

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

April 22, 2010
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Adeniyi Aderibigbe, Lafayette County
Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
David Biddle, Gilchrist County
Thomas Collett, Alachua County
David Dodge, Bradford County
Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Ken Green, City of Archer
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
John Hersey, Bradford County
Robert Krames, Alachua County
Eddie Martin, Alachua County
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Harry Nichols, City of Newberry
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Rudolph Parker, Taylor County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Andrew Smith, Union County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
James Tallman, Union County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County
Charles Williams, Hamilton County
Mike Williams, Madison County
Ronald Williams, Columbia County

GUESTS PRESENT

None

MEMBERS ABSENT

William Coughlin, City of High Springs
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Gib Coerper, City of Alachua
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville
Wesley Eubank, Alachua County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County
Ann Lessman, City of Jasper
Rodney Long, Alachua County
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Jordan Green, 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 7:32 p.m. with an invocation given by Mr. Mike Williams, 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.C. - Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council - Florida Interoperable Communications Implementation Workshop, be added to the agenda.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Mr. Dodge, to add Item III.B. - Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council - Florida Interoperable Communications Implementation Workshop, to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 25, 2010

Chair Valentine asked that the minutes of the March 25, 2010 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mr. Smith made the motion, with a second by Councilman Dowdell, to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2010 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Local Government Comprehensive Planning Assistance Services Agreement - Town of LaCrosse - Fiscal Year 2009-10
- B. Research Agreement - University of Florida
- C. Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council - Florida Interoperable Communications Implementation Workshop (added to agenda)

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

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

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

- A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Valentine reported that Mr. Eddie Martin was reappointed to the Council as a gubernatorial representative for Alachua County by Governor Crist. She then introduced and welcomed new gubernatorial members Mr. Thomas Collett and Mr. Robert Krames, both representing Alachua County.

B. Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Gerald O'Neal
2. James Painter

Chair Valentine asked that Resolutions of Appreciation for past services to the Council be approved for Dr. Gerald O'Neal, who served as a representative for Alachua County and Mr. James Painter, who also served as a representative for Alachua County.

ACTION: Mr. Dodge made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, to approve the Resolutions of Appreciation for Dr. O'Neal and Mr. Painter. The motion carried unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Proclamation Declaring May 8-16, 2010 as
Travel and Tourism Week

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director, stated that the Original Florida Tourism Task Force was created as a part of the Council 17 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 8-16, 2010 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, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, declaring the week of May 8-16, 2010 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida.

ACTION: Commissioner Bailey made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner, to adopt a proclamation, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, declaring the week of May 8-16, 2010 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida. 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 two local government comprehensive plan amendments.

- #21 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments
- #79 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment

Ms. Haas reported that the Clearinghouse Committee found the comprehensive plans, as amended remained 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 recommendations concerning Item #21, Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments and Item #79, City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Department of Community Affairs budget request for Fiscal Year 2010-11 submitted to Governor Crist included an appropriation request of \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils. He stated that the Council's share of the appropriation would be approximately \$179,000. He further reported that the Governor released his proposed Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget on January 29, 2010. The Governor's budget included an appropriation request of \$500,000 for all 11 regional planning councils with the Council's estimated share of these funds to be approximately \$35,000. Mr. Koons stated that the Senate adopted a budget which includes an appropriation of \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2010-11 and that the House has also adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2010-11 with an appropriation of \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils. He added that the Legislative Budget Conference Committee will be meeting over the next few weeks to resolve differences in the appropriation levels for other programs.

Mr. Koons reported that the Legislature is scheduled to complete the second year of the two-year agency sunset review of the Department. The sunset process will either reauthorize the Department as presently constituted, reorganize the duties and responsibilities of the Department, or abolish the Department. He further reported that the Joint Legislative Sunset Committee recently issued its report on the sunset review of the Florida Department of Community Affairs. The report recommends the continued existence of the Department.

Mr. Koons reviewed bills filed concerning growth management, including House Bill 7099 by the House Military and Local Affairs Policy Committee and Senate Bill 2452 by Senator Bennett. These proposed bills provide that in the event a court invalidates any portion of Senate Bill 360, certain actions would remain valid if taken prior to such judicial declaration. Mr. Koons stated that proposed Committee Bill Military and Local Affairs 10-07 would require communication and coordination between local governments and the military bases within their boundaries with regard to certain land use actions near the bases.

Mr. Koons reported that Senate Bill 1742, addresses transportation concurrency exception areas and transit-oriented development. He stated that the bill creates a statutory definition of transit-oriented development, provides that comprehensive plan amendments to implement transportation concurrency exception areas would be exempt from the twice a year limitation on regular comprehensive plan amendments and such amendments could use the alternative state review process, provides for accounting of time value of money for mitigation costs of phased projects, provides for sharing of mitigation funds among all affected local governments, provides for certain landowners or developers to request local governments to establish a transportation concurrency backlog area to fund transportation improvements and exempts transit-oriented

developments from transportation impacts in the development of regional impact review process.

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

Mr. Koons stated that this report is the 30th and final report concerning the SpringHills Comprehensive Plan Amendments for the Development of Regional Impact Lawsuit. He 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 discussion concerning a possible settlement. The plaintiff presented the attorneys and representatives for the Council and County a revised conceptual development plan for the project. The attorneys and representatives for the Council and County requested that the plaintiff suspend their lawsuit for six months and continue to work with Council and County staff to review and refine the revised development plan. The plaintiff's attorney and representatives agreed to suspend the lawsuit for a six-month period with a three-month opt out provision.

