

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

August 30, 2012  
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Stephen Bailey, Columbia County**  
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper  
Jim Catron, City of Madison  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County  
**Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry**  
*Sandra Haas, Suwannee County*  
**Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County**  
**Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville**  
Jason Holifield, Dixie County  
*James Montgomery, Columbia County*  
**Ronny Morgan, Hamilton County**  
**Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak**  
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville  
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
**Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke**  
James Tallman, Union County  
**Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County**  
*Lorene Thomas, Dixie County*  
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville  
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua  
*Charles Williams, Hamilton County*  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp  
Michael Escalante  
Scott Koons  
Carol Laine  
Jean Strong

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Susan Baird, Alachua County  
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs  
Mike Byerly, Alachua County  
Todd Chase, City of Gainesville  
*Thomas Collett, Alachua County*  
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County  
**Roy Ellis, Madison County**  
Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, City of Gainesville  
Jordan Marlowe, City of Newberry  
*Charles Maulsby, Taylor County*  
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer  
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County  
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County  
Mark Wiggins, Taylor County  
*Mike Williams, Madison County*

OTHERS PRESENT

Sylvia Catron  
Diana Davis  
Jon Dinges, Suwannee River  
Water Management District  
Dr. Barbara Foster, Florida Dept. of  
Economic Opportunity  
Bill Henderson, Florida Dept. of Transportation  
Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer  
Dug Jones, Santa Fe College  
Eddie Martin  
Joe Riddick

**Board Members names are bolded**  
*Gubernatorial Members names are italicized*

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair 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. She stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Thomas welcomed and introduced Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee member Dug Jones, Associate Vice-President for Economic Development, Santa Fe College. She also introduced and welcomed Jon Dinges, Director of Water Supply and Resource Management, Suwannee River Water Management District, Stew Lilker, Publisher of the Columbia County Observer, former Council members Eddie Martin and Joe Riddick, who both previously served as Council Chairs, Sylvia Catron, wife of Council member Jim Catron and Diana Davis, wife of Council member Louie Davis.

Chair Thomas asked members and staff present to please stand and introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 26, 2012

Chair Thomas asked that the minutes of the July 26, 2012 meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION: Vice-Mayor Spooner made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2012 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Local Government Comprehensive Planning Assistance Services Agreements - Fiscal Year 2012-13
- B. Hazardous Waste Monitoring Verification and Notification Services Agreements - Fiscal Year 2012-13
- C. Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management to Update Hazards Analyses - Fiscal Year 2012-13
- D. Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for Energy Assurance Study
- E. Financial Transactions Authorization Resolutions

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

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

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Thomas reported that there were no new members present to introduce.

B. Employee Certificate of Service - Michael Escalante

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Michael Escalante, who joined the Council staff on July 6, 1987. Mr. Escalante currently serves as Senior Planner in the Transportation Planning Program. Chair Thomas presented a 25-year Certificate of Service and a 25-year service pin to Mr. Escalante. Mr. Koons and Chair Thomas thanked him for his years of dedicated service to the Council.

V. GUEST SPEAKER - Barbara Foster, Ph.D., Coordinator for Planning, Program Evaluation and Partnerships, Division of Strategic Business Development, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Mr. Koons introduced and welcomed Dr. Barbara Foster, Coordinator for Planning, Program Evaluation and Partnerships, Division of Strategic Business Development, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Dr. Foster gave an overview of the Five-Year Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development which uses the Florida Chamber Foundation Six Pillars for Florida's Future Economy: Talent Supply and Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems and Quality of Life and Quality Places as the organizing framework for the Plan. Chair Thomas thanked Dr. Foster for her presentation.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Employee Dental Insurance

Mr. Koons reported that at the July 26, 2012 Council meeting, the Council voted to change dental insurance to a voluntary insurance premium for both employee and dependent coverage with the employees paying 100 percent of the premium effective September 1, 2012. He added that for the period beginning September 1, 2011, United Healthcare dental coverage was under Plan P3416, which required a minimum of 75 percent of employees to be enrolled in the Plan. Since less than 75 percent of employees opted to renew dental coverage with Plan P3416, alternative plans with comparable coverage were reviewed for dental insurance that only require at least two employees to enroll. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that Plan F5430 be offered as the voluntary dental plan for the period beginning September 1, 2012.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Wells made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Thomas to approve offering United Healthcare dental insurance Plan F5430 as a voluntary option for both employee and dependent coverage with the employees paying 100 percent of the premium effective September 1, 2012. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Medicare Insurance

