

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

January 28, 2010
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
David Biddle, Gilchrist County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
David Dodge, Bradford County
Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Wesley Eubank, Alachua County
Ken Green, City of Archer
John Hersey, Bradford 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
James Painter, Alachua County
Rudolph Parker, Taylor County
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne
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
Charles Williams, Hamilton County
Mike Williams, Madison County
Ronald Williams, Columbia County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

GUESTS PRESENT

Diana Davis

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Henderson, FL Dept. of Transportation
Jim Poole, Enterprise Florida

MEMBERS ABSENT

Adeniyi Aderibigbe, Lafayette County
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
William Coughlin, City of High Springs
Gib Coerper, City of Alachua
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County
Ann Lessman, City of Jasper
Rodney Long, Alachua County
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

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 Commissioner Spooner, 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 for a moment of silence for Captain Chad Reed from the Dixie County Sheriff's Office who lost his life recently in the line of duty. Captain Reed was a relative of Council member Lorene Thomas.

Chair Valentine introduced Diana Davis, wife of Mayor Davis.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 3, 2009

Chair Valentine asked that the minutes of the December 3, 2009 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mr. Smith made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Ellis, to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2009 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Community Development Block Grant Administrative Services Agreement - City of Live Oak
- B. Community Development Block Grant Administrative Services Agreement - City of Madison
- C. Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council to Help Evaluate the Statewide Video Teleconference Bio-Terrorism Exercise
- D. Modification #1 to Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness - Fiscal Year 2009-10

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

ACTION: Commissioner Parker made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, 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 five Council members were recently reappointed to the Council by Governor Crist. Those members reappointed were David Dodge, representing Bradford County, Sandra Haas, representing Suwannee County, Charles Maultsby, representing Taylor County, Andrew Smith, representing Union County and Lorene Thomas, representing Dixie County. She further reported that six individuals were recently appointed to the Council by Governor Crist. She then introduced and welcomed David Biddle, representing Gilchrist County, Wesley Eubank, school board representative representing Alachua County, James Montgomery, representing Columbia County, Charles Williams, representing Hamilton County and Mike Williams,

representing Madison County. She also reported that Mr. Adeniyi Aderibigbe, representing Lafayette County, was also appointed by Governor Crist as a gubernatorial appointee to the Council.

B. Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Cynthia Chestnut
2. Dixie Donovan
3. Blanch Parker

Chair Valentine asked that Resolutions of Appreciation for past services to the Council be approved for Commissioner Cynthia Chestnut, who served as a representative for Alachua County, Ms. Dixie Donovan, who served as a gubernatorial appointee for Columbia County and Commissioner Blanch Parker, who served as a representative for the City of Archer.

ACTION: Mr. Smith made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Parker, to approve the Resolutions of Appreciation for Commissioner Chestnut, Ms. Donovan and Commissioner Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Green requested that the resolution of appreciation for Commissioner Parker be sent to his attention so that the resolution could be presented to Commissioner Parker at a future city commission meeting.

C. Committee Appointments

Chair Valentine asked that the Council ratify the appointments of Mr. Andrew Smith and Commissioner Carolyn Spooner to the Clearinghouse Committee and the appointment of Ms. Lorene Thomas to the Program Committee.

ACTION: Commissioner Parker made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Ellis, to ratify the Chair's appointment of Mr. Andrew Smith and Commissioner Carolyn Spooner to the Clearinghouse Committee and the appointment of Ms. Lorene Thomas to the Program Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Interbasin Transfer of Water Resolution

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director, stated that at its December 4, 2003 meeting, the Council adopted a resolution regarding the Florida Council of 100 Report Entitled, Improving Florida's Water Supply Management Structure, the Creation of a State-Wide Water Authority, the Privatization of Water Rights, and the Interbasin Transfer of Water from the North Central Florida Region. He reported

that at the Council's direction, staff also prepared a report dated December 4, 2003 entitled, "A Review of the Florida Council of 100 Report Entitled Improving Florida's Water Supply Management Infrastructure," analyzing the recommendations made by The Florida Council of 100. This analysis found The Florida Council of 100 report to be seriously lacking in supporting documentation and its recommendations completely ignoring the sound policies concerning water management that have been in existence for many years.

