

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

December 13, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County  
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  
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
Thomas Demps, Taylor County  
Matt Hersom, City of Newberry  
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County  
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer  
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke  
Tim Murphy, Columbia County  
Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville  
Len Stapleton, 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

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT

Barney Bennett, Florida Department of  
Transportation  
Ben Glass, Suwannee River  
Water Management District  
Sean Greene, Florida Fish and  
Wildlife Conservation Commission

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Arreola, City of Gainesville  
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*  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
*Mike Williams, Madison County*

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathon Wershow

OTHERS PRESENT

Sandra Buck-Camp  
Diana Davis  
Kurt Gray  
Whitney Gray  
Stew Lilker  
Tom Mirti  
Susan Ramsey

STAFF PRESENT

Steven Dopp  
Carmelita Franco  
Scott Koons  
Jean Strong

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

**ACTION:** Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps to adopt Resolution No. 2018-22 concerning Management Alternatives for Human Waste Biosolids in the north central Florida region and authorize its distribution to local government associations and state agencies. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

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

- #6 - Town of Inglis Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #7 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #8 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #9 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

He reported that the Committee finds that 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.

Commissioner Adams 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 #6 - Town of Inglis Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; Item #7 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; Item #8 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; and Item #9 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee -

Susan Ramsey, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Chair, reported that the Committee met December 6, 2018. She stated that the Committee meets annually to determine whether any changes are needed to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and to discuss economic development projects which have occurred in the region during the past year.

Ms. Ramsey stated that the information provided by Committee members will be used as part of an annual report to the U.S. Economic Development Administration and that the report is necessary to maintain local government eligibility for U.S. Economic Development Administration grants. She stated that no changes were proposed to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and that the next meeting of the Committee is anticipated to be held in July 2019.

D. Nominating Committee -

Ms. Thomas, Chair of the Nominating Committee, stated that the Committee met to nominate individuals for open positions of Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Committee member. She stated the Nominating Committee is recommending the advancement of Charles Chestnut IV to the Secretary-Treasurer position and recommending Thomas Demps as the Executive Committee member.

**ACTION: Ms. Thomas made the motion to approve the Nominating Committee recommendation, with a second by Commissioner Wilford to elect Charles Chestnut IV as Secretary-Treasurer and Thomas Demps as Executive Committee member. The motion carried unanimously.**

E. Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force -

Commissioner Cornell, Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force member, stated that the Task Force held its first meeting on December 12, 2018 in Madison at the Madison County Agricultural Extension Office. He stated also in attendance were representatives of the Suwannee River Waste Management District; Florida Department of Health; Madison County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism; Our Santa Fe River; Suwannee and St. Johns Sierra Club; Withlacoochee, Alapaha, Little and Suwannee River Watershed Coalition and citizens.

Commissioner Cornell stated that the Task Force received a presentation from staff concerning the history of raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta into the Withlacoochee River, the consent order between the City and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, and ongoing raw sewage spills. He stated that the Task Force also heard a report from the Florida Department of Health concerning the most recent raw sewage spill which occurred on December 2, 2018.

Commissioner Cornell stated that the Task Force identified public health, environmental, economic development and tourism as negative impacts of the spills and the Task Force also identified several strategies including contacting federal and state officials, adopting resolutions, sending letters, meeting with Valdosta Mayor and City Council and engaging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He finally stated that the Task Force identified over 15 potential partners ranging from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to Valdosta citizens.

Commissioner Cornell stated the next meeting of the Task Force will be held on January 24, 2019 prior to the next Council meeting at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Lake City.

X. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Barney Bennett, Rural Transportation Planning Manager, Florida Department of Transportation, District 2, stated that comments on the Department Tentative Five-Year Work Program are due December 28, 2018. Mr. Bennett also stated that applications from local governments for Small County Road Assistance Program, Small County Outreach Program, Transportation Regional Incentive Program, County Incentive Grant Program, and Transportation Alternatives projects are due by January 25, 2019.

Ben Glass, Community Affairs Manager, Suwannee River Water Management District introduced Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District. Mr. Glass stated that springs grant applications from local governments are due January 16, 2019. He also stated that due to the amount of recent rainfall that flooding could potentially occur on local rivers during the coming weeks.

## 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 2018 and November 2018 activities report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the October 2018 and November 2018 report.

### 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 2018 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

### C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2019 Legislative Session is scheduled to convene on March 5, 2019 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 3, 2019. He also reported on the committee week schedule for the 2019 Legislative Session.

### D. Florida Job Growth Grant Fund

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Job Growth Fund each year provides \$85 million for public infrastructure and job training projects that support growth and employment in Florida's diverse industries. He noted that since July 2018, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has received more than 90 proposals requesting more than \$531 million in funding and on October 30, 2018, the Governor announced \$28 million in awards for eight Florida Job Growth Fund projects across the state.

Mr. Koons reported that these awards included Columbia County receiving \$10,200,000 for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant which will serve the North Florida Mega Industrial Park, nearby correctional facilities, Florida Gateway Airport, Florida Gateway College and other areas east of Lake City.

Mr. Koons stated that Council employee Steven Dopp, Senior Planner will be retiring on January 2, 2019. He noted that Mr. Dopp has been employed by the Council for 34 years. Mr. Koons thanked Mr. Dopp for his service to the Council and local governments throughout the north central Florida region.

Mr. Koons reported that Council employee Dwayne Mundy, Director of Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance, is currently hospitalized and in critical condition.

Chair Davis informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on January 24, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Louie Davis, Chair

1/24/19  
Date

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SUPPORTING COLLABORATION WITH THE FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION, FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, FLORIDA SMALL COUNTY COALITION, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSUMER SERVICES AND OTHER PARTNERS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN FLORIDA, PRIORITIZE THE REDUCTION AND EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF THE LAND APPLICATION OF HUMAN WASTEWATER BIOSOLIDS AND ESTABLISH A PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM FOR FUNDING NEW STATE OF THE ART WASTEWATER TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE RECOVERY AND AFFORD MORE EFFICIENT USE OF HUMAN WASTEWATER BIOSOLIDS

WHEREAS, the geographic area of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is comprised of Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties and the municipalities contained therein; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is a multi-purpose regional government entity with policy responsibility in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, natural resources and regional transportation; and

WHEREAS, it is time to work together as a region, and state to increase awareness of current and future biosolids management issues, examine potential water quality impacts from our current practices, and explore new wastewater treatment technologies to improve biosolids resource recovery and management options; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council wishes to collaborate with the Florida Regional Councils Association, Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Florida Small County Coalition, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, and other partners to accomplish these objectives and rethink 21st Century human wastewater management practices for Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL ENCOURAGES THAT:

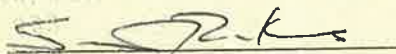
1. The State of Florida and its local governments prioritize the reduction and eventual elimination of the land application of human wastewater biosolids; and
2. The State of Florida establish a Pilot Project Program for funding local utilities to implement new state of the art wastewater treatment technologies to improve recovery and afford more efficient use of human wastewater biosolids resources.

DULY ADOPTED this 13th day of December 2018.

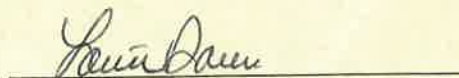
Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL



Scott R. Koons  
Executive Director



Louie Davis  
Chair