

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Via Communications Media Technology

June 24, 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
Travis Land, Suwannee County
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler
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

Kristyn Adkins, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Ben Glass, Suwannee River Water
Management District
Daniel Penniman Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

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
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Reina Saco, City of Gainesville
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Davis
Stephen Hubbard
Alphecca Muttardy
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 7:00 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 - May 27, 2021
- B. Monthly Financial Report - May 2021
- C. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointments
- D. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Reappointments
- E. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Chair Appointment
Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Counties

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

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

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

VI. GUEST SPEAKERS - Stephen Hubbard, Advisory Board Member
Alphecca Muttardy, Chief Economic Advisor
Coalition for a National Infrastructure Bank

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Stephen Hubbard, Advisory Board Member and Alphecca Muttardy, Chief Economic Advisor of the Coalition for a National Infrastructure Bank. Dr. Hubbard and Ms. Muttardy gave a presentation to the Council concerning the proposal to establish a National Infrastructure Bank. Chair Demps thanked Dr. Hubbard and Ms. Muttardy for their presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT -

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

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

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Renate Cannon
2. Shanetha Mitchell
3. Sherry Ruskowski

ACTION: Mayor Louie Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Clark to approve Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation for former Transportation Disadvantaged Program members Renate Cannon, Citizen Advocate Representative Levy County; Shanetha Mitchell, Citizen Advocate Representative Madison County; and Sherry Ruskowski, Persons with Disabilities Representative Bradford County. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Committee Appointment

Chair Demps requested that the 2021-22 Committee appointments as recommended by him be ratified by the Council.

ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Alford to ratify the 2021-22 Committee appointments as recommended by the Chair of the Council. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Resolution No. 2021-17 Concerning Legislation Creating a National Infrastructure Bank

Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2021-17 requesting Congress to pass Legislation creating a National Infrastructure Bank. He stated the National Infrastructure Bank would finance projects within all regions of the United States. Mr. Koons noted that in the past, the United States has employed four national banking systems to build out infrastructure. He also stated that the bank would perform as a traditional commercial bank and be able to provide financing in the form of loans to state, cities, counties, authorities and multi-state entities to address the infrastructure crises in the nation. Finally, Mr. Koons stated that it is estimated that the National Infrastructure Bank would create an estimated 25 million new high paying jobs, increase the tax base and increase the productivity of the entire economy.

ACTION: Commissioner Alford made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davis, to adopt attached Resolution No. 2021-17 Requesting Congress to Pass Legislation Creating a National Infrastructure Bank. The motion carried unanimously.

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.

- #44 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #45 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER)
- #46 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-3ESR)
- #47 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-4ESR)
- #48 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-5ESR)
- #49- City of Newberry 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 Wilford to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #44 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #45 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER); Item #46 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-3ESR); Item #47 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-4ESR); Item #48 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-5ESR); and Item #49 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Finance Committee

1. Fiscal Year 2019-20 Audit
2. Authorize Payment of Auditor

Vice-Mayor Mortimer, Secretary-Treasurer of the Council and Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee met virtually with the auditor earlier in the evening and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Annual Audit as prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. She stated that the auditor issued an unqualified report and that the document contained no findings. Vice-Mayor Mortimer also stated that the overall prevailing conclusion was that the statements provided were found in all material respects, to fairly present the financial position of the Council at the end of the last fiscal year. She noted with respect to the Council's General Fund that revenues collected vs. those budgeted, revenues received were 0.001 percent more than budgeted amounts, with respect to expenditures, funds expended were (9.6) percent less than budgeted amounts.

Vice-Mayor Mortimer reported that the revenues received and the expenditures made resulted in an increase in the Council's General Fund Balance of \$121,266. She also reported that the audit contained various reports on compliance, internal control and management and in these reports no

material weaknesses or problems were cited. Finally, Vice-Mayor Mortimer stated that the Finance Committee was pleased with the report and it is clear from the auditor's findings that the Council is in very sound financial condition.

ACTION: Vice-Mayor Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler, to accept the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Annual Audit as prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants and to approve making the final payment to the auditor in the amount of \$16,675 for preparation of the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Audit. 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 currently reviewing cost share river grant applications submitted to the District by local governments. He stated that the July 13, 2021 District Governing Board meeting will be held at the City of Alachua City Hall.

