

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

June 28, 2012
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Catron, City of Madison
Thomas Collett, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, City of Gainesville
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Jordan Marlowe, City of Newberry
Charles Maulsby, Taylor County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Carmelita Franco
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Jean Strong

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

Board Members names are bolded

Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Susan Baird, Alachua County
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Todd Chase, City of Gainesville
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Ronny Morgan, Hamilton County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne
James Tallman, Union County
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Mark Wiggins, Taylor County
Charles Williams, Hamilton County
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Bennett, City of Madison
Diana Davis
Jon Dinges, representing Suwannee River
Water Management District
Patricia Ellis
Allison Megrath, Plum Creek
Mickie Salter, Legislative Assistant to
Representative Leonard Bembry
Doyle Thomas

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

Chair Thomas asked that Item VI.B.2. #77 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item VI.B.3. #78 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments and Item VI.B.4. #79 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, which were received by staff after the meeting packets were distributed, be added to the agenda.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner to add Item VI.B.2. #77 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item VI.B.3. #78 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments and Item VI.B.4. #79 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Thomas introduced and welcomed Tim Bennett, City Manager for the City of Madison, Jon Dinges from the Suwannee River Water Management District, former Council member Joseph Riddick, who served as Chair of the Council during 1995-96, Mickie Salter, Legislative Assistant for Representative Leonard Bemby, Florida House of Representatives, Diana Davis, wife of Council member Mayor Louie Davis, Patricia Ellis, wife of Council member Commissioner Roy Ellis and Chair Thomas' husband, Doyle Thomas.

II. GUEST SPEAKER - Location, Partnerships and Opportunities to Bring Industry to
Columbia County - Allison Megrath, Real Estate Manager, Plum Creek

Chair Thomas welcomed Allison Megrath, Real Estate Manager for Plum Creek. She gave a PowerPoint presentation which identified the location of the 2,590-acre Plum Creek tract of land located east of the Lake City Municipal Airport, of which 500 acres are designated as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern catalyst site with a goal of creating jobs that will benefit the 14-county North Central Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern region. She stated that Columbia County Industrial Development Authority, Enterprise Florida, the Florida Ports Council and the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development are all part of a collaborative effort to position Columbia County as an inland port to handle freight from the Port of Jacksonville. She also stated that legislation adopted during the 2010 session established the site as a Rural Enterprise Zone, allowing businesses that locate there an opportunity to apply for a variety of tax credits and incentives. Chair Thomas thanked Ms. Megrath for her presentation.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 24, 2012

Chair Thomas asked that the minutes of the May 24, 2012 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mr. Maultsby made the motion, with a second by Mayor Ogborn, to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2012 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA - Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 Administrative Services
Agreement - Columbia County

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

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

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Thomas introduced and welcomed new Council members Lauren Poe and Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, who will be representing the City of Gainesville on the Council.

B. Resolution of Appreciation - Susan Bottcher

Chair Thomas asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services to the Council be approved for Commissioner Susan Bottcher, representing the City of Gainesville on the Council since May 2011.

ACTION: Commissioner Spooner made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Marlowe, to approve a Resolution of Appreciation for Commissioner Susan Bottcher. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Committee Appointments

Chair Thomas asked that the appointments to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, Finance Committee, Clearinghouse Committee, Nominating Committee, Program Committee, Regional Planning Committee and Representatives to the Florida Regional Councils Association be approved as recommended by the Chair.

ACTION: Commissioner Ellis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Marlowe, to approve the appointments to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, Finance Committee, Clearinghouse Committee, Nominating Committee, Program Committee, Regional Planning Committee and Representatives to the Florida Regional Councils Association as recommended by the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Employee Certificate of Service - Carmelita Franco

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Carmelita Franco, who joined the Council staff on April 30, 2007. Ms. Franco currently serves as a Planning Administrative Assistant in the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Program. Chair Thomas presented a five-year Certificate of Service and a five-year service pin to Ms. Franco. Mr. Koons and Chair Thomas thanked her for her years of dedicated service to the Council.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - No items to report.

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 and reviewed four 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 items were added to the Council meeting agenda earlier tonight and copies of the staff report were handed out prior to the meeting.

#75 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
#77 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (added to agenda)
#78 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (added to agenda)
#79 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (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. Commissioner Hawkins stated that the 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 Commissioner Poe, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #75, City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #77, Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (added to agenda), Item #78, City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (added to agenda) and Item #79, City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report Update - 2013-2017

Thomas Collett, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Vice-Chair, stated since 1978, the Council has been designated by the U. S. Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District. As such, the Council is responsible for developing and adopting a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Mr. Collett reported that the Committee has been working with staff during the past several months to complete the required five-year update of the Strategy. He stated that the Committee has reviewed existing strategies and has recommended new strategies for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Mr. Collett stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation Six Pillars for Florida's Future Economy has been used as the organizing framework for the updated Strategy. The Committee anticipated completing a draft of the Strategy at its July 17, 2012 meeting. He added that Council staff will then provide the draft Strategy for the Council's consideration at the July 26, 2012 Council meeting.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Florida Leaders Organized for Water

Mr. Koons reported that on June 11, 2012, the sixth meeting of the Florida Leaders Organized for Water was held in Lake City. He stated that the Board of Directors heard a presentation from the Suwannee River Water Management District concerning water use restrictions for the district. He further stated that the Board of Directors also heard reports from the Science, Legislative, Legal and Public Information working groups. Finally, Mr. Koons stated that 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.

Mr. Jon Dinges, Director of Water Supply and Resource Management, Suwannee River Water Management District stated that Dr. Ann Shortelle is the new Executive Director for the District. He also briefly reported on the first meeting of the recently formed North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership held on June 25, 2012 at the St. Johns River Water Management District Headquarters in Palatka.

B. Original Florida Tourism Task Force Press Familiarization Tour

Mr. Koons stated that, as previously reported, the Council provides staff services to the Original Florida Tourism Task Force to assist them in implementing their work program. In order to increase tourism generated revenues in the north Florida region, the Original Florida Tourism Task Force implements campaigns to increase tourist visits to the Natural North Florida region.

Mr. Koons stated that The Original Florida Tourism Task Force conducted a freshwater fishing themed press familiarization tour June 18-22, 2012. The tour highlighted the local freshwater fishing of counties in the region. He stated that journalists sampled different local specialties at each location along the route, from Monticello to Mayo, Fanning Springs, Bell, Trenton, High Springs and Gainesville. Along the way, the writers fresh-fished in Mays Pond and the Suwannee River, paddled on the Santa Fe River to Rum Island, including a visit to the Oleno/River Rise State Park. He added that restaurants featured on the tour included the Rancho Grande Restaurant in Monticello, the Suwannee River Rendezvous and the Mayo Café in Mayo, the Lighthouse Restaurant in Fanning Springs, Blue Water Bay in Gainesville and the High Springs Diner and Great Outdoors Restaurant in High Springs.

C. Annual City-County Managers Meeting

Mr. Koons advised Council members that the annual city-county manager meeting hosted by the Council would be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard in Lake City on June 29, 2012.

D. Financial Disclosure Report Filing

Mr. Koons reminded all gubernatorial appointees to the Council to file their financial disclosure forms with the supervisor of elections in their respective counties by July 1, 2012.

Chair Thomas informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on July 26, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.


Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

7/26/12
Date