

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

December 12, 2013  
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County  
Susan Bottcher, City of Gainesville  
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville  
**LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper**  
Jim Catron, City of Madison  
Don Cook, City of Perry  
**Rick Davis, Madison County**  
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County  
*Sandra Haas, Suwannee County*  
**Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County**  
Timothy Marden, City of Newberry  
*James Montgomery, Columbia County*  
**Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak**  
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County  
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville  
**Daniel Riddick, Bradford County**  
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne  
**Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke**  
**Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County**  
*Lorene Thomas, Dixie County*  
*Charles Williams, Hamilton County*

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT

Brian Delburn, Florida Dept. of Transportation  
Jordan Green, Florida Dept. of Transportation  
Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water  
Management District  
Russell Simpson, Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

None

MEMBERS ABSENT

Susan Baird, Alachua County  
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs  
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County  
Mike Byerly, Alachua County  
**Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County**  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
**Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville**  
Jason Holifield, Dixie County  
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County  
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer  
Wayne Smith, Union County  
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County  
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville  
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua  
*Mike Williams, Madison County*  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

OTHERS PRESENT

Timothy Bennett, Madison City Manager  
Hon. Halsey Beshears, Florida House of  
Representatives  
Allen Cherry, Madison County Coordinator

STAFF PRESENT

Janice Carpenter  
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 Nobles called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Riddick and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Nobles stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Nobles welcomed and introduced Timothy Bennett, City Manager for the City of Madison and Allen Cherry, County Coordinator for Madison County.

Chair Nobles asked that Item VI.B.3., #9 - Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, which was received subsequent to the distribution of the Council meeting packets and which requires action prior to the next Council meeting, be added to the agenda.

**ACTION: Commissioner Patterson made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant to add Item VI.B.3., #9 - Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

II. LEGISLATIVE GUEST SPEAKER - Honorable Halsey Beshears, District 7  
Florida House of Representatives

Chair Nobles stated that Item II. - Legislative Guest Speaker, will be moved to later on the agenda due to the late arrival of Representative Beshears.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 24, 2013

Chair Nobles asked that the minutes of the October 24, 2013 meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION: Commissioner Roberts made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2013 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - September 2013 and October 2013
- B. 2014-16 U. S. Economic Development Administration Partnership Planning Grant Application
- C. North Florida Economic Development Partnership *Experience North Florida* Sponsorship
- D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointments - Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee and Union Counties
- E. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Membership Certifications - Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Madison and Union Counties

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

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

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Committee Appointment - Regional Planning Committee

Chair Nobles asked that his appointment of Commissioner Robert Wilford, City of Alachua, to the Regional Planning Committee be ratified by the Council.

**ACTION: Commissioner Poe made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Catron, to ratify the appointment of Commissioner Robert Wilford, City of Alachua, to the Regional Planning Committee, as recommended by the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.**

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation - David Rountree

Chair Nobles asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for David Rountree, who served as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board from June 2013 to November 2013.

**ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Patterson to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for David Rountree. The motion carried unanimously.**

II. LEGISLATIVE GUEST SPEAKER - Honorable Halsey Beshears, District 7  
Florida House of Representatives

Chair Nobles introduced the Honorable Halsey Beshears, representing District 7 of the Florida House of Representatives, including Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla Counties. Representative Beshears discussed programs he has supported and has been involved with during the past legislative session. He then spoke about the upcoming legislative session and issues important to north central Florida in the future. Chair Nobles thanked Representative Beshears for his presentation.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT (Continued)

C. Employee Certificate of Service - Janice Carpenter - 5 Years

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Janice Carpenter, who joined the Council staff on September 8, 2008. Ms. Carpenter currently serves as a Senior Accounting Clerk for the Council. Chair Nobles presented a 5-year Certificate of Service and a 5-year service pin to Ms. Carpenter. Mr. Koons and Chair Nobles thanked her for her dedicated service to the Council.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - None

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Chair Sandra Haas gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met previously on November 26, 2013 and reviewed one local government comprehensive plan amendment.

#6 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Ms. Haas stated that this item was reviewed on behalf of the Council as per Council procedures for local government comprehensive plan amendments with a response deadline prior to the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting. She noted that a copy of the Committee report concerning this amendment was distributed prior to the Council meeting.

Ms. Haas further stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed three local government comprehensive plan amendments.

