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MEETING NOTICE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on April 23, 2015. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida at 6:00 p.m.

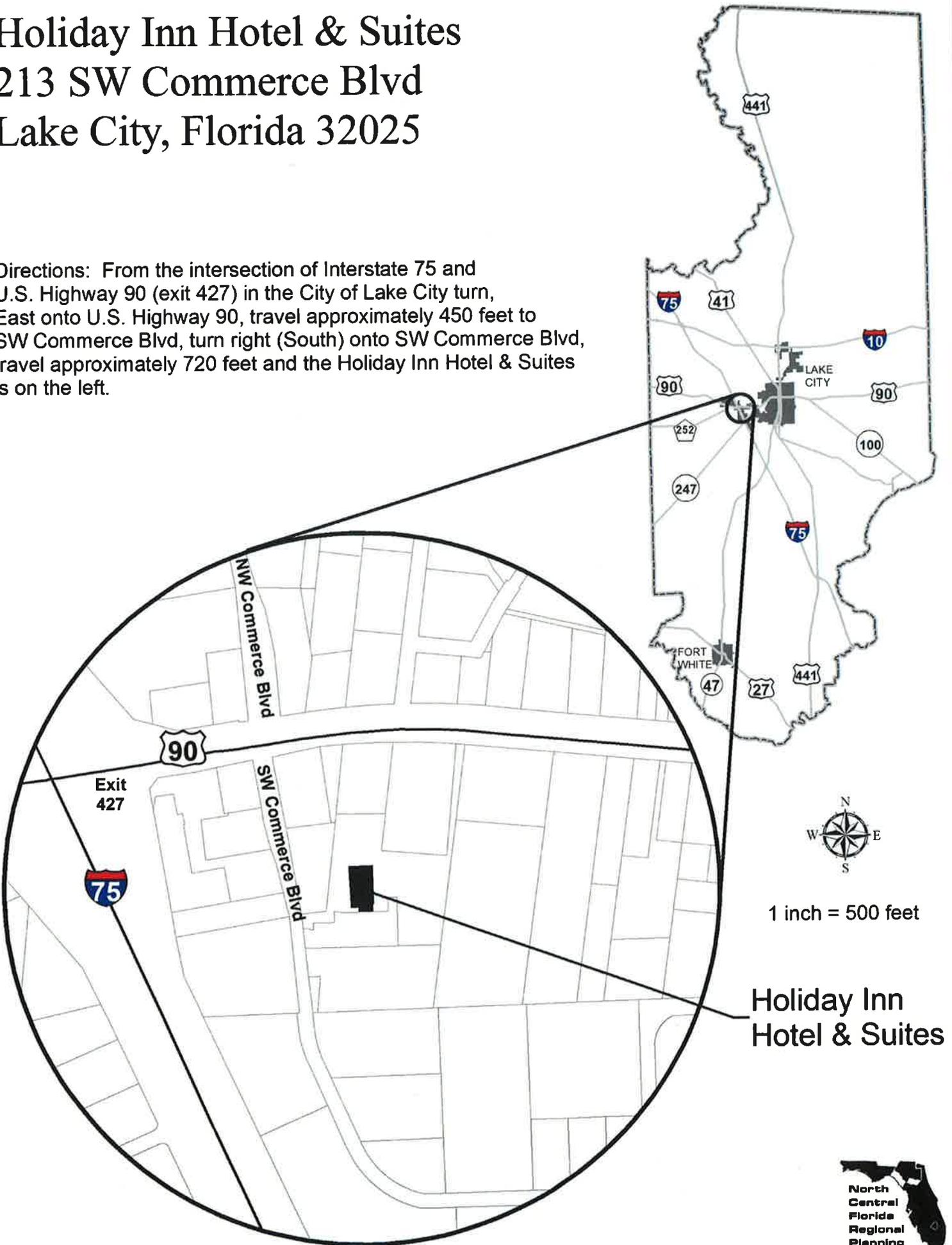
(Location Map on Back)

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

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd
Lake City, Florida 32025

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





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AGENDA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

April 23, 2015
6:00 p.m.

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VI. OTHER BUSINESS - Florida Regional Council Association Policy Board Meeting - Altamonte Springs - July 10, 2015	

* See Attachments

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

March 26, 2015
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rick Davis, Secretary-Treasurer
Garth Nobles, Jr., Immediate Past Chair
Daniel Riddick, Vice-Chair
Carolyn Spooner, Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Scott R. Koons

Chair Carolyn Spooner called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 26, 2015

Chair Spooner asked that the minutes for the February 26, 2015 Executive Committee meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mayor Nobles made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Riddick to approve the minutes for February 26, 2015 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

II. CONTRACTS AND APPLICATIONS -

A. U.S. Economic Development Administration
Short Term Planning and State Grant Agreement

ACTION: Commissioner Davis made the motion, with a second by Mayor Nobles to recommend that the Council 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. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Florida Department of Transportation
Joint Participation Agreement and Resolution

ACTION: Commissioner Riddick made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Davis to recommend that the Council 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. The motion carried unanimously.