Mr. Koons further reported that at its December 3, 2009 meeting, staff was instructed to prepare a resolution in opposition to the interbasin transfer of water and the establishment of a central regulatory commission for water resources supply development. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that Resolution No. 2010-01, which is attached to these minutes as made a part thereof, opposing the interbasin transfer of water and the establishment of a central regulatory commission for water resources supply development prepared by Council staff be approved and to further direct the Chair to distribute copies of the resolution to the individuals and organizations listed in the resolution.

ACTION: Mr. Smith made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Green, to approve Resolution No. 2010-01, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, opposing the interbasin transfer of water and the establishment of a central regulatory commission for water resources supply development and to distribute copies of the resolution to the individuals and organizations listed in the resolution. 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. 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 #1342 HP 7596A Plotter, Serial #2736A09115
Inventory #1404 HP Laser Jet III, Serial #3207A71330
Inventory #1405 Gateway 2000 PC, Serial #627862
Inventory #3030 Hard Drive - 1.008GB
Inventory #3031 Novell Network Operating System
Inventory #3041 Winbook XP5 Laptop, Serial #20AVG04433
Inventory #3067 Dell Inspiron 3500 Laptop, Serial #FT3S5
Inventory #3102 Dell Inspiron 2650 Laptop, Serial #DNQ1W11
Inventory #3109 Dell Dimension 4600 PC, Serial #F49G941
Inventory #3110 Dell Dimension 4600 PC, Serial #G49G941
Inventory #3111 Dell Dimension 4600 PC, Serial #H49G941
Inventory #3112 Dell Dimension 4600 PC, Serial #J49G941

Inventory #3115 Dell Dimension 8400, Serial #90WBY51
Inventory #3116 Dell Dimension 4700 PC, Serial #3SWK461
Inventory #3117 Dell Dimension 4700 PC, Serial #6SWK461
Inventory #3118 Dell Dimension 4700 PC, Serial #8SWK461
Inventory #3119 Dell Dimension 4700 PC, Serial #9SWK461

ACTION: Commissioner Parker made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, 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.

3. Proclamation Concerning Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

Mr. Koons stated that the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee has the job of increasing the safety of our communities from chemical releases. He added that public outreach and education are important to increasing chemical safety in our communities. He stated that the Florida Division of Emergency Management has designated the week of February 14-20, 2010, as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council proclaim the week of February 14-20, 2010 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week by adopting the Hazardous Materials Awareness Week Proclamation, which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

ACTION: Mr. Dodge made the motion, with a second by Mr. Maultsby, to proclaim the week of February 14-20, 2010 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week throughout the north central Florida region by adopting the Hazardous Materials Awareness Week Proclamation, which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof. The motion carried unanimously

4. Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones

Mr. Koons stated that the National Association of Regional Councils is working under the leadership of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments to establish Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones and that draft legislation is being prepared to be considered in the U.S. Senate. He stated that Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones are an innovative opportunity to allow regional and local solutions to infrastructure maintenance and construction needs. He added that private-sector investment would be encouraged through a favorable tax treatment of private funds donated for public/private infrastructure partnerships and streamlined, established approval processes through a regional planning organization. He stated that creating Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones through an Internal Revenue Code change would empower regional and local efforts and define a commitment to upgrading our infrastructure nationwide, while protecting our environment, expanding the economy and creating jobs. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee

recommended that the Council authorize the Chair to send a letter to the National Association of Regional Councils in support of the establishment of Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones.

ACTION: Mr. Smith made the motion, with a second by Mr. Martin, to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the National Association of Regional Councils in support of the establishment of Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

In the absence of the Clearinghouse Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, Mr. Steven Dopp, Senior Planner of the Council staff, gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening without a quorum present and reviewed six local government comprehensive plan amendments and two local government evaluation and appraisal reports. Mr. Dopp stated that the items have been grouped for purposes of presentation.

#24 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments
#25 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments
#30 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#31 - Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#35 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments

Mr. Dopp reported that the Clearinghouse Committee members present found the comprehensive plans, if amended as proposed, would remain consistent with the regional plan. Nevertheless, the Clearinghouse Committee members present recommended forwarding two objections on Item #24, Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments regarding potential adverse impacts to segments of the regional road network as well as to Suwannee County road segments.

