

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

March 22, 2012
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Jim Catron, City of Madison
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County
Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
Charles Maulsby, Taylor County
Ronny Morgan, Hamilton County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Charles Williams, Hamilton County
Mike Williams, Madison County

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Jean Strong

Board Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

MEMBERS ABSENT

Susan Baird, Alachua County
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs
Susan Bottcher, City of Gainesville
Ben Boukari, Jr., City of Alachua
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Todd Chase, City of Gainesville
Thomas Collett, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Jordan Marlowe, City of Newberry
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
James Tallman, Union County
Mark Wiggins, Taylor County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

OTHERS PRESENT

Leonard Bembry, Florida House of
Representatives
Tim Bennett, City of Madison
Allen Cherry, Madison County Dev. Council
David Cobb, Florida Power & Light
Chris Doolin, Florida Small County Coalition
Jody DuPree, Columbia County Commission
Greg Evans, Florida Dept. of Transportation
Scarlet Frisina, Columbia County Commission
Jordan Green, representing Florida Dept. of
Transportation
David Kraus, Columbia County
Joseph Riddick
Charles Van Zant, Florida House of
Representatives

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Morgan and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Ellis stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed Tim Bennett, City Manager for the City of Madison, Allen Cherry, Director of the Madison County Development Council, former Council member Joseph Riddick, who served as Chair of the Council during 1995-96 and David Cobb, Florida Power and Light, Lake City.

Chair Ellis asked Commissioner Bailey to introduce Columbia County Commissioners Scarlet Frisina and Jody DuPree and Columbia County Senior Staff Assistant David Kraus.

Chair Ellis asked that Items VI.B.6. #57 - Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Draft Amendments, VI.B.7, #58 - City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments and VI.B.8 #59 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments, which were received by staff after the meeting packets were mailed, be added to the agenda.

ACTION: Ms. Thomas made the motion, with a second by Mayor Ogborn to add Items VI.B.6. #57 - Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Draft Amendments, VI.B.7 #58 - City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments and VI.B.8 #59 -City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 23, 2012

Chair Ellis asked that the minutes of the February 23, 2012 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mr. Maultsby made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bryant, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2012 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Ellis, introduced and welcomed Representative Leonard Bembry from the Florida House of Representatives. Representative Bembry represents House District 10, which includes Dixie, Hamilton, Madison and Taylor Counties and a portion of Alachua and Columbia Counties. Representative Bembry shared his thoughts concerning the issues facing state and local governments. He also reviewed the past legislative session and discussed the challenges for the upcoming year.

Chair Ellis then introduced and welcomed Representative Charles Van Zant, also from the Florida House of Representatives. Representative Van Zant represents District 21, which includes a portion of Bradford County. Representative Van Zant stated that with State House of Representatives reapportionment, the district he currently represents will include all of Bradford and Union Counties. Representative Van Zant shared his thoughts concerning the closure of state prisons and the corresponding loss of employment and privatization of prisons. He thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity address issues concerning the north central Florida region.

Chair Ellis also introduced and welcomed Greg Evans, who was recently appointed District 2 Secretary for the Florida Department of Transportation. Mr. Evans stated that he looked forward to working with the members of the Council to ensure that the transportation needs of the region are met. He also stated that he looked forward to speaking at the April 26, 2012 Council meeting. Chair Ellis thanked Mr. Evans for his comments.

III. GUEST SPEAKER - Christian Doolin, Florida Small County Coalition

Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed Chris Doolin, the primary legislative affairs consultant to the Florida Small County Coalition and also the Small School District Council Consortium. Mr. Doolin stated that the Coalition's agenda was to give small counties a collective voice when dealing with the Legislature. He then spoke about the past legislative session and the continuing budget reductions that will impact local governments in the north central Florida region. He also spoke about water transfer issues in rural counties, prison closures, schools and Medicaid. Chair Ellis thanked Mr. Doolin for his comments.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Purchase Order with Apalachee Regional Planning Council to Assist with a Mass Evacuation Exercise at the State Emergency Operations Center
- B. Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council to Assist with Tactical Interoperable Communications Exercise Support in Camp Blanding
- C. Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council to Assist with Emergency Preparedness Exercise Support in Putnam County
- D. Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council to Assist with Site Visits to Hazardous Materials Sites
- E. Selection of Madison County Community Transportation Coordinator

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

ACTION: Commissioner Spooner made the motion, with a second by Mayor Ogborn, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

- A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed new Council member Commissioner Jim Catron, representing the City of Madison.

