

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
FULL COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

April 26, 2007  
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County  
Rick Bryant, City of Gainesville  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
**David Dodge, Bradford County**  
**Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville**  
**Roy Ellis, Madison County**  
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County  
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County  
**Randy Hatch, Suwannee County**  
**John Hersey, Bradford County**  
**Emily Weed Ketring, City of Perry**  
Buddy Lamb, Dixie County  
**Eddie Martin, Alachua County**  
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville  
**Charles Maultsby, Taylor County**  
**Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak**  
Gerald O'Neil, Alachua County  
Rudolph Parker, Taylor County  
James Painter, Alachua County  
**Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County**  
Tracy Reeves, Madison County  
Andrew Smith, Union County  
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke  
**Lorene Thomas, Dixie County**  
**Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County**  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

GUESTS PRESENT

Rep. Dennis Baxley  
Diana Davis  
Peggy Hersey  
Corinne Mixon, Aide to Rep. Baxley  
Bo Taff, Foley Timber  
Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Alcantar, City of Archer  
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville  
Martha Butler, Hamilton County  
Mike Byerly, Alachua County  
Cynthia Chestnut, Alachua County  
Melaine Clyatt, Union County  
Gib Coerper, City of Alachua  
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County  
**Dixie Donovan, Columbia County**  
Kirk Eppenstein, City of High Springs  
John Glanzer, City of Newberry  
D. Ray Harrison, Gilchrist County  
Matthew Hawkins, City of Jasper  
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville  
John Martin, City of Hawthorne  
Heather Neill, Lafayette County  
Frank Urban, Alachua County  
**Myra Valentine, City of Madison**  
Ronald Williams, Columbia County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Henderson, FL Dept. of Transportation  
Jim Poole, Enterprise Florida

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp  
Scott Koons  
Carol Laine  
Jayne Moraski  
Rachel Smith

**Board Members names are bolded**

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. with an invocation given by Mayor Davis, and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Thomas stated that there was a quorum of the Council and all Council members were able to vote.

Mayor Ketring introduced and welcomed Representative Dennis Baxley from House District 24, Corinne Mixon, Aide to Representative Baxley and Bo Taff from Foley Timber.

Representative Baxley briefly spoke to Council members stating that he plans to run for the Florida Senate seat in District 3, which includes Baker, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee and Taylor Counties.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 22, 2007

Chair Thomas asked that the minutes of the March 22, 2007 meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION: Mr. Smith made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2007 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Board Membership Certifications for Bradford and Union Counties
- B. Community Development Block Grant Administrative Services Agreement - Lake City
- C. Agreement with Apalachee Regional Planning Council - Health-Related Exercises
- D. Agreement with Northeast Regional Council - Terrorism-Related Exercises
- E. Contract with Florida Department of Community Affairs for Technical Assistance Services - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report
- F. Contract with Florida Department of Community Affairs for Technical Assistance Services - State Road 26 Regional Transportation Advisory Group

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

**ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Resolution of Appreciation - Mary Bristow

Chair Thomas asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for Ms. Mary Bristow, who served as a member of Union County's Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

**ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Pinkoson, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Ms. Bristow. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Employee Health Insurance Renewal Proposal

Scott Koons, Executive Director, stated that Blue Cross and Blue Shield has proposed a decrease in health insurance premiums for the coming year. The total decrease in cost to the Council for the coming year will be \$663.15 per month, or a decrease of about 8.9 percent. He added that the total monthly cost to the Council will be \$6,812.27. Mr. Koons stated that the decrease in premiums proposed for the coming year, as was done with the increase in premiums last year, will be shared between the Council and staff on the standard ratio of 75 percent and 25 percent.

Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council renew the employee health, dental and life insurance package with Blue Cross and Blue Shield for the year beginning June 1, 2007.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hatch made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Parker, to renew the employee health, dental and life insurance package with Blue Cross and Blue Shield for the year beginning June 1, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Transportation Disadvantaged Program - 2007-2008 Planning Grant Resolution

Mr. Koons stated that the Council is the designated official planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes for Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Union Counties. He stated that the designated official planning agency's responsibilities include Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards with sufficient staff support and resources to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities and that the Council receives approximately \$17,000 per county on a cost reimbursement basis to provide these services.

Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council approve a resolution authorizing the filing of the 2007-2008 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant application for Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Union Counties.

**ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson made the motion, with a second by Mr. Dodge, to approve a resolution authorizing the filing of the 2007-2008 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant application for Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Union Counties. The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Contract with North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc. for Staff Services

Mr. Koons stated that the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, was created last year to facilitate the retention and expansion of existing businesses in the north central Florida area, as well as the recruitment of new businesses. He stated that the Partnership desires to engage the Council to render certain technical or professional services, including providing office space, telephone reception and secretarial services, acting as the administrative entity to receive and accept in furtherance of the Partnership functions, funds and to expend such funds to further the objectives of the Partnership, and providing technical and professional assistance to the Partnership in implementing its strategic action plan to promote economic development and increase employment opportunities in the region. Mr. Koons added that the services will be provided to the Partnership on a cost reimbursement basis in a manner similar to the services the Council provides to the Original Florida Tourism Task Force.

Mr. Koons reported that the Executive Committee recommended that the Chair be authorized to execute a recurring agreement with the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc. to provide staff services on a cost reimbursement basis.

Mr. Jim Poole briefly discussed the role of the Partnership in bringing additional employment opportunities to the north central Florida region. He stated that a meeting will be held in the Lake City Community College at 8:30 a.m. on May 7, 2007 to discuss the location options for the catalyst sites in the region.

**ACTION: Dr. O'Neil made the motion, with a second by Mayor Spooner to authorize the Chair to execute a recurring agreement with the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc. to provide staff services on a cost reimbursement basis. The motion carried unanimously.**

4. North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc. Contribution

Mr. Koons reported that the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc. has requested financial contributions from both the public and private sectors to fund its operations and that the requested contribution from the Council is \$15,000 which would be matched by a Florida Rural Regional Development Grant from the Governor's Office of Tourism Trade and Economic Development. He added that with these funds, the Partnership will develop and implement a strategic action plan to promote economic development and increase employment opportunities in the region.

Mr. Koons stated that at the last meeting the Council had tabled this item until further information was received from the Partnership concerning how those funds would be expended. He stated that the Executive Committee recommended bringing this request back to the Council for consideration. He stated that the Executive Committee further recommended that the Council approve the Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget amendment appropriating \$15,000 for the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc. to be funded by transferring \$15,000 of Member Dues from the Economic Development Program budget line item to a line item appropriating \$15,000 for the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hatch made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Pinkoson to remove from the table the request for a \$15,000 contribution from the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc. to provide staff services on a cost reimbursement basis. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION: Mr. Dodge made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bryant to approve a Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget amendment appropriating \$15,000 for the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc. to be funded from Economic Development Program Member Dues. The motion carried unanimously.**

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Clearinghouse Committee Chair Sandra Haas, reported that the Clearinghouse Committee members met earlier in the evening with a quorum and reviewed one Committee-level item which requires Council action. The reviewed item was:

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

#54 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 07-1 & 07RAEC2)

Ms. Haas stated that, with regard to Item #54 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, the Committee found that the County Comprehensive Plan, as amended by County items CPA 06-1 and CPA 06-2, remained consistent with the regional plan. The Committee found that County item CPA 05-7 was inconsistent with Regional Goal 5.1 and Regional Policy 5.1.9 due to adverse impacts to a segment of the regional road network. However, she stated that this insufficiency was not enough to find the County Comprehensive Plan, as amended by County item CPA 05-7, inconsistent with the regional plan. Therefore, the Committee found that the County Comprehensive Plan remained consistent with the regional plan. Ms. Haas stated that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the County and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

**ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #54. The motion carried unanimously**

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee - Process Overview Presentation

Ms. Jayne Moraski, Economic Development Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the process being used by the Council for developing and adopting a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. She reported that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee would develop and recommend a strategy to bring before the Council for approval at their meeting in June. She stated that last year 24 projects were approved by the Council. She added that in accordance with U.S. Economic Development Administration requirements, this year

only four or five projects would be included in the report and stated that only those projects included in the report will be considered for allocation of funds by the Economic Development Administration. Ms. Moraski reviewed the sections which must be included in the strategy report and answered questions from Council members.

