

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting  
Via Communications Media Technology

May 28, 2020  
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Anthony Adams, Lafayette County**  
Patricia, Bouie, City of Hawthorne  
Robert Brown, Hamilton County  
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper  
**Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County**  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
Rick Davis, Madison County  
**Thomas Demps, Taylor County**  
Don Hale, Suwannee County  
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer  
Linda Jones, City of High Springs  
John Meeks, Levy County  
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
James Tallman, Union 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

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

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Arreola, City of Gainesville  
James Catron, City of Madison  
Ken Cornell, Alachua County  
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak  
Shirlie Hampton, City of Perry  
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County  
Tim Murphy, Columbia County  
Jack Schenck, City of Lake Butler  
Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Davis  
Thomas Harrington  
Stew Lilker

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons  
Tara Tucker  
Lauren Yeatter

**Executive Committee Members names are bolded**  
*Gubernatorial Members names are italicized*

I. INVOCATION

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

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 Thomas Harrington, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator, City of Gainesville; Diana Davis, Executive Director of the Alachua County League of Cities and wife of Council Member Louie Davis; and Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes - February 27, 2020
- B. Monthly Financial Reports - February 2020, March 2020 and April 2020
- C. Agency Regulatory Plan Fiscal Year 2020-21
- D. Modification No. 1 to Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management for Local Emergency Planning
- E. Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management for Local Emergency Planning Committee - Fiscal Year 2020-21
- F. Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management to Update Hazard Analyses - Fiscal Year 2020-21
- G. U.S. Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Assistance Program Grant Application 2020-2022
- H. Meeting Schedule Program Year 2020-21
- I. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Membership Certifications
- J. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointments
- K. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Reappointments

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

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

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

**ACTION: Commissioner Bouie made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davis to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - None

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT -

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

Scott Koons, Executive Director, 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. Mr. Koons stated that a presentation concerning this topic will be scheduled for a future Council meeting.

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Jeffrey Bradley
2. Oliver Bradley
3. Denise Morgan Gilbert
4. James McCrone
5. Vickie Menasco

**ACTION: Mayor Bryant made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation for Jeffrey Bradley, Oliver Bradley, Denise Morgan Gilbert, James McCrone and Vickie Menasco. The motion carried unanimously.**

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Resolution Recognizing the 175th Anniversary of Levy County

Mr. Koons stated that Levy County was formed in 1845. He noted that the County is celebrating its 175th Anniversary this year. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council adopt a resolution congratulating the County on its 175th Anniversary.

**ACTION: Commissioner Meeks made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler, to adopt the attached Resolution No. 2020-13 recognizing the 175th Anniversary of Levy County. The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Land, Warehouse and Office Building

Mr. Koons stated on February 27, 2020, the Council declared the land, warehouse and office building located at 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida to be surplus property; set a minimum bid sale price for the land, warehouse and office building of \$1,018,500; and authorized the Executive Director to advertise for bids to sell the land, warehouse and office building. Mr. Koons stated the minimum bid sale price set by the Council was the appraised value plus five percent.

Mr. Koons stated due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, research on evaluating office space relocation options has paused temporarily. He stated, the commercial real estate broker representing their client that has expressed an interest in purchasing the land, warehouse and office building owned by the Council has indicated that they would be interested in taking possession of the property on or about August 1, 2020 and proceed with constructing a parking lot on the southern portion of the property. Mr. Koons finally stated that the real estate broker indicated his client would also provide the Council the opportunity to continue to occupy the office building and use the warehouse until April 1, 2021.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Commissioner Janice Mortimer, Clearinghouse Committee Chair, gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met virtually via communications media technology earlier in the evening and reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

- #29 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-3ESR);
- #30 - City of Fanning Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR);
- #31 - City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR);
- #32 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR); and
- #33 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR)

**ACTION:** Commissioner Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davis to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #29 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-3ESR; Item #30 - City of Fanning Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR); Item #31 - City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR); Item #32 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR); and Item #33 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Regional Planning Committee - Evaluation and Appraisal Report  
North Central Florida Regional Strategic Regional Policy Plan

Lauren Yeatter, Senior Planner, gave the Regional Program Committee Report. She stated that the Committee met virtually via communications media technology earlier in the evening and reviewed the Emergency Preparedness Element of the North Central Florida Regional Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

D. Program Committee - 2020-21 Overall Program Design

Commissioner Charles Chestnut, Program Committee Chair, gave the Program Committee Report. He stated that the Program Committee met virtually via communications media technology May 20, 2020 to review a draft of the Overall Program Design for the coming year. He stated that this document is 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.

**ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler, to approve the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Overall Program Design as recommended by the Program Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

E. Finance Committee - Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget

Commissioner Thomas Demps, Finance Committee Chair, gave the Finance Committee Report. He stated that the Finance Committee met virtually via communications media technology on May 20, 2020 to review the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget. He stated, the anticipated expenditures for next year will be \$2,102,500 which is \$1,800 more than the current year budget. Commissioner Demps also stated, almost all funds to be expended by the Council are received through contracts for services and grants. He stated there is one exception: Member local governments pay dues, which are proposed to remain at \$0.30 per capita for the 39th year, and will produce approximately \$164,200.