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Resolution of Appreciation - Lynn Hodges

Chair Ellis asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for Lynn Hodges, who served as the Community Action Representative on the Columbia County Transportation Disadvantaged Board since October 9, 1995.

ACTION: Commissioner Wells made the motion, with a second by Mayor Ogborn, to approve a Resolution of Appreciation for Lynn Hodges. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - None

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Due to the absence of Clearinghouse Committee Chair Sandra Haas, Vice-Chair Thomas Hawkins gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening with a quorum present and reviewed five local government comprehensive plan amendments.

Commissioner Hawkins further stated that subsequent to the distribution of the Council meeting packets, Council staff received three late-arriving local government comprehensive plan amendments which required action prior to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. He stated that these three items were added to the Council meeting agenda earlier tonight and copies of the staff reports were handed out prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Hawkins stated that the following items would be grouped for purposes of presentation.

- #52 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #53 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments
- #56 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #59 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (added to agenda)

Commissioner Hawkins stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found that the comprehensive plans, as amended, do not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance, regional facilities or adjacent local governments. He 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: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Mr. Maultsby, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #52, City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #53, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments, Item #56, City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #59, City of Gainesville

Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.

Item #54 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments

Commissioner Hawkins stated that, with regard to Item #54, Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, the Clearinghouse Committee found that Columbia County Item CPA 11-03 does not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance, regional facilities or adjacent local governments. He stated that with regard to CPA 0205, the Committee found that the item does not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjacent local governments. However, he stated that the Committee found that adverse impacts may occur to a segment of the Regional Road Network. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the County and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #54, Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments. The motion carried unanimously.

Item #55 - City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments

Commissioner Hawkins stated that, with regard to Item #55, City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, the Clearinghouse Committee found that City of Live Oak Item CPA 11-1 does not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjacent local governments. He also stated that with regard to City Item CPA 11-2, the Committee found that the item does not create significant adverse impact to Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjacent local governments. However, he stated that impacts to the Regional Road Network could not be determined. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the City and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #55, City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments. The motion carried unanimously.

Item #57 - Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda)

Commissioner Hawkins stated that, with regard to Item #57, Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda), the Clearinghouse Committee found that the text portion of the amendment does not result in significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance, regional facilities, or adjacent local governments.

He further reported that with regards to the map portion of the amendment, the Committee found that the map amendment does not result in significant adverse impact to Natural Resources of Regional Significance. However, impacts to the Regional Road Network and adjacent local governments could not be determined. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the Town and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #57, Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.

Item #58 - City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda)

Commissioner Hawkins reported that with regard to Item #58, City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda), the Clearinghouse Committee found that the amendment does not create significant adverse impact to Natural Resources of Regional Significance. However, he stated that impacts to the Regional Road Network as well as impacts to adjacent local governments could not be determined. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the City and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #58, City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Program Committee - 2012-13 Overall Program Design

Chair Ellis introduced Ms. Lorene Thomas, Vice-Chair and Chair of the Program Committee. She reported that the Program Committee met earlier in the evening to review a draft of the Overall Program Design for coming year. This document is to be used as the basis for the development of a budget and is also to provide give instruction to staff as to the work which is to be done during the next year. She stated that there are no changes in the Overall Program Design which include new programs not previously discussed and /or approved by the Council and except for editorial changes, the document is essentially the same as the current year edition. Ms. Thomas stated that the Program Committee anticipated recommending the Overall Program Design to the Council for adoption at the May 24, 2012 Council meeting.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Report

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director, reported that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity budget request for Fiscal Year 2012-13 submitted to Governor Scott did not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. In addition, the budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 submitted by the Governor to the Legislature did not

include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. He further reported that the House had adopted a \$69.2 billion Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget that includes a \$2.5 million appropriation for all 11 regional planning councils and the Senate had adopted a \$70.7 billion Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget that also includes a \$2.5 million appropriation for all 11 regional planning councils. He also reported that the final \$70.0 billion Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget adopted by the Legislature includes a \$2.5 million appropriation for all 11 regional planning councils. He noted that the Council's share of this appropriation would be approximately \$179,000.

