

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

April 24, 2008
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Rick Bryant, City of Gainesville
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
David Dodge, Bradford County
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Randy Hatch, Suwannee County
John Hersey, Bradford County
Roberta Hodges, City of Archer
Eddie Martin, Alachua County
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Rudolph Parker, Taylor County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne
Tracy Reeves, Madison County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County
Ronald Williams, Columbia County

GUESTS PRESENT

Patricia Bouie, City of Hawthorne
Kent Cichon, City of Jasper
George Curtis, City of Live Oak
Ann Lessman, City of Jasper

COUNCIL ATTORNEY ABSENT

Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
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
Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville
Kirk Eppenstein, City of High Springs
John Glanzer, City of Newberry
D. Ray Harrison, Jr., Gilchrist County
Schervin Henry, City of Gainesville
Emily Weed Ketring, City of Perry
Buddy Lamb, Dixie County
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville
James Painter, Alachua County
Andrew Smith, Union County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Barney Bennette, representing Charles
Baldwin, FL Dept. of Transportation
Jim Poole, Enterprise Florida

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Jayne Moraski
Jean Strong

Board Members names are bolded

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. with an invocation given by Mayor Davis, and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Ellis stated that there was a quorum of the Council and all Council members were able to vote.

Chair Ellis asked that Item VI.B.4 - #110 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report be added to the agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Hatch made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Parker, to add Item VI.B.4 - #110 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed Mayor Ann Lessman and Kent Cichon, City Manager from the City of Jasper, Commissioner Patricia Bouie from the City of Hawthorne and Barney Bennette from the Florida Department of Transportation. Mayor Nobles introduced George Curtis, Development Manager, for the City of Live Oak.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 27, 2008

Chair Ellis asked that the minutes of the March 27, 2008 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hatch, to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2008 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program
- B. Northeast Florida Regional Council Regional Evacuation Study Agreement
- C. Northeast Florida Regional Council Homeland Security Training and Exercise Plan Revised Agreement
- D. Rural Communities Comprehensive Planning Assistance Revised Agreement - Madison County Fiscal Year 2007-08

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

ACTION: Commissioner Parker made the motion, with a second by Ms. Haas, to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Introduction of New Members

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

V. PRESENTATION - AN OVERVIEW OF THE NORTH FLORIDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Ms. Jayne Moraski, Economic Development Program Director for the Council, who presented a PowerPoint presentation on the progress that the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc. has made during the past year in meeting their goals and objectives. She stated that in 2003, Governor Bush designated the 14 counties in north central Florida as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern including Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties. She stated that the Partnership was formed to carry out the economic development programs identified for the north central Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern. She stated that the Council provides staff support to the Partnership through a staff services agreement. She identified some of these programs as developing a regional website, attendance at trade shows to promote the region, and improving the economic climate for existing businesses in the region.

Chair Ellis thanked Ms. Moraski for her presentation.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Transportation Disadvantaged Program - 2008-09 Planning Grant Resolution

Mr. Koons stated that the Council is the designated official planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program which was established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. He stated that the responsibility of the planning agency is to provide the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities. He stated 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 Resolution 2008-03 authorizing the filing of the 2008-09 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant application for Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette,

Madison, Suwannee and Union Counties, authorize the Chair to sign the grant application, assurances and agreements or contracts, and authorize the Executive Director to sign invoices, warranties and certifications for the program.

ACTION: Commissioner Parker made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to approve Resolution 2008-03 authorizing the filing of the 2008-09 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant application for Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Union Counties, authorize the Chair to sign the grant application, assurances and agreements or contracts, and authorize the Executive Director to sign invoices, warranties and certifications for the program. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution Recognizing Service of Jerry Scarborough

Mr. Koons stated that Jerry Scarborough was retiring as Executive Director of the Suwannee River Water Management District and that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council approve Resolution 2008-04 recognizing his distinguished leadership and service as a dedicated public servant from 1990 to 2008.

