

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Via Communications Media Technology

December 10, 2020
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Mary Alford, Alachua County
David Arreola, City of Gainesville
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
Robert Brown, Hamilton County
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
James Catron, City of Madison
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Don Hale, Suwannee County
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Reina Saco, City of Gainesville
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County
James Tallman, Union County
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristyn Adkins, City of High Springs

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 Commission
David Tyler, Florida Department
of Transportation

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mark Clark, City of Newberry
Mike Deming, City of Perry
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County

OTHERS PRESENT

Alec Bogdanoff
Diana Davis
Stew Lilker
Donnie Waldrep

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons
Tara Tucker
Lauren Yeatter

Executive Committee Members names are bold
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION

Noting a quorum of the Council being present, Chair Chestnut called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Vice-Mayor Wilford gave the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Chestnut welcomed and introduced Donnie Waldrep, Madison County Commissioner; Diana Davis, Executive Director, 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 - October 22, 2020
- B. Monthly Financial Report - October 2020
- C. Amendment to Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council to Assist with Update of Statewide Regional Evacuation Study
- D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program - Community Transportation Coordinator Selection for Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties

Chair Chestnut 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 Demps to remove Item IV. D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program - Community Transportation Coordinator Selection for Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties from the Consent Agenda and defer action on Item IV. D. until the January 28, 2021 Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously

ACTION: Vice-Mayor Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks to approve the consent agenda, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Alec Bogdanoff, Florida Lead
American Flood Coalition

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Alec Bogdanoff, Florida Lead, American Flood Coalition. Mr. Bogdanoff gave a presentation to the Council concerning the American Flood Coalition and regional resiliency initiatives. Chair Chestnut thanked Mr. Bogdanoff for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT

- A. New Members - Mary Alford, Alachua County
Mike Deming, City of Perry
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County

Chair Chestnut welcomed new Council members County Commissioner Mary Alford, Alachua County; and County Commissioner Jody Stephenson, Dixie County. He also stated that Councilman Mike Deming, City of Perry, has been appointed as a Council member by the City to replace Councilwoman Shirlie Hampton.

- B. Resolutions of Appreciation - Rick Davis, Madison County
Shirlie Hampton, City of Perry
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County

ACTION: Mayor Louie Davis made the motion, with a second by Mayor Bryant to approve Resolutions of Appreciation for former Council members Rick Davis, Madison County; Shirlie Hampton, City of Perry; and Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County. The motion carried unanimously.

- C. Certificates of Appreciation - Rick Davis, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Chair and Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force Chair

Mr. Koons reported that former Madison County Commissioner Rick Davis recently completed his service on the Council representing Madison County as a local elected official. He also stated during his eight-year tenure on the Council, Commissioner Davis provided dedicated service in several leadership positions. Mr. Koons noted that Commissioner Davis served as Chair of the Council for Program Year 2016-17 as well as one-year terms as Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Immediate Past Chair, Executive Committee Member, Nominating Committee Chair, Finance Committee Chair and Program Committee Chair. He also stated Commissioner Davis served as a Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Representative for several years.

Mr. Koons also stated Commissioner Davis served as Chair of the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force for Program Years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2020-21. In recognition of dedicated service and outstanding leadership, Mr. Koons stated that the Council is presenting a Certificate of Service for serving as Council Chair and a Certificate of Service for serving as River Task Force Chair to Commissioner Davis.

- D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation -
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
Karen Cossey, Union County
Bucky Nash, Columbia County

ACTION: Mayor Bryant made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson to approve Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation for former Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board chairs Beth Burnam, Karen Cossey and Bucky Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Resolution Recognizing 125th Anniversary of the City of Newberry

Mr. Koons stated that the City of Newberry was incorporated in 1895. He noted that the City is celebrating its 125th Anniversary this year. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-12 recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the City.

ACTION: Vice-Mayor Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler, to adopt the attached Resolution No. 2020-12 recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the City of Newberry. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Commissioner Hope, Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee, reported 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.

