

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

March 28, 2019
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
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristina Wright

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

Barney Bennette, Florida Department of
Transportation
Ben Glass, Suwannee River Water
Management Water District
Daniel Penniman, Florida Fish and
Wildlife Conservation Commission
Russell Simpson, Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Arreola, City of Gainesville
Rick Davis, Madison County
Mike Deming, City of Perry
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Len Stapleton, Suwannee County
James Tallman, Union County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County

OTHERS PRESENT

Sandra Buck-Camp
Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson
Britney Moore
DeLoris Roberts
Stew Lilker

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons
Jean Strong
Tara Tucker
Lauren Yeatter

Executive Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION

Noting the presence of a quorum, Chair Davis 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. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes - February 28, 2019

B. Monthly Financial Reports - February 2019

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Membership Certifications

Chair Davis 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 Commissioner Cornell, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Davis asked for approval of the regular agenda.

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

V. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Davis welcomed DeLoris Roberts, City Commissioner of the City of Hawthorne and former Council Member; Sandra Buck-Camp, member of the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson of Our Santa Fe River and Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Britney Moore, Regional Coordinator
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Britney Moore, Regional Coordinator for the Office of Greenways and Trails, Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. Moore made a presentation concerning the Department's Trail Town Program. Chair Davis thanked Ms. Moore for her presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT - None

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee -

1. Proclamation Declaring April 2019 as County Government Month

Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation declaring April 2019 as County Government Month in the north central Florida region. He further stated that County Government Month is celebrated each April by counties across the country to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government.

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to adopt the proclamation declaring April 2019 as County Government Month, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Proclamation Declaring April 22-26, 2019 as Community Development Week

Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation declaring April 22-26, 2019 as Community Development Week in the north central Florida region. He further stated that Community Development Week is to bring attention to the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Simmons, to adopt a proclamation proclaiming April 22-26, 2019 as Community Development Week, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Commissioner Anthony Adams, Clearinghouse Committee 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.

#36 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ESR)

#37 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR)

#38 - Town of Inglis Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 18-1ER)

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 Thomas to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #36 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; Item #37 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; Item #38 - Town of Inglis Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Program Committee - 2019-20 Overall Program Design

Commissioner Robert Wilford, 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. Wilford finally stated the Committee anticipates recommending the Overall Program Design to the Council for adoption at the May 23, 2019 Council meeting.

D. Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force

Commissioner Ken Cornell, Middle and Lower Suwannee and Withlacoochee River Task Force member, stated that Rick Davis, Chair of the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force, along with representatives of the Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Suwannee River Water Management District, testified before the Florida Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on March 20, 2019. He stated that Chair Davis provided the Committee an overview of the City of Valdosta wastewater issue and actions taken to date by the Task Force, and asked for their assistance in addressing this issue.

In addition, Commissioner Cornell reported that Task Force Chair Davis and Council staff met on March 27, 2019 in Tallahassee with the Governor's staff and Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Noah Valenstine to brief them on the City of Valdosta wastewater issue and ask for their support in addressing the issue.

He also reported that the Task Force will be meeting on April 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. with the City of Valdosta City Council for a Joint Workshop to discuss the issue of raw sewage spills by the City and how the Task Force can work together with the City to resolve this ongoing issue. Finally, Commissioner Cornell stated the next meeting of the Task Force will be held on April 25, 2019 prior to the Council meeting at the Lake City Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Barney Bennett, Florida Department of Transportation, stated that the Department has funding for trails through the federally-funded Transportation Alternatives Program and the state-funded Sun Trails Program.

Ben Glass, Community Affairs Manager, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated applications from local governments for river grants are due on April 16, 2019. Mr. Glass also stated that local government springs applications have been reviewed and will be presented to the District Governing

Board for their approval, and will then be forwarded to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for funding. He also stated tours of the North Florida Research and Education Center will occur prior to the annual County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) Dinner hosted by the Suwannee River Partnership on May 2, 2019 in Live Oak.

Russell Simpson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, reiterated that the Department supports the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force in its efforts to address the City of Valdosta raw sewage spills.

Daniel Penninman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission North Central Region, stated that the Commission is available to provide technical assistance to wildlife conservation planning services, landowners and local governments throughout the region

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Our Santa Fe River, invited Council members to attend the Our Santa Fe River Fest Songwriting Contest and Music Fundraiser on March 31, 2019.

Stew Lilker, from the Columbia County Observer, spoke about the lack of citizen appointees on rural transportation disadvantaged coordinating boards in the north central Florida region. He also spoke about the lack of notice concerning the March 20, 2019 Florida Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee Workshop held in Tallahassee.

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 February 2019 activities report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the February 2019 report.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

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 developing 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. The Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars. Talent and Supply 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 March 2019 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.



PROCLAMATION

DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2019 AS COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties serving more than 300 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe, vibrant and economically resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, counties move America forward by building infrastructure, maintaining roads and bridges, providing health care, administrating justice, keeping communities safe, running election, managing solid waste, keeping records and much more; and

WHEREAS, counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in effective and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, in order to remain healthy, vibrant, safe and economically competitive, America's counties provide transportation and infrastructure services that play a key role in everything from daily commutes to shipping goods around the world; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties has designated April as County Government Month and encouraged counties across the country to actively promote their programs and services to the public they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, hereby declares April 2019 as County Government Month throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 28th day of March 2019.

ATTEST:

SEAL

Charles Chestnut IV, Secretary-Treasurer

Louie Davis, Chair



PROCLAMATION

DECLARING APRIL 22-26, 2019 AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK

WHEREAS, the week of April 22-26, 2019 has been designated as National Community Development Week to recognize and celebrate the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program; and

WHEREAS, since 1975, the Community Development Block Grant Program has provided funding and flexibility to local communities to provide affordable housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, since, 1992, the HOME Program has created and preserved affordable housing for low-income families; and

WHEREAS, communities across the north central Florida region have made contributions to the viability of the housing stock, infrastructure, public services and economic vitality of their communities using federal funding from these two programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, hereby declares April 22-26, 2019 as National Community Development Week in the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 28th day of March 2019.

ATTEST:

SEAL

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles Chestnut IV", is written over a horizontal line.

Charles Chestnut IV, Secretary-Treasurer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Louie Davis", is written over a horizontal line.

Louie Davis, Chair