ACTION: Mr. Maulsby made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to approve Resolution 2008-04, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, recognizing the service of Jerry Scarborough as Executive Director of the Suwannee River Water Management District. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Proclamation Declaring May 10-18, 2008 as Tourism Awareness Week

Mr. Koons stated that the Original Florida Tourism Task Force was created as a part of the Council 15 years ago. He reported that the mission of the 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." Mr. Koons added that the week of May 10-18, 2008 is National Tourism Week as declared by the Travel Industry Association. He further stated that to support and celebrate the tourism industry, the Executive Committee recommended that the Council adopt a proclamation declaring the week of May 10-18, 2008 as Tourism Awareness Week.

ACTION: Mr. Dodge made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas, to adopt a proclamation, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, declaring the week of May 10-18, 2008 as Tourism Awareness Week. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Employee Insurance Renewal Proposal

Mr. Koons reported that Blue Cross/Blue Shield has offered to continue health insurance coverage for the Council with an increase in premiums for the coming year beginning June 1, 2008. The total increase in cost to the Council for the coming year would be \$2,524.35 per month, prior to any previous year savings rebate to participants, or an increase of about 31.9 percent. He stated that the resulting total monthly cost to the Council would be \$10,429.19.

Mr. Koons stated that in response to this proposed increase, he had secured alternative proposals from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and all of the alternatives reduced benefits provided to the participants. The plan that best balances benefit reductions with lower premiums was Plan 3260; however, it increases the deductible and out-of-pocket maximums for participants. He stated that the total monthly increase to the Council for this plan would be \$8,391.16 or a 6.1 percent increase.

Mr. Koons reported that, after reviewing the options available from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the Executive Committee recommended extending the current Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance contract for 90 days in order for the Executive Director to negotiate with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to obtain a more favorable proposal to be considered by the Council at its May 22, 2008 meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to extend the current Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance contract for 90 days and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to obtain a more favorable proposal to be considered by the Council at its May 22, 2008 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Chair Sandra Haas presented the Committee report. She stated that members of the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening with a quorum present and reviewed three agenda items and Item #110 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan

Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report, which was added to the agenda. She stated that these items would be grouped for purposes of presentation.

#107 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 08-1)

#108 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 08-1)

Chair Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found no significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, or adjoining local governments and that the Comprehensive Plans, as amended, remained consistent with the regional plan. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding the findings and recommendations contained in the staff reports for these two items to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Chair Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hatch, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #107 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 08-1) and Item #108 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 08-1). The motion carried unanimously.

#109 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (08-2)

Chair Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found the comprehensive plan, if amended as proposed, would remain consistent with the regional plan. Nevertheless, she reported that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding an Objection and Recommendation regarding potential adverse impacts to segments of the regional road network as a result of the amendment. She added that the Clearinghouse Committee also recommended the preparation of an Objections, Recommendations and Comments Report to address this Concern. Chair Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding the findings and recommendations contained in the staff report to the County and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Chair Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #109 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 08-2). The motion carried unanimously.

#110 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report (added to agenda)

Chair Haas stated that the last item reviewed by the Clearinghouse Committee was #110, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report. She reported that the Clearinghouse Committee found no significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, or adjoining local governments as a result of recommendations contained in the report and found the report consistent with the regional plan. Chair Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding the findings and recommendations contained in the staff report to the County and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Chair Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bryant to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #110 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons stated that the Legislature is dealing with an estimated \$4 billion shortfall in revenue for Fiscal Year 2008-09. He reported that the Senate budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09 included a \$2.5 million appropriation for all 11 regional planning councils; however he added that the House budget does not include any funding for regional planning councils. He reported that after review by the legislative appropriations conference committee last week, the budget amount agreed upon was \$2.42 million. Mr. Koons reported that the Council's share of the budget would be approximately \$172,000, which was the funding level received during Fiscal Year 2005. He added that it is anticipated that the final budget will be adopted prior to the Legislature adjourning on May 2, 2008.

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association Framework for Florida's Planning Reform: Connecting Planning to Visioning which was prepared by the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee and reviewed by the Florida Department of Community Affairs Growth Management Advisory Committee would not be considered during this legislative session. However, he stated that one of the proposals from the Florida Regional Councils Association Advisory Committee to increase the review period for comprehensive plan amendments from 30 days to 45 days was included in both Senate Bill 474 and House Bill 7129.

