

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

October 27, 2011
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County
Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Ronny Morgan, Hamilton County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Mark Wiggins, Taylor County
Charles Williams, Hamilton County
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Davis
John Hersey
Eddie Martin
Joseph Riddick
Brian Teeple, Northeast FL Regional Council

MEMBERS ABSENT

Susan Baird, Alachua County
Susan Bottcher, City of Gainesville
Ben Boukari, Jr., City of Alachua
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Thomas Collett, Alachua County
Todd Chase, City of Gainesville
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville
Jordan Marlowe, City of Newberry
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne
James Tallman, Union County
Byran Williams, City of High Springs
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Janet Llewellyn, FL Dept. of Environmental
Protection
Tim Smith, St. Johns River
Water Management District
David Still, Suwannee River
Water Management District

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Jean Strong

Board Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. with a pledge of allegiance to the flag and an invocation given by Eddie Martin. Chair Ellis stated that there was a quorum of the Council and all Council members were able to vote.

Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed former Council member Joseph Riddick, who served as Chair of the Council during 1995-96 and Brian Teeple, Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Florida Regional Council.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 22, 2011

Chair Ellis asked that the minutes of the September 22, 2011 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Commissioner Spooner made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas, to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2011 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA - U. S. Economic Development Administration Statewide Planning Grant with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council

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

ACTION: Commissioner Spooner made the motion, with a second by Mr. Maultsby, to approve the item on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

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

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Resolution of Appreciation - Gary Wiedman

Chair Ellis asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for Gary Wiedman, who served as the Public Education Representative on the Lafayette County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since October 1994.

ACTION: Commissioner Wiggins made the motion, with a second by Mr. Maultsby, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Gary Wiedman. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Executive Director Elected to National Association of Development Organizations Board of Directors

Chair Ellis reported that Scott Koons, Executive Director, has recently been elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Development Organizations. Chair Ellis stated that the National Association is the premier organization for the executive leaders and professional staff of the nation's regional development organizations, and its members have worked together since 1967 to promote the regional cooperation of local governments and communities. He congratulated Mr. Koons on his election to the Board of Directors.

No action was required on this item.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Resolution Recognizing Service of Lola Smith as Area Director
Atlanta Region, U.S. Economic Development Administration

Mr. Koons stated that Lola Smith, Area Director of the Atlanta Region of the U. S. Economic Development Administration is retiring after 23 years of service. He stated that under her leadership, the U.S. Economic Development Administration has made significant investments in creating jobs in Florida. From Fiscal Year 2000 to date, the U.S. Economic Development Administration has invested \$125,874,580 in 213 projects in the State of Florida to help create/retain an estimated 25,507 jobs and generate an estimated \$2,128,513,120 in private investment. Mr. Koons reported that Ms. Smith is a native of Alachua County and the north central Florida region. She has been a long-time advocate for the U.S. Economic Development Administration mission in support of the region's economically distressed communities and the work the Council performs as a U.S. Economic Development Administration designated economic development district. He stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council approve a resolution, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, recognizing the service of Lola Smith as Area Director, Atlanta Region of the U. S. Economic Development Administration.

ACTION: Mayor Ogborn made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner, to approve a resolution, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, recognizing the service of Lola Smith as Area Director, Atlanta Region, U. S. Economic Development Administration. 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 seven local government comprehensive plan amendments.

- #129 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #130 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments
- #131 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #132 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments
- #133 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #134 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #135 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments

Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found that the comprehensive plans as amended do not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance or create significant adverse extra jurisdictional impacts. Furthermore, she stated that with the exception of item #133, Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, the Committee found the comprehensive plans as amended do not create significant adverse impacts to regional facilities. Ms. Haas stated that for the Hamilton County item, the Committee found that the County Comprehensive Plan as amended may have significant adverse impacts to a segment of the regional road network.

Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #129, Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #130, Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments, Item #131, Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #132, Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, Item #133, Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #134, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #135, City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee -
Amendments to Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy - 2008-12

Mr. Koons stated that the Council has been designated by the U. S. Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District since 1978 and as such, 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. Koons reported that 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, and must set forth the goals and objectives necessary to solve the economic development problems of the region.

Mr. Koons reported that the Committee met on August 30, 2011 and September 28, 2011 to review activities conducted during the past year to support the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. He stated that as a result of their review, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee is recommending amendments to the Long Range Priorities section of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. He stated that the amendments to the Long Range Priorities section of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy added goals concerning Regional Water Resources, as follows: use the groundwater resources of the region in a sustainable manner; 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; 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 maintain and strengthen local control of area surface and groundwater systems and supplies. Mr. Koons stated that the Committee recommended that the draft amendments, dated October 27, 2011, to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy be approved and authorize the draft amendments to be noticed for public comment.

ACTION: Commissioner Spooner made the motion, with a second by Mayor Ogborn, to approve the draft amendments to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy - 2008-12, dated October 27, 2011, as recommended by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee and authorize that the draft amendments be noticed for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Regional Planning Committee -
Proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Amendments to the
North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan

Chair Ellis introduced Charles Maulsby, Chair of the Regional Planning Committee. Mr. Maulsby stated that in January 2010 the Council voted to begin the adoption process for the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Mr. Maulsby stated that the Regional Planning Committee first began work on the Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments in January 2007 when it began preparing the Evaluation and Appraisal Report of the regional plan which the Council approved in October 2008. He added that this report served as the basis for the Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the regional plan which the Committee has been working on since that time.