Mr. Koons reported there are three Council employees that will reach the age of 65 during the 12-month health insurance plan year that begins September 1, 2012. He added that once individuals reach the age of 65, they are required to register for Medicare health insurance. Mr. Koons stated that Medicare Part A Hospitalization Coverage has no premium cost associated with it. He added that Medicare Part B Physician Coverage has a cost of \$99.90 per month, Medicare Part D Medication Coverage offered by United Healthcare has a cost of \$40.80 per month cost and Medicare Part F Supplemental Coverage offered by United Healthcare has a cost of \$161.75 per month with the total cost for Parts B, D and F being \$302.45 per month.

Mr. Koons stated that since 100 percent of Medicare premiums are less than 75 percent of United Healthcare Insurance Plan 9FU premiums, the Executive Committee recommended that the Council offer employees 65 years of age or older the option of enrolling in the Council United Healthcare Insurance Plan 9FU with the Council paying 75 percent of the premium and the employee paying 25 percent of the premium for employee or employee and spouse coverage or enrolling in Medicare Part B and Medicare Part D and F offered by United Healthcare and having the Council pay 100 percent of the premium for employee coverage.

**ACTION:** Vice-Mayor Spooner made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant to offer employees 65 years of age or older the option of enrolling in the United Healthcare Insurance Plan 9FU with the Council paying 75 percent of the premium and the employee paying 25 percent of the premium for employee or employee and spouse coverage or enrolling in Medicare Part B and Medicare Part D and F offered by United Healthcare and having the Council pay 100 percent of the premium for employee coverage. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 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 one local government comprehensive plan amendment.

#83 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment

Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found that the comprehensive plan, as amended, does not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional

Significance, regional facilities or adjacent local governments. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the City and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

**ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hawkins, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #83, City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.**

## VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. He stated that the accomplishments of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven, will be reported each month at the Council meeting. He added that the July 2012 report included in the Council meeting packet addresses outreach, resource development/capacity building, legislative and administrative activities. He also highlighted several of the accomplishments listed in the report.

### B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to develop a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. He further stated that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the Six Pillars benchmarked to the other 49 states. The Six Pillars are Talent Supply and Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He added that the Scorecard will be presented each month at the Council meeting. He reviewed the August 2012 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

### C. Energy in North Florida Workshops

Mr. Koons reported that regional planning councils in Florida, in association with the U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Energy and the Florida Office of Energy, are reviewing energy issues in their regions and identifying recommendations for goals, strategies and measures to be assembled into a statewide energy resiliency strategy. Two workshops are being hosted jointly by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the Northeast Florida Regional Council on August 13, 2012 and August 29, 2012, respectively. Mr. Koons stated that the Council hosted Workshop One at the Gainesville Regional Utilities Eastside Operations Center in

Gainesville, Florida on August 13, 2012. He added that participants learned about the current state of energy and vulnerabilities in north Florida.

Mr. Koons further reported that Workshop Two will be hosted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council on August 29, 2012 in Jacksonville. An overview will be given of the August 15-17, 2012 Florida Energy Summit. He added that breakout groups from Workshop One will reconvene and discuss goals, strategies and measures recommended for north Florida. All participants will then prioritize the recommendations and discuss next steps.

D. North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership

Mr. Koons reported that in September 2011, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Suwannee River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection entered into an agreement that formalizes the coordination of water resource management in north Florida. He added that the Stakeholder Advisory Committee, which was formed in May 2012, serves as an advisory body to offer viewpoints from stakeholder groups to the St. Johns River and Suwannee River water management districts and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to help address the water supply issues of north Florida. He stated that Stakeholder Committee representatives closely coordinate with the constituencies they represent, as well as being responsive to the interested public.

Mr. Jon Dinges, Director of Water Supply and Resource Management, Suwannee River Water Management District briefly reported on the August 28, 2012 meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee which was held in the City Commission Chambers in the Alachua City Hall. He added that another meeting will be held in September 2012. He reported that Committee meetings are open to the public so that stakeholders beyond the Committee membership can attend and participate.

