

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

February 26, 2015
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Jason Evans, City of High Springs
Scarlet Frisina, Columbia County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County
Everett Phillips, Columbia County
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne
Larry Sessions, Suwannee County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
David Sullivan, City of Perry
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
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

Jordan Green, Florida Department of Transportation
Roni Jordan, Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Craig Carter, City of Gainesville
Jim Catron, City of Madison
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
Doug Jones, City of Archer
Timothy Marden, City of Newberry
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
James Tallman, Union County
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Ed Booth
Sandra Buck-Camp
Allen Cherry
David Cobb
Renee Cobb
Bobby Crosby
Chris Doolin
Rita Dopp
Ralph Kitchens
Sheryl Rehberg
Justin Stankiewicz

STAFF PRESENT

Steven Dopp
Carmelita Franco
Scott Koons
Jean Strong

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 Commissioner Patterson and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Spooner stated that there was a quorum.

Chair Spooner welcomed and introduced Chris Doolin, Legislative Consultant Small County Coalition; Allen Cherry, County Coordinator from Madison County; Ed Booth, City Manager from City of High Springs; Bobby Crosby, County Administrator from Gilchrist County; Sandra Buck-Camp and Ralph Kitchens, members of the Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; Dave Cobb from Florida Power and Light and his wife Renee; Rita Doop, wife of Steven Doop; Justin Stankiewicz, Finance Director for Union County and Sheryl Rehberg, Executive Director of Career Source North Florida.

Chair Spooner asked that Item VI.B.3. Clearinghouse Committee City of Jasper Draft Amendment, a late arriving item received by staff after the meeting packets were distributed, be added to the agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion with a second by Councilman Bryant to add to the agenda Item VI.B.3. Clearinghouse Committee City of Jasper Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Chris Doolin, the Legislative Consultant 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 Spooner thanked Mr. Doolin for his comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 22, 2015

Chair Spooner asked that the minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wilford to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - January 2015
- B. Experience North Florida - Sponsorship
- C. Transportation Disadvantaged Grant - Planning Grant Resolution - Fiscal Year 2015-16
- D. Transportation Disadvantage Program Local Coordinating Board Appointment

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 Councilman Bryant, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Spooner introduced new Council members, Commissioner Jason Evans from City of High Springs and Commissioner Everett Phillips from Columbia County.

B. Resolutions of Appreciation - Frank Ogborn

Chair Spooner asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for Frank Ogborn, who served as a Council member since January 2011.

ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wilford to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Frank Ogborn. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation
William Cummings
Donna Hagan
Betty Touma

ACTION: Ms. Lorene Thomas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation for the past services for William Cummings, Donna Hagan and Betty Touma. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Employee Certificate of Service - Steven Dopp - 30 Years

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Steven Dopp, who joined the Council Staff on January 2, 1985. Mr. Dopp currently serves as the Council's Senior Planner in Regional Planning, Economic Development and Transportation Programs. Chair Spooner presented a 30-year service Certificate of Service and a 30-year service pin to Mr. Dopp. Mr. Koons and Chair Spooner thanked him for his dedicated service to the Council.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - None

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Sandra Haas, Clearinghouse Committee Chair, reported that since the last Council meeting, the Council had received the following local government comprehensive plan amendment which was included on the Council agenda for consideration:

#35, City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment

In addition, she reported that the Council had received item #20, University of Florida Campus Master Plan Update, 2015 to 2025, for review and comment. She further reported that subsequent to the distribution of the Council meeting packets, the Council received the following late-arriving item which requires action prior to the next Council meeting:

#36, City of Jasper Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment.

She noted that a copy of the staff report for the late-arriving item was handed out at the Council meeting. She further noted that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier this evening and reviewed these items, the Committee found that item #20 the University of Florida Draft Campus Master Plan Update, as well as item #35 and #36 the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, would not be anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjoining local governments. Finally, she reported that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the University of Florida Board of Trustees, the respective local governments, and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Patterson, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning #20 University of Florida Draft Campus Master Plan Update, #35 - City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and #36 - City of Jasper Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Regional Planning Committee - Evaluation and Appraisal Report of
North Central Florida Regional Planning Policy Plan

Commissioner Beth Burnam, Regional Planning Committee Vice-Chair, reported that in a manner similar to the process required by local governments, every five years each regional planning council is required to perform an evaluation and appraisal of its Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The evaluation and appraisal process is a two-step process. The first step involves the preparation and adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report. The second step involves the preparation and adoption of amendments to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The purpose of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report is to evaluate the progress of the regional plan at achieving the goals and at implementing the policies contained in the plan. The Evaluation and Appraisal Report should identify those areas of the plan in need of revision based on new information, changes to Florida Statutes, or changing regional trends and conditions. Subsequent to the adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report, amendments may need to be prepared and considered by the Council for adoption based upon the recommendations contained in the Evaluation and Appraisal Report.

