

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

May 23, 2019
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
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
James Tallman, Union County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristina Wright

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

Barney Bennette, Florida Department of
Transportation
Tom Mirti, Suwannee River
Water Management District
Daniel Penniman, Florida Fish and
Wildlife Conservation Commission

STAFF PRESENT

Michael Escalante
Carmelita Franco
Sandra Joseph
Scott Koons
Kevin Parrish
Tara Tucker
Lauren Yeatter

MEMBERS ABSENT

Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Rick Davis, Madison County
Shirlie Hampton, City of Perry
Matt Hersom, City of Newberry
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
John Meeks, Levy County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville
Len Stapleton, Suwannee County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

OTHERS PRESENT

Karen Chadwick
Sandra Buck-Camp
Diana Davis
Kate Gallagher
Allison Hopkins
Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson
Eddie Martin
Charles Maultsby
Tucky Maultsby
Dale McPherson
Carol Milner
Robert Milner
Carlos Montero
David Moritz
Garth Nobles, Jr.
Eileen Poox
John S. Quarterman
Kristin Rubin
Jeanette Scarborough
Jerry Scarborough
John Smith
Carolyn Spooner
Richard Tarbox
Jim Tatum
Draper Underwood
Sarah Younger
Stew Liller

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 7:04 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Wilford.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Davis welcomed Allison Hopkins, Northeast Regional Manager Office of Jimmy Patronis, Florida Chief Financial Officer; Sandra Buck-Camp, member of the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; Karen Chadwick, citizen of Interlachen; Kate Gallagher, citizen of Melrose; Illene Poox, WWALS (Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little and Suwannee River) Watershed Coalition; Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Our Santa Fe River, Suwannee, St. Johns River Sierra Club; David Moritz, citizen of Gainesville; John S. Quaterman, WWALS (Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little and Suwannee River) Watershed Coalition; Sarah Younger, citizen of High Springs; Diana Davis, wife of Mayor Louie Davis from Waldo; and Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes - April 25, 2019
- B. Monthly Financial Report - April 2019
- C. Agency Regulatory Plan Fiscal Year - 2019-20
- D. Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management for Local Emergency Planning Committee - Fiscal Year 2019-20
- E. Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management to Update Hazard Analyses - Fiscal Year 2019-20
- F. Meeting Schedule Program Year 2019-20
- G. Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Appointments
- H. Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Reappointments
- I. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Chair Appointment
Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Counties

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

ACTION: Commissioner Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Davis asked for approval of the regular agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Draper Underwood, May 7, 1969 Council Founding Member, City of High Springs; Richard Tarbox, 1969-1973 Executive Director; Jerry Scarborough 1979-80 Past Chair, Suwannee County and his wife Jeanette Scarborough; Thomas Demps 1988-89 Past Chair, City of Perry; Louie Davis 2003-04, 2010-11 Past Chair and 2018-19 Current Chair, City of Waldo and his wife Diana Davis; Eddie Martin 1992-93 and 2005 Past Chair, City of Hawthorne; Garth Nobles, Jr. 1996-97 and 2013-14 Past Chair, City of Live Oak; Dale McPherson 1999-00 Past Chair, City of Gainesville; Charles Maultsby 2005-06 Past Chair, Taylor County Gubernatorial Appointee and wife Tucky Maultsby; Lorene Thomas 2003-04, 2006-07 and 2017-18 Past Chair, Dixie County Gubernatorial Appointee; Daniel Riddick 2015-16 Past Chair, Bradford County; and Carolyn Spooner 2014-15 Past Chair, City of Starke.

