

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

April 24, 2014
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
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
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne
Wayne Smith, Union 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

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Susan Baird, Alachua County
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs
Susan Botcher, City of Gainesville
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Jim Catron, City of Madison
Don Cook, City of Perry
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Sandra Buck-Camp
Diana Davis
Ralph Kitchens
Ceci LaDuca
Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer
Noel Munson, Florida Department of Economic
Opportunity

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathon Wershow

STAFF PRESENT

Steven 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 7:33 p.m. with an invocation given by Lorene Thomas and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Nobles stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Nobles welcomed and introduced Sandra Buck-Camp and Ralph Kitchens, members of the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee County Transportation Disadvantaged Board, Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer, Diana Davis, wife of Council member Mayor Louie Davis and Ceci LaDuca.

II. GUEST SPEAKER - Noel Munson, Strategic Planner
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced and welcomed Noel Munson, Strategic Planner for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Mr. Munson made a presentation to the Council concerning the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development. Chair Nobles thanked Mr. Munson for his presentation and comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 27, 2014

Chair Nobles asked that the minutes of the March 27, 2014 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Councilman Bryant made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Smith to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2014 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Monthly Financial Report - March 2014

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

ACTION: Commissioner Smith made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wells, to approve the item on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation -
Cindy Roberts

Chair Nobles asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for Cindy Roberts, who served as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards from August 2007 to April 2014.

ACTION: Commissioner Patterson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Roberts to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Cindy Roberts. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Proclamation Declaring May 11-13, 2014 as
Travel and Tourism Week

Mr. Koons stated that the Original Florida Tourism Task Force was created as a task force of the Council 22 years ago. It is now a 10-county independent tourism marketing interlocal agreement organization. The mission of the Original Florida Tourism Task Force is to “promote the natural, historic, and cultural attractions of the north central Florida region to increase the number of visitors and extend their stay.” Mr. Koons further stated that the week of May 3-11, 2014 is *National Travel and Tourism Week* as declared by the Travel Industry Association. He also stated that to support and celebrate the tourism industry, the Executive Committee recommended that the Council adopt a proclamation, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, declaring the week of May 3-11, 2014 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida.

ACTION: Mayor Ogborn made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to adopt the proclamation which is attached to these minutes declaring the week of May 3-11, 2014 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. 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 four local government comprehensive plan amendments.

- #56, City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #58, City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #59, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #60, Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee finds that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjoining local governments.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #56, City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #58, City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #59, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #60, Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. 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 month of May 2014 is Seatbelt Awareness Month and District 2 has been selected for seatbelt usage surveys this year. There are three counties in District 2, which includes Alachua County, where seatbelt checks and surveys will be completed by the Department. He also reported that the Department is nearing the end of their fiscal year, so

local governments should submit any invoices not yet processed by the Department as soon as possible.

Carlos Herd, Water Supply Division Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that the governing board entered into a public-private partnership for rehydration of wetlands and is interested in working with other private owners in similar projects.

Russell Simpson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that the Northeast District Drinking staff is partnering with Florida Water Rural Association to conduct three workshops in May 2014 to assist drinking water facilities in completing their required 2013 Consumer Confidence Report. Dates for the workshops are May 8, 2014 in Lake City, May 13, 2014 in Jacksonville and May 15, 2014 in Bronson.

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ralph Kitchens, member of the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee County Transportation Disadvantaged Board expressed concern about the management and operation of the Suwannee Valley Transit Authority that serves as the Community Transportation Coordinator in Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. 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 March 2014 monthly activity report included in the Council meeting packet.

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 reviewed the April 2014 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2014 regular Legislature session convened on March 4, 2014 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 2, 2014. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity budget request for Fiscal Year 2014-15 submitted to Governor Scott did not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. In addition, 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. However, the House passed a budget that included \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils. He further reported that earlier in the week during Budget Conference Committee negotiations, the Senate agreed to include \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils in their budget. As you know, the Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2013-14. However, Governor Scott vetoed the appropriation for regional planning councils. The Council's share of this appropriation would have been approximately \$179,000. Mr. Koons then reviewed the status of several bills of interest to regional planning councils and local governments.

F. Check Fraud Status Report

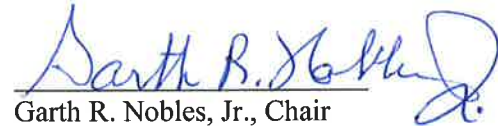
Mr. Koons reported that on March 20, 2013, a fraudulent check in the amount of \$49,523.00 that was written on the Council's bank account was processed and paid by Wells Fargo. Also on March 20, 2013, Council staff filed an affidavit of check fraud concerning this matter with Wells Fargo. On March 25, 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 reported that Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Council Stanley Cushman are coordinating with the attorney of Wells Fargo on the selection of an arbitrator and scheduling of the arbitration hearing.

Chair Nobles informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on May 22, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.


Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

5/22/14
Date



PROCLAMATION

DECLARING MAY 3-11, 2014 AS TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS, tourism brings over 94 million visitors annually to the State of Florida, generates over \$4.6 billion in annual sales tax revenues and employs over one million persons;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of tourism to the north central Florida regional economy and quality of life;

WHEREAS, local governments, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council support tourism opportunities in north central Florida; and

WHEREAS, local governments, businesses, chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council are working together to support this vital part of north central Florida's economy and all who play a role in tourism to ensure that north central Florida continues to be a place where traditions will be created and continued for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby declares the week of May 3-11, 2014 as Travel and Tourism Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 24th day of April 2014.

ATTEST:

Daniel Riddick, Secretary-Treasurer

Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

SEAL: