

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

December 14, 2017
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Patricia, Bouie, City of Hawthorne
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
James Catron, City of Madison
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
William Hunter, Hamilton County
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
James Tallman, Union County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

William Whitelock, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

Barney Bennette, Florida Department of
Transportation
Joel Carnow, Suwannee River
Water Management District
Sean Greene, Florida Fish and
Wildlife Conservation Commission

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Arreola, City of Gainesville
Harvey Budd, City of Gainesville
Rick Coleman, City of Newberry
Mike Deming, City of Perry
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Larry Sessions, Suwannee County
Daniel Webb, Union County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Davis
LJ Two Spirits Johnson
Ralph Kitchens
Stew Lilker

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathon Wershow

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 7:00 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Burnam 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 LJ Two Spirits Johnson and Ralph Kitchens, members of the Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; Diana Davis, wife of Council member Louie Davis and Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Thomas asked that Items VII.D. Introduction of New Members; VIII.B.4. #6 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment and VIII.B.5. #7 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment be added to the agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Warren, to add Items VII.D. Introduction of New Members; VIII.B.4. #6 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment and VIII.B.5. #7 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment be added to the agenda and approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Steven Dopp, Senior Planner, gave a presentation on the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Proposed Amendments. Chair Thomas thanked Mr. Dopp for his presentation.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 26, 2017

Chair Thomas asked that the minutes of the October 26, 2017 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2017 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - October 2017
- B. U.S. Economic Development Administration
Economic Adjustment Assistance Program Grant Application 2018-2020
- C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointments

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

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

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Resolution of Appreciation - Jason Evans

ACTION: Commissioner Catron made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Jason Evans. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation - Anthony Adams

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Anthony Adams. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Certificate of Service for Council Employee - Jean Strong

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Jean Strong, who has been an employee of the Council for ten years and currently serves as Executive Assistant to the Executive Director. Chair Thomas presented a ten-year Certificate of Service and pin to her. Mr. Koons and Chair Thomas thanked her for her years of dedicated service to the Council.

D. Introduction of New Members

Chair Thomas welcomed new Council member Commissioner Gene Higginbotham from Dixie County and Non-Voting Delegate Robert Whitelock, Building Official from the City of High Springs.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Organizational Policies (Bylaws)

Mr. Koons stated that the member local governments of the Council adopted an amended interlocal agreement creating the Council effective January 1, 2016 and in order to bring the Organizational Policies (Bylaws) of the Council in conformance with the amended interlocal agreement, Council staff reviewed the Organization Policies (Bylaws) and prepared proposed amendments to the Organizational Policy (Bylaws). He stated that the Executive Committee has reviewed the proposed amendments to the Organizational Policies (Bylaws) and recommended that the Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Organizational Policies (Bylaws) dated December 14, 2017.

ACTION: Mr. Hunter made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Davis, to approve Organization Policies (Bylaws) Proposed Amendments dated December 14, 2017 as recommended by the Executive Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Commissioner Adams, 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.

- #3 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #4 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #5 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Commissioner Adams stated that the following items which were received following the distribution of the Council meeting packet and added to the agenda require action prior to the next meeting.

- #6 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #7 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Commissioner Adams stated that the Committee finds that local government comprehensive plans as amended are not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Significance or adjacent local governments. He stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Commissioner Adams made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to approve the Committee recommendations concerning Item #3 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; Item #4 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; Item #5 Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; #6 City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment and #7 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Regional Planning Committee - North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Proposed Amendments

Commissioner Burnam, Regional Planning Committee Chair, gave the Regional Planning Committee Report. She stated that as a result of the reassignment of Marion County by the Governor to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the recent adoption of the 2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy by the Council, the Regional Planning Committee is recommending revisions to the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Proposed Amendments to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Commissioner Burnam stated the Committee is recommending that tables and maps related to Marion County be revised to remove Marion County from the proposed regional plan

amendments. She noted that the Committee is not proposing any changes to the goals and policies of the proposed amendments to the regional plan as a result of the reassignment of Marion County to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council. She stated that the Committee is recommending that tables in the Affordable Housing Element and the Regional Transportation Element of the proposed amendments to the regional plan be updated using the most recent U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey data.

Commissioner Burnam also stated that the Committee is recommending changes to the Economic Development Element of the proposed amendments to the regional plan by replacing the 2013-17 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in the Economic Development Element of the regional plan with the recently Council adopted 2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Commissioner Burnam stated as a result of comments received from the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, the Committee is recommending adding Alachua County-owned conservation lands which are equal to or exceed 100 acres in size or are adjacent to other mapped Natural Resources of Regional Significance to Illustration III-D, Regionally Significant Natural Resources, Planning and Resource Management Areas.

Commissioner Burnam finally stated that the Committee recommends including these additional amendments to the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the regional plan and recommends authorizing the initiation of the rule making process pursuant to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, to adopt the proposed regional plan amendments.

ACTION: Commissioner Burnam made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks, to authorize the addition of the proposed amendments as described in the materials contained in the December 14, 2017 Council meeting packet and recommended by the Regional Planning Committee to the proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan and authorize the initiation of the rule making process pursuant to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, to adopt the proposed amendments to the regional plan. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Barney Bennett, Florida Department of Transportation, District 2, stated that the District is accepting Small County Road Assistance Program, Small County Outreach Program and County Incentive Grant Program applications until December 29, 2017.

Joel Carnow, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated that the District is accepting applications for 2018 springs and river projects until January 16, 2018.

Sean Greene, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission stated the Commission recently promoted deputy executive director Eric Sutton to replace departed agency executive director Nick Wiley. In addition, he reported that Commissioner Bo Rivard has been appointed chair to replace departed Commission Chair Brian Yablonski.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS -

LJ Two Spirits Johnson, citizen, Columbia County, spoke about the need to clarify the appropriate time during a Council meeting that the public can make comments to the Council.

Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, stated that state law allows the public to comment on any proposition before a public body prior to the public body voting on said proposition.

Ralph Kitchens, citizen, Columbia County, suggested that the Citizen Comments item on the Council agenda be moved to the beginning of the meeting.

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 October 2017 and November 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 December 2017 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2018 Legislative Session is scheduled to convene on January 9, 2018 and adjourn on March 9, 2018. He reported on bills of interest to regional planning councils and local governments that have been filed for consideration during the 2018 Legislative Session.

D. Florida Job Growth Grant Fund

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Job Growth Fund provides \$85 million for public infrastructure and job training projects that support growth and employment in Florida's diverse industries. He noted that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has received 160 requests for over \$500 million. He noted that the requests are for public infrastructure and workforce grants.

E. Florida Competitive Communities

Mr. Koons stated that the City of Williston has recently been selected as one of the four rural communities to participate in the fifth year of the Competitive Florida Partnership Program. He stated that the cities of Chiefland, Madison, Newberry, Starke and White Springs were previously designated Complete Florida Partnership Program communities.

F. Florida Outdoor Writers Award

Mr. Koons reported that the Original Florida Tourism Task Force, in conjunction with the Council, has received an Excellence-In-Craft Award from the Florida Outdoor Writers Association for their Experience North Florida by Bicycle Project consisting of bicycle route maps on their website with turn by turn Global Positioning System directions. He stated that Council staff served as the project manager for this project.

Chair Thomas informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on January 25, 2018. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.


Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

1/25/18
Date