

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

July 23, 2015
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Harvey Budd, City of Gainesville
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
Craig Carter, City of Gainesville
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Scarlet Frisina, Columbia County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
William Hunter, Hamilton County
Doug Jones, City of Archer
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Larry Sessions, Suwannee County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
David Sullivan, City of Perry
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

Bill Henderson, Florida Department
of Transportation
Ronnie Jordan, Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Catron, City of Madison
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Jason Evans, High Springs
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
Timothy Marden, City of Newberry
Everett Phillips, Columbia County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne
James Tallman, Union County
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville
Daniel Webb, Union County
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Allen Cherry
Glenn Hunter
Kathy Kavanagh
Ralph Kitchens
Elizabeth Porter
Joe Riddick
Sheryl Rehberg

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

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 Riddick called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with an invocation given by Mr. Montgomery and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Riddick stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Riddick welcomed and introduced Sheryl Rehberg, Executive Director, Career Source North Florida; Allen Cherry, County Coordinator, Madison County; Glenn Hunter, Director, Columbia County Economic Development; Joe Riddick, past member and former Council Chair from Bradford County; Ralph Kitchens, member of the Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; and Kathy Cavanah from Hospice of Citrus and the Nature Coast.

II. LEGISLATIVE GUEST SPEAKER - Honorable Elizabeth Porter,
Florida House of Representatives, District 10

Mr. Koons introduced Elizabeth Porter, representing District 10, of the Florida House of Representatives, including Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Counties and a portion of Alachua, County. Representative Porter reviewed the past legislative session. She also spoke about issues of importance to north central Florida local governments in the future. Chair Riddick thanked Representative Porter for her presentation.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 25, 2015

Chair Riddick asked that the minutes of the June 25, 2015 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Councilman Bryant made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner, to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2015 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - June 2015
- B. Local Government Geographic Information Systems Mapping Service Agreement
Fiscal Year 2014-15 City of Newberry

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

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

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

- A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation -
Andrew Singer

ACTION: Commissioner Spooner made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Andrew Singer. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Employee Health Insurance Proposal

Mr. Koons stated that United Healthcare has offered to continue health insurance coverage for the Council with an increase in premiums for the coming year beginning September 1, 2015. He also stated that the total increase in cost to the Council for the coming year would be \$1,677 per month, or an increase of 21.0 percent. The resulting total monthly cost to the Council would be \$9,668.

Mr. Koons also stated that United Healthcare is proposing no change in life insurance premiums for the coming year. United Healthcare is proposing to increase the cost for dental insurance to employees for the coming year by \$21 per month or an increase of 10.0 percent. The resulting total monthly cost to employees would be \$236.

Mr. Koons stated that staff secured alternative proposals for health insurance from United Healthcare for consideration by the Executive Committee. He stated that the alternative proposals include reductions in benefits for employees. He also reported that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council select Option 2, Plan JQ-H/RXPV with UnitedHealthcare for the year beginning September 1, 2015.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Carter, to approve the proposal received from UnitedHealthcare for Plan JQ-H/RXPV for health insurance, Plan F5430 for dental insurance and life insurance for the year beginning September 1, 2015. 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 five local government comprehensive plan amendments.

#67, City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments
#70, City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#71, City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#72, Madison County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment

She noted that the Committee finds that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, are not anticipated to result in significant adverse impact to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjoining local governments. Ms. Haas also stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to 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 Item #67, City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, Item #70, City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #71, City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #72, Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Haas stated that with regards to Item #69 Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, the Committee finds that County items CPA 15-07, CPA 15-09 and CPA 15-10 are not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to the regional facilities, natural resources of regional significance or adjoining local governments, with regards to county item CPA-08 the Committee finds that the item is not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities or adjoining local governments.

Ms. Haas further stated that the subject property of County item CPA 15-08 is located within a portion of and adjacent to the North Central Florida Regional Ecological Greenway. The property is also near the Suwannee River Corridor. Both of these natural resources are identified and mapped as natural resources of regional significance in the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan. She stated that adverse impacts may occur to these natural resources of regional significance should the subject property be developed to its maximum allowed intensity. Therefore the Committee recommends that the County consider adding protective policies, such as buffer requirements, to protect these natural resources of regional significance.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, that the County consider adding protective policies, such as buffer requirements to protect natural resources of regional significance concerning Item #69, Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Wells, Regional Planning Committee Chair, reported that, every five years the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is required by State law to prepare an Evaluation and Appraisal Report of its regional plan. He also stated that the Report is due by the end of 2015.

Commissioner Wells reported that the purpose of an Evaluation and Appraisal Report is to evaluate the successes and failures of the regional plan and to identify possible future amendments, revisions or updates to the plan. He also stated that the report serves as a basis for future amendments to the regional plan.

Commissioner Wells stated that the Regional Planning Committee met tonight and continued its review of the regional plan focusing on Regional Significant Facilities and Resources chapter of the regional plan.

VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Bill Henderson, Florida Department of Transportation, District 2 stated that Jordan Green has been promoted to Director of Transportation Support. Mr. Henderson also mentioned that local governments should submit Small County Outreach Program applications to the Department at this time.

Roni Jordan, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that the Northeast District is available to assist local governments and individuals concerning permit applications and Department regulatory compliance issues.

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 activities of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Martha Lord are reported each month to the Council. He also highlighted several of the activities listed in the June 2015 activities report in the Council meeting packet.

B. Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Meeting Report

Mr. Koons stated that Immediate Past Chair Carolyn Spooner and he attended the semi-annual meeting of the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board held in Altamonte Springs on July 10, 2015. He also stated that the Policy Board adopted a mission statement and strategic operating plan. The plan was the culmination of the strategic retreat process conducted by the Policy Board during the past year.

Mr. Koons stated that the Policy Board also reviewed a financial report, and approved the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Assembled Financial Statements, a Fiscal Year 2014-15 budget amendment and Fiscal Year 2015-16 budget. He further stated that the Policy Board elected officers for Fiscal Year 2015-16. Mr. Koons reported that Commissioner Carolyn Spooner was elected Second Vice-President of the Policy Board. He congratulated Commissioner Spooner.

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 July 2015 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

D. North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership

Mr. Koons reported that the Committee met on June 29, 2015. He further stated that the Committee heard presentations from water management district staff on the status of alternative water supply projects

E. 2014-15 Member Certificates of Outstanding Attendance

Mr. Koons reported that an essential component of the ability of the Council to conduct its business is the regular attendance of members at Council meetings, and a Council Member Attendance Recognition Program was established by the Council at the May 22, 2008 Council meeting to recognize the commitment of those Council members actively engaged in the organization by regularly attending Council meetings. He also reported that a Certificate of Outstanding Attendance is being awarded to three members in recognition of their attendance at every scheduled Council meeting during Program Year 2014-15. Mr. Koons then presented attendance awards to LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper; Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak; and Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke.

F. Executive Director's Cup

Mr. Koons stated that in furtherance of the Council Member Attendance Recognition Program and to encourage attendance at Council meetings, an Executive Director's Cup is awarded each year to recognize the perfect attendance by either county, city or gubernatorial members during a program year. For Program Year 2014-15, he awarded the Executive Director's Cup to the city members.

G. 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 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 was sent to state and regional news media on March 3, 2015 concerning the fraudulent check matter. He also stated that the arbitration hearing that was scheduled for May 11, 2015 was rescheduled and held on June 22, 2015

Mr. Wershow stated that a decision by the arbitrator is anticipated within the next few weeks.

Chair Riddick informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on August 27, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Daniel Riddick, Chair

8/27/15

Date