Growth Management

House Bill 7081

Mr. Koons reported that House Bill 7081, formerly PCB CMAS 12-02, by the House Community and Military Affairs Subcommittee is a growth management glitch bill (companion to Senate Bill 842 by Senator Bennett) was passed by the Legislature. The bill makes minor technical changes to the provisions of law affected by the Community Planning Act, which the Legislature passed during 2011. He stated that the bill is a glitch bill, with no substantive policy changes included. However, he noted the bill also includes several clarifications and exceptions. In particular, the bill provides for grandfathering of local government charter provisions in effect on June 1, 2011, relating to a local initiative or referendum process for the approval of development orders and comprehensive plan or map amendments.

Mr. Koons stated that the bill was amended to include language that affects regional planning councils as it provides that regional planning councils may provide consulting services to a private developer or landowner for a project, if not serving in a review capacity in the future, except that statutorily mandated services may be provided by the regional planning council regardless of its review role.

House Bill 979

Mr. Koons stated that House Bill 979 by Representative Diaz (companion to Senate Bill 1180 by Senator Bennett) concerning developments of regional impact was passed by the Legislature. He reported that it requires that comprehensive plan amendments proposing certain developments follow state coordinated review process; limits scope of certain recommendations and comments by reviewing agencies regarding proposed developments; revises review criteria for regional planning agency reports; provides that specified changes to development orders are not substantial deviations; provides exemption from development of regional impact review for certain proposed developments; revises conditions under which local governments are required to rescind development of regional impact development orders; provides presumption that certain agricultural enclaves do not constitute urban sprawl; establishes qualifications for designation as agricultural enclave for such purpose and establishes exceptions from definition for designated protected areas.

Senate Bill 912/House Bill 603

Mr. Koons stated that Senate Bill 912 by Senator Bennett and House Bill 603 by Representative Weinstein that would have prohibited a local government from applying transportation or school concurrency or requiring proportionate share contribution or construction for new development for a specified period were not passed by the Legislature.

House Bill 4003

Mr. Koons stated that House Bill 4003 by Representative Diaz (companion to Senate Bill 188 by Senator Flores) was passed by the Legislature. He stated that the bill repeals provisions relating to the Urban Infill and Redevelopment Assistance Grant Program, by terminating the program. The Legislature has not appropriated any funds for this grant program since 2000/2001.

Water Management Districts

Senate Bill 560/House Bill 157

Mr. Koons stated that Senate Bill 560 filed by Senator Dean and House Bill 157 filed by Representative Porter would have authorized water management districts to enter into interagency agreements for resource management activities under specified conditions; provides applicability; requires districts to apply specified reservations, minimum flows and levels, and recovery and prevention strategies in determining certain effects of proposed consumptive uses of water; prohibits districts from authorizing certain consumptive uses of water; provides an exception; provides requirements for the challenge of specified rules. He reported that House Bill 157 unanimously passed the House, but Senate Bill 560 died in the Budget Committee.

B. Foley Master Development of Regional Impact Status Report

Mr. Koons stated that on November 5 and November 12, 2009, a pre-application conference was held with the applicant and review agencies for the master development of regional impact to begin the review process. The Foley Timber and Land Company intend to submit an application for Master Development Approval for the Foley Master Development of Regional Impact. The project is located in Taylor County and is designed to implement the Taylor County Vision 2060.

Mr. Koons reported the revised development is anticipated to consist of 32,710 residential dwelling units, 2,686,400 square feet of retail commercial, 1,318,900 square feet of office, 650,000 square feet of industrial/warehousing, 1,250 hotel rooms, a 600-bed hospital and educational/institutional uses.

Mr. Koons stated transportation methodology meetings were held with the applicant and review agencies on December 1, 2009 and December 17, 2009. Following the December 17, 2009 transportation methodology meeting, the County had 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. The final transportation methodology meeting was held on September 8, 2010. The Master Development Agreement among the applicant, County and Council concerning the review process was approved by the Council on October 28, 2010.

Mr. Koons further reported on December 8, 2010, in accordance with the transportation methodology, a meeting attended by the applicant, County representatives, state agencies and Council staff was held to review pass-by trips, background traffic and modeling for trip distribution and assignment of project trips.

Mr. Koons stated that on June 14, 2011, a meeting was held between the applicant and Council staff to discuss a proposed development of regional impact related Comprehensive Plan amendment for the project. He stated that both the development of regional impact Comprehensive Plan amendment and the Application for Master Development Approval were submitted to the Council by the applicant for sufficiency review on July 25, 2011.