She reported that the Regional Planning Committee met on February 26, 2015 to continue its review of the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan focusing on the Affordable Housing Element. She further reported that the Committee will meet on March 26, 2015 to continue its review of the Plan focusing on the Economic Development Element.

VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Roni Jordan, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that the Northeast District continues to streamline permitting and review processes and provide assistance to permit holders and all regulatory customers to provide compliance assistance and outreach endeavors to ensure compliance with the Department's authorizations and regulatory requirements.

Jordan Green, Florida Department of Transportation, District 2 stated that Florida Transportation Plan sets priorities for the next 50 years. He explained that the Department has just started the five-year update of the Plan, along with the update of the Strategic Intermodal System Plan.

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 January 2015 monthly review report included in the Council meeting packet.

B. Chamber 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 2015 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2015 Legislative Session is scheduled to convene on March 3, 2015 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 1, 2015. He reviewed several bills that have been filed concerning regional planning councils and local governments. In particular, he discussed Senate Bill 484 by Senator Simpson that would delete all references to regional planning councils in all state statutes. In addition, he also discussed Senate Bill 562 by Senator Simpson that would have new proposed developments that would qualify as developments of regional impact only be subject to the state coordinated review process for comprehensive plan amendments and Senate Bill 832 by Senator Simpson that reduce the amount of information required by an applicant submitting a long-range master plan for a sector plan.

ACTION: Commissioner Cornell made the motion with a second by Commissioner Chestnut that the Council adopt a resolution opposing Senate Bill 832.

Following discussion, the maker and seconder of the motion agreed to withdraw the motion.

- D. Economic Development District Grantee Performance Report for the Period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

Mr. Koons stated that the Council is a federally designated economic development district by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. He reported that 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.

He reported that for the period from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, an estimated 342 jobs were either created or retained, an estimated \$476,000,000 in private investment and an estimated \$21,000,000 in public investment occurred on five projects that implement the Strategy.

- E. Competitive Florida Partnership Program

Mr. Koons stated that last year the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity established the Competitive Florida Partnership Program to help rural communities value and market local assets and challenge them to set realistic goals for advancing their economic development vision. He reported that each year, the Department selects four rural communities to assist with designing and developing innovative strategies that promote partnerships, community design and a viable local economy through asset based economic development.

He further reported that the City of Starke has recently been selected as one of the four rural communities to participate in the second year of the Competitive Florida Partnership Program. He noted that the City of Newberry and the Town of White Springs were participating rural communities in the first year of the Program. He also noted that Council staff was a participating stakeholder in the processes with these communities and is also participating in the City of Starke process.

- 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 Stanley 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 a letter was sent to Wells Fargo on May 13, 2014 requesting additional information concerning the disputed check. On September 24, 2014 a Notice of Arbitration and Statement of Claim was filed with the American Arbitration Association by Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman on behalf of the Council. On October 14, 2014 attorneys from Wells Fargo filed a Respondent's Answering Statement to the Statement of Claim.

Council Attorney Wershow reported that an agreement has been reached with Wells Fargo concerning a mutually acceptable arbitrator, Robert Cowles from Jacksonville, FL. He further reported that a preliminary arbitration conference was held on February 2, 2015 and that the parties have agreed to schedule the arbitration hearing for May 11, 2015 in Gainesville.

Mr. Koons reported that a press release has been prepared and has been reviewed by Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Council Cushman. He further reported that the press release will be released next week to regional and state news media.

Mr. Koons reported that Michael DePalma, Associate Planner, will be leaving the employment of the Council on February 27, 2015.

Chair Spooner informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on March 26, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.


Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

3/26/15 _____
Date