

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Via Communications Media Technology

December 9, 2021
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Mary Alford, Alachua County
David Arreola, City of Gainesville
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
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
Ward Ketring, City of Perry
Travis Land, Suwannee County
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
Donnie Waldrep, Madison County
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristin Adkins, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Logan Benedict, Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
Ben Glass, Suwannee River Water
Management District
David Tyler, Florida Department
of Transportation

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
James Catron, City of Madison
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County

OTHERS PRESENT

Christian Doolin

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 7:03 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 - None

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes - October 28, 2021
- B. Monthly Financial Report - October 2021
- C. Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services Agreement
Fiscal Year 2021-22 - Town of Bronson
- D. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Evaluation Amendments Agreement
Fiscal Year 2021-22 - Town of Bell
- E. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Evaluation Amendments Agreement
Fiscal Year 2021-22 - City of Trenton
- F. Intergovernmental Coordination and Review and Public Transportation Coordination Agreement

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

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

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Christian Doolin, Legislative Consultant Florida Small County Coalition

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Christian Doolin, Legislative Consultant for the Small County Coalition of Florida. Mr. Doolin gave a presentation to the Council concerning the issues to be considered during the upcoming 2022 Legislative Session of interest to rural counties and communities. Chair Demps thanked Mr. Doolin for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT - None

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Resolution No. 2021-19 Recognizing 50th Anniversary of the Town of Raiford

Mr. Koons stated that the Town of Raiford was incorporated in 1971. He noted that the County is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council adopt a resolution congratulating the Town of Raiford on its 50th Anniversary.

ACTION: Commissioner Alford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks to adopt the attached Resolution No. 2021-19 recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Town of Raiford. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Commissioner Robert 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.

- #9 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR)
- #10 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-3ESR)
- #12 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-3ESR)
- #13 - City of Fanning Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #14 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-7ESR)
- #15 - Town of Mayo Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #18 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #19 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER)
- #20 - City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER)
- #21 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #23 - City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #24 - City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER)
- #25 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #26 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR)
- #27 - Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #28 - Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #29 - City of Chiefland Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #30 - Town of Micanopy Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)

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 Mayor Louie Davis, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #9 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR); Item #10 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-3ESR); Item #12 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-3ESR); Item #13 - City of Fanning Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #14 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-7ESR); Item #15 - Town of Mayo Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #18 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #19 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER); Item #20 - City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER); Item #21 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #23 - City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR) Item #24 - City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER); Item #25 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #26 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR); Item #27 - Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #28 - Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #29 - City of Chiefland Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); and Item #30 - Town of Micanopy Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

David Tyler, Rural Transportation Planning Manager, 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 January 21, 2022. He also stated that the Department is currently soliciting Safe Routes to Schools grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian facilities until December 31, 2021 and the District is soliciting Transportation Alternatives grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian facilities until February 18, 2022.

Ben Glass, Legislative and Community Affairs Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated that springs cost share grant applications and alternative water supply cost share grant applications are due to the District by December 15, 2021.

Logan Benedict, Climate Adaptation Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, stated the Commission is available to provide technical assistance to local governments and private landowners concerning wildlife conservation issues.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

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 October 2021 and November 2021 activity reports included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the October 2021 and November 2021 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 2021 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons stated the 2022 Legislature Session will convene on January 11, 2022 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 11, 2022. Mr. Koons 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

D. American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Non-Entitlement Cities Fiscal Recovery Funds

Mr. Koons reported the American Rescue Plan Act will provide \$350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency. He noted that recipients may use these funds to support public health expenditures, by, for example, funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare and certain public health and safety staff; address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries and the public sector; replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic; provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and invest in

water, sewer and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet. Finally, Mr. Koons reviewed the funding allocations for counties, metropolitan cities and non-entitlement cities with a population of less than 50,000 in the north central Florida region.

E. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Property Rights Element

Mr. Koons stated the Florida Legislature enacted Chapter 2021-195 concerning growth management during the 2021 Legislative Session. He stated the legislation requires every local government to add a property rights element to its comprehensive plan. Mr. Koons stated until the property rights element is adopted by a local government, it is prohibited from adopting any other comprehensive plan amendments.

Mr. Koons stated the property rights element must recognize and respect judicially acknowledged and constitutionally protected private property rights. He stated in particular, the local government must consider the following private property rights in local decision making; right of a property owner to physically possess and control his or her interests in the property, including easements, leases, or mineral rights; right of a property owner to use, maintain, develop and improve his or her property for personal use or for the use of any other person, subject to state law and local ordinances; right of the property owner to privacy and to exclude others from the property to protect the owner's possessions and property; and right of a property owner to dispose of his or her property through sale or gift.