Commissioner Demps noted that the most significant policy decision that must be made with respect to the budget is related to personnel. There is provision for a total of 12 full-time staff positions, plus funds for part-time positions, which is one more full-time staff position than budgeted for the current year. The budget includes a recurring increase across the board for all employees, including the Executive Director, equal to two percent of the salary for each employee and one percent of the salary budget for merit increases for all employees, except the Executive Director.

**ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Mayor Bryant, to approve the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget as recommended by the Financial Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

F. Nominating Committee - Program Year 2020-21 Election of Officers

Mayor Louie Davis, Nominating Committee Chair, gave the Nominating Committee report. He stated that the Nominating Committee met virtually via communications media technology on May 20, 2020 to prepare, for the Council's consideration, recommendations concerning officers and Executive Committee member position for Program Year 2020-21.

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

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

Mayor Louie Davis asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing no nominations from the floor, Mayor Louie Davis closed the nominations.

**ACTION: Mayor Louie Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie, to elect the slate of nominees for officers and Executive Committee member position to a one-year term for Program Year 2020-21 as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

G. 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 that, due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the Task Force and the City of Valdosta did not meet for a previously scheduled joint workshop session on April 8, 2020 in Valdosta. He also stated that the Task Force met virtually via communications media technology on May 20, 2020. Commissioner Davis stated at the meeting, the Task Force heard a report from the Suwannee River Water Management District concerning the condition of the Withlacoochee River and Suwannee River following the most recent raw sewage spill by the City of Valdosta and prepared written comments to be submitted to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division concerning the Division's proposed consent order with the City of Valdosta related to measures for addressing the ongoing raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

David Tyler, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, stated that District offices have been reopened. He also stated that traffic volume monitoring by the Department has shown that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, traffic volumes were 50 percent lower year over year for April 2020 and 20 percent lower year over for May 2020.

Ben Glass, Legislative and Community Affairs Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated the District office has been reopened and partially staffed. He also stated that hurricane season begins on June 1, 2020 and recommended that individuals and communities should have hurricane preparedness plans. Finally, Mr. Glass stated District local government cost share springs grant applications have been forwarded by the District to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for final selection of grant awardees.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed Council meeting packet attachments, Council committee meeting records and the 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 February 2020, March 2020 and April 2020 activities report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the February 2020, March 2020 and April 2020 reports.

B. Florida Regional Councils Association Forward Newsletter - February 2020

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Council Association distributes an electronic newsletter each month to approximately 2,600 elected officials, state agencies, partner organizations and interested individuals statewide. He discussed an article from the February 2020 monthly Forward Newsletter that was included in the Council meeting packet featuring the activities of the Council serving as a Census Affiliate organization. Mr. Koons stated that the article highlighted the recent visit to the Council offices by the United States Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham and Atlanta Assistant Regional Census Manager Marilyn Stephens to discuss Census preparations by the Council and local governments in the north central Florida region.

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

D. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2020 Legislature Session convened on January 14, 2020 and adjourned on March 20, 2020. He reviewed bills of interest to regional planning councils and local governments.

E. 2020 Census

Mr. Koons reported on the 2020 Census which began on April 1, 2020 and will be used to determine political representation to the United States House of Representatives, state legislatures and local governments. He stated data from the Census provides the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support programs impacting the amount of funding that will be provided by the state and federal government for a number of programs, including housing, education, transportation, employment and healthcare.

Mr. Koons also stated that due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the Census Bureau has extended the field data collection and self-response period to October 31, 2020, which will allow for apportionment counts to be delivered to the President by April 30, 2021 and redistricting data to be delivered to the states no later than July 31, 2021. He reviewed the current self-response rate for north central Florida region counties, Florida and the United States. Finally, Mr. Koons recommended Council members to work with their local Census Complete Count Committees to encourage all north central Florida region households to complete their Census questionnaire either online or by telephone.

F. Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance

Mr. Koons stated that due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the Florida Turnpike Northern Extension Task Force met virtually via communications media technology on April 29, 2020 and the Suncoast Task Force also met virtually via communications media technology on April 30, 2020. He stated both Task Forces heard from a panel of subject matter experts concerning the need for rural broadband and the Florida Department of Transportation concerning new geographic information system data layers to assist the Task Force in identifying avoidance areas.

Mr. Koons also stated that due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the Suncoast Task Force met virtually via communications media technology on May 12, 2020 and the Florida Turnpike Northern Extension Task Force also met virtually via communications media technology on May 14, 2020. He stated both Task Forces heard from a panel of subject matter experts concerning automated and connected vehicle technology.

Mr. Koons stated the next meeting of the Florida Turnpike Northern Extension Task Force will be held virtually via communications media technology on June 3, 2020. He also stated the next meeting of the Florida Suncoast Task Force also will be held virtually via communications media technology on June 9, 2020. Finally, Mr. Koons stated both Task Forces will hear from a panel of subject matter experts concerning coordination of broadband deployment and corridor development, and will discuss high level needs and guiding principles.

G. 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.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

Chair Wilford stated that it was an honor to serve as Chair of the Council for Program Year 2019-20.

Mr. Koons thanked Chair Wilford for his leadership and service as Chair of the Council for Program Year 2019-20.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Wilford informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on June 25, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair

7/23/20