Mr. Koons, also acknowledged the Past Chairs who were not able to attend the meeting Jonathan Wershow 1976-77 and 1977-78 Past Chair, Alachua County; James Montgomery 1983-84, 1994-95, 2001-02 and 2002-03 Past Chair, Columbia County Gubernatorial Appointee; William Howard 1989-90 Past Chair, Suwannee County Gubernatorial Appointee; Thomas Sawyer 1998-99 Past Chair, Columbia County Gubernatorial Appointee; Roy Ellis 2007-08 and 2011-12 Past Chair, Madison County; Myra Valentine 2009-10 Past Chair, City of Madison and Rick Davis 2016-17 Past Chair, Madison County.

Mr. Koons presented each of the Past Chairs, Mr. Underwood and Mr. Tarbox Certificates of Appreciation recognizing their service to the Council. The Past Chairs, Mr. Underwood and Mr. Tarbox spoke about the importance of the Council, and their memories and experiences during their years of service on the Council. Mr. Koons read a congratulatory letter from former Executive Director Charles Justice who was unable to attend the meeting. He also introduced the staff members that were present and those who were unable to attend the meeting.

Finally, Mr. Koons presented a slide show that highlighted the significant projects and initiatives of the Council during the past 50 years.

VII. CHAIR REPORT - Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation - Colleen Cody

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Mortimer, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Colleen Cody. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Authorization to Begin Auditor Selection Process

Mr. Koons reported that the Executive Committee recommended designating the Executive Committee, along with a representative from the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, to serve as the Audit Committee, and authorize the Audit Committee to establish selection criteria, begin the auditor selection process, negotiate a contract for audit services and present a recommendation for auditing services to the Council for approval.

ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Warren, to approve the Executive Committee recommendation to designate Executive Committee along with a representative from the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, to serve as the Audit Committee, and to authorize the Audit Committee to establish selection criteria, begin the auditor selection process, negotiate a contract for audit services and present a recommendation for auditing services to the Council for approval. 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.

#42 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-1DRI)

#46 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ESR)

#48 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ESR)

Commissioner Adams also stated that the Committee found that for item #46 Levy County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment and Item # 48 City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment the local government comprehensive plans as amended were 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 Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #46 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; and Item #48 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: Commissioner Cornell made the motion with a second by Commissioner Adams concerning Item # 42 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment to recommend that the County include Transportation Planning Best Practices contained in the regional plan as goals and policies in the County Comprehensive Plan and that the County include appropriate water and wastewater regulations in the County's Comprehensive Plan to ensure no adverse impacts to the precious and beautiful Suwanee River and its adjacent natural resources. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Adams stated the next Clearinghouse Committee meeting would be June 27, 2019 prior to the Council meeting at the Lake City Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites.

C. Program Committee - Fiscal Year 2019-20 Overall Program Design

Commissioner Wilford, Program Committee Chair, stated that the Program Committee met on March 28, 2019 to develop an Overall Program Design for the Council's consideration for Program Year 2019-20.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to approve the Overall Program Design for Program Year 2019-20 as recommended by the Program Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Finance Committee - Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget

Commissioner Chestnut, Finance Committee Chair, stated that the Finance Committee met May 14, 2019 and had agreed upon a budget to recommend for the coming fiscal year. He stated that the document was included in the meeting packet. Commissioner Chestnut stated that anticipated expenditures for next year will be \$2,100,700 which is \$43,900 less than the budget for the current year.

Commissioner Chestnut also reported that the Committee recommends that a \$.30 per capita dues assessment will be maintained, which is the 38th year it has been held at this level, based upon the University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research population estimates for 2018. He noted that member local government dues are anticipated to produce approximately \$162,100.

Commissioner Chestnut stated that the most important policy decision made by the Council regarding the budget has to do with personnel. He stated that the Committee recommends that there will be 11 full-time staff positions, plus funds for part-time positions, which is one less full-time staff position than budgeted for the current year. Commissioner Chestnut also stated that the Committee recommends that the budget include a recurring cost of living pay increase of two percent for all employees, including the Executive Director and one percent salary budget for merit increases for all employees, except the Executive Director. Finally, he stated that the Committee recommends that all other benefits for staff remain the same as for the current year.

ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Cornell, to approve the Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Nominating Committee - Program Year 2019-20
Election of Officers

Lorene Thomas, Nominating Committee Chair, gave the Nominating Committee report. She stated that the Nominating Committee met on May 15, 2019 to prepare, for the Council's consideration, recommendations concerning officers and Executive Committee member position for Program Year 2019-20.

She stated that the Nominating Committee recommendations for officers and Executive Committee member position were as follows:

Chair - Robert Wilford
Vice-Chair - Charles Chestnut IV
Secretary-Treasurer - Thomas Demps
Executive Committee Member - Anthony Adams
Immediate Past Chair - Louie Davis

Ms. Thomas asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing no nominations from the floor, Chair Davis closed the nominations.

ACTION: Ms. Thomas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Cornell, to elect the slate of nominees for officers and Executive Committee member position to a one-year term for Program Year 2019-20 as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Task Force member Ken Cornell stated that the Task Force met with Valdosta City Council for a Joint Workshop on April 10, 2019 in Valdosta to discuss the issue of raw sewage spills by the City and how they could work together to resolve this ongoing issue. Task Force member Cornell stated the City agreed to provide immediate notification of any future sewage spills. He also stated that the Task Force was informed that the City is awaiting a permit to construct a ten million gallon equalization basin at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant later this year. Task Force member Cornell noted that the next meeting of the Task Force will be held on June 27, 2019 prior to the Council meeting at the Lake City Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated that the District will be presenting Board of County Commissioners checks for payment in lieu of taxes over the next few months. Also, he thanked all cities and counties that submitted applications to the District for river grants. Finally, Mr. Mirti stated that following review of the applications, the District Governing Board will consider them for funding recommendations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Our Santa Fe River, Suwannee St. Johns River Sierra Club, addressed her concerns about the proposed extension of the Suncoast Parkway through the north central Florida region. Jim Tatum, Our Santa Fe River, addressed his concerns about the proposed extension of the Suncoast Parkway through the north central Florida region. John S. Quaterman, Withlacoochee, Willacoochee,

Alapaha, Little and Suwannee River Watershed Coalition, addressed his concerns about the proposed extension of the Suncoast Parkway through the north central Florida region. Illene Poox, Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little and Suwannee River Watershed Coalition, addressed her concerns about the proposed extension of the Suncoast Parkway through the north central Florida region. Sarah Younger, citizen of High Springs, addressed her concerns about the proposed extension of the Suncoast Parkway through the north central Florida region. Kate Gallagher, citizen of Melrose, addressed her concerns about the proposed extension of the Suncoast Parkway through the north central Florida region. Karen Chadwick, citizen of Interlachen, addressed her concerns about the proposed extension of the Suncoast Parkway through the north central Florida region. Finally, David Moritz, citizen of Gainesville, addressed his concerns about the proposed extension of the Suncoast Parkway through the north central Florida region.

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 April 2019 activities report included in the Council meeting packet.

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 May 2019 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2019 Legislature Session adjourned on May 4, 2019. He reviewed bills of interest to regional planning councils and local governments.

D. Financial Disclosure Report Filing

Mr. Koons reported that all members of the Council are required to file a financial disclosure form by July 1st of each year. He stated the financial disclosure forms filed by county commissioners and city commissioners for their elected offices fulfills this requirement. Gubernatorial members must file a financial disclosure form with the Supervisor of Elections office in their respective counties to fulfill this requirement. Mr. Koons noted that Council members should be receiving a copy of the financial disclosure form in the mail within the next few weeks.

Chair Davis stated that it was an honor to serve as Chair of the Council for the past year.

- Mr. Koons presented Chair Davis with a John Moran framed landscape photograph of the Florida Trail at the Suwannee River for his service as Chair.

Chair Davis informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on June 27, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.



Robert Wilford, Chair

6/27/2019

Date