Mr. Koons reported that Council staff is currently providing technical assistance to local governments throughout the north central Florida region to comply with the property rights element requirement. He stated the assistance includes drafting the property rights element; preparing public hearing notices; drafting resolutions and ordinances subject to review by local government attorneys as to legal form and sufficiency; preparing and transmitting proposed comprehensive plan amendment packages to the state land planning agency, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, and state and regional review agencies; preparing and submitting adopted comprehensive plan amendment packages to the state land planning agency, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, and state and regional review agencies; and codifying comprehensive plan to include the adopted property rights element.

F. Annual Report

Mr. Koons stated that each year, the Council publishes an annual report to review programs and services of the Council in fulfilling its mission to improve the quality of life of the region's citizens by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments. He stated the annual report highlights accomplishments in the areas of regional activities, public safety and regulatory compliance, economic development, local government assistance and transportation. Mr. Koons stated the annual report also provides a summary of the financial status of the Council and looks at the year ahead. Finally, he noted that a copy of the 2020 Annual Report was included in the Council meeting packet.

G. 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 Original Florida Tourism Task Force website. He stated the awards this year once again are presented in honor of Aliceann Wohlbruck, who passed away in March 2018. Mr. Koons stated Wohlbruck was the Association's first executive director, serving 24 years as a tireless champion for regional approaches to economic development in rural and small metropolitan communities.

Mr. Koons also stated that the Task Force is a multi-county destination marketing organization promoting nature-based, heritage-based and cultural-based tourism in the north central Florida region. He noted that the area consists of 14 counties and covers approximately 10,000 square miles that the Task Force brands and markets as Visit Natural North Florida. Mr. Koons stated that the Council provides staff services to the Task Force to assist the Task Force implement its regional tourism marketing program.

Mr. Koons noted that the Task Force website has resulted in an increased awareness of the nature-, heritage- and culture-based tourism opportunities available in the north central Florida region. He stated that metrics used to evaluate the success of the website include website analytics and local tourism development tax, bed tax, revenue. Finally, Mr. Koons reported that over the past five years, tourism development tax revenue for the region increased at a higher rate than experienced statewide.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Mortimer stated that the annual Christmas Parade on Call Street in the City of Starke will be held on December 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. She also stated that a F1 tornado touched down in the City of Starke earlier today and resulted in considerable property damage.

Commissioner Wilford stated the annual Christmas Parade will be held in the City of Alachua on December 11, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Mayor Louie Davis stated that a Car Show will be held in the City of Waldo on December 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

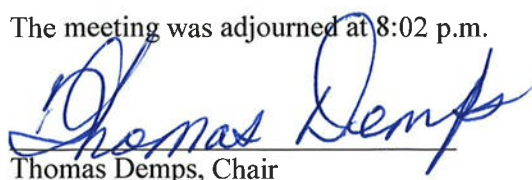
Commissioner Wheeler stated the annual Christmas Parade will be held in the City of High Springs on December 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Alford thanked Mr. Koons for his assistance in promoting the establishment of the National Infrastructure Bank.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Demps stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on January 27, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



Thomas Demps, Chair

1/27/22
Date

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL
FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE TOWN OF RAIFORD

WHEREAS, the Town of Raiford, was incorporated in 1971; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Raiford was first settled in 1895 by Hunter Warren Raiford who was in the naval store business; and

WHEREAS, with the construction of the Atlantic Coast Railroad connecting Jacksonville to St. Petersburg, in 1900, the Town of Raiford became a railroad stop and trading center; and

WHEREAS, a post office was also established, in 1900, in the Town of Raiford; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Raiford is named in honor of the first Raiford United States Postmaster and town settler Hunter Warren Raiford; and

WHEREAS, logging, turpentine and saw milling were the main economy in the early days of the Town of Raiford; and

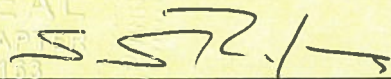
WHEREAS, a newspaper, the Raiford Weekly Tribune, was published for many years in the Town of Raiford.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council congratulates the Town of Raiford on its 50th Anniversary.

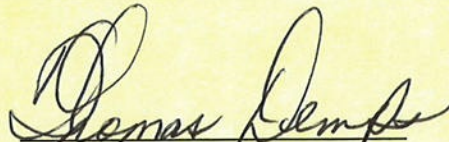
DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 9th day of December 2021.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:



Scott R. Koons, Executive Director



Thomas Demps, Chair