

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

January 22, 2009
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Louie Davis, City of Waldo
David Dodge, Bradford County
Dixie Donovan, Columbia County
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
John Hersey, Bradford County
Emily Weed Ketring, City of Perry
Eddie Martin, Alachua County
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Rudolph Parker, Taylor County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
James Tallman, Union County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County
Ronald Williams, Columbia County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

GUESTS PRESENT

Diana Davis
Sam Donovan
Annie Marshall
Scott Reynolds, City of Lake City

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Cynthia Chestnut, Alachua County
Gib Coerper, City of Alachua
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville
John Glanzer, City of Newberry
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville
Ann Lessman, City of Jasper
Rodney Long, Alachua County
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville
James Painter, Alachua County
Blanch Parker, City of Archer
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne
Andrew Smith, Union County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Byran Williams, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Bill Henderson, representing Charles Baldwin,
FL Dept. of Transportation

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Tony Marshall
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 7:30 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner John Hersey, and the 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 Scott Reynolds, City Manager from the City of Lake City. Ms. Dixie Donovan introduced her son, Sam Donovan.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 4, 2008

Acting Chair Valentine asked that the minutes of the December 4, 2008 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Mayor Ketring, to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2008 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Transportation Disadvantaged Board Membership Certifications - Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union Counties

B. Agreement with Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council Concerning Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plans

C. Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Concerning Regional Economic Modeling, Inc.

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

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

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Acting Chair Valentine introduced and welcomed two new members, County Commissioner Wesley Wainwright from Suwannee County and County Commissioner James Tallman from Union County.

B. Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Mike Byerly
2. D. Ray Harrison, Jr.
3. Tracy Reeves

Acting Chair Valentine asked that Resolutions of Appreciation for past services to the Council be approved for County Commissioner Mike Byerly, who served as a representative for Alachua County, County Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., who served as a representative for Gilchrist County and Mr. Tracy Reeves, who served as a gubernatorial representative for Madison County.

ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Mayor Ketring, to approve the Resolutions of Appreciation for County Commissioner Byerly, County Commissioner Harrison and Mr. Reeves. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Employee Certificate of Service - Tony Marshall - 5 Years

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Tony Marshall, who joined the Council staff on December 1, 2003. Mr. Marshall currently serves as the Council's Finance Director. Mr. Koons then introduced and welcomed Tony's wife, Annie. Acting Chair Valentine presented a 5-year Certificate of Service and a 5-year service pin to Mr. Marshall. Mr. Koons and Acting Chair Valentine thanked him for his dedicated service to the Council.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Restricted Fund Balance - Legal Fund and Unemployment Compensation

Mr. Koons stated that in 2007, the Council authorized the expenditure of funds from the restricted fund balance Legal Fund to pay the legal costs associated with defending the Council's interests in the SpringHills Comprehensive Plan Amendment for a Development of Regional Impact lawsuit. During Fiscal Year 2007-08, \$27,026.74 was expended for this purpose. Mr. Koons stated that in order to return the Legal Fund to a restricted fund balance of \$100,000, the Executive Committee

recommended that the Council encumber \$27,026.74 of the Council's unrestricted fund balance as part of the Legal Fund restricted fund balance.

In addition, Mr. Koons stated that during Fiscal Year 2007-08, \$123.81 was expended from the Unemployment Compensation Fund to pay unemployment compensation benefits for a Council employee. He stated that in order to return the Unemployment Compensation Fund to a restricted fund balance of \$30,000, the Executive Committee recommended that the Council encumber \$123.81 of the Council's unrestricted fund balance as part of the Unemployment Compensation restricted fund balance.

ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to encumber \$27,026.74 of the Council's unrestricted fund balance as part of the restricted fund balance to bring the Legal Fund balance to \$100,000 and encumber \$123.81 of the Council's unrestricted fund balance as part of the restricted fund balance to bring the Unemployment Compensation fund balance to \$30,000. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Removal of Surplus Property From List of Capital Assets

Mr. Koons reported that the items listed below are computer hardware of out-dated technology, with related equipment and software and a display panel system. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that this hardware be declared surplus property and that approval be given to dispose of this equipment in accordance with Council policy, which will result in transporting it to the Leveda Brown Hazardous Waste Collection Center in Alachua County.

