

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

May 22, 2008
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
David Dodge, Bradford County
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Randy Hatch, Suwannee County
John Hersey, Bradford County
Roberta Hodges, City of Archer
Eddie Martin, Alachua County
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
James Painter, Alachua County
Rudolph Parker, Taylor County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne
Tracy Reeves, Madison County
Andrew Smith, Union County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County

GUESTS PRESENT

Bill Conrad, City of Newberry
Harold Emrich, City of Madison
Scott Reynolds, City of Lake City

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Cynthia Chestnut, Alachua County
Melaine Clyatt, Union County
Gib Coerper, City of Alachua
Dixie Donovan, Columbia County
Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville
Kirk Eppenstein, City of High Springs
John Glanzer, City of Newberry
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
D. Ray Harrison, Jr., Gilchrist County
Schervin Henry, City of Gainesville
Emily Weed Ketring, City of Perry
Hoyt (Buddy) Lamb, Dixie County
Ann Lessman, City of Jasper
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City
Ronald Williams, Columbia County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS 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

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 Council and all Council members were able to vote.

Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed Commissioner Bill Conrad from the City of Newberry and Scott Reynolds, City Manager from the City of Lake City. Mayor Valentine introduced Harold Emrich, City Manager, for the City of Madison.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 24, 2008

Chair Ellis asked that the minutes of the April 24, 2008 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Commissioner Parker made the motion, with a second by Commissioner DeLaney, to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2008 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Meeting Schedule 2008-09

B. Terrorism Exercise Agreement with Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council

Chair Ellis asked if there were any 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 Commissioner Hamlin, to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

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

B. Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Ed Braddy
2. Rick Bryant
3. Matthew Hawkins

Chair Ellis asked that Resolutions of Appreciation for past services to the Council be approved for former Commissioner Ed Braddy and former Commissioner Rick Bryant, who served as representatives for the City of Gainesville and for former Mayor Matthew Hawkins, who served as a representative for the City of Jasper.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Parker, to approve the Resolutions of Appreciation for former Commissioner Braddy, former Commissioner Bryant and former Mayor Hawkins. The motion carried unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. 2008-09 Contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs - Growth Management

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director, reported that the growth management contract is the standard contract which the Council enters into with the Florida Department of Community Affairs each year to cover the costs of the Council's growth management activities. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the Florida Department of Community Affairs for growth management activities for Fiscal Year 2008-09 for an anticipated amount not to exceed \$172,100.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Mr. Martin, to authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the Florida Department of Community Affairs for growth management activities for Fiscal Year 2008-09 for an anticipated amount not to exceed \$172,100. The motion carried unanimously.

2. 2008-09 Contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs - Division of Emergency Management

Mr. Koons stated that the contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs Emergency Management Division is the contract which the Council enters into to cover the Council's costs in providing staff support to the Local Emergency Planning Committee. He added that the contract will contain a scope of work which provides for assistance by staff

for meetings, plan updates and exercises. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the Florida Department of Community Affairs to provide staff support to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for meetings, plan updates and exercises for Fiscal Year 2008-09 for an anticipated amount not to exceed \$40,900.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the Florida Department of Community Affairs for Fiscal Year 2008-09 to provide services to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for meetings, plan updates and exercises for an anticipated amount not to exceed \$40,900. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Council Member Attendance Recognition Program

Mr. Koons stated that an essential component of the ability of the Council to conduct its business is the regular attendance of members at Council meetings. He stated that a Council Member Attendance Recognition Program would recognize the commitment of those Council members actively engaged in the organization. He added that the Program would consist of the presentation of a Certificate of Attendance to those members that have attended all Council meetings during a program year from June to May. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that a Council Member Attendance Recognition Program be established to recognize the commitment of those Council members actively engaged in the organization by regularly attending Council meetings.

ACTION: Commissioner Hersey made the motion, with a second by Commissioner DeLaney, to establish a Council Member Attendance Recognition Program. 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 also stated that at its April 24, 2008 meeting, the Council approved extending the current Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance contract for 90 days and authorizing 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. He reported that Blue Cross/Blue Shield has stated that since the original proposal made last month was based on the demographic characteristics of the employees participating in the health insurance plan and those demographic characteristics have not changed, the original premium increase of about 31.9 percent remains unchanged. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Executive Director be authorized to solicit proposals from health insurance providers and authorize the Executive Committee to review the proposals and make a recommendation to the Council for final action at the July 24, 2008 Council meeting.

