

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

January 23, 2020
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
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Don Hale, Suwannee County
Shirlie Hampton, City of Perry
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Jack Schenck, City of Lake Butler
Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville
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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Linda Jones, City of High Springs
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County

OTHERS PRESENT

Sandra Buck-Camp
Diana Davis
Allison Hopkins
Rufus Hutchinson
Brian Kauffman
Stew Lilker
Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson
John Quarterman

STAFF PRESENT

Carmelita Franco
Scott Koons
Tara Tucker
Lauren Yeatter

Executive Members names are bold
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

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

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

None

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; Allison Hopkins, Regional Director, Office of External Affairs Chief Financial Officer; Brian Kauffman, Madison County Coordinator; Sandra Buck-Camp, Member of Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board; Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Our Santa Fe River and Suwannee St. Johns River Sierra Club; John Quarterman, WWALS (Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little Santa Fe and Suwannee River) Rufus Hutchinson, guest of Council Member Patricia Bouie; Diana Davis, wife of Council Member Louie Davis; and Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes - December 12, 2019
- B. Monthly Financial Reports - November 2019 and December 2019
- C. 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: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Mortimer to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

VI. PRESENTATION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR
NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Lauren Yeatter, Senior Planner with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. Ms. Yeatter gave a presentation concerning the Economic Development Program of the Council. Chair Wilford thanked her for her presentation.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT -

A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Wilford welcomed new Council member Commissioner Jack Schenck from the City of Lake Butler. He noted that the City of Lake Butler was a new local government member of the Council.

B. Resolutions of Appreciation - Matt Hersom

ACTION: Commissioner Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for City of Newberry Commissioner Matt Hersom. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation - John Meeks

ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Cornell to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Program Chair John Meeks. The motion carried unanimously.

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

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks, to ratify the appointment by the Chair of Gilchrist County Commissioner William Martin to the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force. The motion carried unanimously.

E. 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

1. Proclamation Declaring February 23, 2020 - February 29, 2020
Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

Mr. Koons stated that the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee has designated the week of February 23, 2020 thru February 29, 2020 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week and that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council join in this public outreach effort by proclaiming the week of February 23, 2020 thru February 29, 2020 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in the north central Florida region.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to adopt a proclamation proclaiming February 23, 2020 thru February 29, 2020 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in the north central Florida region, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution Recognizing 150th Anniversary of the City of Starke

Mr. Koons stated that the City of Starke was incorporated in 1870. He noted that the City is celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council adopt a resolution congratulating the City on its 150th Anniversary.

ACTION: Commissioner Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to adopt the attached Resolution No. 2020-01 recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the City of Starke. The motion carried unanimously.

3. 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 that, pursuant to Council authorization at their December 12, 2019 meeting, he signed a site access agreement; engaged Emerson Appraisal Company, Inc. to prepare an appraisal of the land, office building and warehouse; and has been working with Colliers International, a commercial real estate services organization, to identify potential lease and/or build relocation options.

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.

- #12 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR);
- #13 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR);
- #14 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-3ESR);
- #15 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-3ESR);
- #16 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR);
- #18 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR);
- #19 - City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR); and
- #20 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ESR)

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 #12 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR); #13 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR); #14 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-3ESR); #15 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-3ESR); #16 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR) #18 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR) #19 - City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR); and #20 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Finance Committee

1. Fiscal Year 2018-19 Audit
2. Authorize Payment of Auditor

Commissioner Demps, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee met earlier in the evening with the auditor and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Annual Audit as prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. He stated that the auditor issued an unqualified report and that the document contained no findings. He also stated that the overall prevailing conclusion was that the statements provided were found in all material respects, to fairly present the financial position of the Council at the end of the last fiscal year. Commissioner Demps stated with respect to revenues collected vs. those budgeted, revenues received were 0.2 percent more than budgeted amounts, with respect to expenditures, funds expended were (4.0) percent less than budgeted amounts.

Commissioner Demps stated that the revenues received and the expenditures made are reflected in the increase in the Council's General Fund Balance of \$68,672. He also stated the audit contains various reports on compliance, internal control and management and in these reports no material weaknesses or problems were cited. Commissioner Demps finally stated that overall the Finance Committee was pleased with the report and it is clear from the auditor's findings that the Council is in very sound financial condition.

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davis, to accept and approve the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Annual Audit as prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants and to make the final payment to the auditor in the amount of \$16,675 for preparation of the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Annual Audit. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Rick Davis, Chair of the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force stated the Task Force and the City of Valdosta City Council met in a joint workshop session on January 8, 2020 in Valdosta. He stated the City provided an update on the December 2019 raw sewage spill and the response to the spill, and informed the Task Force that the City had recently received a permit from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to

construct a ten million gallon equalization basin at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant. Commissioner Davis also noted that on January 18, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Valdosta hosted the Mayor's Withlacoochee River Paddle.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

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.

Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated that springs grant project applications from local governments have been submitted to the District and are currently being reviewed. He also discussed the Valdosta raw sewage spill. Mr. Mirti announced that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is initiating rulemaking to establish minimum flows and minimum levels for the Lower Santa Fe River.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Sandra Buck-Camp, member of Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, discussed the December 2019 Valdosta raw sewage spill. Ms. Buck-Camp also discussed the annual Point-In-Time homeless count.

John Quarterman, WWALS (Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, and Suwannee River) Watershed Coalition, discussed the December 2019 City of Valdosta raw sewage spill.

Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Our Santa Fe River and Suwannee St. Johns River Sierra Club, discussed rights for natural resources and Legislative preemptions of local government home rule powers.

Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed rural transportation, the North Florida Economic Development Partnership and Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance.

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

B. Florida Regional Association Policy Board Meeting

Mr. Koons reported that the semi-annual meeting of the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board was held in Tallahassee on January 10, 2020. He stated that the Policy Board heard presentations from Chris Emmanuel, Director of Infrastructure and Governance Policy, Florida Chamber of Commerce; Frank Bernardino, Co-Founder, Florida Resiliency; and Callie DeHaven,

Director, Division of State Lands, Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Koons also stated that the Policy Board heard reports on various projects of regional planning councils throughout the state and received the 2018-19 Florida Regional Councils Association Annual Report. He stated the Policy Board also heard a legislative report. Finally, Mr. Koons noted that the Policy Board reviewed a financial report and appointed a Nominating Committee for 2020-21.

C. 2018-19 Florida Regional Council Association Annual Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide association of all ten regional councils in Florida. He stated it is governed by a Policy Board made up of three representatives (county, municipal, gubernatorial) from each Council who are in turn advised by the Executive Directors Advisory Committee comprised of all ten executive directors. Mr. Koons stated the following members of the Council currently serve on the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board - Charles Chestnut IV, Vice-Chair; Lorene Thomas, Past Chair; and Robert Wilford, Chair. He stated that the 2018-19 Florida Regional Councils Association Annual Report was included in the Council meeting packet. Mr. Koons reviewed activities of the Council highlighted in the annual report.

D. 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 January 2020 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

E. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2020 Legislature Session convened on January 14, 2020 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 13, 2020. He reviewed bills of interest to regional planning councils and local governments.

F. Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance

Mr. Koons stated that the Suncoast Task Force met on December 17, 2019 in Perry and the Florida Turnpike Northern Extension Task Force met on December 18, 2019 in Ocala. He noted that both Task Forces reviewed draft avoidance and minimization guiding principles and initiated discussion of mitigation and enhancement guiding principles. Mr. Koons noted that the Suncoast Multi-use Corridor of Regional Economic Significance Task Force will meet on February 11, 2020 in Madison and the next meeting of the Florida Turnpike Northern Extension Task Force will be held on February 12, 2020 in Fanning Springs. Finally, he stated that both Task Forces will continue their review of draft avoidance and minimization guiding principles and begin review of draft mitigation and enhancement guiding principles.

G. Economic Development District Grantee Performance Report
for the Period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

Mr. Koons stated the Council is a federally designated economic development district by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and each year, the Council reports on job creation/retention, private sector investment and public sector investment for projects funded by the U. S. Economic Development Administration or other sources that implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy adopted by the Council. Mr. Koons reviewed the Grantee Performance Report for the period from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. He noted that an estimated 1,205 jobs were either created or retained, an estimated \$63,850,000 in private investment and an estimated \$572,000 in public investment occurred for seven projects that implement the Strategy for the reporting period.

H. Regional Directory

Mr. Koons stated pursuant to Council authorization, staff prepared a regional directory of local governments in the region and state and federal agencies. The 2019 Regional Directory was recently mailed to local, regional, state and federal officials, and planning and related agencies. Council staff would like to thank everyone who assisted in compiling this information.

Mr. Koons reported that he, Chair Wilford and Council Attorney Wershow attended the memorial service for Council member James Montgomery held on January 11, 2020 in Lake City. He also reported that he, Council staff and former Council staff attended the memorial service for Council employee Dwayne Mundy held on January 18, 2020 in Gainesville.

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.

Commissioner Catron complimented Council staff member Sandra Joseph, Senior Planner, for the Planning and Zoning Board training session that she recently conducted in the City of Madison.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Wilford informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on February 27, 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



Robert Wilford, Chair

2/27/20
Date