Inventory #3055 & 3061 Abex Ultralight Display;
Inventory #3083 Dell Dimension 8100 Computer, Serial #80N8801;
Inventory #3097 Dell Dimension 4500 Computer, Serial #CBQJW11;
Inventory #3098 Dell Dimension 4500 Computer, Serial #FBQJW11;
Inventory #3099 Dell Dimension 4500 Computer, Serial #GBQJW11;
Inventory #3100 Dell Dimension 4500 Computer, Serial #HBQJW1;
Inventory #3101 Dell Dimension 4500 Computer, Serial #1CQJW11; and
Inventory #3082 MediaSource CD Single-User Software.

ACTION: Mr. Maulsby made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to declare the above listed items as surplus property and to approve the

disposal of this equipment in accordance with Council policy. 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 nine agenda items. She stated that these items would be grouped for purposes of presentation.

#30 - City of Worthington Springs Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#34 - City of Lake Butler Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#35 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#36 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#38 - City of Lake Butler Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#43 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments

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 Mayor Ketring, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #30, City of Worthington Springs Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #34, City of Lake Butler Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #35, Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #36, Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #38, City of Lake Butler Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #43, City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments. The motion carried unanimously.

#33 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments

Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee reviewed Item #33, City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments and found the comprehensive plan, as amended, remained consistent with the regional plan. Nevertheless, she reported that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding an objection and recommendation made on the draft version of the amendments regarding potential adverse impacts to a segment of the Regional Road Network. She further reported that the Clearinghouse Committee also

recommended forwarding a comment made on the draft regarding maps submitted by the City depicting the location of the map amendment. 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 Williams, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #33, City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments. The motion carried unanimously.

#31 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments
#44 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

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 #31, City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments and Item #44, Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Finance Committee

1. Accept Fiscal Year 2007-08 Audit Report
2. Authorize Payment of Auditor

Mayor Louie Davis, Secretary-Treasurer of the Council and Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee met earlier in the evening with the auditor and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2007-08 Annual Audit as prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. He stated that the audit conforms with both federal regulations and the rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 34 requirements and that there were no findings or concerns reported by the auditor. Mayor Davis stated that the Finance Committee recommended acceptance and approval of the FY 2007-08 Audit and recommended final payment be made to the auditor.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Mr. Martin to accept and approve the Fiscal Year 2007-08 Annual Audit and to make final payment to the auditor, Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Nominating Committee Report

Commissioner Roy Ellis, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Nominating Committee met on January 6, 2009 to make, for the Council's consideration, recommendations regarding all officer positions, including the additional Executive Committee member, to serve for the remainder of the 2008-09 program year. He reported that the Nominating Committee agreed to recommend a nominee to fill the vacant Chair position on the Executive Committee for the remainder of the 2008-09 program year. The Nominating Committee also agreed to recommend to the Council that the other members of the Executive Committee be advanced in their positions for the remainder of the 2008-09 program year. The Nominating Committee recommendations for the officer positions are, as follows.

Chair - Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Vice-Chair - Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Secretary-Treasurer - Eddie Martin, Alachua County
Immediate Past Chair - Roy Ellis, Madison County

Commissioner Ellis reported that this recommendation resulted in a vacancy in the member-at-large position on the Executive Committee and on the Board of Directors. He further reported that the Nominating Committee recommendations for these positions are as follows.

Executive Committee Member-at-Large - John Hersey, Bradford County
Board of Directors - Rudolph Parker, Taylor County

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

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

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Legislature met in special session earlier this month and put together a package to reduce the current budget by \$2.8 billion which resulted in a \$1.2 billion cut in funding. This budget reduction brought the current year's budget to \$63 billion, a reduction in the budget of approximately \$10 billion from Fiscal Year 2007-08. Mr. Koons then discussed a number of possible revenue enhancements which may be considered during this legislative session.

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Department of Community Affairs is not anticipated to propose legislative changes to Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, to implement the Florida Regional Councils Association Framework for Florida's Planning Reform: Connecting Planning to Visioning during this legislative session.