Chair Thomas thanked Ms. Moraski for her presentation.

## VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Legislative Update

Mr. Koons reported that there are several issues concerning regional planning councils that may be considered by the Legislature during the 2007 regular legislative session. He stated that the Legislature has increased the annual appropriation for regional planning councils from \$3.3 million to \$3.7 million, which is an increase of 12%. He reported that the increase to the Council is approximately \$28,000. The increased funding will be considered by the Senate and House Appropriations Committees during the legislative session.

Mr. Koons reported that Representative Cannon has introduced legislation in the form of a Proposed Committee Bill on Growth Management. He stated that this bill addresses transportation proportionate share and the establishment of a three year pilot program for densely developed communities, including Broward and Pinellas Counties and the cities of Miami, Tampa, Jacksonville, Hialeah and Tallahassee. He stated that these communities would be exempt from state review but not exempt from regional review for a three year period.

Mr. Koons stated that the filing period for the capital improvements element amendments to city and county comprehensive plans is proposed to be extended one year to December 1, 2008 in both the House and Senate bills.

Mr. Koons reported that the proposed pilot communities legislation is being revised to add language stating that regional planning councils cannot review and comment on comprehensive plan amendments that they prepared unless the amendments have been changed by the local government.

### B. I-75 Highway Beautification Concept Plan Project

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Department of Transportation is planning to undertake a series of beautification projects along I-75 from the Georgia state line to the intersection with Florida's Turnpike at Wildwood. He stated that the projects are a result of a settlement between the Federal Highway Administration and the Florida Department of Transportation resulting from the Department

allowing 181 nonconforming billboards to be reconstructed following the hurricanes of 2004 and that the Department has agreed to spend \$15,000,000 to acquire and remove approximately 150 nonconforming billboards along I-75. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize staff to invite Ms. Juanice Hagan, Project Manager, from the Florida Department of Transportation to give a presentation describing this project and how local governments can participate in the decision-making process.

**ACTION: Mr. Dodge made the motion, with a second by Mayor Spooner, to authorize staff to invite Ms. Juanice Hagan from the Florida Department of Transportation to give a presentation describing the I-75 Beautification Concept Plan Project. The motion carried unanimously**

Mr. Koons reported that there will be a public hearing concerning SpringHills Development of Regional Impact located in Alachua County on May 1, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sante Fe Community College gymnasium.

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Department of Community Affairs contacted staff and requested that the Council co-host a workshop on the evaluation and appraisal report process for comprehensive plans. The workshop was held in Branford on April 25, 2007 for Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Madison and Taylor Counties.

Mr. Koons stated that Mr. Steve Dopp of the Council staff prepared an Office of Tourism and Economic Development Infrastructure Fund grant in the amount of \$207,000 for the City of Lake City's wastewater treatment plant and sprayfield project. He added that Community Development Planner, Ms. Martha Orthoefer, prepared a \$750,000 Community Development Economic Development Grant for a turn lane, force line and lift station for the Target Distribution Center in Lake City. Both local governments recently received notice of funding approval for these projects.

Mr. Koons stated that the Council has hired three interns for the summer to work in the local government programs division and also introduced and welcomed Ms. Rachel Smith, who joined the Council on April 30, 2007 in the Finance Department as an Accounting Clerk.

Chair Thomas introduced and welcomed Mr. Bo Taff from Foley Timber. Mr. Taff stated that Foley Timber is the second largest land owner in the state. He stated that Taylor County is focusing on economic development activities in order to build a better sustainable quality of life for the County and its inhabitants. The Board of County Commissioners have been asked to adopt a resolution to develop a 50 year vision on how to address these goals. He informed Council members that a kickoff for the community will be held on May 17, 2007 and that the Florida Department of Community Affairs and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection have been invited to attend.



Chair Thomas stated that the next Council meeting would be held at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center in Lake City on May 24, 2007. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

  
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Chair

5/24/07  
Date