

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

December 4, 2008
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gib Coerper, City of Alachua
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Dixie Donovan, Columbia County
David Dodge, Bradford County
Roy Ellis, Madison County
John Glanzer, City of Newberry
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
John Hersey, Bradford County
Eddie Martin, Alachua County
Charles Maulsby, Taylor County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne
Andrew Smith, Union County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

GUESTS PRESENT

Steve Baltzley, City of Lake City
Hon. Debbie Boyd, Representative
District 11
Sam Donovan
Lowell Garrett, City of Newberry
Buddy Haas
Randy Hatch
Blanch Parker, City of Archer
Scott Reynolds, City of Lake City
Byran Williams, City of High Springs

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Cynthia Chestnut, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville
D. Ray Harrison, Jr., Gilchrist County
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville
Emily Weed Ketring, City of Perry
Ann Lessman, City of Jasper
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville
James Painter, Alachua County
Rudolph Parker, Taylor County
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Tracy Reeves, Madison County
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County
Ronald Williams, Columbia County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Jordan Green, representing Charles Baldwin,
FL Dept. of Transportation

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Jean Strong

Board Members names are bolded

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Due to former Council member and Chair Randy Hatch not being re-elected to his county commission seat in Suwannee County, Vice-Chair Myra Valentine, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. with an invocation given by Eddie Martin, and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Acting Chair Valentine stated that there was a quorum of the Full Council and all Council members were able to vote.

Acting Chair Valentine introduced and welcomed Archer City Commissioner Blanch Parker and High Springs City Commissioner Byran Williams. Ms. Sandra Haas introduced her husband, Buddy Haas. Scott Reynolds, City Manager from the City of Lake City introduced Steve Baltzley, Lake City Natural Gas Director, Mayor Glanzer introduced Lowell Garrett, City Planner for the City of Newberry and Ms. Dixie Donovan introduced her son, Sam Donovan.

II. LEGISLATIVE GUEST SPEAKER - Honorable Debbie Boyd,
Florida House of Representatives District 11

Acting Chair Valentine introduced Debbie Boyd, representing District 11, of the Florida House of Representatives, including Gilchrist, Lafayette and Suwannee Counties and portions of Alachua, Columbia and Dixie Counties. Representative Boyd discussed programs she has supported and has been involved with during the past legislative session and identified two bills she sponsored which became law. She informed the Council that the next legislative session will see more budget cuts and then spoke about issues that she felt would be important to north central Florida in the future. Acting Chair Valentine thanked Representative Boyd for her presentation.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 23, 2008

Acting Chair Valentine asked that the minutes of the October 23, 2008 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Commissioner Ellis made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2008 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA - Transportation Disadvantaged Board Membership
Certifications - Columbia, Madison and Suwannee Counties

Acting Chair Valentine asked if there were any questions regarding the item on the Consent Agenda and requested that this item be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Hamlin made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Pinkoson, to approve the item on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Acting Chair Valentine stated that there were no new members present to introduce.

B. Committee Appointments

Acting Chair Valentine stated that due to Randy Hatch not being re-elected as a Suwannee County Commissioner in the general election held on November 4, 2008, an appointment to the Florida Regional Councils Association needs to be made. In addition, she stated that due to Hoyt J. (Buddy) Lamb not being re-elected as a Dixie County Commissioner in the general election held on November 4, 2008, he is no longer a member of the Council and an appointment to the Program Committee needs to be made. Acting Chair Valentine then recommended that Commissioner Ellis be appointed to the Florida Regional Councils Association for the remainder of the 2008-09 program year and Commissioner Bailey be appointed to the Program Committee for the remainder of the 2008-09 program year.

ACTION: Mr. Dodge made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, to appoint the Commissioner Roy Ellis to the Florida Regional Councils Association for the remainder of the 2008-09 program year and to appoint Commissioner Stephen Bailey to the Program Committee for the remainder of the 2008-09 program year. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Melaine Clyatt
2. Kirk Eppenstein
3. Randy Hatch
4. Roberta Hodges
5. Hoyt J. Lamb

Acting Chair Valentine asked that Resolutions of Appreciation for past services to the Council be approved for former Commissioner Melaine Clyatt, who served as a representative for Union County, former Commissioner Kirk Eppenstein, who served as a representative for the City of High Springs, former Commissioner Randy Hatch, who served as a representative for Suwannee County, former Commissioner Roberta Hodges, who served as a representative for the City of

Archer and former Commissioner Hoyt J. Lamb, who served as a representative for Dixie County.

