

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

October 24, 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
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Rick Davis, Madison County

Thomas Demps, Taylor County

Don Hale, Suwannee County
Shirlie Hampton, City of Perry
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County

Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County

Robert Wilford, City of Alachua

Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Daniel Penniman, Florida Fish and
Wildlife Conservation
David Tyler, Florida Department of
Transportation
Darlene Velez, Suwannee River
Water Management District

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Louie Davis, City of Waldo

Matt Hersom, City of Newberry
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
James Tallman, Union County
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Alexander
Staci Bertrand
Richard Doty
Rufus Hutchinson
Stew Lilker
Larry Sessions
Jamie Storey

STAFF PRESENT

Carmelita Franco
Scott Koons
Tara Tucker
Lauren Yeatter

Executive Members names are bold

I. INVOCATION

Noting a quorum of the Council being present, Chair Robert Wilford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Demps.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Wilford welcomed and introduced; Jamie Storey, Dixie County Commissioner; Staci Bertrand, Vice-President of Economic Development for the Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Chair; Larry Sessions, Member of North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc.; Rufus Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne citizen; and Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes - September 26, 2019
- B. 2020-22 U.S. Economic Development Administration Partnership Planning Grant Application

Chair Wilford 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 Councilman Bryant, 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 Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Richard Doty, Geographic Information Systems Coordinator and Research Demographer, University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Richard Doty, Geographic Information Systems Coordinator and Research Demographer, University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research. Mr. Doty made a presentation to the Council concerning the population estimates for the 67 counties and 412 cities, towns and villages in Florida as well as population projections and demographic trends. Chair Wilford thanked Mr. Doty for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT - None

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Southeast Florida Climate Compact and Tampa Bay Resilience Coalition

Chair Wilford stated at their June 27, 2019 meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the two regions in the state that are addressing climate change and resiliency. He also stated in particular, the south Florida region has formed a Climate Change Compact and the Tampa Bay region has formed a Regional Resiliency Coalition. Chair Wilford stated a presentation concerning this topic will be scheduled for a future Council meeting.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Commissioner Janice Mortimer, Clearinghouse Committee Chair, gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. She 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.

- #1 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR)
- #2 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ER)
- #3 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR)

Commissioner Mortimer stated with regards to these items, the Committee found that the local government comprehensive plans as amended were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, or adjacent local governments. She stated that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Commissioner Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #1 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR); Item #2 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ER); and Item #3 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Finance Committee - Fiscal Year 2018-19 Amended Budget

Commissioner Demps, Secretary-Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair, reported that the Finance Committee has agreed upon a budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2018-19. He stated this budget amendment takes into account action taken by the Council during the past year to accept work under contracts and additional grants which were not anticipated when the original budget was prepared as well as changes in anticipated revenues. Commissioner Demps reported the proposed changes in the current year budget reflect an overall net decrease of (\$220,100), which represents 10.3 percent decrease. He also stated this includes both increases and decreases in various program areas with associated changes in Direct and Indirect expenses. Commissioner Demps reported the Finance Committee finds that the Council remains in sound financial condition.

Finally, he stated that the Committee recommends approval of the Fiscal Year 2018-19 amended budget.

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Simmons, to approve the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Amended Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Staci Betrand, Vice-President of Economic Development for the Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Chair reported that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee appointed by the Council includes representatives of the private sector, public officials, workforce development boards and higher education. She reported that the Committee is responsible for the development of the strategy and recommendation of the strategy to the Council for adoption. Ms. Betrand stated the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee met on September 24, 2019 to review activities conducted during the past year to support the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Finally, she stated that the Committee does not recommend any changes to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy at this time.