ACTION: Mr. Maulsby made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Pinkoson, to authorize the Executive Director to solicit proposals from health insurance providers and authorize the Executive Committee to review the proposals and make a recommendation to the Council for final action at the July 24, 2008 Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

In the absence of Chair Haas, Commissioner DeLaney, Clearinghouse Committee Vice-Chair, 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. She stated that these items were grouped for purposes of presentation.

#118 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 08-1)
#124 - City of Trenton Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 08-1)

Commissioner DeLaney stated that the comprehensive plans, as amended, remained consistent with the regional plan. She reported that the staff report for the City of Newberry Item #118 recommended forwarding an Objection and Recommendation regarding potential adverse impacts to a segment of the regional road network as a result of the City of Newberry amendment. Commissioner DeLaney 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: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Pinkoson, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #118 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 08-1) and Item #124 - City of Trenton Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 098-1). The motion carried unanimously.

#119 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
(DCA No. 08-PEFE1)

Commissioner DeLaney stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found no significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, or adjoining local governments and the comprehensive plan, if amended as proposed, would remain consistent with the regional plan. Commissioner DeLaney stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding the findings and recommendations contained in the staff report to the City and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Parker, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #119 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 08-PEFE1). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Program Committee - Overall Program Design FY 2008-09

Commissioner Randy Hatch, Program Committee Chairman, stated that the Program Committee met on March 27, 2008, to develop an Overall Program Design for the Council's consideration for Fiscal Year 2008-09. He stated that there were no changes proposed in the Overall Program Design which include new programs not previously discussed and/or approved by the Council and that the document is essentially the same as the current year edition.

Commissioner Hatch reported that the Program Committee members recommended approval of the Overall Program Design for Fiscal Year 2008-09.

ACTION: Commissioner Hatch made the motion, with a second by Commissioner DeLaney, to approve the Overall Program Design for Fiscal Year 2008-09 as recommended by the Program Committee members. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Finance Committee - Budget FY 2008-09

Mayor Myra Valentine, Finance Committee Chair, stated that the Finance Committee met on May 8, 2008, to review the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09. She stated that the anticipated expenditures for next year will be \$2,175,700, which is \$343,800 less than the current year budget. It was reported that members pay dues, which are proposed to remain at \$.30 per capita for the 27th year, producing \$116,500, or approximately \$1,200 more than last year. The Council also has unencumbered funds which may be appropriated, and it is requested that \$55,000 of this reserve be made available to increase services to members.

Mayor Valentine reviewed the most significant policy decisions to be made with respect to the budget which are personnel items. In the line item descriptions in the budget, there is a provision for a total of 19 full-time staff positions, plus funds for part-time positions, which is a decrease of three positions over that budgeted for the current year. The budget includes a three percent salary increase across the board for all employees, and one percent for merit increases.

Mayor Valentine stated that this budget provides for significant services to be rendered to member cities and counties. This is to be done by effectively using all available resources, and at the same time, ensuring that the Council remains in a sound financial condition.

Mayor Valentine reported that the Finance Committee recommended approval of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09.

ACTION: Mayor Valentine made the motion, with a second by Commissioner DeLaney, to approve the Committee recommendation to approve the Fiscal Year 2008-09 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Nominating Committee

Ms. Lorene Thomas, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Nominating Committee met on April 30, 2008 to make, for the Council's consideration, recommendations regarding all officer positions, including the additional Executive Committee member, and other members of the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee recommendations for the officer positions are, as follows.

Chairman - Randy Hatch
Vice-Chair - Myra Valentine
Secretary-Treasurer - Louie Davis

Member - Eddie Martin
Immediate Past Chairman - Roy Ellis

The Nominating Committee recommendations for the Board of Directors are, as follows.

City Representatives

Emily Ketring, City of Perry
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke

County Representatives

Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
John Hersey, Bradford County
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County

Gubernatorial Representatives

Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Charles Maulsby, Taylor County
James Painter, Alachua County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County

Chair Ellis then opened the floor for nominations from Council members. There were no nominations made from the floor.

ACTION: Ms. Thomas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner DeLaney, to close the nominations and elect the slate of nominees to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons stated that the final budget adopted by the Legislature included a \$2.42 million appropriation for regional planning councils. He stated that the Council's estimated share of these funds will be \$172,100, or approximately \$82,100 less than the current year.