Mr. Maulsby reported that the Council received a request for a public hearing from the St. Johns River Water Management District regarding adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Amendments to the regional plan. Therefore, he stated that, at this time, a public hearing would be held pursuant to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes.

Mr. Koons stated that a staff presentation would be given followed by the floor being opened for public comments. He recommended that the Council could take one of the following actions.

1. Adopt the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan as recommended by the Regional Planning Committee;
2. Adopt the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan with modifications or changes; or
3. Take no action on the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan this evening, refer the proposed amendments back to the Regional Planning Committee in order for staff to review any comments concerning the proposed amendments made during the public hearing this evening, and recommend changes to the amendments for consideration by the Regional Planning Committee and defer any action by the Council until the December 1, 2011 meeting.

Chair Ellis opened the public hearing. He introduced Steven Dopp, Senior Planner, who gave a PowerPoint presentation concerning the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Mr. Dopp reviewed the history of the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan which was first adopted by the Council on May 23, 1996 and since amended on August 28, 1997 and February 27, 2003. He then reviewed the proposed amendments to the regional plan contained within the Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Emergency Preparedness, Natural Resources of Regional Significance and Regional Transportation elements. Chair Ellis thanked Mr. Dopp for his presentation.

Mr. Koons asked that the following exhibits be entered into public record. Exhibit 1 - North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report, dated October 2008, Exhibit 2 - Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Amendments to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan, dated June 2011 and Exhibit 3 - PowerPoint Presentation presented by Mr. Dopp entitled, Proposed Amendments to North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan, dated October 27, 2011.

Chair Ellis introduced David Still, Executive Director of the Suwannee River Water Management District. He stated that the Suwannee River Water Management District is asking that the Council defer action on Policy 4.1.5. and Policy 4.1.6. and refer those two policies back to the Regional Planning Committee for review.

Chair Ellis then introduced Tim Smith, Senior Assistant General Counsel for the St. Johns River Water Management District. Mr. Smith asked that two letters dated October 14, 2011 and October 26, 2011, from the St. Johns River Water Management District be entered into public record as Exhibit 4 and Exhibit 5, respectively. He further stated that the St. Johns River Water Management District requests that Policy 4.1.5. and Policy 4.1.6. be removed from the Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Amendments to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Chair Ellis then introduced Janet Llewellyn, Director, Division of Water Resource Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection. She also requested that the Council defer action on Policy 4.1.5 and Policy 4.1.6 and refer those policies back to the Regional Planning Committee for review.

Mr. Koons stated that the Suwannee River Management District has recently designated the eastern portion of their district, including portions of Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Hamilton and Union Counties as water supply caution areas. He stated that the district is now responsible for developing a water supply plan to identify what alternative sources of water other than groundwater will be used for the future needs of the region.

Jon Wershow, Council Attorney, stated that Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, gives the water management districts control over consumptive use permits. He added that the Council does not have any regulatory powers. He stated that both he and Council staff is recommending that action on the Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Amendments to the regional plan be deferred until the December 1, 2011 Council meeting so that the Regional Planning Committee and Council staff can review the comments received earlier this evening during the public hearing on the proposed amendments and make modifications as necessary.

Chair Ellis closed the public comment period. Following discussion, the following action was taken.

ACTION: Commissioner Wells made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Pinkoson to reaffirm support of the language of Policies 4.1.5., 4.1.6., 4.1.7. and 4.1.8, direct staff to work with St. Johns River Water Management District, Suwannee River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to review the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Amendments and bring back any changes to the proposed amendments to the Council for final adoption at the December 1, 2011 Council meeting.

After further discussion the above motion with the consent of the maker, Commissioner Wells, and the seconder, Commissioner Pinkoson, was restated, as follows.

RESTATED ACTION:

Reaffirm support of the language of Policies 4.1.5., 4.1.6, 4.1.7. and 4.1.8., direct the Regional Planning Committee and Council staff to work with St. Johns River Water Management District, Suwannee River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to review the proposed amendments and bring back any changes to the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Amendments to the Council for final adoption at the December 1, 2011 Council meeting. The motion was defeated by a vote of 10 yeas to 14 nays.

After further discussion, the following action was taken.

ACTION: Mr. Michael Williams made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hawkins to adopt the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan as recommended by the Regional Planning Committee.

After further discussion, Mr. Koons stated that staff recommended the addition of Policy 4.1.9. to the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Amendments, as follows.

Policy 4.1.9. Ensure that local government comprehensive plans and developments of regional impact do not include provisions relying upon Regional Plan Policies 4.1.5. and 4.1.6. contained herein as encouragement or justification to require the issuance of a local government permit for the consumptive use of water or the exercise of any other local government regulatory action preempting or having the effect of preempting the exclusive authority of water management districts over the consumptive use of water as authorized by Chapter 373, Florida Statutes.

