

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Via Communications Media Technology

July 22, 2021
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
James Catron, City of Madison
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Mark Clark, City of Newberry
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
Travis Land, Suwannee County
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Donnie Waldrep, Madison 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

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

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Mike Deming, City of Perry
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
Reina Saco, City of Gainesville
James Tallman, Union County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County

OTHERS PRESENT

Greg Britton
Diana Davis
Stew Lilker

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 Thomas Demps called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and 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 Demps welcomed 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 - June 24, 2021

B. Monthly Financial Report - June 2021

Chair Demps asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Greg Britton, Chief Executive Officer
Florida Small Business Development Center Network

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Greg Britton, Chief Executive Officer of Florida Small Business Development Center Network. Mr. Britton gave a presentation to the Council concerning the value that small businesses contribute to state, regional and local economies. Chair Demps thanked Mr. Britton for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT -

A. New Member - Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville

Chair Demps welcomed new Council member City Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville.

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation - Sandra Collins

ACTION: Commissioner Alford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut to approve a Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation for former Transportation Disadvantaged Program member Sandra Collins, voting Florida Department of Transportation Representative on the Bradford County, Columbia County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County, Hamilton County, Lafayette County, Levy County, Madison County, Suwannee County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Florida Association of Counties - Presidential Advocate Award

Chair Demps stated, that at the Florida Association of Counties Annual Meeting held in Orlando on July 2, 2021, Florida Association of Counties President Melissa McKinally awarded Presidential Advocate Awards to Lafayette County Commissioner Anthony Adams, Alachua County Commissioner Charles Chestnut IV and Levy County Commissioner John Meeks. Chair Demps congratulated these county commissioners on their accomplishments.

D. Florida Association of Counties - Board of Directors Election

Chair Demps stated that at the Florida Association of Counties Annual Meeting held in Orlando on July 2, 2021, Levy County Commissioner John Meeks was re-elected to the Board of Directors. Chair Demps congratulated Commissioner Meeks on his re-election.

E. Florida Small County Coalition - Officers and Board of Directors Election

Chair Demps stated that at the Florida Small County Coalition Meeting held in Orlando on June 30, 2021, Levy County Commissioner John Meeks became Immediate Past Chair of the Florida Small County Coalition. He also stated Lafayette County Commissioner Anthony Adams will continue to serve on the Board of Directors of the Florida Small County Coalition. Chair Demps congratulated Commissioner Meeks and Commissioner Adams on their accomplishments.

F. Employee Certificates of Service

1. Tara Tucker - 5 Years

Scott Koons, Executive Director, reported that Tara Tucker joined the Council staff on June 20, 2016. He noted that Ms. Tucker currently serves as Executive Assistant to the Executive Director. Mr. Koons virtually presented a 5-year Certificate of Service and a 5-year service pin to Ms. Tucker. He thanked her for her dedicated service to the Council.

2. Lauren Yeatter - 5 Years

Mr. Koons reported that Lauren Yeatter also joined the Council staff on June 20, 2016. He noted that Ms. Yeatter currently serves as Senior Planner for Geographic Information Systems, Economic Development, Regional Planning and Community Development. Mr. Koons virtually presented a 5-year Certificate of Service and a 5-year service pin to Ms. Yeatter. He thanked her for her dedicated service to the Council.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

2. Employee Health Insurance Proposal

Mr. Koons stated that UnitedHealthcare has offered to continue health insurance coverage for the Council with a decrease in premiums for the coming year beginning September 1, 2021. The total change in the cost to the Council for the coming year would be (\$768) per annum or a (0.8) percent decrease. The resulting total monthly cost to the Council would be \$7,641.

He also stated that UnitedHealthcare is proposing no change in life insurance premiums for the coming year. Mr. Koons further noted that UnitedHealthcare is proposing a decrease of (2.9) percent in the cost for dental insurance to employees for the coming year.

He stated that staff secured alternative proposals for health insurance from UnitedHealthcare for consideration by the Council. Mr. Koons stated that the alternative proposals include changes to benefits for employees. He noted that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council approve the renewal proposal from UnitedHealthcare for Plan CE-KQ/RX849 for health insurance; and dental insurance and life insurance for the year beginning September 1, 2021.

ACTION: Commissioner Alford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Clark, to approve the renewal proposal received from UnitedHealthcare for Plan CE-KQ/RX849 for health insurance; for dental insurance and life insurance for the year beginning September 1, 2021 as recommended by the Executive Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson, 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.