Mr. Koons stated that Council staff, along with other state and regional review agencies, reviewed the Application for Master Development Approval for sufficiency to determine whether adequate information had been submitted by the applicant to determine the impacts on regional resources and facilities. On August 22, 2011 Council staff requested additional information from the applicant and on October 25, 2011, the applicant responded to the first sufficiency request.

Mr. Koons stated that on November 17, 2011, based upon the applicant's response to the first sufficiency request, Council staff issued a second request for additional information from the applicant. On November 23, 2011, the applicant responded to the second sufficiency request. He stated that Council staff, along with other state and regional review agencies had 30 days to review the Application for Master Development Approval for sufficiency to determine whether adequate information has been submitted by the applicant in response to the second sufficiency request to determine the impacts on regional resources and facilities.

Mr. Koons reported that on January 5, 2012, the Clearinghouse Committee met in Perry, Florida to review the Application for Master Development Approval and make a recommendation to the Council. On January 26, 2012, the Council reviewed the Application for Master Development Approval and recommended to the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County, Florida approval of the Application for Master Development Approval, subject to 14 Council Conditions and 64 applicant commitments. He further reported that on February 21, 2012, the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County, Florida held a public hearing concerning the Application for Master Development Approval and adopted a development order approving the Application for Master Development Approval consistent with the 14 Council Conditions and 64 applicant commitments. He also reported that on March 21, 2012, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity issued a letter stating that it will not appeal the development order issued by the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County, Florida for the Application for Master Development Approval.

C. Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Regional Forum

Mr. Koons stated that, as previously reported, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Division of Strategic Business Development, in partnership with the 11 regional planning councils, has been conducting regional forums to gather insights related to the creation of Florida's 2012-2017 Economic Development Plan. The objectives of these forums are to:

- Obtain insights from each region to determine what actions or direction the state should consider adopting to assist with economic growth; and
- Identify the most important strategies to support the promotion of regional business formation, expansion, recruitment and retention.

He stated that Section 20.60, Florida Statutes, requires the Department to develop a five-year strategic plan, Florida's 2012-2017 Economic Development Plan. He further stated that the Plan will provide the foundation for the second level of effort that will create a long-range state-wide vision and plan for Florida's future. The regional forums provided invited stakeholders an opportunity to assist the Department with the development of the Plan.

Mr. Koons stated that on March 2, 2012, the Council and the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council co-hosted, along with the Department, a regional forum on economic development at the Santa Fe College Kirkpatrick Criminal Justice Training Center, Institute of Public Safety, located at 3737 Northeast 39th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. There were 78 stakeholders in attendance at the Forum.

D. Florida Leaders Organized for Water

Mr. Koons stated that, as previously reported, the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners hosted a tri-county public meeting and forum in Lake City with the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners and the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners to discuss north Florida water issues on November 29, 2011. He stated that the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners took action to establish a multi-county work group to engage a hydrologist and discuss what steps need to be taken and what studies need to be conducted to potentially challenge the consumptive water use permit issued to Jacksonville Electric Authority by St. Johns River Water Management District in May 2011. The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners also took action to appropriate \$250,000 to fund the work group and pay for environmental monitoring services and other needed services. The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners also asked other counties and local governments in the region to join in the effort.

Mr. Koons reported that on January 23, 2012, the North Florida Water Supply Group held its first meeting in Lake City. The meeting focused on organizational matters. It was agreed to have the Columbia County Attorney draft an interlocal agreement to form a Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, interlocal agreement agency to address north Florida water issues.

Mr. Koons further reported that on February 13, 2012, the second meeting of the North Florida Water Supply Group was held in Lake City. The group established the name of the organization as Florida Leaders Organized for Water. They adopted a mission statement, adopted a resolution urging the Legislature to fund an unbiased, scientific study of the Floridan Aquifer due to its critical implications on statewide water supply; to redesign of the decision-making process used to issue consumptive water use permits for withdrawals from the Floridan Aquifer that includes all stakeholders affected by proposed withdrawals; and to modify the excessive water management district permits granted in 2011 from “approved” to “probationary” status until an unbiased scientific study of the Floridan Aquifer has been completed. Columbia County Commissioner Ronald Williams was elected Chair and White Springs Mayor Helen Miller was elected Vice-Chair of the organization.