#7 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment

#8 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment

#9 - Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda)

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee found that the City of Gainesville and Lafayette County comprehensive plans, as amended, do not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance, regional facilities or adjacent local governments. She stated that with regards to the Taylor County item, the Committee found that the County comprehensive plan, as amended, does not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance. She further stated, however, that the amended plan may result in significant adverse impacts to segments of the Regional Road Network as well as adverse impacts to roads located in adjoining local governments. Therefore, the Committee recommended that the County incorporate Transportation Planning Best Practices contained in the regional policy plan as policies in the County Comprehensive Plan in order to mitigate potential adverse impacts. She 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 Poe, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #7, City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #8, Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #9, Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.

VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Jordan Green, Rural Area Transportation Development Engineer, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, reported that the Department is in the process of developing its five-year work program. He further stated that public workshops were held in Lake City for all counties in the north central Florida region and in Jacksonville for Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties to present the tentative five-year work program. He then distributed the FY 2015-2019 tentative work programs for each county in District 2.

Carlos Herd, Water Supply Division Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that the final technical report for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee rivers and springs minimum flow levels is available for download on the District's website.

Russell Simpson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that the Department continues to streamline the regulatory permitting process. He stated that assistance can be obtained by contacting his office. He further reported that annual training for large quantity generators of hazardous waste will be conducted on January 17, 2014 at the Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville.

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2014 regular Legislature session will convene on March 4, 2014 and adjourn on May 2, 2014 with interim committee meetings scheduled for the weeks of September 23, 2013, October 7, 2013, November 4, 2013, December 9, 2013, January 6, 2014, January 13, 2014, February 3, 2014, February 10, 2014 and February 17, 2014. He then reviewed several committee meetings held in recent weeks.

B. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity 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, are reported each month to the Council. He also highlighted several of the accomplishments listed in the October 2013 and November 2013 monthly activity reports that were included in the Council meeting packet.

Mr. Koons stated that the deadline for submitting the assessment survey distributed via email to Council members, ex-officio members as well as city and county and economic development organization partners has been extended to December 18, 2013. The results of the survey will be used by the SouthEast Regional Directors Institute to develop a report which will be presented at the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Retreat on January 9-10, 2014.

C. 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 reviewed the December 2013 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

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 and establishes the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership. He stated that ensuring sustainable water supplies and protecting north Florida's waterways and natural systems is a collaborative effort among the water management districts, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, local elected officials and area stakeholders.

Mr. Koons reported that the Partnership met on November 18, 2013 in Lake City. The Committee meeting was preceded by a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Rule Development Workshop for the lower Santa Fe River Basin (including the Ichetucknee River) minimum flows and levels rule. He stated that during the Partnership meeting, which took place immediately after the Rule Development Workshop, Partnership members voted to recommend that the Suwannee River Water Management District request the Florida Department of Environmental Protection extend the December 18, 2013 public comment deadline for the proposed rule by one month.

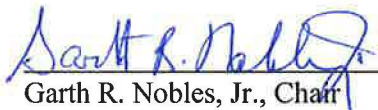
E. Check Fraud Status Report

Mr. Koons reported that on March 20, 2013, a fraudulent check in the amount of \$49,523.00 that was written on the Council's bank account was processed and paid by Wells Fargo. Also on March 20, 2013, Council staff filed an affidavit of check fraud concerning this matter with Wells Fargo. On March 25, 2013, Council staff filed a crime report concerning this matter with the Gainesville Police Department. On April 18, 2013, the Council Attorney sent a letter to Wells Fargo requesting that Wells Fargo remit to the Council within 30 days the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's account. He added that on June 3, 2013, attorneys for Wells Fargo responded via letter stating that Wells Fargo will not reimburse the Council for the \$49,523.00 released from the Council's account by Wells Fargo.

Mr. Koons stated that at their meeting on July 25, 2013, the Council authorized the Council Attorney to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00, to engage Stanley Cushman from the law firm of Scruggs and Carmichael to serve as co-counsel for the lawsuit and to designate Scott Koons, Executive Director, as the Council's representative concerning all matters related to such lawsuit. He stated that on August 6, 2013, a lawsuit was filed against Wells Fargo to recover the Council's funds.

Mr. Koons further reported that on September 9, 2013, Wells Fargo responded to the complaint by filing a Motion to Compel Arbitration. Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Cushman responded to the motion stating that arbitration does not apply to the dispute and have filed a motion for a hearing on the motion to compel arbitration. A hearing was scheduled for October 30, 2013 in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida on the Motion to Compel Arbitration filed by Wells Fargo to resolve the dispute between the Council and Wells Fargo. However, the hearing has been rescheduled for January 24, 2014.

Chair Nobles informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on January 23, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

  
Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

1/23/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date