ACTION: Commissioner Lamb made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Coerper, to approve the Resolutions of Appreciation for former Commissioner Clyatt, former Commissioner Eppenstein, former Commissioner Hatch, former Commissioner Hodges and former Commissioner Lamb. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation - Stephen Bailey

Acting Chair Valentine asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for Commissioner Stephen Bailey, who served as the Chairman of the Columbia County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

ACTION: Mr. Smith made the motion, with a second by Mayor Nobles, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously

E. Executive Director Appointed Member of National Association of Development Organizations Economic Development Working Group

Acting Chair Valentine informed the Council that the National Association of Development Organizations recently appointed Scott Koons, Executive Director, as a member of the National Association of Development Organizations Economic Development Working Group. She stated that Mr. Koons will serve along with executive directors of other regional planning councils from across the country on this select 25-member Economic Development Working Group.

No action was required on this item.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Federal Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act

Mr. Koons stated that the U. S. House recently passed the Railroad Safety Enhancement Act of 2008. He added that the Act reauthorized Amtrak for a five-year period. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the Chair to send letters to U. S. Senator Bill Nelson, Congressman Allen Boyd, Congresswoman Corrine

Brown, Congressman Ander Crenshaw and Congressman Cliff Stearns thanking them for their support of the provision to restore Amtrak Sunset Limited service between Sanford, Florida and New Orleans, Louisiana contained in Railroad Safety Enhancement Act of 2008 passed by the Senate and House and recently signed into law by the President.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to authorize the Chair to send letters to U. S. Senator Bill Nelson, Congressman Allen Boyd, Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Congressman Ander Crenshaw and Congressman Cliff Stearns thanking them for their support of the provision to restore Amtrak Sunset Limited service between Sanford, Florida and New Orleans, Louisiana contained in Railroad Safety Enhancement Act of 2008 passed by the Senate and House and recently signed into law by the President. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Proclamation Concerning Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

Mr. Koons stated that the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee has the job of increasing the safety of our communities from chemical releases. He added that public outreach and education are important to increasing chemical safety in our communities. He stated that the Florida Division of Emergency Management has designated the week of January 18-24, 2009, as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council proclaim the week of January 18-24, 2009 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week by adopting the Hazardous Materials Awareness Week Proclamation, which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

ACTION: Commissioner Hamlin made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, to proclaim the week of January 18-24, 2009 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week by adopting the Hazardous Materials Awareness Week Proclamation, which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Fixed Asset Threshold

Mr. Koons stated that the Council currently classifies equipment, fixtures, and other tangible personal property of a nonconsumable and nonexpendable nature with a value or cost which is \$500 or more and the normal expected life of which is two years or more as a fixed asset. He further stated that in 1999, the Legislature amended Section 273.02, Florida Statutes and increased the minimum value of fixed assets from \$500 to \$1,000 for state

agencies. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the minimum value of fixed assets be increased from \$500 to \$1,000 for all Council property with a normal expected life of one year or more.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Mayor Nobles, to increase the minimum value of fixed assets from \$500 to \$1,000 for all Council property with a normal expected life of one year or more. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion of Executive Committee Vacancy

Mr. Koons stated that there was a vacancy on the Executive Committee due to former Council member Randy Hatch not being re-elected to his county commission seat in Suwannee County. He stated that, in accordance with Council rules, vacancies among the officers are to be filled in the same manner as the officers were originally elected. He stated in the past, when such vacancies occurred, the other members of the Executive Committee were advanced in their position by election of the Council to the next position. He added that if this were to happen, there would not be a vacancy to be filled for the chairmanship, but there would be one for the member at large of the Executive Committee. Mr. Koons then discussed the options available to the Council to address this issue.

