

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
FULL COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

March 27, 2008  
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
**Roy Ellis, Madison County**  
John Glanzer, City of Newberry  
**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**  
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County  
Rudolph Parker, Taylor County  
Andrew Smith, Union County  
**Lorene Thomas, Dixie County**  
**Myra Valentine, City of Madison**  
Ronald Williams, Columbia County  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

GUESTS PRESENT

Diana Davis  
Bill Henderson, Florida Department  
of Transportation  
Doreen Lamb  
Scott Reynolds, City of Lake City

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County  
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville  
Rick Bryant, City of Gainesville  
Mike Byerly, Alachua County  
Cynthia Chestnut, Alachua County  
Melaine Clyatt, Union County  
Gib Coerper, City of Alachua  
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County  
**David Dodge, Bradford County**  
Dixie Donovan, Columbia County  
**Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville**  
Kirk Eppenstein, City of High Springs  
Roberta Hodges, City of Archer  
D. Ray Harrison, Jr., Gilchrist County  
Matthew Hawkins, City of Jasper  
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville  
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville  
**Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak**  
**James Painter, Alachua County**  
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County  
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne  
Tracy Reeves, Madison County  
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke  
**Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County**

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp  
Scott Koons  
Carol Laine  
Jean Strong

**Board Members names are bolded**

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with an invocation given by Mr. Martin, and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Ellis stated that there was a quorum of the Board of Directors and all Council members were able to vote.

Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed Scott Reynolds, City Manager from the City of Lake City, Diana Davis, wife of Mayor Louie Davis and Doreen Lamb, wife of Commissioner Buddy Lamb.

Chair Ellis asked that Item VI.A.3 - Notice of Funding Reduction for 2007-08 Contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs - Growth Management be added to the agenda.

**ACTION: Mayor Ketring made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to add Item VI.A.3 - Notice of Funding Reduction for 2007-08 Contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs - Growth Management to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 28, 2008

Chair Ellis asked that the minutes of the February 28, 2008 meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hersey, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2008 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Suwannee County Small County Technical Assistance Services Agreement - Fiscal Year 2007-08
- B. Northeast Florida Regional Council Homeland Security Training and Exercise Plan Agreement
- C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Community Transportation Coordinator Selection
  - 1. Bradford County
  - 2. Union County

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

**ACTION: Mayor Ketring made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Introduction of New Member

Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed Charles Maulsby, gubernatorial reappointee from Taylor County, to the Council.

V. PRESENTATION CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS: 2009 SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS (SAFETEA-LU) REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director, presented a video entitled "Keep America Moving" produced by the National Association of Development Organizations and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Following the video, he stated that in 2009, the U.S. Congress will be working to reauthorize the \$286 billion Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which is the law governing federal transportation policy and programs. He discussed the major issues which Congress will need to address as part of the reauthorization process, including solvency of the Federal Highway Trust Fund, the declining purchasing power of the dollar and increased freight traffic, motorist safety and economic competitiveness. He further stated that it is essential that the economic and community development needs of small metropolitan and rural areas be incorporated and addressed so that rural local elected officials have the opportunity to receive the same rights and responsibilities as metropolitan planning organizations. Finally, he stated that the opportunity exists to strengthen the role of rural local officials in the transportation planning and project development process as part of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users reauthorization bill.

Chair Ellis thanked Mr. Koons for the presentation.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. State Legislator Guest Speaker Program

Mr. Koons stated that with the implementation of term limits in the State Legislature over the past several years, considerable turnover has occurred in the legislative delegation representing our region. This turnover has resulted in a lack of institutional knowledge concerning organizations such as

regional planning councils dedicated to addressing growth and development issues. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council approve the establishment of a State Legislator Guest Speaker Program that would consist of inviting state legislators to be guest speakers on a rotating basis at Council meetings to provide an opportunity for state legislators to become more familiar with the mission and programs of the Council.

**ACTION: Commissioner Williams made the motion, with a second by Mr. Martin, to approve the establishment of a State Legislator Guest Speaker Program that would consist of inviting state legislators to be guest speakers on a rotating basis at Council meetings. The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Proposal to Increase Attorney Fees for Formal Litigation Functions and Development of Regional Impact Work

Mr. Koons stated that Council attorney Jon Wershow has asked that the Council consider increasing his fee for services for formal proceedings and Development of Regional Impact activities from \$225 per hour to \$300 per hour. Mr. Koons then introduced Mr. Wershow who stated that this rate is currently being charged for comparable work to his other clients. Mr. Wershow further stated that the rate for routine activities would remain at \$150 per hour. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council approve an increase in the fees paid to the Council attorney for formal litigation functions and Development of Regional Impact work to \$300 per hour, effective April 1, 2008.

**ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith to approve an increase in the fees paid to the Council attorney for formal litigation functions and Development of Regional Impact work to \$300 per hour, effective April 1, 2008. The motion carried by a vote of 16 to 1.**

3. Notice of Funding Reduction for 2007-08 Contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs - Growth Management (Item Added to Agenda)

Mr. Koons stated that the Council received an email on March 21, 2008 from Mr. Charles Gauthier, Director of the Division of Community Planning for the Florida Department of Community Affairs advising that the Legislature reduced appropriations to certain budget line items for Fiscal Year 2007-08. Part of these reductions included the appropriation for

regional planning councils. The Council share of the reduction was \$10,594.03, lowering the Council's funding from \$264,850.00 to \$254,255.97.

Mr. Koons reported that Mr. Gauthier further stated in his email that the Florida Department of Community Affairs would be sending a formal notice of funding reduction to the Council and that it would need to be returned to the Department with a revised budget reflecting the reduced funding within ten days of receipt. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the Chair to sign the Notice of Funding Reduction in the amount of \$10,549.03 for the contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs for growth management activities for Fiscal Year 2007-08 resulting in a revised contract amount of \$254,255.97.

