

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Via Communications Media Technology

May 27, 2021
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Mary Alford, Alachua County
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
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
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

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

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
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Mike Deming, City of Perry
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
Travis Land, Suwannee County
John Meeks, Levy County
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

OTHERS PRESENT

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 Chestnut called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and gave the invocation.

Chair Chestnut asked the Council to keep Commissioner Riddick, Council member, and his family in their thoughts and prayers as he is experiencing medical issues. He also asked the Council to remember the family of former Commissioner Eddie Lee Martin who recently died. Chair Chestnut noted that Commissioner Martin served on the Council for 30 years and served two terms as Chair. He asked the Council for a moment of silence in remembrance of Commissioner Martin.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Chestnut welcomed David Murzin, citizen from Pensacola; 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 - April 22, 2021
- B. Monthly Financial Report - April 2021
- C. Agency Regulatory Plan Fiscal Year 2021-22
- D. Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management for Local Emergency Planning Committee - Fiscal Year 2021-22
- E. Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management to Update Hazard Analyses - Fiscal Year 2021-22
- F. Meeting Schedule Program Year 2021-22
- G. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointment

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

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

VI. NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA PLANNING COUNCIL PRESENTATION YEAR 2021 REVIEW

Scott Koons, Executive Director, gave a presentation which reviewed Council activities during the past year in the Regional Planning, Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance, Economic Development, Local Government Assistance and Transportation Programs of the Council. In particular, he highlighted the services that the Council provides, which benefit its local governments, including community planning assistance, grant application and administration services, transportation planning assistance, hazardous waste monitoring, emergency response planning assistance, and economic development activities. Chair Chestnut thanked Mr. Koons for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT -

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

Chair Chestnut reported that the City of Gainesville has appointed City Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker as a new member of the Council.

- B. Resolution of Appreciation - Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion, with a second by Vice-Mayor Mortimer to approve a Resolution of Appreciation for former Council member Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville. The motion carried unanimously.

- C. Committee Appointment - David Arreola, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

ACTION: Commissioner Alford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson to ratify the appointment by the Chair of David Arreola as Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

- D. Employee Certificate of Service - Scott Koons - 45 Years

Chair Chestnut reported that Scott Koons joined the Council staff on April 1, 1976. He noted that Mr. Koons has served as Executive Director since October 1, 2006. Chair Chestnut presented a 45-year Certificate of Service and a 45-year service pin to Mr. Koons. He noted that Mr. Koons has served longer than any employee in the history of the Council. Chair Chestnut thanked him for his leadership and dedicated service to the Council.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive Committee - None

- B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

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.

#39 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)

#41 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR)

- #42 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR)
- #43 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)

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 local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Commissioner Hope made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #39 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #41 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR); Item #42 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR); and #43 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Program Committee - 2021-22 Overall Program Design

Commissioner Thomas Demps, Council Vice-Chair and Program Committee Chair, gave the Program Committee Report. He stated that the Program Committee met virtually via communications media technology March 25, 2021 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. Commissioner Demps 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 Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler, to approve the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Overall Program Design as recommended by the Program Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Finance Committee - Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget

Commissioner Anthony Adams, Council Secretary-Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair, gave the Finance Committee Report. He stated that the Finance Committee met virtually via communications media technology on May 5, 2021 to review the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget. He stated, the anticipated expenditures for next year will be \$2,013,500 which is \$89,000 less 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 41st year, and will produce approximately \$166,000.

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 11 full-time staff positions, plus funds for part-time positions, which is one less 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 Adams made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to approve the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Nominating Committee - Program Year 2021-22 Election of Officers

Commissioner Robert Wilford, Council Immediate Past Chair and Nominating Committee Chair, gave the Nominating Committee report. He stated that the Nominating Committee met virtually via communications media technology on May 20, 2021 to prepare, for the Council's consideration, recommendations concerning officers and Executive Committee member position for Program Year 2021-22.

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

Chair - Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Vice-Chair - Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Secretary-Treasurer - Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Executive Committee Member - Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
Immediate Past Chair - Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County

Commissioner Wilford asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing no nominations from the floor, he closed the nominations.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson, to elect the slate of nominees for officers and Executive Committee member position to a one-year term for Program Year 2021-22 as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Ben Glass, Legislative and Community Affairs Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that the District is continuing the preparation of the five-year update to the Regional Water Supply Plan and continuing the development of the Lower Santa Fe River and Ichetucknee River minimum flows and minimum water levels. He also stated that the District Governing Board will be reviewing cost share river grant applications submitted by local governments at their July 2021 meeting to make funding recommendations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Finally, he noted that hurricane season begins June 1, 2021 and recommended that everyone have a hurricane preparedness plan and have adequate supplies in the event a tropical storm impacts the north central Florida region.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed Council virtual meetings, cost of in person Council meetings and Council staffing levels. He announced a kayak event to be held May 29, 2021 on the Santa Fe River sponsored by Kayaktivism.

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 April 2021 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the April 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 May 2021 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2021 Legislative Session convened January 11, 2021 and adjourned on April 30, 2021. Mr. Koons reviewed the bills of interest to the regional planning councils and local governments.

D. 2020 Census

Mr. Koons reported that on April 26, 2021, the United States Census Bureau announced that the 2020 Census shows the resident population of the United States on April 1, 2020, was 331,449,281. He stated the resident population increased by 22,703,743 or 7.4 percent from 308,745,538 in 2010, and that the 2020 Census was the 24th time a census of the nation was completed by Americans.

Mr. Koons reported the Census Bureau also delivered the 2020 Census apportionment results to the President on April 26, 2021. He noted that Florida will gain one seat in the United States House of Representatives.

E. American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Government 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.

F. 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 that Council 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 -

Commissioner Wilford reported that the recently constructed Hampton Inn in the City of Alachua has opened for business. He also thanked Chair Chestnut for his leadership as Chair during the past year.

Commissioner Hope reported that the City of Archer recently held a grand opening of their new splash park.

Commissioner Alford reported that the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners recently adopted a resolution supporting the establishment of a National Infrastructure Bank.

Commissioner Clark reminded everyone to observe Memorial Day and pay tribute to the service members that lost their lives defending the United States of America.

Chair Chestnut stated that it was an honor to serve as Chair of the Council for the past year.

Mr. Koons presented Chair Chestnut with a John Moran framed landscape photograph of the Florida Trail at the Suwannee River for his service as Chair.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Chestnut informed the Council that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on June 24, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.


Thomas Demps, Chair

6/24/21
Date

Resolution

OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Gigi Simmons has been representing the City of Gainesville on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since May 2018;

WHEREAS, Gigi Simmons has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Gigi Simmons for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region 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 region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Gigi Simmons.

ATTEST:

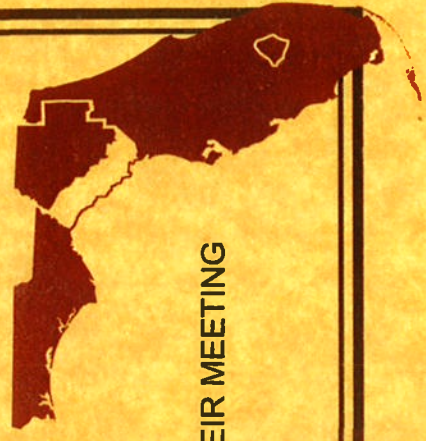


Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair



Anthony Adams, Secretary-Treasurer

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING
OF May 27, 2021.



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Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair



Anthony Adams, Secretary-Treasurer

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