

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

April 23, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
David Dodge, Bradford County  
**Roy Ellis, Madison County**  
**Sandra Haas, Suwannee County**  
**Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County**  
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville  
**John Hersey, Bradford County**  
**Eddie Martin, Alachua County**  
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville  
**Charles Maultsby, Taylor County**  
Harry Nichols, City of Newberry  
**Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak**  
Blanch Parker, City of Archer  
**Rudolph Parker, Taylor County**  
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville  
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne  
**Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke**  
James Tallman, Union County  
**Lorene Thomas, Dixie County**  
**Myra Valentine, City of Madison**  
**Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County**

GUEST PRESENT

Diana Davis

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

None

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cynthia Chestnut, Alachua County  
Gib Coerper, City of Alachua  
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County  
Dixie Donovan, Columbia County  
Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville  
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville  
**Emily Weed Ketring, City of Perry**  
Ann Lessman, City of Jasper  
Rodney Long, Alachua County  
**James Painter, Alachua County**  
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County  
Andrew Smith, Union County  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County  
Byran Williams, City of High Springs  
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County  
Ronald Williams, Columbia County  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Barney Bennette, FL Dept. of Transportation  
Jordan Green, representing Charles Baldwin,  
FL Dept. of Transportation  
Laura Rich, 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 Myra Valentine called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Donnie Hamlin, and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Valentine stated that there was a quorum of the Council and all Council members were able to vote.

Chair Valentine asked that Item III. - 2008-10 U. S. Economic Development Administration Partnership Planning Grant Application Amendment be added to the agenda.

**ACTION: Commissioner Rudolph Parker made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Ellis, to add Item III. - 2008-10 U. S. Economic Development Administration Partnership Planning Grant Application Amendment to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 26, 2009

Chair Valentine asked that the minutes of the March 26, 2009 meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION: Mr. Maultsby made the motion, with a second by Mr. Martin, to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2009 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

III. CONSENT AGENDA - 2008-10 U. S. Economic Development Administration Partnership Planning Grant Application Amendment

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

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

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Valentine introduced and welcomed new member Mayor Harry Nichols from the City of Newberry.

B. Appointment to Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Chair Valentine reported that the Council had been designated by the U. S. Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District since 1978. As such, the Council is responsible for developing and adopting a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. She stated that the purpose of the strategy is to analyze the regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. The strategy must be the result of a continuing economic development planning process developed by a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee representing both the public and private sector. Chair Valentine reported that a vacancy exists on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee and requested that the Council ratify the appointment of Ted Ensminger of the Madison County Development Council to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee.

**ACTION: Mr. Maulsby made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hersey, to ratify the appointment of Ted Ensminger of the Madison County Development Council to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. PRESENTATION - 2010 Strategic Intermodal System Strategic Plan Update  
Barney Bennette, Florida Department of Transportation

Chair Valentine introduced and welcomed Barney Bennette, District 2 Strategic Intermodal System Coordinator, Florida Department of Transportation and Laura Rich, also from the Florida Department of Transportation. Mr. Bennette reviewed the history of the Strategic Intermodal System and stated that the system was established in 2003 to enhance Florida's economic competitiveness. He stated that every five years the Strategic Intermodal System is updated. The next updated plan will be adopted by January 2010. He reported that comments and suggestions concerning the plan update are welcomed and may be submitted to the Department of Transportation. He further reported that a website has been created where additional information and updates may be obtained. Mr. Bennette stated that a workshop will be held at the District 2 office in Lake City sometime during July or August 2009. He then answered questions from Council members. Chair Valentine thanked Mr. Bennette for his presentation.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Transportation Disadvantaged Program - 2009-10 Planning Grant Resolution

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director, 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 2009-01 authorizing the filing of the 2009-10 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 Rudolph Parker made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas, to approve Resolution 2009-01 authorizing the filing of the 2009-10 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.. Proclamation Declaring May 9-17, 2009 as Travel and Tourism Week

Mr. Koons stated that the Original Florida Tourism Task Force was created as a part of the Council 16 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 9-17, 2009 is National Travel and 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 9-17, 2009 as Travel and Tourism Week.