ACTION: Mr. Maultsby made the motion, with a second by Commissioner DeLaney, to hold an election in January 2009, at which time the Nominating Committee would make a recommendation concerning filling the vacant chair position, and if that involved advancing other officers to the next position, then the Nominating Committee would also make recommendations for those positions as well. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Florida Regional Councils Association 2009 Legislative Agenda

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board will be meeting January 16, 2009 in Tallahassee. He stated that the Policy Board will probably be voting on several significant items affecting all regional planning councils. Mr. Koons then reviewed each item and stated that the Executive Committee recommended the following actions.

Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review Compliance Determination - Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council oppose transferring authority to make comprehensive plan amendment

compliance determinations from the Florida Department of Community Affairs to regional planning councils.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to oppose transferring authority to make comprehensive plan amendment compliance determinations from the Florida Department of Community Affairs to regional planning councils. The motion carried unanimously.

Regional Visioning - Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council oppose pursuing a regional visioning legislative initiative during the 2009 legislative session.

ACTION: Commissioner Coerper made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas, to oppose pursuing a regional visioning legislative initiative during the 2009 legislative session. The motion carried unanimously.

Comprehensive Plan Amendment Response Time Period
Comprehensive Plan Amendment Noncompliance Based Solely on Regional Plan Strategic Regional Policy Plan Amendment Vote Requirement

Mr. Koons then stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council support increasing the time period for review of comprehensive plan amendments from 30 days to 60 days, support repealing the provision that prohibits the Florida Department of Community Affairs from finding a local government comprehensive plan amendment not in compliance solely based on inconsistency with the strategic regional policy plan and support changing the required vote to adopt amendments to the strategic regional policy plan by a regional planning council from a majority of the membership to a majority of a quorum present at a duly convened meeting.

ACTION: Ms. Thomas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to support increasing the time period for review of comprehensive plan amendments from 30 days to 60 days, support repealing the provision that prohibits the Florida Department of Community Affairs from finding a local government comprehensive plan amendment not in compliance solely based on inconsistency with the strategic regional policy plan and support changing the required vote to adopt amendments to the strategic regional policy plan by a regional planning council from a majority of the membership to a majority of a quorum present at a duly convened meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Ms. Sandra Haas, Clearinghouse Committee Chair, stated that members of the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening with a quorum present and reviewed ten agenda items. She stated that these items would be grouped for purposes of presentation.

- #7 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 08-2)
- #14 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 08-1)
- #18 - Madison County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 08-1)
- #22 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 08-PEFE1)

She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found that the Comprehensive Plans, as amended, remained consistent with the regional plan. She further stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #7, Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 08-2), Item #14, City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 08-1), Item #18, Madison County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 08-1) and Item #22, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 08-PEFE1). The motion carried unanimously.

- #10 - City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 08-1)

Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee reviewed Item #10, City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments and found the comprehensive plan, as amended, remained consistent with the regional plan. Nevertheless, the Committee recommended forwarding an objection and recommendation made on the draft version of the amendment regarding potential adverse impacts to a segment of the Regional Road Network. Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the City and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hersey, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #10, City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 08-1). The motion carried unanimously.

- #24 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 09-PEFE1)
- #25 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 09-PEFE1)

Ms. Haas reported that the Clearinghouse Committee found no significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, or adjoining local governments. Additionally, the Committee has no Objections, Recommendations, or Comments. Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Mr. Maultsby, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #24, Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 09-PEFE1) and Item #25, City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 09-PEFE1). The motion carried unanimously.

- #11 - City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 09-1)
- #26 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 09-1)

Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found that both items may have significant adverse impacts to segments of the Regional Road Network. Therefore, the Committee recommended the preparation of an Objections, Recommendations and Comments Report on both items to address an Objection and Recommendation regarding potential adverse impacts to segments of the Regional Road Network. Ms. Haas reported that the Clearinghouse Committee found that the local government Comprehensive Plans, if amended as proposed, may be inconsistent with Regional Goal 5.1 and Regional Policies 5.1.8 and 5.1.9. However, this inconsistency was not so great as to render the comprehensive plans inconsistent with the regional plan. Therefore, Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found that the comprehensive plans, if amended as proposed, would remain consistent with the regional plan. Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #11, City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 09-1) and Item #26, Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 09-1). The motion carried unanimously.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. 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.

