

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

December 12, 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
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Don Hale, Suwannee County
Matt Hersom, City of Newberry
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville
James Tallman, Union County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Tom Mirti, Suwannee River Water
Management District
David Tyler, Florida Department of
Transportation

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

James Catron, City of Madison
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Rick Davis, Madison County
Shirlie Hampton, City of Perry
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

OTHERS PRESENT

Hunter Anderson
Sandra Buck-Camp
Chris Doolin
Rocky Ford
Thomas Harrington
Gary Hollis
Rufus Hutchinson
Stew Lilker
Diane Wilford

STAFF PRESENT

Carmelita Franco
Scott Koons
Tara Tucker
Lauren Yeatter

Executive Members names are bold
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION

Noting a quorum of the Council being present, Chair Robert Wilford called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with an invocation.

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; Rocky Ford, County Commissioner, Columbia County; Hunter Anderson, Northeast Florida Deputy District Director Office of U.S. Senator Rick Scott; Gary Hollis, Northeast Florida District Director Office of U.S. Senator Rick Scott; Thomas Harrington, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator, City of Gainesville; Sandra Buck-Camp, Member of Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board; Rufus Hutchinson, guest of Council Member Patricia Bouie; Diane Wilford, wife of Council Chair Robert Wilford; and Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer.

Scott Koons, Executive Director, reported that Council Member James Montgomery passed away on December 7, 2019. He stated that Mr. Montgomery was the longest serving member of the Council having been a Council Member for 40 years. Mr. Koons noted that Mr. Montgomery served three terms as Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer as well as having served as Chair of the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Program Committee, Clearinghouse Committee and Nominating Committee of the Council. He stated that a celebration of life service in memory of Mr. Montgomery will be held on January 11, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Lake City.

He also reported that Council employee Dwayne Mundy also passed away on December 7, 2019. Mr. Koons noted that Mr. Mundy, who served as the Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance Director of the Council, was the third longest serving employee of the Council having been an employee for 35 years. He also stated that Mr. Mundy was a public servant that had dedicated his career to improve the safety of citizens throughout the north central Florida region. Finally, Mr. Koons stated that a celebration of life service in memory of Mr. Mundy will be held on a date to be determined in January 2020 in Gainesville.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes - October 24, 2019
- B. Monthly Financial Report - October 2019
- C. Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hazardous Materials Emergency Management Preparedness - Fiscal Year 2019-20
- D. U.S. Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Assistance Program Grant Amendment

E. Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Program Community Transportation Coordinator Designation for Levy County

F. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordination Board Appointments

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

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Davis asked that Agenda Item VIII.B.6. Item #9 City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-3ESR) be added to the regular agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie, to add Agenda Item VIII.B.6. Item #9 City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-3ESR) to the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Christian Doolin, Legislative Consultant for Small County Coalition and the Small Counties School Board Association of Florida.

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Christian Doolin, Legislative Consultant for the 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 will be addressed during the 2020 Legislative Session. Chair Wilford thanked Mr. Doolin for his comments.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT -

A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation - Ralph Kitchens

ACTION: Ms. Thomas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hale to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Ralph Kitchens from the Columbia County Transportation Disadvantaged Program. The motion carried unanimously.

B. South Florida Climate Change Compact and Tampa Bay Resilience Coalition

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

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Land, Warehouse and Office Building

Mr. Koons, stated that a commercial real estate broker, on behalf of a client, has contacted Council staff expressing interest in purchasing the land, warehouse and office building owned by the Council. He stated the intent of the party interested in purchasing the land, warehouse and office building is to construct a parking lot for approximately 160 vehicles. Mr. Koons stated the parking lot would be an accessory parking lot for an existing 95,000 square foot distribution warehouse located at 2121 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida. He stated the Executive Committee recommends that the Executive Director sign a site access agreement; authorize the Executive Director to have an appraisal of the land, warehouse and office building completed; and authorize the Executive Director to research warehouse and office building relocation options.

ACTION: Commissioner Arreola made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to authorize the Executive Director to sign a site access agreement; authorize the Executive Director to have an appraisal of the land, warehouse and office building completed; and authorize the Executive Director to research warehouse and office building relocation options. The motion carried unanimously.

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.

- #4 - Town of Micanopy Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ER)
- #5 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ER)
- #6 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR)
- #7 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ER)
- #8 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR)

Commissioner Mortimer stated subsequent to the distribution of the Council meeting packets, the Council received the following late-arriving item which required action prior to the next Council meeting Item #9 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-3ESR).