**ACTION: Mr. Dodge made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to adopt a proclamation, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, declaring the week of May 9-17, 2009 as Travel and Tourism Week. The motion carried unanimously.**

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Clearinghouse Committee Chair Sandra Haas gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening with a quorum present and reviewed ten agenda items. Ms. Haas stated that the items have been grouped for purposes of presentation.

#99 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment  
#100 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments  
#105 - City of Trenton Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments  
#106 - Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found no significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, or adjoining local governments. Additionally, the Committee had no objections, recommendations, or comments. She stated that the Committee found the comprehensive plans, if amended as proposed, would remain 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 Commissioner Rudolph Parker, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #99, Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #100, Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments, Item #105, City of Trenton Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments and Item #106, Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.**

#88 - City of Waldo Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment  
#104 - Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment  
#107 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment  
#108 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee found the Comprehensive Plans, as amended, remained consistent with the regional plan. She reported that the 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 Commissioner Rudolph Parker, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #88, City of Waldo Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #104, Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #107, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #108, Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment. The motion carried unanimously**

After further discussion, the motion was amended to include Item #102, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment.

**ACTION: Ms. Haas amended the previously adopted motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #88, City of Waldo Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #102, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #104, Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #107, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #108, Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.**

#89 - Columbia County Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee found that the County comprehensive plan, if amended as proposed by the County Report, would remain consistent with the regional plan. She stated that the Committee recommended forwarding this finding to the County 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 #89, Columbia County Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report. The motion carried unanimously**

## VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Department of Community Affairs budget request for Fiscal Year 2009-10 included an appropriation request of \$2.42 million for all 11 regional planning councils. He stated that this is the same level of funding provided in the Fiscal Year 2008-09 appropriation. He further stated that both the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate have proposed \$2.5 million in their Fiscal Year 2009-10 proposed budgets for regional planning councils. He added that the Council's share of this amount would be approximately \$177,800.

Mr. Koons reported that Senate Bill 360 passed the Senate last week. He stated that this bill defines densely urban land area as any city that has a population density of 1,000 persons per square mile and a minimum total population of at least 5,000 persons and any county that has a population density of 1,000 persons per square mile or a population of at least 1,000,000. Mr. Koons stated that a preliminary list includes the municipality of Gainesville and no counties in the north central Florida region.

Mr. Koons stated that House Bill 7049 and House Bill 7111, concerning abolishing the Florida Department of Community Affairs, have not passed. These bills would abolish the Florida Department of Community Affairs as a separate state agency and transferred the Division of State and Community Planning and Division of Housing and Community Development and all associated resources, rules, and existing laws to the Florida Department of State.

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

Mr. Koons reported that following the denial by Alachua County Board of County Commissioners of a comprehensive plan amendment and development order for the SpringHills Development of Regional Impact Substantial Deviation, the Council was named as a co-defendant along with Alachua County in a lawsuit filed by the developer of the project.

Mr. Koons stated 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 further stated 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 Council staff and the Council attorney have responded to the plaintiff's request for production of documents and interrogatories and that these documents and interrogatories have been submitted to the plaintiff.

Mr. Koons reported that on March 4, 2009, the plaintiff's attorney sent a letter to the County's attorney stating that the plaintiff has requested a suspension of all discovery concerning the lawsuit until April 13, 2009. The letter further stated that the plaintiff has engaged additional legal counsel to meet with the County attorney and Council attorney to discuss a possible settlement of the lawsuit. Mr. Koons stated that on March 6, 2009, the attorneys for all parties signed a statement agreeing to suspend all action concerning the lawsuit until the next status hearing with Circuit Court Judge Roundtree on April 16, 2009.

Mr. Koons further stated that on March 12, 2009, the attorneys for all parties met for an initial meeting to discuss a possible settlement. On April 10, 2009, the attorneys and representatives for the parties met to continue their discussions concerning a possible settlement. The plaintiff presented the attorneys and representative for the Council and County a revised conceptual development plan for the project reducing the development to approximately 825,000 square feet of retail space, 700 dwelling units and 240,000 square feet of office space. Mr. Koons stated that the attorneys and representatives for the Council and County requested that the plaintiff suspend their lawsuit for six months and continue to work with the Council and County staff to review and refine the revised development plan. The plaintiff has agreed to suspend the lawsuit for six months with an option to revoke the suspension after three months.

