

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Via Communications Media Technology

August 26, 2021
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Mary Alford, Alachua County
Robert Brown, Hamilton County
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Mark Clark, City of Newberry
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville
Travis Land, Suwannee County
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Reina Saco, City of Gainesville
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler
James Tallman, Union 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 ABSENT

Kristyn Adkins, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Ben Glass, Suwannee River Water
Management District
David Tyler, Florida Department
of Transportation

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Arreola, City of Gainesville
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
James Catron, City of Madison
Mike Deming, City of Perry
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County

OTHERS PRESENT

Tony Carvajal
Diana Davis
Jonathan Guarine
Stew Lilker

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons
Lauren Yeatter

Executive Committee Members names are bold
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION

Chair Thomas Demps requested that Vice-Chair Anthony Adams serve as the presiding officer for the meeting. Noting a quorum being present, Vice-Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 7:02 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

Vice-Chair Adams 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 - July 22, 2021
- B. Monthly Financial Report - July 2021
- C. Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness - Fiscal Year 2021-22
- D. Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services Agreements Fiscal Year 2021-22
- E. Hazardous Waste Monitoring Verification and Notification Services Agreements Fiscal Year 2021-22
- F. Community Development Block Grant Fiscal Year 2019 Administrative Services Agreement - City of Madison
- G. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointments

Vice- Chair Adams asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Clark made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Tony Carvajal, Executive Vice-President
Florida TaxWatch

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Tony Carvajal, Executive Vice-President, Florida TaxWatch. Mr. Carvajal introduced Jonathan Guarine, Chief Economist, Florida TaxWatch. Mr. Carvajal and Mr. Guarine gave a presentation to the Council concerning Florida TaxWatch and its research projects, in particular the recently completed Beyond The Pandemic: Long-Term Changes and Challenges for Florida's Workforce. Vice-Chair Adams thanked Mr. Carvajal and Mr. Guarine for their presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT -

- A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation
1. Deweece Ogden

ACTION: Commissioner Meeks made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Clark, to approve a Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation for former Transportation Disadvantaged Program member Deweece Ogden, voting Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Representative on the Bradford County, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Gilchrist County, Levy County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Mike Joyner, Levy County Commissioner in Memoria

Vice-Chair Adams stated, on August 4, 2021, Levy County Commissioner Mike Joyner died due to complications from the COVID-19 coronavirus. He stated that he served as a County Commissioner from his appointment by the Governor in 2010 until his death. Vice-Chair Adams also stated that following his appointment, Commissioner Joyner was elected three times to four-year terms on the Board of County Commissioners. He stated he also served as a representative of Levy County on the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council Board for several years.

Vice-Chair Adams stated Commissioner Joyner previously spent 32 years as a law enforcement officer where he was involved in a variety of cases, including several undercover operations. He stated in 2017, the Florida Intelligence Unit, a statewide training organization for law enforcement officers, established the Mike Joyner Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to honor officers that go above and beyond the call of duty.

Vice-Chair Adams stated as directed by the Governor, the flags of the United States and the State of Florida were flown at half-staff at the Levy County Courthouse in Bronson, Florida, the City Hall in Williston, Florida, and at the State Capitol in Tallahassee, Florida from sunrise to sunset on August 11, 2021 in honor of Commissioner Joyner. He stated that he will be remembered for his willingness to protect and advocate for his community.

Commissioner Meeks discussed the service provided by Commissioner Joyner to the Levy County community. He thanked the Council for recognizing and honoring the memory of Commissioner Joyner.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Assigned Fund Balance - Capital Reserve

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Land, to approve encumbering \$3,000 of the Council's unassigned fund balance as part of the assigned fund balance to increase the Capital Reserve Fund balance for accumulated depreciation of building and equipment costs to \$573,000. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Commissioner Brown, Vice-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.

- #54 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-3ESR)
- #55 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-4ESR)
- #56 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-5ESR)
- #57 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR)
- #58 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-6ESR)
- #59 - Town of Horseshoe Beach Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER)
- #60 - City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER)
- #61 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-3ESR)
- #62 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR)

Commissioner Brown 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 local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Commissioner Brown made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #54 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-3ESR); Item #55 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-4ESR); Item #56 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-5ESR); Item #57 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR); Item #58 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-6ESR); Item #59 - Town of Horseshoe Beach Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER); Item #60 - City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER); Item #61 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-3ESR); and Item #62 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Ben Glass, Legislative and Community Affairs Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District, discussed recent rainfall that resulted in flooding in portions of the District.

David Tyler, Rural Transportation Planning Manager, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, stated that the District is conducting a bicycle and pedestrian safety awareness campaign for University of Florida students in Gainesville. He also stated that grant applications for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program, County Incentive Grant Program, Small County Outreach Program and Small County Road Assistance Program will be due to the District in January 2022.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed rural 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 also stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the July 2021 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the July 2021 report.

B. Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting Report

Mr. Koons stated Immediate Past Chair Charles Chestnut, Gubernatorial Appointee Lorene Thomas, Commissioner Robert Wilford and he attended the semi-annual meeting of the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board virtually via communications media technology on July 27, 2021.

Mr. Koons stated the Policy Board heard presentations from Philip Paradice, Atlanta Regional Director, U. S. Economic Development Administration and Greg Vaday, Florida Economic Development Representative, U. S. Economic Development Administration; and Whitney Gray, Administrator, Florida Resilient Coastlines Program, Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He stated the Policy Board accepted Assembled Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2019-20 and received a financial report.

Mr. Koons also stated the Policy Board adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22, received a legislative report, reviewed the 2022 Legislative Agenda and elected officers for the 2021-22 Policy Board Executive Committee. He congratulated Commissioner Wilford on being elected 1st Vice-President of the Association.

C. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Forward Newsletter

Mr. Koons stated the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. He stated 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 the Association distributes an electronic newsletter each month to approximately 2,500 elected officials, state agencies, partner organizations and interested individuals statewide. He noted that the Summer 2021 monthly Forward Newsletter featured the community development activities of the Council provided to local governments.

Mr. Koons stated the article highlighted that the Council recently completed providing assistance to Bradford County and initiated assistance to the Town of Mayo with housing rehabilitation projects. He stated the projects consisted of the rehabilitation or demolition/replacement of substandard low- and moderate-income owner-occupied dwelling units. Mr. Koons stated the projects were funded by Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grants. Housing deficiencies were addressed by the projects resulting in safe, suitable and sanitary housing for the residents.

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 August 2021 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

E. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons stated the 2022 Legislature Session will convene on January 11, 2022 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 11, 2022. He reported that the legislative interim Committee schedule is, as follows:

- Week of September 20, 2021
- Week of October 11, 2021
- Week of October 18, 2021
- Week of November 1, 2021
- Week of November 15, 2021
- Week of November 29, 2021

F. 2020 Census

Mr. Koons stated on August 12, 2021, the Census Bureau released the Decennial Census count for April 1, 2020 for states and localities. He also 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 reviewed the 2010 and 2020 population counts for north central Florida region counties, the state and the nation.

G. U.S. Economic Development Administration - American Rescue Plan Act

Mr. Koons stated the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration will implement a series of programs, collectively called Investing in America's Communities, to equitably invest the \$3 billion it received from the American Rescue Plan Act to help communities across the country build back better. He also stated the U.S. Economic Development Administration investment is the largest economic development initiative from the U.S. Department of Commerce in decades.

Mr. Koons stated with an emphasis on equity, the Economic Development Administration's investments made possible by the American Rescue Plan will directly benefit communities that have been denied full access to economic prosperity and who have been disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. He stated that the Administration will work with local communities across the country on innovative new approaches to ensure an increase in American competitiveness by strengthening workforce, businesses and communities, and build back better in regions across the country.

Mr. Koons stated investing in America's Communities includes six Notices of Funding Opportunity.

- Build Back Better Regional Challenge (\$1 billion);
- Good Jobs Challenge (\$500 million);
- Economic Adjustment Assistance Challenge (\$500 million);
- Indigenous Communities Challenge (\$100 million);
- Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Grants (\$750 million); and
- Statewide Planning, Research, and Networks Grants (\$90 million).

Mr. Koons stated local governments in the north central Florida region are eligible to apply for these funds as a result of the regional economic development planning efforts led by the Council. He stated projects completed with these funds will further strategies in the North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to strengthen the economy of the north central Florida region.

H. 2021 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. He stated the 2021 Regional Directory was recently mailed to local, regional, state and federal officials, and planning and related agencies. Mr. Koons thanked everyone who assisted in compiling this information. He also stated that a downloadable version of the 2021 Regional Directory in pdf format is also available on the Council website at www.ncfrpc.org.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Vice-Chair Adams stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on September 23, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.


Thomas Demps, Chair

9/23/21
Date

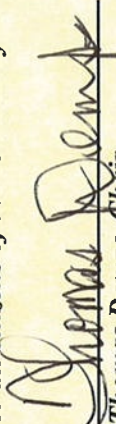
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Deweese Ogden has served as the voting Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Representative on the Bradford County, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Gilchrist County, Levy County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since August 2015;

WHEREAS, Deweese Ogden ably discharged the duties of the voting Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Representative on the Bradford County, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Gilchrist County, Levy County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Deweese Ogden for dedicated service rendered to the Bradford County, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Gilchrist County, Levy County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Levy, 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 Deweese Ogden.


Thomas Demps, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

August 26, 2021

Date