leadership development, and tourism development.

Why are RPCs Necessary and Non-Duplicative?

As noted earlier, with 550 similar regional organizations around the Nation, states/local governments have found RPCs to be important and necessary. RPCs provide a cost-effective and efficient mechanism for sub-state program delivery, which saves state

The Honorable Rick Scott
Florida's Regional Planning Councils
February 17, 2015
Page 3 of 6

resources. Working through the eleven RPCs is much more cost-effective than working directly with 67 counties and 410+ municipalities.

RPCs provide services not offered by any other organization in the state, such as providing economic modeling for local government incentives, resolution of disputes among units of government and serving as the state's Local Emergency Planning Committees. Resources are simply too slim to allow for any duplication of effort and our state and federal partners recognize this and make assignments in accordance with it.

With regard to the three program/policy functions mentioned above, the RPCs' responsibilities are unique and not performed elsewhere, as explained below:

1. Economic Development/Job Creation – each RPC is a designated Economic Development District by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This provides a means for providing technical assistance to our Economic Development Organizations/local governments and an avenue to access federal economic development funds. Over the past ten years RPCs' leveraged over \$600 million in private sector investment, creating nearly 5,000 jobs and retaining over 10,000 jobs with limited funding from the EDA.

While it is possible that another entity could seek an EDA designation were the RPCs to abdicate their role, the law requires that the applicant be a public organization formed through an inter-governmental agreement for the joint exercise of local government powers; a public organization established under State-enabling legislation for the creation of multi-jurisdictional area-wide planning organizations; or, a non-profit organization incorporated under the applicable non-profit status of the State in which it is incorporated. The EDA has a standing practice of designating RPCs as Economic Development Districts and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity would not be an allowable applicant under the law.

In addition, it would take several years to designate new entities due to the requirements in Title 13, Part 304, resulting in lost opportunities to bring in and administer EDA grants to support job creation in the state, such as the EDA grant recently awarded for Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute, which is being administered by the Apalachee RPC. There would also be the additional cost of time and resources that would have to be invested in training new staff and satisfying the requirements in the law, including the development of an EDA approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

The Honorable Rick Scott
Florida's Regional Planning Councils
February 17, 2015
Page 4 of 6

All eleven RPCs perform economic modelling services for their local governments, Economic Development Organizations and the private sector. This function is critical in determining the return on investment for providing local government incentives for job creating projects. The cost of owning these models would be prohibitive for many local governments. In addition, RPCs are often asked by Economic Development Organizations to launch and sustain regional initiatives such as "Innovate Northeast Florida" – a joint project between the Northeast Florida RPC and JAXUSA Partnership to catalyze job growth and talent development in the region.

2. Emergency Preparedness Planning, Training and Exercise – this area will be discussed below.
3. Land Development and Growth Related Activities – In accordance with the Community Planning Act, RPCs' review proposed local government comprehensive plan amendments for extra-jurisdictional impacts and impacts to identified resources and facilities of regional significance. This function is not duplicated elsewhere and provides a valuable service to the state and its local governments by encouraging cooperation and impact avoidance. RPCs are also an invaluable source of data and technical assistance to the state and local governments in accommodating growth and development.

What is the RPCs Role in Hurricane Preparedness?

RPCs play a major role in Disaster Preparedness, which includes hurricanes, dating back to the 1970s. Regional evacuation studies have historically been conducted by the RPCs under contract with and at the direction of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM). In 2007, all eleven RPCs conducted the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program, under the direction of DEM, and in 2010, produced eleven Regional Evacuation Studies using the same data sets, methodologies and state-of-the-art predictive modelling tools. This program placed Florida far ahead of the rest of the Nation in hurricane preparedness and was recognized by the American Planning Association in 2012 with its National Planning Excellence Award for Best Practices in Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning.

These evacuation studies provide the data and information necessary for County Emergency Management Departments (often with the help of their RPC) to develop operational evacuation plans.

Disasters, whether natural or man-made, are regional events by nature and it requires a regional perspective in preparing for them. RPCs are the logical partner to both DEM and the counties when preparing for these types of events. RPCs have the in-house

The Honorable Rick Scott
Florida's Regional Planning Councils
February 17, 2015
Page 5 of 6

expertise and understanding of their communities to fine tune approaches to prepare for, deal with and recover from disasters.

What is the RPCs Role in Hazardous Materials?

Following the passage of the Florida Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1988, the State decided to implement the federally required Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) at the regional level. DEM partnered with the RPCs to provide staff support to the LEPCS. As LEPCs, the RPCs provide the following three pronged approach to create state-of -the-art Hazardous Materials Plans:

- Public Outreach and Technical Assistance
- Hazards Analysis/HazMat Planning Projects
- Training/Exercises

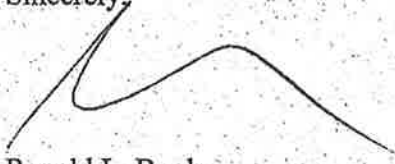
Florida is recognized as having the leading hazardous materials planning process in the Nation making disastrous outcomes, such as that experienced recently at the West Texas fertilizer plant, a far less likely possibility.

Florida's RPCs provide valuable, efficient and cost-effective functions to the State of Florida and the 477+ local governments they serve, saving both resources and personnel at the state and local level. By their nature, they are not duplicative as their partners, again at the local and state levels, do not and would not assign them duties that were being undertaken elsewhere. The work conducted by the RPCs is at an economy of scale that could not be achieved by any other organizations in the state.

The Honorable Rick Scott
Florida's Regional Planning Councils
February 17, 2015
Page 6 of 6

Please let me know what further questions you may have or additional information you may need. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald L. Book', with a stylized, sweeping line extending from the end of the name.