Mr. Koons stated that a hearing was held on July 16, 2008 with Council attorneys, County attorneys, plaintiff attorneys and Circuit Court Judge Roundtree concerning the amended Motion to Abate, Dismiss, Strike and for More Definite Statement. At that hearing Judge Roundtree dismissed the amended complaint filed by the plaintiff against the County and the Council and gave the plaintiff an opportunity to refile their motion. Mr. Koons stated that the written order granting the motion to dismiss the amended complaint was received from Judge Roundtree and that the applicant still had an opportunity to refile their amended complaint. He reported that on September 5, 2008 the plaintiff filed their Second Amended Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief. He further reported that a response to the Second Amended Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief was prepared and filed on October 2, 2008.

Mr. Wershow, Council Attorney, reported that on November 5, 2008, Judge Roundtree issued an order dismissing the Council from Counts I, III and IV of the lawsuit and vacating protective orders and that the Council remains a defendant to Count II of the lawsuit. He stated that he and Council staff have been working to respond to the plaintiff's request for production of documents and interrogatories.

B. Heritage Ranch Development of Regional Impact

Mr. Koons stated that on November 6, 2008, Council staff met with representatives of the applicant of Heritage Ranch Development of Regional Impact at the Council office. He stated that Heritage Ranch is a proposed multi-use development of regional impact located in the City of Newberry and Gilchrist County. The proposed project would consist of 7,500 residential dwelling units, 700,000 square feet of retail space, 300,000 square feet of office, 150,000 square feet of industrial and 45 holes of golf. He stated that it is anticipated that a pre-application conference for the development of regional impact would be held with the applicant, state and regional review agencies and affected local governments in January or February 2009.

C. Neighborhood Stabilization Program

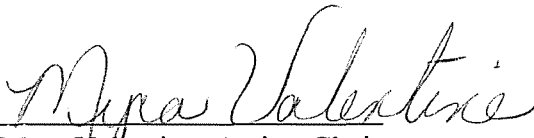
Mr. Koons stated that, as reported last month, President Bush signed into law the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 on July 30, 2008 to address the severe housing crisis. Title III of the Act appropriates \$3.92 billion of grant funds under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program for states and local governments to purchase and redevelop abandoned or foreclosed properties. He stated that the Neighborhood Stabilization Program provides State and local governments with a source of funding to help them respond to rising foreclosures and declining property values. He added that no funds were allocated directly to any cities or counties in the north central Florida region.

Mr. Koons further reported that in order for the State to receive grant funds, the Florida Department of Community Affairs must develop and publish an amendment to their housing and community development action plan and submit it to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for approval no later than December 1, 2008. He stated that on November 14, 2008, the Department released its amendment to their housing and urban development action plan to address how the state will distribute its \$91,141,478 allocation. He added that no funds are proposed to be allocated to any cities or counties in the north central Florida region.

D. Fiscal Year 2007-08 Annual Audit

Mr. Koons reported that the auditing firm of Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants are at the Council offices conducting the annual audit for Fiscal Year 2007-08. He added that upon completion of the audit, the Finance Committee will review the audit with the auditors. Mr. Koons stated that it is anticipated that the Finance Committee will report their findings concerning the audit to the Council at the January 22, 2009 meeting.

Acting Chair Valentine informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on January 22, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.


Myra Valentine, Acting Chair

1/22/09
Date

PROCLAMATION

**DECLARING JANUARY 18-24, 2009 AS
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS WEEK**

WHEREAS, the safe use of hazardous materials is essential to citizens, business, industry and local governments to maintain economic stability and the public health; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of protecting our communities from both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials and joins the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, and numerous municipalities, counties and school boards, in publicly promoting community hazardous materials safety; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for local governments, regional planning councils and local emergency planning committees to work together to increase community safety by encouraging emergency responders to attend free training on how to safely respond to releases of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, citizens need to know that local governments, businesses, emergency responders and emergency planners are working together to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible for both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby declares the week of January 18-24, 2009 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 4th day of December 2008.

ATTEST:

SEAL



Louie Davis, Secretary-Treasurer



Myra Valentine, Acting Chair