#50 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR)

#51 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR)

Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson 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 recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #50 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR); and Item #51 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, discussed the flooding impacts from Tropical Storm Elsa.

David Tyler, Planning and Environmental Office, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, stated his appreciation to the Council for adopting the Resolution of Appreciation for Sandra Collins for her service on transportation disadvantaged local coordinating boards. He stated that Daniel Penniman, formerly with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, has accepted a position with the Florida Department of Transportation District 2.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed Council job opportunities.

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 also stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the June 2021 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the June 2021 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 July 2021 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Enterprise Florida Site Preparation Grant Award Program

Mr. Koons stated that the Governor recently announced the award of \$198,500 to nine rural counties and cities for site preparation projects. He stated the awards are part of the Enterprise Florida's Rural Expansion Toolkit initiative to assist rural communities with broad-based economic engagement and capacity building efforts. He stated the grant recipients were those communities that were able to demonstrate a pathway to site readiness.

Mr. Koons stated the following communities and organizations in the north central Florida region recently received funding from the Site Preparation Grant Program, Dixie County Board of County Commissioners, \$25,000; Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, \$19,000; Lafayette County Development Authority, 19,000; Madison County Board of County

Commissioners, \$16,500; Taylor County Development Authority, \$19,000; and Union County Board of County Commissioners \$25,000.

I. 2020-21 Member James H. Montgomery Certificates of Outstanding Attendance

Mr. Koons stated an essential component of the ability of the Council to conduct its business is the regular attendance of members at Council meetings. He stated a Council Member Attendance Recognition Program was established by the Council at the May 22, 2008 Council meeting to recognize the commitment of those Council members actively engaged in the organization by regularly attending Council meetings.

He stated the Council named the Member Attendance Recognition Program the James H. Montgomery Certificate of Outstanding Attendance in honor of Mr. Montgomery at the February 26, 2020 Council meeting. He stated James H. Montgomery served on the Council from 1976 to 2004 as a member representing the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida. He stated that from 2010 to 2019, he also served on the Council as a gubernatorial appointee. Mr. Koons stated he provided 38 years of distinguished leadership and service to the Council.

Mr. Koons virtually presented James H. Montgomery Certificates of Outstanding Attendance Award in recognition of their attendance at every scheduled Council meeting during Program Year 2020-21 to Commissioner Anthony Adams, Lafayette County; Commissioner Robert Brown, Hamilton County; Commissioner Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County; Mayor Louie Davis, City of Waldo; Commissioner Fletcher Hope, City of Archer; Vice-Mayor Janice Mortimer, City of Starke; and Commissioner Robert Wilford, City of Alachua.

J. Executive Director's Cup

Mr. Koons stated that in furtherance of the Council Member Attendance Recognition Program and to encourage attendance at Council meetings, an Executive Director's Cup is awarded each year to recognize the most members with 100 percent attendance by either county, city or gubernatorial members during a program year.

Mr. Koons presented the 2020-21 Executive Director's Cup to City members Mayor Louie Davis, City of Waldo; Commissioner Fletcher Hope, City of Archer; Vice-Mayor Janice Mortimer, City of Starke; and Commissioner Robert Wilford, City of Alachua. He also stated that the Executive Director's Cup is prominently displayed at the Council office.


XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Wilford thanked the Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board for holding its July 13, 2021 meeting in the City of Alachua. He also thanked District staff for assessing flooding issues in the Turkey Creek Subdivision in the City of Alachua resulting from Tropical Storm Elsa.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Demps stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on August 26, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.


Thomas Demps, Chair

8/26/21
Date


RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Sandra Collins has served as the voting Florida Department of Transportation Representative on the Bradford County, Columbia County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County, Hamilton County, Lafayette County, Levy County, Madison County, Suwannee County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since July 2005 and the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since June 2013;

WHEREAS, Sandra Collins ably discharged the duties of the voting Florida Department of Transportation Representative on the Bradford County, Columbia County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County, Hamilton County, Lafayette County, Levy County, Madison County, Suwannee County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards and the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Sandra Collins for dedicated service rendered to the Bradford County, Columbia County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County, Hamilton County, Lafayette County, Levy County, Madison County, Suwannee County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards and the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee and Union Counties and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the community to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Sandra Collins.


Thomas Demps, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

July 22, 2021

Date