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 was not filed in bill form in either chamber of the Legislature.

Mr. Koons stated that neither Senate Bill 474 of the Senate Committee on Community Affairs, which included the Florida Department of Community Affairs legislative proposal concerning amendments to Chapter 163 addressing a citizens bill of rights, transportation concurrency, affordable housing, coastal high hazard areas and Everglades protection or House Bill 7129 of the Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council, which addressed a broad range of growth management issues was passed by the Legislature.

Mr. Koons reported that Senate Bill 1706 concerning revisions to developments of regional impact was passed by the Legislature. He stated that the bill grants three-year extensions to Florida Quality Developments and developments of regional impact for which a development order was adopted between January 1, 2006 and July 1, 2007. He stated that the bill also grants a new exemption to the development of regional impact process for a limited number of developments located in counties with a population greater than 1.25 million. He reported that the land must be proposed for at least two uses, one of which is for use as an office or laboratory appropriate for the research and development of medical technology, biotechnology or life science applications.

B. Financial Report for the Period Ending March 31, 2008

Mr. Koons reported that the overall expenditures for the operation of the Council for the past six months is within budgeted figures. He stated that at the end of 50 percent of the year, only one program area "Program Development" is over expended due to annual computer purchases made during the first quarter of the fiscal year. He stated that this is not of particular concern at this point and the year should end with revenues exceeding expenditures.

C. 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. Jon Wershow, Council Attorney, reported that as of this date the plaintiff's attorneys have not responded to the two outstanding motions to dismiss filed by Alachua County and the Council.

C. Original Florida Tourism Task Force Status Report

Mr. Koons reported that in 1993, the Council formed the Original Florida Tourism Task Force to promote the north central Florida region as a destination for nature-based and heritage-based tourism. He stated that in 1998, the Task Force organized as an interlocal agreement agency among the counties in the region and since that time, the Council has continued to provide staff support to the Task Force. Mr. Koons stated that since the inception of the Task Force, the Columbia County Tourist Development Council has provided call response center services by responding to telephone inquiries about tourism opportunities in the region. He stated that last month, the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County decided to no longer be a dues paying partner of the Task Force and to discontinue providing the call response center services effective October 1, 2008. Mr. Koons stated that the Task Force has agreed to have Council staff perform this function as one of the services pursuant to its staff services agreement.

E. Annual City-County Manager Meeting

Mr. Koons advised Council members that the annual city-county manager growth management meeting hosted by the Council would be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 S.W. Commerce Drive in Lake City on June 13, 2008.

F. Financial Disclosure

Mr. Koons reminded all gubernatorial appointees to the Council to file their financial disclosure forms with the supervisor of elections in their respective counties by July 1, 2008.

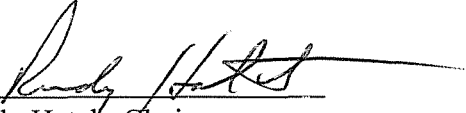
Mr. Koons reported that last week both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate passed the Farm Bill which contains provisions related to rural development. He stated that one of the two programs which are included in the bill of interest to our region is the Rural Collaborative Investment Program. This Program authorizes \$135 million dollars in discretionary funding and will provide up to \$150,000 in planning funding to multi-county organizations to engage in a collaborative process for developing economic investment strategies as well as \$6 million to fund specific projects to implement those strategies.

Mr. Koons stated that also included in the Farm Bill is the multi-state organization known as the Appalachian State Regional Commission, which receives annual set-asides for planning and development activities for infrastructure as well as transportation and business development and

job skill training. Mr. Koons reported that two new commissions have been established - the Northern Corridor consisting of New England states and the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission which includes all of Florida, the coastal areas of North and South Carolina, Virginia as well as portions of Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission will include the governors of these states and a federal commissioner appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Mr. Koons added that between these two provisions, there should be opportunities to receive additional planning funds for economic development strategy programs as well as project money to improve the competitiveness and economic attractiveness of our communities.

Commissioner Randy Hatch presented Chair Ellis with a framed print, and thanked him for his leadership during the past year.

Chair Ellis announced that the next meeting of the Council will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City on July 24, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



Randy Hatch, Chairman

7/24/08

Date