Additionally Mr. Dopp reported that the Clearinghouse Committee members present recommended forwarding one comment on Item #30, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, regarding the City's reporting of existing acreage by land use for the amendments. Finally, Mr. Dopp reported that the Clearinghouse Committee members present recommended forwarding one comment on Item #35, City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, requesting the submittal of a map which better identifies the location of properties subject to comprehensive plan amendments relative to municipal boundaries and proximity to the Regional Road Network. Mr. Dopp stated that the Clearinghouse Committee members present recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Mayor Witt made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee members recommendations concerning Item #24, Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, Item #25, Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, Item #30, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #31,

Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #35, City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments. The motion carried unanimously.

#32 - Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Mr. Dopp stated that the Clearinghouse Committee members present found the Town Comprehensive Plan, if amended as proposed, would remain consistent with the regional plan. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee members present recommended forwarding these findings to the Town and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Mayor Witt made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee members recommendation concerning Item #32, Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

#29 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report

#33 - Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report

Mr. Dopp stated that the Clearinghouse Committee members present found the County Comprehensive Plans, if amended as recommended by the Evaluation and Appraisal Reports, would remain consistent with the regional plan. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee members present recommended forwarding these findings to the respective counties and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Mayor Witt made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Parker, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee members recommendation concerning Item #29, Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report and Item #33, Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Chair Valentine introduced Jim Poole, Chair of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. Mr. Poole stated that since 1978, the Council has been designated by the U. S. Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District. He stated that the Council is responsible for developing and adopting a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. He further 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.

Mr. Poole reported that the Council has established a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. The Committee is responsible for the development and maintenance of the strategy and making recommendations concerning the strategy to the Council for adoption. He reported that based upon the recommendation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, the Council adopted the current Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in September 2007. He said that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee met on July 14, 2009 and October 15, 2009 to review activities conducted during the past year to support the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. He said that based on that review, the Committee has prepared the amendments to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy which were approved by the Council at its October 22, 2009 meeting. The amendments update the infrastructure inventory and revise priority projects.

Mr. Poole stated that prior to adoption and submission of the amendments to the U. S. Economic Development Administration, a 30-day period of public comment was required. The public comment period ended on December 7, 2009 with no comments received. He stated that the Committee recommended that the Council adopt the amendments to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and submit the adopted amendments to the U. S. Economic Development Administration.

ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, to adopt the amendments to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy - 2008-12, dated October 22, 2009, as recommended by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee and approve the submission of the adopted amendments to the U. S. Economic Development Administration. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Finance Committee

1. Accept Fiscal Year 2008-09 Audit Report
2. Authorize Payment of Auditor

Chair Valentine introduced Mr. Martin, Secretary-Treasurer of the Council and Chair of the Finance Committee. Mr. Martin reported that the Finance Committee met earlier in the evening with the auditor and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2008-09 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. Mr. Martin stated that the Finance Committee recommended acceptance and approval of the FY 2008-09 Audit and recommended final payment be made to the auditor.

ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bailey to accept and approve the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Annual Audit and to make final payment to the auditor, Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Nominating Committee

Chair Valentine introduced Commissioner Roy Ellis, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Commissioner Ellis reported that the Nominating Committee met on January 13, 2010 to develop, for the Council's consideration, a recommendation concerning the vacancy on the Board of Directors. He stated that the Nominating Committee recommended that Mayor Stephen Witt fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors.

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 Parker, to close the nominations and approve the nomination of Mayor Stephen Witt to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Regional Planning Committee

Chair Valentine introduced Mr. Jim Painter, Chair of the Regional Planning Committee. Mr. Painter reported that the Regional Planning Committee has finished its review of the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the regional plan. He stated that the next step in the amendment process is to forward copies of the proposed changes to appropriate state agencies, regional agencies and local governments within the region to allow them an opportunity to comment. He stated that the reviewing agencies and local governments have 60 days to forward their comments to the Council. He added that after receipt of comments, the Council will have 90 days to make any changes suggested by the reviewing agencies and to adopt by rule the amendments to the regional plan.