E. Our Water Our Future Seminar

Mr. Koons stated that Florida Gateway College and the Lake City - Columbia County Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring an evening to discuss our water, our future where community leaders will share their vision for a water ethic that can be taken to heart. Featured speakers include nature photographer John Moran who will share his images and Dr. Robert Knight, Director of the Florida Springs Institute. He stated that the event is being held on September 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Alfonso Levy Performing Arts Center at the Florida Gateway College, 149 Southeast College Place, Lake City, Florida.

F. Tropical Storm Debby - Post-Disaster Redevelopment

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the Florida Division of Emergency Management are meeting with local officials and community representatives in Live Oak and Suwannee County to develop a post-disaster redevelopment to address the impacts of Tropical Storm Debby. He stated that on July 24, 2012, Hunting Deutsch, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and several staff from the Department and the Florida Division of Emergency

Management toured the flood damage in downtown Live Oak and surrounding residential neighborhoods, and met with local officials and community representatives. On August 20, 2012, Department staff held a second meeting in Live Oak to continue discussions to identify stakeholders and develop a year-long plan redevelopment process. Mr. Koons stated that at the August 20, 2012 meeting, the Council was identified as a stakeholder participant for the preparation of the post-disaster redevelopment plan.

G. Florida Transportation Commission Governance Workshop

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Transportation Commission was created in 1987, under Section 20.23, Florida Statutes, to serve as an oversight board for the Florida Department of Transportation. He stated that the mission of the Florida Transportation Commission is to provide leadership in meeting Florida's transportation needs through policy guidance on issues of statewide importance and by maintaining oversight and public accountability for the Department and other statutorily specified transportation authorities

Mr. Koons reported that the commissioners represent transportation needs of the state as a whole and may not subordinate state needs to those of any particular area. The Commission is prohibited from involvement in day-to-day operations of the Department. The Commission's primary functions are to:

- Review major transportation policy initiatives or revisions submitted by the Department pursuant to law;
- Recommend major transportation policy to the Governor and Legislature (Commission has recommended policies related to public transit, funding, road jurisdiction and distribution of funds to Department District offices);
- Serve as an oversight body for the Department (review performance, review work program, monitor highway safety, monitor financial status, and review budget requests and long-range plan);
- Serve as an oversight body for transportation authorities and monitor and report on the efficiency, productivity and management of those authorities created under Chapters 343 and 348, Florida Statutes; and
- Serve as nominating Commission in the selection of the Secretary of Transportation (Governor appoints Secretary from among three candidates nominated by the Commission).

Mr. Koons reported that at its meeting held on July 12, 2012, the Commission decided to review transportation regional governance. He added that they will examine the transportation planning roles and responsibilities of the Department, metropolitan transportation organizations and regional planning councils as well as regional geographic boundaries of each of these entities. The Commission has invited the Florida Regional Councils Association to make a presentation concerning the transportation planning roles and responsibilities of regional planning councils at its workshop to be held in Tallahassee

on September 19, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Florida Department of Transportation headquarters in Tallahassee, Florida.

H. Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Outstanding Coordinating Board of the Year Award - Alachua County

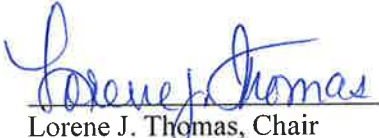
Mr. Koons reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area is the designated official planning agency, pursuant to the Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, for Alachua County. He added that the designated official planning agency's responsibilities include Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards with staff support and resources to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities. The Council provides staff services to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area and the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

Mr. Koons stated that on August 1, 2012, the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged awarded the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board the Outstanding Coordinating Board of the Year Award at the 20th Annual Transportation Disadvantaged Awards Dinner held in Orlando, Florida.

I. Regional Directory

Mr. Koons stated that, pursuant to Council authorization, staff prepared an updated regional directory of local governments in the region and state and federal agencies. He reported that earlier this week, the 2012 Regional Directory was mailed to local, regional, state and federal officials, and planning and related agencies. He added that a downloadable version of the 2012 Regional Directory in pdf format is also available on the Council website at [www.ncfrpc.org](http://www.ncfrpc.org).

Chair Thomas informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on September 27, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

  
Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

9/27/12

Date