Ronald L. Book
Executive Director
Florida Regional Councils Association

RLB:rpl

cc: Kim McDougal, Ph.D., Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Senator Wilton Simpson



Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

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

SUBJECT: Congressman Yoho Letter Concerning Innovation Award

As you know, the Council received a National Association of Development Organizations 2014 Innovation Award in cooperation with partner organization the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Organization for developing a method to use geographic information system data to evaluate the success of safety improvements on the highway system. Please find attached a letter from Congressman Ted Yoho congratulating the Council for receiving the Innovation Award.

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

Attachment

o:\carol\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\tedyoholetter.docx

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.

TED S. YOHO, DVM
3RD DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0903

WASHINGTON OFFICE
511 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-5744
FAX: (202) 225-3973

GAINESVILLE OFFICE
5000 NW 27TH COURT, SUITE E
GAINESVILLE, FL 32606
PHONE: (352) 505-0838
FAX: (352) 505-3511

ORANGE PARK OFFICE
1213 BLANDING BOULEVARD
ORANGE PARK, FL 32065
PHONE: (904) 276-9626
FAX: (904) 276-9336

yoho.house.gov

February 19, 2015

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
c/o Scott Koons
2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653

Dear North Florida Regional Planning Council,

Congratulations on receiving the National Association of Development Organizations' 2014 Innovation Award. Your work in improving transportation safety has had phenomenal results and will continue to have a lasting impact on our community.

Reducing the number of transportation related injuries and fatalities is always a priority. Living in and representing most of the North Florida Region, I have been able to witness the various highway safety improvements you have implemented. And although your work may not receive the recognition it deserves, the entire Third District of Florida is grateful for what you do.

Once again, congratulations on receiving this award. Continue to strive to make North Florida the best it can be and I am confident you will continue to succeed. It is an honor to serve as your Representative in Congress and I look forward to witnessing your continued success.

Sincerely,

Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress
Proudly Serving Florida's 3rd District



Serving
 Alachua • Bradford
 Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
 Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
 Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

March 19, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

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.

A letter was sent to Wells Fargo on May 13, 2014 requesting additional information concerning the disputed check. On September 24, 2014 a Notice of Arbitration and Statement of Claim was filed with the American Arbitration Association by Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman on behalf of the Council. On October 14, 2014 attorneys from Wells Fargo filed a Respondent's Answering Statement to the Statement of Claim.

Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman have coordinated with the attorney of Wells Fargo on the selection of an arbitrator and on January 8, 2015 mutually agreed to American Arbitration Association Arbitrator Robert Cowles of Jacksonville, FL. On February 2, 2015 a preliminary arbitration conference was held via teleconference. The arbitrator and parties have agreed to schedule the arbitration hearing for May 11, 2015 in Gainesville, FL.

On March 3, 2015, the attached press release concerning the check fraud incident was issued to regional and state news media.

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.

Attachments

o:\carol\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\wellsfargo lawsuitmarch2015.docx



Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

NEWS RELEASE

ATTENTION: NEWS DIRECTOR

DATE: March 3, 2015
CONTACT: Scott Koons
Executive Director, ext. 101
E-MAIL: koons@ncfrpc.org

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wells Fargo Bank Denies Responsibility for Releasing Funds Impacting Taxpayers

Gainesville, FL - It is a case of identity theft that could impact taxpayers in Alachua and surrounding counties. This fraudulent check writing scheme involves the most profitable bank in the country and a small taxpayer-funded government agency in Gainesville. Two years ago, Wells Fargo Bank accepted and cashed a fraudulent check written on the account of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, in the amount of \$49,523.00. Today, Wells Fargo Bank is still refusing to do anything about the thievery. Wells Fargo Bank released almost \$50,000 of taxpayers' money without a proper signature and failed to comply with their own written agreement requiring the Council to be contacted prior to negotiating the fraudulent check.

The Chair of the Council, Starke City Commissioner Carolyn Spooner, says, "The Council had no choice but to unanimously vote to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo Bank in an attempt to recover the missing funds." The lawsuit was filed nearly two years ago and authorities with Wells Fargo Bank are still denying responsibility for the 2013 fraudulent transaction. Currently, the matter of the missing taxpayers' dollars is in binding arbitration. Chair Spooner says, "We feel that Wells Fargo Bank is ignoring our plea and costing us additional taxpayers' dollars in our attempt to recover funds released through an obvious banking error."

Council Attorney Jonathan Wershow points out, "There were at least five things about the check that indicated it was not a valid check. The check did not bear the signature or even the forged signature of an authorized signatory on the account, the check number was significantly out of sequence, the agency name was misspelled and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Bank number was incorrect. The check was made payable to a limited liability corporation, but endorsed by an individual with no identified account to which the check was to be deposited."

Shortly after the fraudulent check was cashed, the Council filed an affidavit of check fraud with Wells Fargo Bank and a police report with the Gainesville Police Department as well as requesting an investigation by the State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The Council works in partnership with local governments and economic development organizations to promote regional strategies, partnerships and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life of the residents in 11 counties and 33 incorporated municipalities in the north central portion of the state. The counties include, Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton,

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.

- ✧ Lafayette, Madison Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties. The Council is made up of gubernatorial appointees and local elected officials.

An arbitration hearing on the matter is set for May 11, 2015.

For more information, please contact Scott Koons, Executive Director, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council at 352-995-2200, ext. 101 or koons@ncfrpc.org.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Wells Fargo Lawsuit
Legal Fees

March 19, 2015

<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	\$2,502
April 2014	\$2,669
May 2014	\$2,970
June 2014	\$6,515
July 2014	\$330
August 2014	\$420
September 2014	\$810
October 2014	\$3,429
November 2014	\$0
December 2014	\$2,295
January 2015	<u>\$454</u>
 Total	 \$33,825