Mr. Steve Dopp, Senior Planner in the Regional and Local Government Programs Division then gave a presentation on the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Mr. Dopp stated that the first regional plan was adopted by the Council on May 24, 1979. He stated that the Strategic Regional Policy Plan was adopted by the Council on May 23, 1996 and amended on August 28, 1997 and February 27, 2003. He reviewed the five areas of the Plan, which include Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Emergency Preparedness, Natural Resources of Regional Significance and Regional Transportation. Mr. Dopp then briefly discussed the changes proposed in the amendments to the regional plan as recommended by the Regional Planning Committee.

Following discussion by Council members, Mr. Painter stated that the Regional Planning Committee recommended that the Council begin the adoption process for the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the regional plan by authorizing the transmittal of the proposed amendments to all applicable state agencies, regional agencies, and local governments for review and comment.

ACTION: Mr. Painter made the motion, with a second by Mr. Maultsby, to authorize the transmittal of the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan as recommended by the Regional Planning Committee to all applicable state agencies, regional agencies and local governments for review and comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Valentine introduced Bill Henderson from the Florida Department of Transportation who informed the Council that the Florida Transportation Plan is the state's long range transportation plan which identifies goals and objectives to address the needs of Florida's transportation system and provides the policy framework for expenditures of state and federal transportation funds. He stated that the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan must be updated by December 2010. Mr. Henderson reported that the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan will identify goals, objectives and strategies to move toward a new era for transportation in Florida. He added that workshops in each region are in the process of being scheduled and that updates of the calendar of events for 2010 can be found on the Florida Department of Transportation website.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Department of Community Affairs budget request for Fiscal Year 2009-10 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.

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Regional Councils Association will not be proposing 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 reported that the Florida Department of Community Affairs will not be proposing legislation concerning amendments to Chapter 163 and Chapter 186. He stated 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.

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 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.

Mr. Jon Wershow, Council Attorney, reported that no meetings have been held between Council staff and the applicant or Alachua County staff since December 3, 2009.

C. Foley Master Development of Regional Impact

Mr. Koons reported that on November 5, 2009 and November 12, 2009, pre-application conferences were held with the applicant for the Foley Master Development of Regional Impact and review agencies for the master development of regional impact to begin the review process. He further stated that transportation methodology meetings were held with the applicant and review agencies on December 1, 2009 and December 17, 2009.

Mr. Koons stated that since the last transportation methodology meeting, the County has received from the Florida Department of Community Affairs the Objections, Recommendations and Comment Report concerning the County Evaluation and Appraisal Report amendments which include portions of the Taylor County Vision 2060. He stated that based upon the Objections, Recommendations and Comment Report, the applicant has requested that future transportation methodology meetings not be scheduled until the County responds to the objections raised by the Florida Department of Community Affairs in the Objections, Recommendations and Comment Report. Mr. Koons reported that it is now anticipated that the Master Development Agreement among the applicant, County and Council concerning the review process will not be considered by the Council until a later date.

Mr. Koons stated that the project is located in Taylor County and is anticipated to consist of approximately 28,000 residential dwelling units, 2,156,220 square feet of retail commercial, 956,578 square feet of office, 13,179 acres of industrial/ warehousing, 900 hotel rooms, 144 golf holes, a 600-bed hospital and 528 acres of educational/institutional uses. The total combined acreage for the development is anticipated to comprise 153,606 acres.

D. Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting Report

Mr. Koons reported that he and Chair Valentine, Immediate Past Chair Roy Ellis and Secretary-Treasurer Eddie Martin attended the semi-annual meeting of the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board held in Tallahassee on January 15, 2010. He reported that Tom Pelham, Secretary, Florida Department of Community Affairs addressed the Policy Board and reported on the Florida Department of Community Affairs outlook for the upcoming legislative session. Kathy Neil, Director of Policy Planning, Florida Department of Transportation reported on the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan. Liefke Cox, Director of Partner Relations, Enterprise Florida, Inc. reported on Economic Development Initiatives: A State Perspective. Amy Baker, Coordinator, Florida Office of Economic & Demographic Research spoke about the economic downturn and the outlook for Florida's economy.