Mr. Koons further reported that at the present time it is uncertain whether the Florida Department of Community Affairs will propose legislation concerning amendments to Chapter 163 and Chapter 186 concerning urban growth policy, alternative state review, affordable housing, Everglades protection and regional visioning.

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.

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 responded to the plaintiff's request for production of documents and interrogatories and that these documents and interrogatories have recently been submitted to the plaintiff.

C. Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting Report

Mr. Koons reported that he and Acting Chair Valentine, Immediate Past Chairman Roy Ellis and gubernatorial appointee Eddie Martin attended the semi-annual meeting of the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board meeting in Tallahassee on January 16, 2009. He reported that Secretary Tom Pelham of the Florida Department of Community Affairs addressed the Policy Board and reviewed the programs of the Department and the legislative agency sunset review process for the Department. Mr. Koons also reported that there were a number of other guest speakers, including Matt Chase, Executive Director of the National Association of Development Organizations, Tim Center, Executive Director of the Florida Century Commission, Amy Baker, Director of the Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Eric Poole, Assistant Legislative Director of the Florida Association of Counties and John Thomas, Director of Policy and Political Affairs of the Florida League of Cities. Mr. Koons stated that Ron Book, Executive Director of the Florida Regional Councils Association also gave a report on state legislative matters.

D. Federal Highway Administration Professional Development Program

Mr. Koons stated that the Federal Highway Administration has requested that the Council host a developmental assignment participant. The participant will be an employee of the Federal Highway Administration and will receive training by being assigned to the Council, as a host agency. The salary of the participant will be paid by the federal agency. Mr. Koons further stated that the assignment would be for a three-month period and that the participant will work in the Council's Transportation Planning Division on projects for the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area.

E. North Central Florida Rural Planning Network

Mr. Koons stated that the second meeting of the North Central Florida Rural Planning Network will be held tomorrow, January 23, 2009, at the Otter Springs

Park and Campground, which is located near Trenton, Florida. He stated that the Network includes the 10 rural counties of the north central Florida region and Baker, Jefferson, Levy and Putnam Counties. He stated that these meetings are in response to suggestions and requests from planners in the region to develop a network of rural planners. The second meeting is being hosted by Gilchrist County and is being co-sponsored by the Council and the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

F. Alachua County Sheriff's Office Grant Writing Workshop

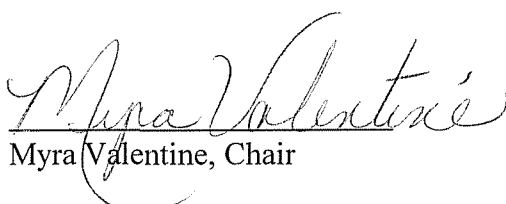
Mr. Koons stated that the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and Grant Writing USA will be presenting a two-day grant writing workshop in Gainesville on February 12-13, 2009. He stated that for more information, Grant Writing USA or the Alachua County Sheriff's Office can be contacted.

Mr. Koons reported that the U. S. Economic Development Administration has been appropriated \$400 million by Congress for disaster relief related to disasters that occurred last year. He stated that Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Hamilton, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties would be eligible to apply for these funds which can be used for job creating projects. Mr. Koons stated that the funding split for these funds is 75 percent grant and 25 percent local match. He stated that additional information and assistance in filing grant applications can be obtained by contacting Council staff.

Mr. Koons stated that the U. S. House recently released their \$850 billion Federal Economic Stimulus proposal which was approved by the U. S. House Appropriations Committee last night. He stated that the proposal includes \$500 billion in appropriations and \$300 billion in various tax incentives or tax cuts. He stated that neither the U. S. Senate or the Obama Administration have presented their proposals but that Congressional leaders have pledged that a combined U. S. House and U. S. Senate package would be passed by Congress by the 3rd Monday in February.

Mr. Koons stated that the Obama Administration has published their Rural Policy on the White House website, which includes policies to ensure economic opportunity for small farmers, to support rural economic development and to improve rural quality of life through healthcare.

Acting Chair Valentine informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on February 26, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.


Myra Valentine, Chair

2/26/09
Date