Daniel Penniman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, North Central Florida Region, stated that anyone needing to report wildlife issues should contact the Commission's North Central Florida Region office at 386.758.0522 or the Commission's Hotline at 888.404.3922.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed rural broadband and the proposal to create a National Infrastructure Bank.

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

C. Florida Job Growth Fund

- Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity recently announced that they are accepting Florida Job Growth Fund economic development project grant proposals. He stated the grants will assist communities in funding workforce training and public infrastructure projects to support growth and employment in Florida. Mr. Koons also reported the Fiscal Year 2019-20 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) state budget has \$24 million still available for the Job Growth Grant Fund and an additional \$50 million was included in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) General Appropriations Act. Finally, he stated there is a combined total of more than \$74 million available in the Florida Job Growth Grant funds at this time.

D. 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. Finally, Mr. Koons noted that Council members should have received a copy of the financial disclosure form in the mail within the past few weeks.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Commissioner Wilford congratulated City of Hawthorne Mayor Matthew Surrency for receiving a Home Rule Hero Award from the Florida League of Cities for his advocacy during the 2021 Legislative Session.

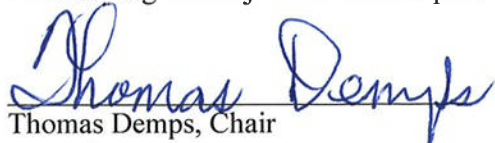
Vice-Mayor Mortimer invited everyone to attend the Watermelon Fun Fest to be held at the Bradford County Fairgrounds in Starke on June 26-27, 2021.

Commissioner Alford suggested that Council members have their county commission or city commission adopt a resolution requesting Congress to pass legislation creating a National Infrastructure Bank.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Demps informed the Council that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on July 22, 2021.

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


Thomas Demps, Chair

7/22/21
Date


RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Renate Cannon has served as the Citizen Advocate Representative on the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since September 2009; and

WHEREAS, Renate Cannon ably discharged the duties of the Citizen Advocate Representative on the Levy County 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 Renate Cannon for dedicated service rendered to the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Levy County 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 Renate Cannon.


Thomas Demps, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

June 24, 2021
Date

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Shanetha Mitchell has served as the Citizen Advocate Representative on the Madison County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since January 2008; and

WHEREAS, Shanetha Mitchell ably discharged the duties of the Citizen Advocate Representative on the Madison County 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 Shanetha Mitchell for dedicated service rendered to the Madison County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Madison County 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 Shanetha Mitchell.


Thomas Demps, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

June 24, 2021

Date

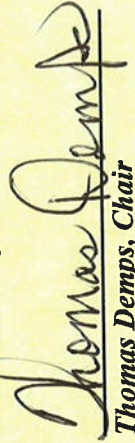
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Sherry Ruskowski has served as the Persons with Disabilities Representative on the Bradford County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since January 2007; and

WHEREAS, Sherry Ruskowski ably discharged the duties of the Persons with Disabilities Representative on the Bradford County 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 Sherry Ruskowski for dedicated service rendered to the Bradford County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Bradford County 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 Sherry Ruskowski.


Thomas Demps, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

June 24, 2021
Date

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL
FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
REQUESTING CONGRESS TO ENACT
LEGISLATION CREATING A NATIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

WHEREAS, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the United States Congress estimates that there is a \$2 trillion shortfall in financing for urgently needed infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, broadband, passenger transit, high speed rail, clean water, flood control, energy distribution, ferries, fish passage barriers and power grid upgrades add an additional \$2 trillion shortfall for additional needed infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, a National Infrastructure Bank would finance projects within all regions of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in the past, the United States has employed four national banking systems to build out infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the National Infrastructure Bank would perform as a traditional commercial bank and be able to provide financing in the form of loans to states, cities, counties, authorities and multi-state entities to address the infrastructure crisis in the nation; and

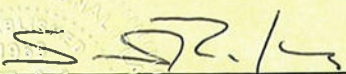
WHEREAS, the National Infrastructure Bank would create an estimated 25 million new high paying jobs, increase the tax base and increase the productivity of the entire economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council requests the United States Congress to pass H.R. 3339 to create a National Infrastructure Bank.

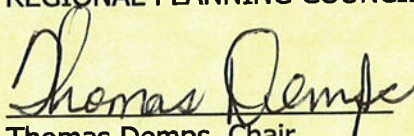
DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 24th day of June 2021.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL



Scott R. Koons, Executive Director



Thomas Demps, Chair