

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

June 26, 2014
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
Craig Carter, City of Gainesville
Jim Catron, City of Madison
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison 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
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
M. Wayne Smith, Union County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

Brian Delburn, Florida Department of
Transportation
Roni Jordan, Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Susan Baird, Alachua County
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Don Cook, City of Perry
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Charles Williams, Hamilton County
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Bennett
Mary Nell Bryant
Diana Davis
Ralph Kitchens
Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershaw

STAFF PRESENT

Steven Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine

Board Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Spooner called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with an invocation given by James Montgomery and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Spooner stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Spooner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as Chair, and thanked Mayor Nobles for serving as Chair for the past year. Chair Spooner welcomed and introduced Tim Bennett, City Manager from the City of Madison, Diana Davis, wife of Council member Mayor Louie Davis, Mary Bryant, wife of Council member Councilman LaBarfield Bryant, Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer, and Ralph Kitchens from the Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 22, 2014

Chair Spooner asked that the minutes of the May 22, 2014 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion, with a second by Councilman Byant to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2014 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - May 2014
- B. Purchase Order with the Northeast Florida Regional Council to Assist with Updating the Statewide Hurricane Evacuation Study
- C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointments
- D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Reappointments
- E. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Membership Certifications

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

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

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

- A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Spooner introduced new Council members, Commissioner Craig Carter and Commissioner Helen Warren both from the City of Gainesville.

B. 2014-15 Committee Appointments

Chair Spooner 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: Councilman Bryant made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Patterson, 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.

V. PRESENTATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

Steven Dopp, Senior Planner, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Economic Development Strategies for North Central Florida. Mr. Dopp outlined the duties of the Council as an economic development district and gave an overview of the Economic Development Strategy for the North Central Florida Economic Development District which utilizes the Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy as the organizing framework. He also discussed the marketing programs of The Original Florida Tourism Task Force to promote increased tourism as a means of economic development through "Visit Natural North Florida" and "Fish Natural North Florida." He stated that The Original Florida Tourism Task Force was founded by the Council in 1993 to market the region as a destination to enhance tourism while preserving the historical, cultural and natural assets of north Florida. Chair Spooner thanked Mr. Dopp for his presentation.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - None

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Due to the absence of Clearinghouse Committee Chair Sandra Haas, James Montgomery, Clearinghouse Committee member, gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed five local government comprehensive plan amendments.

- #64, Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #65, City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #66, Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #67, Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #68, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment

Mr. Montgomery stated that the Committee found 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. Mr. Montgomery 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: Mr. Montgomery made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Patterson, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #64, Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #65, City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #66, Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #67, Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #68, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Brian Delburn, Florida Department of Transportation, stated that Jordan Green was recently named as Acting Director of Operations for District 2.

Roni Jordan, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that the Department has received a copy of the U.S. Forest Service Environment Assessment for a land exchange between the U.S. Forest Service and Plum Creek Timber Company. This will allow Plum Creek Timber Company to proceed with construction of a rail spur to a catalyst site east of the Lake City Airport in Columbia County.

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

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 May 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 June 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 adjourned 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. He also reported that the Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2014-15. However, Governor Scott vetoed the appropriation for regional planning councils. The Council's share of this appropriation would have been approximately \$187,000.

D. Financial Disclosure Report Filing

Mr. Koons reported that all members of the Council are required to file a financial disclosure form by July 1st of each year. He stated the financial disclosure forms filed by county commissioners and city commissioners for their elected offices fulfill this requirement. Gubernatorial members must file a financial disclosure form with the Supervisor of Elections office in their respective counties to fulfill this requirement. Council members should have received a copy of the financial disclosure form in the mail within the past few weeks.

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.

Council Attorney Jon Wershow reported that a letter was sent to Wells Fargo on May 13, 2014 requesting additional information concerning the disputed check. He further reported that Wells Fargo responded to that letter earlier in the week. Mr. Wershow stated a motion to initiate binding arbitration will be filed and then a hearing will be set for arbitration.

Chair Spooner informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on August 28, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.



Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

8/28/14

Date