Mr. Koons also reported that other guest speakers included Fred Abousleman, Executive Director, National Association of Regional Councils, John Wayne Smith, Legislative Director, Florida Association of Counties, Casey Cook, Membership Programs Administrator, Florida League of Cities and Mike Sole, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Koons stated that Ron Book, Executive Director of the Florida Regional Councils Association gave a report concerning state legislative matters focusing on state budget issues. He reported that the Policy Board reviewed the financial

statements of the Association, made appointments to the Nominating Committee, adopted a resolution opposing Constitutional Amendment No. 4 (Hometown Democracy) and adopted a resolution supporting proposed legislation establishing Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones.

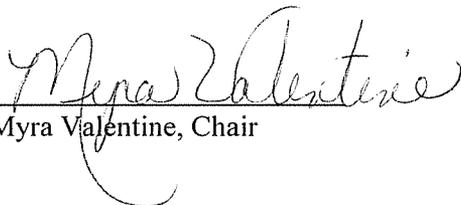
E. North Central Florida Rural Planning Network

Mr. Koons reported that the sixth meeting of the North Central Florida Rural Planning Network was held on January 22, 2010. 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 stated that the meeting was held in Macclenny and was co-sponsored by the Council and the Florida Department of Community Affairs. He stated that the guest speakers participating in the workshop were Tom Cunillio, North Central Florida Renewable Resource Conservation and Development, Sandy Meyer, Hurricane Program Manager, Florida Division of Emergency Management, Julie Dennis, Planning Analyst, Florida Department of Community Affairs and Susan Poplin, North Florida Regional Planning Administrator, Florida Department of Community Affairs.

F. How to Comply Workshops for Hazardous and Toxic Chemicals

Mr. Koons stated the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires many businesses and government agencies to annually report if they have certain types and amounts of hazardous and toxic chemicals. He stated that starting this year, facilities in Florida can now submit chemical inventory forms electronically over the internet. He stated that the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee is providing free workshops which will explain how to use the new FloridaHMIS.org. The North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee is offering these compliance assistance workshops as part of its outreach efforts during Florida's Hazardous Materials Awareness Week, February 14-20, 2010. He stated that two seminars are being held on February 17, 2010, at the Council office starting at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. He added that a third workshop is being held on February 19, 2010, at the Suwannee River Water Management District starting at 1:00 p.m.

Chair Valentine informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on February 25, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.


Myra Valentine, Chair

2/25/10
Date

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL OPPOSING THE INTERBASIN
TRANSFER OF WATER AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
CENTRAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR WATER
RESOURCES SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Florida Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation has recently released an interim report containing findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Florida Senate, and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives regarding the water needs of the State in interim report 2010-114 entitled, Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, Water Resources; and

WHEREAS, said Florida Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation interim report recommends that the "local sources first" policy currently in state statute be reviewed and that a central regulatory commission that oversees Florida's water resources and supply development to be created; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 186.502(1)(4), Florida Statutes, specifically states that regional planning councils are recognized as Florida's only multipurpose regional entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater-than-local issues; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan was adopted by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (hereafter referred to as the "Planning Council") on May 28, 1997 and amended February 27, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan is consistent with the State Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan maps and identifies as Natural Resources of Regional Significance coastal and marine resources including but not limited to the Big Bend Salt Marsh and the Big Bend Seagrass Beds; groundwater resources, including but not limited to the Floridan Aquifer and areas of high recharge potential to the Floridan Aquifer; private and public lands held for conservation and resource-based recreation purposes; water bodies identified in the Suwannee River Water Management District Surface Water Improvement Management program; surface water systems including but not limited to coastal freshwater wetlands, upland freshwater wetlands, lakes, the Suwannee River, and springs (hereafter referred to as "Natural Resources of Regional Significance"); and

WHEREAS, Regional Policy 2.4.3 of the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan states, "Conserve the region's Natural Resources of Regional Significance as economic as well as natural resource assets;" and

WHEREAS, Regional Goal 4.2 of the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan states, "Maintain an adequate supply of high-quality groundwater to meet the needs of north central Florida residents, in recognition of its importance to the continued growth and development of the region;" and

WHEREAS, Regional Policy 4.2.1 of the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan states, "Ensure that state policy is adopted which would require water shortage areas to establish other alternatives, such as desalinization, prior to the interbasin transfer of water to serve their needs;" and