After additional discussion, the above restated motion was further restated with the consent of the maker, Commissioner Wells, and the seconder, Commissioner Hawkins, as follows:

RESTATED ACTION:

Adopt the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Amendments to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan, dated October 27, 2011, as recommended by the Regional Planning Committee with the addition of Policy 4.1.9. as recommended by staff with said Policy 4.1.9 to read as follows: Ensure that local government comprehensive plans and developments of regional impact do not include provisions relying upon Regional Plan Policies 4.1.5. and 4.1.6. contained herein as encouragement or justification to require the issuance of a local government permit for the consumptive use of water or the exercise of any other local government regulatory action preempting or having the effect of preempting the exclusive authority of water management districts over the consumptive use of water as authorized by Chapter 3373, Florida Statutes. The motion passed by a vote of 24 yeas to 0 nays.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Mr. Koons reported that on September 29, 2011, he, serving as Chair of the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee, along with other officers and members of the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee met with Douglas Darling, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and J. Thomas Beck, Director of the Division of Community Development of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to discuss state and regional economic development initiatives. He stated that also present at the meeting were Michael Ayers, Chief of Staff, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, and Cynthia Lorenzo, Chief Operating Officer, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Mr. Koons stated that the work that regional planning councils do as U. S. Department of Commerce economic development districts was discussed with particular emphasis on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy developed by a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee comprised of private and public representatives and adopted by each regional planning council. He further reported that the economic development element of the strategic regional policy plans of each regional planning council was also discussed.

B. U. S. Economic Development Administration Statewide Planning Grant Award

Mr. Koons stated that the U. S. Economic Development Administration has awarded the Council, in conjunction with the Florida Regional Councils Association a Short-Term Planning and State Planning Grant in the amount of \$200,000 to be matched with an additional \$50,000 of Florida Regional Councils Association funds for a total project cost of \$250,000. He stated that the Florida Regional Councils Association will undertake a Leadership Training and Capacity Building for Statewide Economic Development initiative. He stated that the Council is the grant recipient for this project with the Florida Regional Councils Association providing the \$50,000 in matching funds.

C. Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Trailblazer Award

Mr. Koons reported that the National Association of Development Organizations recently granted one of four Trailblazer Awards to the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study. He stated that working together in a coordinated manner, all 11 regional planning councils in the state completed the multi-year Statewide Regional Evacuation Study which represents an unprecedented undertaking to concurrently update the regional evacuation studies for each region. Mr. Koons stated that the Study has been recognized for excellence both at the state and national level. The Florida Planning and Zoning Association granted the Study their 2011 Outstanding Public Study Award. At the national level, both trade associations for regional planning councils and regional development organizations have also granted awards for the Study. He added that along with the Trailblazer Award, the National Association of Development Organizations also granted the Study a 2011 Innovation Award and the National Association of Regional Councils granted the Study a 2011 Achievement Award.

D. North Central Florida Rural Planning Network

Mr. Koons reported that the next meeting of the North Central Florida Rural Planning Network would be held on October 28, 2011 at the Putnam County Government Complex in Palatka, Florida. He stated that guest speakers participating in the workshop are Kraig McLane, Intergovernmental Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District, Brian Hammons, Planning Development Services Director, Putnam County, Lanny Harker, Planning Manager, Putnam County and Thad Crowe, Planning Director, City of Palatka.

Chair Ellis informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on December 1, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.



Roy Ellis, Chair

12/1/11

Date

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-06

**RECOGNIZING SERVICE OF
LOLA SMITH
AS
AREA DIRECTOR, ATLANTA REGION
U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION**

WHEREAS, Lola Smith has provided 23 years of distinguished service as an employee of the Atlanta Region, U.S. Economic Development Administration;

WHEREAS, Lola Smith also served as Division Chief, Atlanta Region, U.S. Economic Development Administration and as the Economic Development Representative for the states of Florida and Georgia;

WHEREAS, Lola Smith has provided distinguished leadership as Area Director, U.S. Economic Development Administration from October 2007 to October 2011;

WHEREAS, Lola Smith was previously employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration, serving as a loan officer, grants specialist and district director in Florida and Georgia;

WHEREAS, Lola Smith is a native of Alachua County and north central Florida;

WHEREAS, Lola Smith is a graduate of the University of Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics as well as a graduate of the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma and holds a Certified Master Consultant designation from Business Retention and Expansion International;

WHEREAS, Lola Smith is a recipient of the U.S. Department of Commerce Silver Medal Award and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce's Performance Excellence Award; and

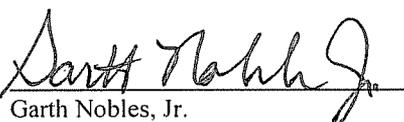
WHEREAS, Lola Smith is retiring as Area Director of the Atlanta Region of the U.S. Economic Development Administration on October 31, 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby recognizes the outstanding contributions made to the communities and citizens of north central Florida by Lola Smith as a dedicated public servant.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 27th day of October 2011.

Attest:
SEAL

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL


Garth Nobles, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer


Roy Ellis
Chair