

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

February 20, 2014  
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper**  
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County  
Jim Catron, City of Madison  
**Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County**  
Don Cook, City of Perry  
**Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County**  
*Sandra Haas, Suwannee County*  
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County  
Timothy Marden, City of Newberry  
**James Montgomery, Columbia County**  
**Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak**  
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County  
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne  
Wayne Smith, Union County  
**Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke**  
*Lorene Thomas, Dixie County*  
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua  
**Charles Williams, Hamilton County**  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

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

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County  
Susan Baird, Alachua County  
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs  
Susan Bottcher, City of Gainesville  
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville  
Mike Byerly, Alachua County  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
**Rick Davis, Madison County**  
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County  
**Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville**  
Jason Holifield, Dixie County  
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer  
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville  
**Daniel Riddick, Bradford County**  
**Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County**  
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County  
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville  
*Mike Williams, Madison County*

OTHERS PRESENT

Timothy Bennett, Madison City Manager  
Taylor Brown, Trenton City Manager  
Allen Cherry, Madison County Coordinator  
Christian Doolin, Small County Coalition  
Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer  
Ann Marshall  
John Mayberry, Assistant City Manager,  
City of Archer  
Marge Wirth

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp  
Scott Koons  
Carol Laine  
Tony Marshall  
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 7:34 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Catron and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Nobles stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Nobles welcomed and introduced Allen Cherry, County Coordinator for Madison County, Timothy Bennett, City Manager for the City of Madison, Taylor Brown, City Manager for the City of Trenton, John Mayberry, Assistant City Manager for the City of Archer, Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer, Ann Marshall, wife of Council staff Tony Marshall and Marge Wirth, mother of Council staff Jean Strong.

II. GUEST SPEAKER - Christian Doolin, Legislative Consultant, Small County Coalition

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced and welcomed Chris Doolin, the primary legislative consultant to the Florida Small County Coalition. 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 upcoming legislative session and issues impacting local governments in the north central Florida region. Chair Nobles thanked Mr. Doolin for his comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 23, 2014

Chair Nobles asked that the minutes of the January 23, 2014 meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION: Mr. Montgomery made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Smith to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2014 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - January 2014
- B. Transportation Disadvantaged Program  
Planning Grant Resolution - Fiscal Year 2014-15

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

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

V. CHAIR'S REPORT - Employee Certificate of Service - Tony Marshall - 10 Years

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Tony Marshall, who joined the Council staff on December 1, 2003. Mr. Marshall currently serves as the Council's Finance Director. Mr. Koons then introduced and welcomed Tony's wife, Ann. Chair Nobles presented a 10-year Certificate of Service and a 10-year service pin to Mr. Marshall. Mr. Koons and Chair Nobles thanked him for his dedicated service to the Council.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Amendment to Investment Policy

Mr. Koons reported that in order to maximize yield while protecting the invested principal of the Council's retained earnings cash in excess of short-term cash needs, the Council adopted an investment policy on July 25, 2013. He stated that the investment policy delegates the authority for the management and operation of the investment program to the Executive Director and also limits authorized investments to U. S. Government securities, non-negotiable certificates of deposit and the State Board of Administration of Florida Local Government Investment Pool. He added that the policy, as adopted, limits non-negotiable certificates of deposit and other evidences of deposit as authorized investments in banks, savings banks or savings associations as defined in Section 280.02(26), Florida Statutes, as amended, that have deposit insurance under the provision of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended, and have been designated by the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida as a qualified public depository.

Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council adopt an amendment to the policy providing that funds may be invested in banks, savings banks or savings associations provided that such funds are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or such funds are fully insured and deposited in a qualified public depository designated by the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida.

**ACTION: Mayor Spooner made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to adopt an amendment to the Investment Policy for the Council, Policy 2013-1, providing that funds may be invested in banks, savings banks or savings association provided that such funds are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or such funds are fully insured and deposited in a qualified public depository designated by the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida. 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 and reviewed one local government comprehensive plan amendment.

#33 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee found that the City Comprehensive Plan, as amended, was not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance, regional facilities or adjoining local governments. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the City of Alachua and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

**ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Patterson, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #33, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.**

## VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Carlos Herd, Water Supply Division Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that a North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership meeting will be held on February 24, 2014 at the Florida Gateway College in Lake City to discuss the revised Recovery Strategy for the Lower Santa Fe River Basin.

Jordan Green, Rural Area Transportation Development Engineer, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, distributed copies of the Florida Department of Transportation's Transportation Trends and Conditions Guide to Council members.

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.

## 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. He stated that the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 submitted by the Governor to the Legislature did not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. He then reported on several bills of interest filed to date.

### 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 January 2014 monthly activity report included in the Council meeting packet.

### 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 February 2014 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

D. Economic Development District Grantee Performance Report  
For the Period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013

Mr. Koons stated that the Council is a federally designated economic development district by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. Each year, the Council reports on job creation/retention, private sector investment and public sector investment for projects funded by the U. S. Economic Development District or other sources that implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy adopted by the Council. Mr. Koons reported that an estimated 1,095 jobs were either created or retained, an estimated \$276,000,000 in private investment was leveraged and an estimated \$13,700,000 in public investment occurred on nine projects that implement the Strategy for the reporting period.

E. 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 January 27, 2014 and identified and forwarded comments and recommendations to both the Suwannee River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regarding the Lower Santa Fe River Basin Draft Recovery Strategy Rule.

F. 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 originally 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 was rescheduled for January 24, 2014. Mr. Koons reported that at the conclusion of the hearing, the Circuit Court granted the Motion to Compel Arbitration.

Mr. Koons informed the Council that Senior Planner Martha Orthoefer, who staffed the Community Development Block Grant Program for the Council, has taken a position with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office as their Grants and Contracts Manager.

Chair Nobles informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on March 27, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

  
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Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

3/27/14  
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Date