Mr. Koons stated that on May 12, 2009, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners voted to authorize their staff to work with the plaintiff to review and refine the revised development plan. He added that at its May 28, 2009 meeting, the Council agreed to suspend the SpringHills Comprehensive Plan Amendments for the Development of Regional Impact lawsuit and authorized staff to work with

representatives of Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust to review and refine the revised development plan for the SpringHills development. Mr. Koons further stated that Council staff and Alachua County staff met with the applicant on June 11, 2009 and July 10, 2009 to discuss the revised development plan and that on July 15, 2009, the attorneys for all parties held a status hearing with Circuit Court Judge Roundtree and agreed to continue the lawsuit suspension for an additional 90 days. He stated that no meetings have been held between Council staff and the applicant or Alachua County staff since March 25, 2010.

Mr. Koons stated that a status hearing originally scheduled for February 18, 2010 with Circuit Court Judge Roundtree and the attorneys for all parties was postponed and was rescheduled for April 14, 2010. He stated that on March 25, 2010, the plaintiff sent an agreement for stipulated dismissal of the lawsuit to the office of Jon Wershow, Council Attorney. He reported that at the March 25, 2010 meeting, the Council authorized the Chair to sign the agreement for stipulated dismissal of the lawsuit. He added that a motion for Joint Stipulation for Voluntary Dismissal of the lawsuit was filed by the plaintiffs and defendants with the Circuit Court on April 13, 2010. He further reported that Circuit Court Judge Roundtree signed an Order on Joint Stipulation for Voluntary Dismissal dated April 16, 2010 dismissing the lawsuit.

C. Original Florida Tourism Task Force Hidden Treasures Campaign

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, the Original Florida Tourism Task Force implements campaigns to increase tourist visits to the Natural North Florida region.

Mr. Koons reported that a second Geocache Campaign and Contest was recently launched following the successful and award winning 2006 initial campaign. He stated that the Original Florida Tourism Task Force created a geocaching trail through 12 north Florida counties to highlight the cultural, historic and nature-based amenities that stretch from Gainesville to Quincy and White Springs to Cedar Key. The trail is a scavenger hunt that provides successful cachers with a chance to win one of several vacation getaways. He added that contestants need only to find the caches listed under "Hidden Treasures of Natural North Florida 2010" and log onto www.NaturalNorthFlorida.com and click on the Hidden Treasures contest logo and answer the questions about the cache or its location. Mr. Koons stated that geocaching uses global positioning system units to receive signals from satellites, fixing the latitude and longitude coordinates of the hidden caches.

D. North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team

Mr. Koons stated that the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team was created as a project of the Council in 2000. He stated that three cities and five counties in the region, at the request of the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, adopted an interlocal agreement creating the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team. The Team provides equipment and training to response teams within the jurisdictions of its members and the Council provides staff support to assist the Team implement its program.

Mr. Koons further stated that on March 2, 2010, the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County adopted a resolution joining the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team. He reported that Suwannee County Fire Rescue will join fire departments from the Cities of Gainesville and Lake City, as well as Columbia, Dixie, and Gilchrist Counties. He added that a response trailer will be deployed to Suwannee County Fire Rescue, which will expand the geographic area where a timely hazmat response will be possible.

E. 2010 Census

Mr. Koons reported that the 2010 Census is being taken this year and will be used to determine political representation to the United States House of Representatives, state legislatures and local governments, as well as the amount of funding that will be provided by the state and federal government for a number of programs in the region, including public transportation, programs for the elderly, emergency food and shelter, Head Start programs and Title 1 reading grants to school districts. He stated that the Census form mail back participation rates for the 2000 Census and 2010 Census for north central Florida counties were included in the Council packet.

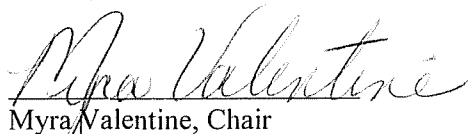
F. Alligator Lake Spring Festival

Mr. Koons stated that from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on April 24, 2010, Four Rivers Audubon and the Gateway Wildlife Habitat Organization are planning a day of education and fun at Alligator Lake in Lake City. He stated that the event is supported by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County and the Columbia County Tourist Development Council. He stated that the purpose of the event will be to underscore the importance of the park as both a water resource as well as the headwaters of the Ichetucknee River and further stated that that Alligator Lake is a natural resource of regional significance as designated in the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan. He further reported that activities will be designed to engage and educate individuals about water, healthy yards, birds, flowers, plants and enjoying the outdoors, including nature walks and educational displays. He added that the park is a natural classroom for teaching about the environment and the economic benefits of protecting natural resources.

G. North Central Florida Rural Planning Network

Mr. Koons reported that the next meeting of the North Central Florida Rural Planning Network will be held on April 23, 2010. He stated that the North Central Florida Rural Planning Network includes the 10 rural counties of the north central Florida region and Baker, Jefferson, Levy and Putnam Counties. Mr. Koons reported that the meeting will be held at the Lake Butler Community Center in Lake Butler and is being co-sponsored by the Council and the Florida Department of Community Affairs. He stated that the guest speaker participating in the workshop is Robin Turner, Florida Greenways and Trails, from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Chair Valentine informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on May 27, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.


Myra Valentine, Chair

5/27/10
Date

PROCLAMATION

DECLARING MAY 8-16, 2010 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 8-16, 2010 as Travel and Tourism Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 22nd day of April 2010.

ATTEST:

SEAL



Eddie Martin, Secretary-Treasurer



Myka Valentine, Chair