WHEREAS, Regional Policy 4.2.3 of the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan states, “Continue to increase the region’s knowledge of the relationship between ground and surface waters, the surface water needs of native species and natural systems, including minimum flows necessary to the survival of native species and natural systems;” and

WHEREAS, Regional Goal 4.6 of the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan states, “Maintain the quantity and quality of the region’s surface water systems in recognition of their importance to the continued growth and development of the region;” and

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes requires water management districts to develop water supply plans which identify water supply needs for the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, requires local governments to include in their comprehensive plan potable water elements a work plan, covering at least a 10-year planning period, for building water supply facilities that are identified in the element as necessary to serve existing and new development, and for which the local government is responsible; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Council reviews and comments on local government comprehensive plans and plan amendments regarding potential adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance and recommends modifications to protect said resources from adverse impacts as per Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, to further the implementation of the goals and policies of the regional plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Council reviews and provides recommendations to local governments with regards to potential adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance as a result of Developments of Regional Impact and recommends modifications to protect said resources from adverse impacts as per Chapter 380.06, Florida Statutes, to further the implementation of the goals and policies of the regional plan; and

WHEREAS, the minimum flows and levels of all water-dependent Natural Resources of Regional Significance have not yet been determined; and

WHEREAS, the water consumption needs of north central Florida for the next 100 years have not yet been forecasted; and

WHEREAS, changes to the existing “local sources first” state policy and the interbasin transfer of water is inconsistent with the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan as adopted by the Planning Council, specifically Policy 2.4.3, Goal 4.2, Policy 4.2.1, Policy 4.2.3 and Goal 4.6; and

WHEREAS, any discussion of regional water transfer is premature until minimum flows and levels are established for all water-dependent Natural Resources of Regional Significance to assure the continued economic growth and development of the region for the next 100 years without significant adverse impacts to said water-dependent Natural Resources of Regional Significance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, THAT:

Section 1. The Planning Council recognizes Natural Resources of Regional Significance are valuable regional economic resources.

Section 2. The Planning Council finds that the interbasin transfer of water may cause permanent, irreparable harm to Natural Resources of Regional Significance.

Section 3. The Planning Council finds water conservation, re-use, and construction of desalination plants under the current water supply planning process as better alternatives than the interbasin transfer of water.

Section 4. The Planning Council finds additional funding to expedite the process of establishing minimum flows and levels for all water-dependent Natural Resources of Regional Significance combined with clearer legislative direction to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection with regards to its responsibility in ensuring an adequate water supply statewide as better alternatives than the establishment of a central regulatory commission to oversee water resources supply and development.

Section 5. The Planning Council continues to find the existing state policy of “local sources first” combined with the protection of minimum flows and levels for natural resource protection and future growth and economic development as the most appropriate approach to statewide water supply planning and consumption.

Section 6. The Planning Council supports the fundamental principles of Florida Water Law which require a showing that a proposed use of water is a reasonable, beneficial use, will not interfere with an existing legal use of water, and is consistent with the public interest.

Section 7. The Planning Council encourages all local governments and elected officials to voice their concerns regarding the interbasin transfer of water to their state elected officials.

Section 8. The Planning Council directs the Chair to distribute copies of this Resolution to the Governor of Florida, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, members of appropriate legislative committees, local legislative delegation, the Executive Directors of the St. Johns and Suwannee River Water Management Districts, the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, north central Florida local governments, the Executive Directors of all regional planning councils, and to other interested citizens and organizations.

Section 9. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED, in regular session, this 28th day of January, 2010.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

By:


Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

By:


Myra Valentine, Chair

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

***DECLARING FEBRUARY 14-20, 2010 AS
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS WEEK***

WHEREAS, the safe use of hazardous materials is essential to citizens, business, industry and local governments to maintain economic stability and the public health; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of protecting our communities from both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials and joins the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, and numerous municipalities, counties and school boards, in publicly promoting community hazardous materials safety; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for local governments, regional planning councils and local emergency planning committees to work together to increase community safety by encouraging emergency responders to attend free training on how to safely respond to releases of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, citizens need to know that local governments, businesses, emergency responders and emergency planners are working together to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible for both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby declares the week of February 14-20, 2010 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 28th day of January 2010.

ATTEST:

SEAL



Eddie Martin, Secretary-Treasurer



Myra Valentine, Chair