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 Bouie, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #4 Town of Micanopy Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ER); #5 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ER);

**#6 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR);
#7 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ER);
#8 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR);
and #9 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-3ESR).
The motion carried unanimously.**

C. Middle and Lower Suwannee River Withlacoochee River Task Force

Mr. Koons reported that the City of Valdosta reported a spill of 7.5 million gallons of raw sewage from a lift station on December 9, 2019. He stated that the raw sewage discharged into Sugar Creek, a tributary of the Withlacoochee River. Mr. Koons noted that the City used the notification system established by the Task Force earlier this year. He stated the early notification allowed local, regional and state officials to take immediate action concerning the spill.

Mr. Koons also reported that the Hamilton, Madison and Suwannee County Health Departments issued health advisories for residents and visitors near the River to avoid contact with River water. He also stated that the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection are conducting water sampling at three locations along the River. Finally, he noted that the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force members will meet with representatives of the City of Valdosta for a joint workshop on January 8, 2020 in Valdosta to discuss the issue of raw sewage spills by the City and how we could work together to resolve this on-going issue.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated that springs grant project applications from local governments will need to be submitted to the District by December 18, 2019. He also discussed the recent Valdosta sewage spill.

David Tyler, Rural Area Transportation Planning Manager, District 2 Florida Department of Transportation, stated that applications for the Small County Road Assistance Program and Small County Outreach Program must be submitted to the Department by January 31, 2020.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed the Council Bylaws, rural transportation and City of Alachua public facility projects.

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 October 2019 and November 2019 activities report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the October 2019 and November 2019 report.

B. 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 December 2019 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2020 Legislative Session will convene on January 14, 2020 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 13, 2020. He also stated legislative committee meetings began the week of September 16, 2019 and concluded the week of December 9, 2019.

D. Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance

Mr. Koons stated that the Northern Turnpike Multi-use Corridor of Regional Economic Significance Task Force met on October 22, 2019 in Lecanto and that the Suncoast Multi-use Corridor of Regional Economic Significance Task Force met on October 23, 2019 in Lecanto. He noted that both Task Forces initiated discussion concerning avoidance and minimization guiding principles. Mr. Koons reported that the Suncoast Multi-use Corridor of Regional Economic Significance Task Force will meet on December 17, 2019 in Perry and that the Northern Turnpike Multi-use Corridor of Regional Economic Significance Task Force will meet on December 18, 2019 in Ocala. Finally, he stated that both Task Forces will review draft avoidance and minimization guiding principles and initiate discussion of mitigation and enhancement guiding principles at their upcoming meetings.

E. Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce
United States Chamber of Commerce Five Star Accreditation

Mr. Koons stated the United States Chamber of Commerce has once again awarded the Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce with Five -Star Accreditation for its sound policies, effective organizations procedures and positive impact on the community. He noted that the Five-Star accreditation is an honor bestowed on only one percent of the approximately 7,000 chambers of commerce nationwide.

F. National Association of Development Organization Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award

Mr. Koons reported that the Council in conjunction with The Original Florida Tourism Task Force received an Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations for the Travel Show Program. He stated that the awards this year once again are

presented in honor of Aliceann Wohlbruck, who passed away in March 2018. Mr. Koons noted that Ms. Wohlbruck was the Association's first executive director, serving 24 years as a tireless champion for regional approaches to economic development in rural communities.

He also stated that the Task Force is a multi-county destination marketing organization promoting nature-based, heritage-based and cultural-based tourism in the north central Florida region. Mr. Koons noted that the area consists of 14 counties and covers approximately 10,000 square miles that the Task Force brands and markets as Visit Natural North Florida. He stated that the Task Force Travel Show Program consisted of attendance at domestic and international consumer travel shows. Finally, Mr. Koons reported that the Task Force exhibited at 14 travel shows attended by over 640,000 consumers and distributed over 31,000 pieces of collateral material describing the many natural resource-based tourism destinations of the north central Florida region.

Mr. Koons asked that the Council observe a moment of silence in memory of James Montgomery and Dwayne Mundy.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wilford announced that the City of Alachua recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly completed amphitheater at Legacy Park. He also announced that Thermo Fisher Scientific, a biotechnology company located at Progress Park in the City of Alachua recently completed a \$6.0 million expansion resulting in the creation of 250 jobs.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Wilford informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on January 23, 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Robert Wilford, Chair

1/23/20
Date