- #6 - Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Draft Amendment
- #7 - Madison County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR)
- #8 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-4ESR)
- #15 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-3ESR)
- #16 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ESR)
- #17 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No.20-2ER)
- #18 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No.20-3ESR)
- #19 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-3ESR)
- #20 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ESR)

Commissioner Hope 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. He stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective regional council and local governments, and the Executive Office of the Governor and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Commissioner Hope made the motion, with a second by Mayor Bryant to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #6 - Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Draft Amendment; Item #7 - Madison County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR); Item #8 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-4ESR); Item #15 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-3ESR); Item #16 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ESR); Item #17 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ER); Item #18 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-3ESR); #19 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-3ESR); and #20 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson, Vice-Chair of the Regional Planning Committee, reported that the Regional Planning Committee has been meeting since February 2020 to prepare an Evaluation and Appraisal Report of the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan. She stated the Committee concluded its work on the Report at its meeting held virtually via communications media technology on December 3, 2020. Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson stated the purpose of the Report is to evaluate the regional plan and to identify possible future regional plan amendments, revisions or updates to the regional plan based on the evaluation. She said the Report is based on the progress of the region toward attainment of regional plan goals using the regional indicators of the regional plan. Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson stated the Report is required to identify plan amendments which may be necessary as a result of changing regional conditions, changes to the State Comprehensive Plan or other statutory changes.

Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson emphasized that the Report does not amend the regional plan. She stated rather, it serves as a basis for developing future regional plan amendments, which the Committee anticipates presenting to the Council for its consideration in 2021. Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson stated the Report includes recommendations that the regional indicators and data in the tables be updated to reflect the latest available information for the Affordable Housing Element, Economic Development Element, Emergency Preparedness Element, Regional Transportation Element, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, and Regionally Significant Facilities and Resources. Finally, she stated the Committee recommends the Council approve the Evaluation and Appraisal Report and forward it to the Executive Office of the Governor.

ACTION: Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler, to adopt the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report and forward it to the Executive Office of the Governor. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

David Tyler, Planning and Environmental Office, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, stated that the District is currently soliciting Small County Road Assistance Program grant applications, Small County Outreach Program grant applications, Transportation Regional Incentive Program grant applications and County Incentive Grant program grant applications until February 26, 2021. He also stated that the District will conduct a Tentative Five-Year Work Program public hearing both in-person at the District Urban Area Office in Jacksonville as well as virtually via communications media technology on January 14, 2021.

Ben Glass, Legislative and Community Affairs Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated the District is currently soliciting local government cost share springs grant applications and local government cost share alternative water supply grant applications until December 15, 2020. He also stated that an additional equalization basin at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant in the City of Valdosta, Georgia was recently completed earlier in December 2020. Mr. Glass noted that the equalization basin provides additional storage capacity for untreated wastewater and is intended to avoid future sewage spills into the Withlacoochee River.

Daniel Penniman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, stated the Commission will be conducting a virtual public meeting via communications media technology on December 16, 2020 and December 17, 2020.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed the Suwannee Valley Transit Authority and regional transit services.

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 and November 2020 activity reports included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the October 2020 and November 2020 reports.

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

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2021 Legislative Session will convene on March 2, 2021 and is scheduled to adjourn on April 30, 2021. He also stated legislative committee meetings will begin the week of January 11, 2021 and conclude the week of February 15, 2021.

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 virtually via communications media technology on October 20, 2020 and that the Florida Turnpike Northern Extension Task Force also met virtually via communications media technology on October 21, 2020. He noted that both Task Forces completed the review of their respective final reports. Mr. Koons stated the final reports were submitted to the Governor, President of the Florida Senate and Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives on November 12, 2020. Finally, he noted that copies of the final reports were included in the Council meeting packet.

E. National Association of Development Organizations Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award

Mr. Koons reported that the Council received an Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations for the Middle and Lower Suwanee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force. 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 Council created the Middle and Lower Suwanee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force to address sewage spills by the City of Valdosta, Georgia over the past decade. He stated the spills have resulted in the release of raw sewage and partially treated sewage into the Withlacoochee River that travels across the state line and through the north central Florida region to the Gulf of Mexico. He stated the River Task Force is comprised of a county commissioner from each of the 12 impacted counties in the north central Florida region.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Louie Davis stated that he was re-elected without opposition for another two-year term as the Mayor of the City of Waldo. Commissioner Mortimer invited Council members to attend the City of Starke Christmas on Call Street Winter Festival and Parade on December 12, 2020 in Starke. Mayor Bryant invited Council members to attend the Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade on December 12, 2020 in Jasper. Finally, Vice-Mayor Wilford invited Council members to attend the City of Alachua Christmas Parade on December 12, 2020 in Alachua.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Chestnut informed the Council that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on January 28, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.



Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair

1/28/21

Date