

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

April 26, 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**  
**Rick Davis, Madison County**  
Mike Deming, City of Perry  
Thomas Demps, Taylor County  
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County  
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer  
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  
*Lorene Thomas, Dixie County*  
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT

Barney Bennett, Florida Department of  
Transportation  
Daniel Penniman, Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
Ben Glass, Suwannee River Water  
Management Department  
James Troiano, St. Johns River Water  
Management District

MEMBERS ABSENT

Harvey Budd, City of Gainesville  
Rick Coleman, City of Newberry  
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County  
Linda Jones, City of High Springs  
*James Montgomery, Columbia County*  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County  
**Robert Wilford, City of Alachua**  
*Mike Williams, Madison County*

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Alexander  
Sandra Buck-Camp  
Brad Carter  
Diana Davis  
Chris Doolin  
LJ Two Spirits Johnson  
Stew Lilker  
Ben Scott

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 7:00 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Catron.

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 Brad Carter, Bradford County Manager; Ben Scott, Columbia County Manager, Tim Alexander, Dixie County Manager; Sandra Buck-Camp and LJ Two Spirits Johnson, members of the Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; Diana Davis, wife of Mayor Louie Davis from Waldo and Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes - March 22, 2018
- B. Monthly Financial Report - March 2018
- C. Local Government Comprehensive Planning Assistance Agreement - Fiscal Year 2017-18  
City of Lake City
- D. Purchase Order with the Northeast Florida Regional Council to Assist with Hurricane  
Exercise Planning, Evaluation and Documentation
- E. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointment

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

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

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Thomas asked that the regular agenda be approved.

**ACTION: Commissioner Catron made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the Regular Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

VII. GUEST SPEAKER - Chris Doolin, Legislative Consultant  
Small County Coalition of Florida

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Chris Doolin, Legislative Consultant for Small County Coalition and the Small Counties School Board Association of Florida. Mr. Doolin stated that the Coalition's agenda was to give small counties a collective voice when dealing with the Legislature. He then reviewed issues of interest to local governments that were addressed during the 2018 at the legislative session. Chair Thomas thanked Mr. Doolin for his comments.

VIII. CHAIR REPORT -

- A. Resolution of Appreciation
1. William Hunter
  2. Daniel Webb

**ACTION: Commissioner Meeks made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to approve Resolutions of Appreciation for William Hunter and Daniel Webb. The motion carried unanimously.**

- B. Committee Appointments
1. Finance Committee - Thomas Demps
  2. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee - Lacey Ekberg

Chair Thomas asked for ratification of the appointment of Thomas Demps to the Finance Committee and Lacey Ekberg, Tourism Manager, VisitGainesville to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee.

**ACTION: Commissioner Catron made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to ratify the appointment of Thomas Demps to the Finance Committee and Lacey Ekberg, Tourism Manager, VisitGainesville as a member of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee as recommended by the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.**

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive Committee

1. Proclamation Declaring May 6-12, 2018 as Travel and Tourism Week

Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation declaring the week of May 6-12, 2018 as Travel and Tourism Week as declared by the Travel Industry Association. He also stated that activities are planned throughout the United States and Florida to support and celebrate the tourism industry.

**ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps to adopt a proclamation proclaiming May 6-12, 2018 as Travel and Tourism Week which is attached hereto and made part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Assigned Fund Balance - Capital Reserve

Mr. Koons stated that during Fiscal Year 2016-17, \$10,521 for depreciation of building and equipment was applied to the capital assets of the Council. After adding \$5,419 of purchased furniture fixtures and equipment, it resulted in a net total of \$559,645 accumulated depreciation of fixed assets. He also stated that the Capital Reserve Fund is maintained at an amount approximate to the accumulated depreciation of building and equipment to cover one-time capital expenditures for building improvements/repairs and equipment replacement/upgrades. Mr. Koons further stated that in order to maintain the Capital Reserve Fund at this level, the Executive Committee recommends that \$5,000 from the Council's unassigned fund balance be encumbered as part of the Capital Reserve Fund assigned fund balance to increase the amount for accumulated depreciation of building and equipment costs from \$555,000 to \$560,000.

**ACTION: Councilman Bryant made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to encumber \$5,000 of the Council's unassigned fund balance as part of the assigned fund balance to increase the Capital Reserve Fund balance for accumulated depreciation of building and equipment costs to \$560,000. 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.

- #29 - Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Adopted Draft Amendment
- #30 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #31 - City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #32 - 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 Meeks to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #29 - Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Adopted Amendment; Item #30 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; Item #31 - City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; and #32 Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.**

C. Program Committee - 2018-19 Overall Program Design

Mayor Davis, Program Committee Chair, gave the Program Committee Report, he stated that the Program Committee met earlier in the evening to review a draft of the Overall Program Design for the coming year. He stated that this document is to be used as a basis for the

development of a budget and is also to give instruction to staff as to the work which is to be done during the next year. He stated that there are no changes proposed in the Overall Program Design which include new programs not previously discussed and/or approved by the Council. Mr. Davis finally stated the Committee anticipates recommending the Overall Program Design to the Council for adoption at the May 24, 2018 Council meeting.

X. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Ben Glass, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated that the annual Farm Cares dinner will be held on May 3, 2018 at the 6:00 p.m. at the North Florida Research and Education Center in Live Oak. He also stated that the District is currently ranking applications for springs and river projects and is scheduled to make funding decisions in April 2018.

James Troiano, St. Johns River Water Management District, stated that the District's Governing Board on April 10, 2018 approved 27 cost share projects totaling \$16 million. Mr. Troiano stated that none of the county funded projects were located in Alachua County or Bradford County

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

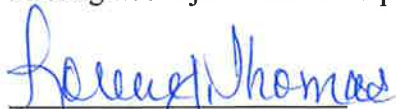
A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

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 March 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 stated that April 2018 Scorecard™ was included in the Council meeting packet.

Chair Thomas informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on May 24, 2018. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

  
Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

5/24/18  
Date



# PROCLAMATION

## DECLARING MAY 6-12, 2018 AS TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS, tourism brings over 116 million visitors annually to the State of Florida, generates \$111.7 billion in economic activity, over \$11.3 billion in annual sales tax revenues and employs over 1.4 million persons;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of tourism to the north central Florida regional economy and quality of life;

WHEREAS, local governments, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council support tourism opportunities in north central Florida; and

WHEREAS, local governments, businesses, chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council are working together to support this vital part of north central Florida's economy and all who play a role in tourism to ensure that north central Florida continues to be a place where traditions will be created and continued for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby declares the week of May 6-12, 2018 as Travel and Tourism Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 26th day of April 2018.

ATTEST:

SEAL

Robert W. Wilford, Secretary-Treasurer

Lorene J. Thomas, Chair