

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

June 22, 2017
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
David Arreola, City of Gainesville
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Harvey Budd, City of Gainesville
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
James Catron, City of Madison
Rick Coleman, City of Newberry
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
William Hunter, Hamilton County
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Larry Sessions, Suwannee County
James Tallman, Union County
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

Barney Bennett, Florida Department
of Transportation
Russell Simpson, Florida Department
of Environmental Protection
Hugh Thomas, Suwannee River
Water Management District

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

None

MEMBERS ABSENT

Patricia, Bouie, City of Hawthorne
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Mike Deming, City of Perry
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Jason Evans, City of High Springs
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Daniel Webb, Union County
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Bennett
Sandra Buck-Camp
Thomas Clemens
LJ Johnson
Stew Lilker
Darryl Mortimer
Daniel Penniman
Judy Rice

STAFF PRESENT

Steven Dopp
Scott Koons
Jean Strong
Tara Tucker

Board Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with an invocation given by Mayor Davis and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Thomas stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Thomas welcomed and introduced Tim Bennett, City Manager from the City of Madison; Thomas Clemens, Vice-President for the Economic Development from Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce; Judy Rice, City Clerk from City of Newberry; Sandra Buck-Camp and LJ Johnson, members of the Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; Darryl Mortimer, husband of Council member Janice Mortimer and Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Thomas asked that the agenda be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

Scott Koons, Executive Director, gave a presentation which reviewed activities of the Florida Regional Councils Association highlighting the purpose and organizational structure of the Association as well as projects and activities undertaken by the ten member regional planning councils. Chair Thomas thanked Mr. Koons for his presentation.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 25, 2017

Chair Thomas asked that the minutes of the May 25, 2017 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2017 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Monthly Financial Report - May 2017

B. Amendment to Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness - Fiscal Year 2016-17

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

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

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Member

Chair Thomas stated that there were no new members in attendance.

B. 2017-18 Committee Appointments

Chair Thomas asked that the appointments to the Clearinghouse Committee, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, Finance Committee, Nominating Committee, Program Committee, Regional Planning Committee and Representatives to the Florida Regional Councils Association be approved as recommended by the Chair.

ACTION: Commissioner Cornell made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the appointments to the Clearinghouse Committee, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, Finance 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.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - None

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Commissioner Sessions, Clearinghouse Committee Vice-Chair, gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

- #85 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments
- #86 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments
- #87 - Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #88 - Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #89 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #90 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #91 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #92 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment

Commissioner Sessions stated with regards to these items the Committee finds with the exception of the Hamilton County item, that the local government comprehensive plans as amended, are not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, or adjacent local governments. He stated the Committee finds that Item #92, Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment may result in adverse impacts

to the Regional Network as well as adverse extra jurisdictional impacts. Commissioner Sessions stated that the Committee recommends that the County add Transportation Planning Best Practices contained in the regional plan as goals and policies in the County Comprehensive Plan to mitigate adverse impacts to the Regional Road Network as well as to mitigate adverse extra jurisdictional impacts. He stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Commissioner Sessions made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Arreola, to approve the Committee recommendations concerning Item #85 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments; Item #86 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments; #87 - Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment; #88 - Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment; #89 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment; #90 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; #91 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and #92 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Finance Committee -

1. Fiscal Year 2015-16 Audit
2. Authorize Payment of Auditor

Commissioner Wilford, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee met earlier in the evening with the auditor and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Annual Audit as prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. He stated that the auditor issued an unqualified report and that the document contained no findings. Commissioner Wilford also stated, that the overall prevailing conclusion was that the statements provided were found in all material respects, to fairly present the financial position of the Council at the end of the last fiscal year. He stated with respect to revenues collected vs. those budgeted, revenues received were (1.4) percent less than budgeted amounts, with respect to expenditures, funds expended were (1.6) percent less than budgeted amounts.

Commissioner Wilford stated that the general balance of the Council increased by \$2,169. He also stated the audit also contains various reports on compliance, internal control and management and in these reports no material weaknesses or problems were cited. Finally, he stated that overall the Finance Committee was pleased with the report and it is clear from the auditor's findings that the Council is in very sound financial condition.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Cornell, to accept and approve the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Annual Audit as prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Cornell, to make final payment to the auditor. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Hugh Thomas, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated that Carlos Herd, formerly with the Suwannee River Water Management District, has accepted a position with the Northwest Florida Water Management District. He stated that Noah Valenstein, the former Executive Director of the Suwannee River Water Management District has started his position as Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary. Finally, Mr. Thomas stated that the river grant project applications need to be submitted to the District by August 8, 2017.

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

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

XI. 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 ten 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 Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the May 2017 activities 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 related to each of the Six Pillars. 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 2017 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2017A Legislative Special Session convened on June 7, 2017 and adjourned on June 9, 2017. He reported that that the Legislature passed legislation concerning an increase in funding for VisitFlorida, establishment of a new Florida Job Growth Grant Fund for infrastructure and job skills training, and implementation the Constitutional medical marijuana amendment.

D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program - Mobility Enhancement Grant Projects

Mr. Koons reported that MV Transportation, Inc. received a grant of \$55,350 to provide reduced fare bus passes to homeless clients of the GRACE Marketplace in Alachua County; Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. received \$53,866 to continue on-demand same day transportation in Starke for medical, pharmacy and shopping purposes in Bradford County; Suwannee Valley Transit Authority received \$54,416 for on-demand same day transportation in Lake City for medical, pharmacy and shopping purposes in Columbia County; and Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. received \$38,313 to provide on-demand same day transportation to service to Walmart in Chiefland for clients in Dixie and Gilchrist Counties for a one-year period through June 30, 2018.

E. Reassignment of Marion County to East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Mr. Koons reported that the Governor recently signed Executive Order No. 17-128 reassigning Marion County to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

F. 2020 Census Local Update Addresses Information Sessions

Mr. Koons reported that the U.S. Census Bureau held a promotional information session concerning the Local Update Census Addresses Program for the 2020 Census at the office of the Council on June 14, 2017. He also stated that the session was attended by local government officials from throughout the north central Florida region.

G. Public Records Complaint

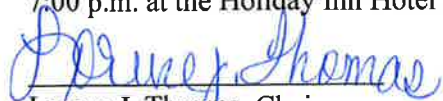
Mr. Koons reported that a public records complaint has been filed against the Council concerning planning assistance that the Council is providing to Union County.

H. 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 fulfills 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.

Mr. Koons presented outgoing Chair Davis with a framed photograph of the Suwannee River and thanked him for his leadership during the past year. Chair Davis thanked the Council for allowing him to serve as Chair for the past year.

Chair Thomas informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on July 27, 2017 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.


Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

7/27/17
Date