III. PROGRAM REPORT

A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Membership
Certifications

ACTION: Mayor Nobles made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Riddick to recommend that the Council 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. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointment

ACTION: Commissioner Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Riddick to recommend that the Council 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. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Koons updated the Committee on the status of several legislative bills of interest to regional planning councils.

V. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - A. Check Fraud Status

Mr. Koons updated the Committee concerning the status of the \$49,523.00 check fraud issue with Wells Fargo.

V. OTHER BUSINESS - None

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

4/23/15
Date



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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Concerning Regional Economic Modeling, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to sign an amendment to the memorandum of agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for an additional year as a user of the Regional Economic Modeling, Inc., for a fixed fee amount of \$4,500.

BACKGROUND:

In 2005, the Council entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council to be a user of the Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. economic impact model. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is a licensed user of the model by Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is authorized to issue user rights to other parties subject to collection of a fee to be paid to Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. At this time, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is proposing to extend the Council's existing memorandum of agreement for a one-year period for a fixed fee of \$4,500.

The Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. model is based upon an input-output engine and provides the Council, our local governments, economic development agencies and others with a dynamic tool for economic and demographic analysis and forecasting. It uses national data calibrated for the region, but also can accept local data sets to enhance its accuracy. This model can review system-wide effects over both short- and long-range time horizons, include economic and fiscal impact analyses, policy impact analyses and economic development/redevelopment analyses. The model can be configured to either address the entire region of any number of county-based subsets of the region, as well as including counties in adjacent regions.

Council staff has used this model to evaluate the impact of several projects throughout the region. Examples of projects include a hotel in the City of Gainesville, an advertising agency in Alachua County, a sanitary sewer system in the City of Archer, a food processing plant in the City of Newberry, a computer technical support call center and manufacturing facilities in Columbia County, a hypothetical manufacturing plant in Gilchrist County, an ethanol plant in Hamilton County, a refrigerated container manufacturing plant in Madison County, a manufacturing facility and a sawmill plant in Suwannee County and an electric power generating plant in Taylor County.

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

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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

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

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Appointment

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint Andrew Singer as the voting Agency for Health Care Administration Representative on the Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Madison and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards.

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 Andrew Singer be appointed as the voting Agency for Health Care Administrative Representative to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards for Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette Madison and Union Counties.

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



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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proclamation Declaring May 2-10, 2015 as Travel and Tourism Week

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached proclamation declaring the week of May 2-10, 2015 as Travel and Tourism Week.

BACKGROUND:

The Original Florida Tourism Task Force was created as a task force of the Council 23 years ago. It is now an 11-county independent tourism marketing interlocal agreement organization. The mission of the Original Florida Tourism Task Force is to “Promote the natural, historic, and cultural attractions of the north central Florida region to increase the number of visitors and extend their stay. The goal is to enhance the area’s economy, image, and quality of life through expanded revenues and employment opportunities. At the same time, the region will encourage the preservation of the resources which bring focus to the area.”

The week of May 2-10, 2015 is *National Travel and Tourism Week* as declared by the Travel Industry Association. Activities are planned throughout the United States and Florida to support and celebrate the tourism industry.

It is recommended that the Council adopt the attached proclamation declaring the week of May 2-10, 2015 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida.

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

Attachment

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PROCLAMATION

DECLARING MAY 2-10, 2015 AS TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS, tourism brings over 97 million visitors annually to the State of Florida, generates over \$4.6 billion in annual sales tax revenues and employs over 1.1 million persons;

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby declares the week of May 2-10, 2015 as Travel and Tourism Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 23rd day of April 2015.

ATTEST:

Rick Davis, Secretary-Treasurer

Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

SEAL:



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April 16, 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 COUNCIL FUNDING

The Governor did not recommend any funding for regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2015-16. The House of Representatives adopted budget does not include any funding for regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2015-16. The Senate adopted budget includes \$200,000 in funding for all 11 regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2015-16. The Council's share of the \$200,000 in funding would be approximately \$15,000.

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; and Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development as an amended Committee Substitute. The bill is now in Appropriations Committee. (The provisions of the bill have been added to Senate Bill 1216.)**

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. (The provisions of this bill have been added to House Bill 933.)**

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; Transportation Committee and Rules Committee. The bill is now on Senate calendar for Second Reading. (The provisions of this bill have been added to Senate Bill 1216.)**

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. (The provisions of this bill have been added to House Bill 933.)**

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. Passed by Community Affairs Committee; and Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee. The bill is now in Fiscal Policy Committee. (The provisions of this bill have been added to Senate Bill 1216.)**

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, State Affairs Committee; and Economic Affairs Committee. Passed by Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now pending House of Representatives action.

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 contiguous 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; and Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development. The bill is now on the Senate Calendar for Second Reading.**

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 development 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; Appropriations; Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee. The bill is now on the Senate Calendar for Second Reading.**

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; and Appropriations Committee. The bill has been laid on the table on Third Reading.**

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. The bill is now on House Calendar for Third Reading.**

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.



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April 16, 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.

February 19, 2015

Page 2

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

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Wells Fargo Lawsuit
Legal Fees

April 16, 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	\$454
February 2015	<u>\$2,978</u>
Total	\$36,803