C. U. S. Economic Development Administration Grant - City of Newberry/  
Advanced Nutrition Foods, LLC

Mr. Koons reported that the Council, serving as the U. S. Economic Development Administration Economic Development District for the region, recently assisted the City of Newberry with preparing and packaging a \$2,768,100 U. S. Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Program grant application. He further reported that in response to submission of the grant application, the U. S. Economic Development Administration has issued a further consideration letter to the City requesting additional information. He stated that the project would provide funds to the City to construct potable water and sanitary sewer facilities to enable Advanced Nutrition Foods, LLC to locate in the City. The company would invest approximately \$45 million in real estate, construction and equipment, with a total of



\$140 million in private investment at build-out of the site. The project would initially create 250 jobs and 2,000 jobs at build-out.

D. Census Affiliate Address Verification Program

Mr. Koons stated that the Census Bureau has established a network of organizations known as Census Affiliates to assist them with preparation for the decennial Census and that the Council has been designated as a Census Affiliate. He stated that the Census Bureau launched a massive operation on March 30, 2009 to verify and update more than 145 million addresses as it prepares to conduct the 2010 Census. He reported that Census workers can be identified by the official Census Bureau badge they carry. During the address canvassing operation, census workers may ask to verify the address of a structure and whether there are additional living quarters on the property.

E. 1000 Friends of Florida Smart Growth Reports  
Smart Growth for Florida's Future  
Why Florida Needs Smart Growth

Mr. Koons stated that as a follow-up to the rural and natural lands report of last year, 1000 Friends of Florida recently published two reports concerning smart growth strategies. He reported that the two reports are entitled, "Why Florida Needs Smart Growth" and "Smart Growth for Florida's Future." He stated that copies of these two reports were included in the Council packet.

F. Original Florida Tourism Task Force Press Familiarization Tour

Mr. Koons stated that the Council provides staff services to the Original Florida Tourism Task Force to assist them in implementing their work program. He added that in order to increase tourism generated revenues in the north Florida region, each year the Original Florida Tourism Task Force invites accomplished travel and nature journalists to participate in at least one Press Familiarization Tour through the Natural North Florida region. Mr. Koons stated that this year the Original Florida Tourism Task Force has invited seven journalists on a Geocaching Familiarization trip from April 22-26, 2009. The press familiarization tour will begin with scheduled tours of Micanopy, Paynes Prairie State Park Preserve and Devil's Millhopper geological site, Stephen Foster State Park and Cultural Center in White Springs, the Monticello Opera House, Wacissa Springs, Mission San Luis in Tallahassee, the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge and conclude with kayaking on the Wakulla River.

G. North Central Florida Rural Planning Network Meeting

Mr. Koons reported that the third meeting of the North Central Florida Rural Planning Network will be held on April 24, 2009 at the Live Oak Church of God Conference Room, located at 9828 U. S. Highway 129, Live Oak, Florida from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The meeting is being hosted by the City of Live Oak and is being co-sponsored by the Council and the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

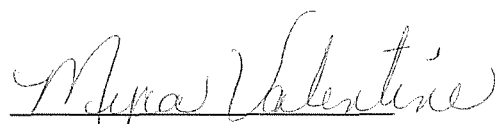
H. Coastal Area Floodplain Strategies Technical Assistance Meeting

Mr. Koons stated that the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Southeast Watershed Forum and Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve is conducting a technical assistance meeting, entitled an Innovative Floodplain Strategies: Application of No Adverse Impact Principles in Coastal Areas. The meeting will be held on May 29, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Senator George G. Kirkpatrick Marine Laboratory, 11350 Southwest 153rd Court, Cedar Key, Florida. The deadline for registering for this technical assistance meeting is May 20, 2009.

Mr. Maultsby informed the Council that Chair Valentine had been chosen as Madison County Citizen of the Year.

Mayor Nobles also reported that Chair Valentine was voted by the Suwannee River League of Cities as Municipal Official of the Year.

Chair Valentine informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on May 28, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Myra Valentine, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
5/28/09  
Date

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

## *DECLARING MAY 9-17, 2009 AS TRAVEL AND TOURISM 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 9-17, 2009 as Travel and Tourism Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 23rd day of April 2009.

ATTEST:

SEAL

  
Eddie Martin, Secretary-Treasurer

  
Myra Valentine, Chair