**ACTION:** Mayor Ketring made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith to authorize the Chair to sign the Notice of Funding Reduction in the amount of \$10,549.03 for the contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs for growth management activities for Fiscal Year 2007-08 resulting in a revised contract amount of \$254,255.97. 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 without a quorum present and reviewed eight agenda items. She stated that these items would be grouped for purposes of presentation.

- #94 - City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 08-1)
- #98 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 08PEFE-1)
- #99 - Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 08PEFE-1)
- #100 - City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 08PEFE-1)
- #101 - Town of Lee Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 08PEFE-1)

Chair Haas stated that the Committee members present found no significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, or adjoining local governments and that the Committee members present do not recommend the preparation of Objections, Recommendations, or Comments Report for these items. Furthermore, the Committee members present found the Comprehensive Plans, if amended as proposed, would remain consistent with the regional plan. She stated that the Committee members present recommended forwarding the findings and

recommendations contained in the staff reports for these 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 Mayor Glanzer to approve the Clearinghouse Committee members recommendation concerning Item #94 - City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 08-1), Item #98 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 08PEFE-1), Item #99 - Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 08PEFE-1), Item #100 - City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 08PEFE-1) and Item #101 - Town of Lee Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 08PEFE-1). The motion carried unanimously.

#102 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 08-1)

Chair Haas stated that the Committee members present found that the County comprehensive plan, as amended, remained consistent with the regional plan. She stated that the Committee members present 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 Mr. Maultsby to approve the Clearinghouse Committee members recommendation concerning Item #102 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 08-1). The motion carried unanimously.

#97 - Town of Fort White Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 08-1)  
#103 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 08-1)

Chair Haas stated that the Committee members present found the comprehensive plans, as amended, remain consistent with the regional plan. However, she reported that the Committee members present recommended forwarding Objections and Recommendations to the respective local governments regarding potential adverse impacts to segments of the regional road network as a result of the amendments. Chair Haas stated that the Committee members present recommended forwarding the findings and recommendations contained in the staff reports for these 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 Hamlin to approve the Clearinghouse Committee members recommendation concerning Item #97 - Town of Fort White Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 08-1) and Item #103 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 08-1) . The motion carried unanimously.**

## VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons stated that the Legislature is dealing with an estimated \$3 billion shortfall for Fiscal Year 2008-09. He reported that the Senate Transportation Economic Development Appropriation Committee released their preliminary budget and the appropriation for regional planning councils was \$2.5 million. He further reported that the House Appropriation Committee is not expected to appropriate any funding for regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2008-09. He added that the Florida Regional Councils Association will be working with legislators to restore funding for regional planning councils.

Mr. Koons reported that the draft legislative changes to Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, to implement 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 was reviewed by the Florida Department of Community Affairs Growth Management Advisory Committee. He further reported that the proposal has not yet been filed as part of any legislative bill.

Mr. Koons reported that the Senate has issued their growth management proposal concerning Chapter 163 with provisions relating to a citizens bill of rights, transportation concurrency, affordable housing, coastal high hazard areas and Everglades protection. The legislative proposal is scheduled to be reviewed next week.

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

Mr. Wershow 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 only filed earlier today. Thus, he reported that the plaintiff now has 20 days to refile their amended Complaint after which time the Council has 20 days to respond to the plaintiff's amended Complaint.

C. Original Florida Tourism Task Force Agritourism Workshop

Mr. Koons stated that the Original Florida Tourism Task Force will be offering a full-day workshop with Jane Eckert on Tourism Opportunities for Farmers on April 8, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel in Gainesville.

D. Columbia County/Lake City Tornado Disaster Recovery Assistance

Mr. Koons reported that on March 7, 2008, Columbia County and the City of Lake City suffered an estimated \$3,000,000 in damage when a class II tornado went through the area. Council staff assisted the County in drafting a resolution requesting Governor Crist declare a State of Emergency and authorize State disaster recovery funds be made available to the County and the City. On March 13, 2008, Governor Crist signed the order declaring a State of Emergency in Columbia County/Lake City. Council staff is currently working with City staff to secure Emergency Set-Aside Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery funding to assist low- and moderate-income residents in the disaster area with home replacement and home repair funds.

E. Florida Department of Community Affairs Rural Lands Stewardship Rule Workshop

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Department of Community Affairs has been conducting a series of rule development workshops to receive comments concerning potential revisions to Rules 9J-5 and 9J-11, Florida Administrative Code, regarding the Rural Land Stewardship Area Program. He stated that the third workshop will be held in Gainesville on March 31, 2008, at the offices of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in the Doyle Conner Building Auditorium. He reported that Council staff has assisted the Department with the logistical arrangements for the workshop.

Mr. Koons stated that 1000 Friends of Florida has prepared a follow-up study to their "Florida in 2060 - Not a Pretty Picture?" entitled "Working to Sustain Florida's Rural and Natural Lands: A Call to Action." He indicated that the report offers planning strategies to protect the natural, rural and working lands in Florida. A copy of the report was included in the Council members meeting packet.

In response to comments by several Council members concerning the need to maintain an appropriate funding level for regional planning councils to perform state mandated functions such as the preparation and implementation of the strategic regional policy plans, performance of regional review and comment functions, and assisting local governments in addressing growth



and development issues, Mr. Koons urged Council members to contact their legislative delegation to request their support for continued funding of regional planning councils.

Chair Ellis announced that the next meeting of the Council will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City on April 24, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

  
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Roy Ellis, Chair

4/24/08  
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Date