

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

February 22, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County  
David Arreola, City of Gainesville  
Patricia, Bouie, City of Hawthorne  
Robert Brown, Hamilton County  
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper  
James Catron, City of Madison  
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County  
Ken Cornell, Alachua County  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
Thomas Demps, Taylor County  
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County  
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer  
*William Hunter, Hamilton County*  
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  
Ben Glass, Suwannee River  
Water Management District  
Daniel Penniman, Florida Fish and  
Wildlife Conservation Commission

MEMBERS ABSENT

Harvey Budd, City of Gainesville  
Rick Coleman, City of Newberry  
**Rick Davis, Madison County**  
Mike Deming, City of Perry  
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County  
Linda Jones, City of High Springs  
John Meeks, Levy County  
*James Montgomery, Columbia County*  
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke  
*Daniel Webb, Union County*  
*Mike Williams, Madison County*

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Davis  
LJ Two Spirits Johnson  
Doreen Joyner-Howard  
Ryan Justin  
Marc Vann

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

STAFF PRESENT

Steven Dopp  
Scott Koons  
Jean Strong  
Tara Tucker

**Executive Members names are bolded**  
*Gubernatorial Members names are italicized*

I. INVOCATION

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with an invocation given by Mayor Davis.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council and guests pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Thomas stated there was a quorum of the Council, and welcomed and introduced LJ Two Spirits Johnson, a member of the Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; Marc Vann, a citizen from Columbia County; and Diana Davis, wife of Council member Louie Davis.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes - January 25, 2018

B. Monthly Financial Report - January 2018

C. Agreement to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Concerning Regional Economic Modeling, Inc.

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

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

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Thomas asked that Item IX.B.4. Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 18-3ESR) be added to the agenda.

**ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Catron, to add Item IX.B.4. Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 18-3ESR) to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Thomas asked that the agenda be approved as amended.

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

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

VII. GUEST SPEAKER - Justin Ryan, District Freight and Seaports Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 2

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Justin Ryan, District Freight and Seaports Coordinator from the Florida Department of Transportation District 2. Mr. Ryan gave a presentation on freight transportation and commerce in District 2. Chair Thomas thanked Mr. Ryan for his presentation.

VIII. CHAIR REPORT - None

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Proclamation Declaring February 25, 2018 - March 3, 2018  
Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

Mr. Koons stated that the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee has designated the week of February 25, 2018 thru March 3, 2018 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week and the Executive Committee recommends that the Council join in this public outreach effort by proclaiming the week of February 25, 2018 thru March 3, 2018 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in north central Florida.

**ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to adopt a proclamation proclaiming February 25, 2018 thru March 3, 2018 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in the north central Florida region, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. 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.

- #16 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #17 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #18 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

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

- #19 - Alachua 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 Commissioner Cornell, to approve the Committee recommendations concerning Item #16 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; Item #17 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment; Item #18 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; and #19 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.**

X. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Ben Glass, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated that the District has received 68 applications for springs and river projects and anticipates ranking them and making funding decisions by March 1, 2018.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 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 January 2018 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 February 2018 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2018 Legislative Session convened on January 9, 2018 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 9, 2018. He reported on bills of interest to regional planning councils and local governments being considered during the 2018 Legislative Session.

D. Florida Job Growth Grant Fund

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Job Growth Fund is a new economic development program designed to build on Florida's success and economic prosperity since 2010 and in its first year, Fiscal Year 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), the Florida Job Growth Fund will provide

\$85 million for public infrastructure and job training projects that support growth and employment in Florida's diverse industries. He stated that public infrastructure projects can include transportation and utilities needed to support economic development and workforce training projects will provide Floridians with transferable, sustainable workforce skills applicable to many employers.

Mr. Koons reported that on February 6, 2018, the Governor announced \$35 million in awards for nine Florida Job Growth Fund projects across the state, including the following three projects in the north central Florida region.

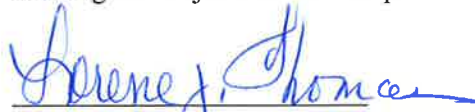
Columbia County - \$3,135,600 for the construction of the North Florida Mega Industrial Park Rail Project to construct a rail spur to allow access to an industrial park of more than 2,600 acres;

Suwannee County - \$3,125,000 to provide water supply and fire protection to the Interstate 75 and County Road 136 interchange; and

City of Alachua - \$6,755,000 to construct the San Felasco Parkway and nearby utilities, connecting a large bioscience cluster, including the University of Florida Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute, to a shovel-ready site of 280 acres.

Mr. Koons informed the Council that former Council member and Alachua County Commissioner Thomas Coward recently died. Commissioner Coward served 17 years on the Council, including service as Chair of the Council and President of the Florida Regional Councils Association. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Commissioner Coward.

Chair Thomas informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on March 22, 2018. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

  
Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

3/22/18  
Date



# PROCLAMATION

## DECLARING FEBRUARY 25, 2018 - MARCH 3, 2018 AS HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, the safe use of hazardous materials is essential to citizens, business, industry and local governments to maintain economic stability and the public health; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of protecting our communities from both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials and joins the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, and numerous municipalities, counties and school boards, in publicly promoting community hazardous materials safety; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for local governments, regional planning councils and local emergency planning committees to work together to increase community safety by encouraging emergency responders to attend free training on how to safely respond to releases of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, citizens need to know that local governments, businesses, emergency responders and emergency planners are working together to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible for both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the week of February 25, 2018 - March 3, 2018 as *Hazardous Materials Awareness Week* throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 22nd day of February 2018.

ATTEST:

SEAL

Robert W. Wilford, Secretary-Treasurer

Lorene J. Thomas, Chair