Mr. Koons stated that on March 12, 2012, the third meeting of the Florida Leaders Organized for Water was held in Lake City. The group heard presentations from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, St. Johns River Water Management District and Suwannee River Water Management District concerning the foundation of a joint stakeholder group between the two water management districts called the North Central Florida Water Supply Partnership. He added that the group also heard presentations from the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute, Lake Area Water Alliance, Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District, Santa Fe Lake Dwellers, Save Our Suwannee, Inc., Santa Fe River Spring Basin Working Group, Our Santa Fe River, Inc., North Central Florida Tea Party and Audubon Florida. Mr. Koons added that he made a presentation to the group concerning the Council and the water resource policies of the recently updated North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Mr. Koons stated that the current local government members of the Florida Leaders Organized for Water are: Alachua County, Bradford County, Clay County, Columbia County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County, Hamilton County, Lafayette County, Levy County, Suwannee County, Taylor County, Town of Branford, City of Keystone Heights, City of MacClenny and City of White Springs. Council members Commissioner Lee Pinkoson from Alachua County and Commissioner Wesley Wainwright from Suwannee County are serving as representatives for their respective counties to the organization.

E. Florida Rural Economic Development and Tourism Summit

Mr. Koons stated that the 2012 Florida Rural Economic Development and Tourism Summit was held March 14-16, 2012 in Havana, Florida. The Summit was hosted by Opportunity Florida, Inc., the administrator for one of the three designated rural areas of critical economic concern. The theme of the Summit this year was “Rethink Rural.” Mr. Koons reported that Bryan Thomas, Economic Development Program Director for the Council, Patricia Steed, Executive Director of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Patrick O’Neil, Senior Economic Development Planner, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and he made presentations at the Rural Economic Development and Tourism Summit on a panel concerning regional planning councils serving as economic development districts. He added that the session focused on regional economic development activities, including the statewide coordinated update of comprehensive

economic development strategies based upon the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars framework, as well as economic analyses on policy and investment decisions that support local economic development efforts.

F. Keep It Local Florida

Mr. Koons reported that *Keep It Local Florida* is a cooperative program among the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities and Florida School Boards Association. He stated that the program is committed to preserving local control - the idea that a one-size-fits-all approach to government does not work. The Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities and Florida School Boards Association believe that Tallahassee should not be dictating how local communities operate because what works for Pensacola may not work for Palm Beach.

Mr. Koons stated that according to the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities and Florida School Boards Association, an amendment placed on the 2012 Ballot by the Legislature imposes a new non-homesteaded property tax cap, effectively putting every city and county in the same one-size-fits-all box while providing tax breaks to out-of-state residents at the expense of year-round Florida homeowners. *Keep It Local Florida* recently commissioned a scientific survey and found that passage of the Legislature's Non-Homesteaded Property Tax Cap is uncertain. He stated that the measure, slated to appear on the General Election ballot in 2012, gained just enough support to achieve the 60 percent threshold required for the passage of constitutional amendments. Nearly 40 percent of Florida voters are already opposed to the amendment, and the poll indicates that support for the measure could drop below the 60 percent threshold by Election Day. He added that for more information about the latest "home rule" news and updates or to learn more about *Keep It Local Florida*, visit www.keepitlocalflorida.org.

Chair Ellis informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on April 26, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Roy Ellis, Chair

4/26/12

Date

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL RECOMMENDING BIG BEND TRANSIT, INC. AS
THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR FOR MADISON
COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to recommend the Community Transportation Coordinator for Madison County, Florida;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council issued a request for proposals for Community Transportation Coordinator for Madison County, Florida on January 6, 2012;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council received one proposal from Big Bend Transit, Inc. in response to the request for proposals;

WHEREAS, Big Bend Transit, Inc. is willing to provide the services necessary to serve the transportation disadvantaged population in Madison County, Florida;

WHEREAS, Big Bend Transit, Inc. has the appropriate personnel, financial capacity, vehicle and equipment resources, experience and qualifications to serve the transportation disadvantaged population; and

WHEREAS, Big Bend Transit, Inc. has demonstrated plans to coordinate transportation services to maximize the effectiveness of the coordinated transportation system.

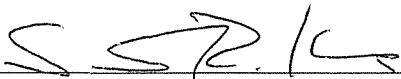
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL THAT:

In accordance with Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recommends to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that Big Bend Transit, Inc. be designated the Community Transportation Coordinator for Madison County, Florida for a five-year period effective July 1, 2012.


APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 22nd day of March 2012.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

ATTEST:



Scott R. Koons, Executive Director



Roy Ellis, Chair

(SEAL REQUIRED)