E. Middle and Lower Suwannee River Withlacoochee River Task Force

Commissioner Rick Davis, Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force Chair, reported that on October 9, 2019 Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force members met with representatives from the City of Valdosta for a joint workshop to discuss the issue of raw sewage spills by the City and how the Task Force and the City could work together to resolve this ongoing issue. He stated the Task Force members heard an update concerning on-going projects being undertaken by the City to address stormwater infiltration into the sanitary sewer collection system. Commissioner Davis reported the joint workshop was held at the Madison County Agricultural Extension Office in Madison. Finally, he stated the Task Force and the City are scheduled to meet in a joint workshop session on January 8, 2020 in Valdosta.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

David Tyler, Rural Area Transportation Planning Manager, District 2 Florida Department of Transportation, stated that applications for the Transportation Alternatives Program, SunTrails Program, Small County Road Assistance Program and Small County Outreach Program must be submitted to the Department by mid-December 2019. He also reported that the public hearing for District 2 Urban Area Tentative Five-Year Work Program will be held at the District 2 Urban Area Office in Jacksonville on October 29, 2019. Finally, Mr. Tyler stated that the Department will be holding regional workshops throughout the state concerning the update of the Florida Transportation Plan.

Darlene Velez, Water Resources Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated that springs grant project applications from local governments must be submitted to the District by December 18, 2019.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed Council meeting packet memorandum and the Florida Department of Transportation Suncoast Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significant Task Force.

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. He stated that 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. Mr. Koons stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the September 2019 activities report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the September 2019 report.

B. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Forward Newsletter

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association distributes an electronic newsletter each month to approximately 2,350 elected officials, state agencies, partner organizations and interested individuals statewide. He stated that the September 2019 monthly Forward Newsletter featured the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and noted that a copy of the article was included in the Council meeting packet. Mr. Koons reported the article described the Florida Small County Coalition Outstanding Service Award received by the Middle and Lower Suwannee and Withlacoochee Task Force of the Council. Finally, he stated the Task Force was recognized for its effective leadership and advocacy in addressing the issues relating to the City of Valdosta wastewater treatment plants.

C. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. He stated that 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. Mr. Koons noted that 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 October 2019 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

D. Council Membership - City of Lake Butler

Mr. Koons reported that the City of Lake Butler City Commission recently approved having the City become a member local government of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. He stated the City will be the first new municipal member of the Council since January 2000. Finally, Mr. Koons reported as provided for in the interlocal agreement creating the Council, the

process for a local government to become a member of the Council is for its governing body to approve a resolution adopting the interlocal agreement creating the Council.

E. Annual Report

Mr. Koons stated each year, the Council publishes an annual report to review programs and services of the Council in fulfilling its mission to improve the quality of life of the region's citizens by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments. He stated the annual report highlights accomplishments in the areas of regional activities, public safety and regulatory compliance, economic development, local government assistance and transportation. Mr. Koons stated the annual report also provides a summary of the financial status of the Council and looks at the year ahead. Finally, he stated of the 2018 Annual Report was recently mailed to all elected officials in the north central Florida region as well as regional, state and national partners and stakeholders, and noted that a copy of the 2018 Annual Report was included in the Council meeting packet.

F. Annual City/County Managers Meeting

Mr. Koons stated each year, Council staff meets with city and county managers and their staffs from throughout the north central Florida region to discuss growth management legislation and review Council programs. He reported the annual meeting for city and county managers this year was held on September 27, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. Finally, Mr. Koons stated a copy of the agenda for the meeting was included in the Council meeting packet.

G. The Original Florida Tourism Task Force Update

Mr. Koons stated the Council provides staff services to The Original Florida Tourism Task Force to assist them in implementing their marketing program. He reported that the Task Force implements campaigns to increase tourist visits to the Visit Natural North Florida region. Mr. Koons stated the Task Force recently completed the fifth year of its travel show partnership with VisitFlorida. He reported that Task Force representatives attended travel shows in Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Chicago IL; Dusseldorf, Germany; Houston, TX; London, England; Madison, WI; Munich, Germany; Nashville, TN; New York, NY; Ottawa, Canada; Philadelphia, PA; Toronto, Canada and Washington, D.C. Mr. Koons then showed a video produced by the Task Force highlighting the nature-based, heritage-based and culture-based tourism opportunities of the Visit Natural Florida region.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Wilford informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on December 12, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Robert Wilford, Chair

12/12/19
Date