Mr. Koons reviewed several of the growth management provisions included in Senate Bill 474. He stated that House Bill 7129 also addresses a broad range of growth management issues.

B. SpringHills Comprehensive Plan Amendments for the Development of Regional Impact Lawsuit Status Report

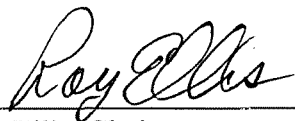
Mr. Koons reported that on December 6, 2007 Circuit Court Judge Roundtree dismissed the case filed by the plaintiff against the County and the Council and gave the plaintiff an opportunity to refile their motion. However, the written order dismissing the case was not filed until March 27, 2008. On February 29, 2008, the Plaintiff prematurely filed a first amended Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief. The Council attorney, in conjunction with the Alachua County attorney, filed a Motion to Dismiss the amended lawsuit on April 18, 2008. As of this date, a hearing has not yet been scheduled by the court to hear the Motion to Dismiss.

C. Rural Tourism and Economic Development Summit

Mr. Koons reported that VISIT FLORIDA, in partnership with Florida's Freshwater Frontier, Enterprise Florida and Progress Energy, is hosting the 3rd Annual Rural Tourism and Economic Development Summit on May 4-6, 2008 at the Four Points by Sheraton Chateau Elan located in Sebring, Florida. He added that the registration deadline is April 25, 2008.

Mr. Koons reported that Council staff held a preliminary meeting with representatives from Creekside at Beville Run, a residential and commercial development of regional impact located in the City of Gainesville west of the University of Florida campus with approximately 3,000 dwelling units and 200,000 square feet of retail space. He also reported that Council staff attended a meeting where representatives from Heritage Ranch discussed a residential, commercial and industrial development of regional impact in the City of Newberry and Gilchrist County consisting of 10,000 dwelling units, a retail component and an industrial/warehousing component.

Chair Ellis announced that the next meeting of the Council will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City on May 22, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



Roy Ellis, Chair

5/22/08

Date

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-04

**RECOGNIZING SERVICE OF
JERRY SCARBOROUGH**

AS

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Jerry Scarborough has provided 18 years of distinguished leadership and service as Executive Director of the Suwannee River Water Management District;

WHEREAS, Jerry Scarborough served as Chairman of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council from 1979-80;

WHEREAS, Jerry Scarborough served as Chairman of the Suwannee River Resource Planning and Management Committee;

WHEREAS, Jerry Scarborough was a recipient of the 1000 Friends of Florida Bill Sadowski Leadership Award; and


WHEREAS, Jerry Scarborough retired as Executive Director of the Suwannee River Water Management District in 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby recognizes the outstanding contributions made to the communities and citizens of north central Florida by Jerry Scarborough as a dedicated public servant.


DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 24th day of April 2008.

Attest:
SEAL

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL



Myra Valentine
Secretary-Treasurer



Roy Ellis
Chairman

P R O C L A M A T I O N

DECLARING MAY 10-18, 2008 AS TOURISM AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, tourism generates an estimated \$3.9 billion in sales tax revenues to the State of Florida;

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

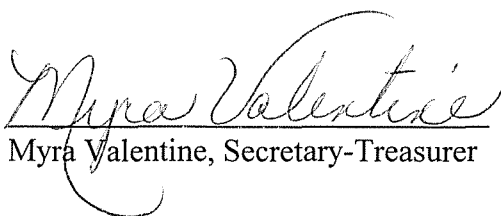
WHEREAS, local governments, businesses, chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council are working together to support this vital part of north central Florida's economy and all who play a role in tourism to ensure that north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

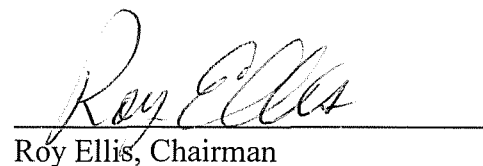
NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby declares the week of May 10-18, 2008 as Tourism Awareness Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 24th day of April 2008.

ATTEST:

SEAL


Myra Valentine, Secretary-Treasurer


Roy Ellis, Chairman