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MEETING NOTICE

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on **April 23, 2015**. The meeting will be held at the **Lake City Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida**. Dinner will start at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting at **7:30 p.m.**

*Please call the Council at 352.955.2200, or 800.226.0690, or email strong@ncfrpc.org by April 20, 2015 to let us know if you will be attending the meeting. (You can call after hours and leave a message on voice mail too.) **THANK YOU.***

(Location Map on Back)

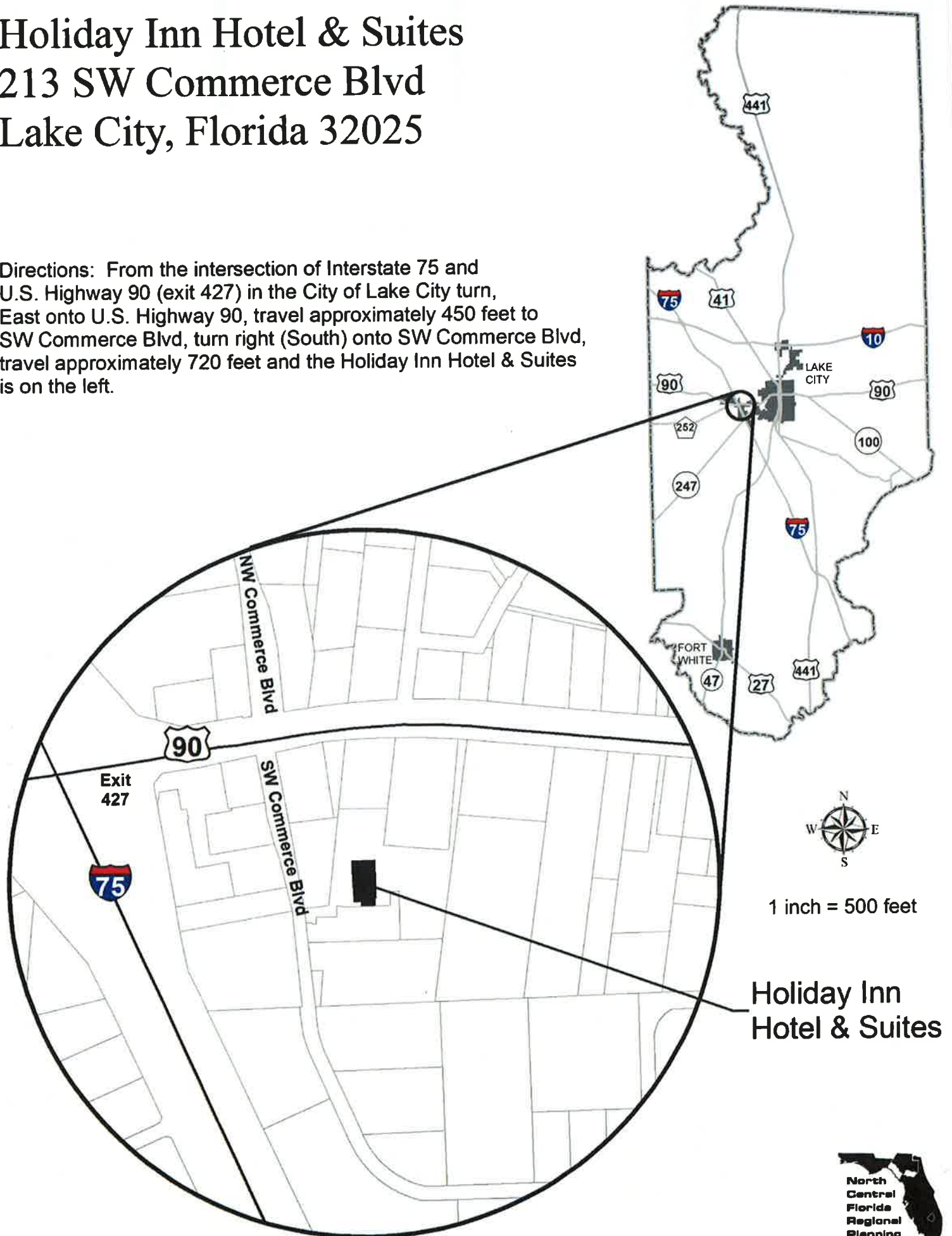
Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)

Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,
by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources,
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd
Lake City, Florida 32025

Directions: From the intersection of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 90 (exit 427) in the City of Lake City turn, East onto U.S. Highway 90, travel approximately 450 feet to SW Commerce Blvd, turn right (South) onto SW Commerce Blvd, travel approximately 720 feet and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is on the left.



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AGENDA

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard
Lake City, Florida

April 23, 2015
7:30 p.m.

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- I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS
- II. GUEST SPEAKER -Susan Davenport, Vice-President for Economic Development
Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce
- * III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 26, 2015 5
- IV. CONSENT AGENDA
 - * A. Monthly Financial Report - March 2015 13
 - * B. Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
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 - 1. Andrew Singer
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 - * A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation - 23
 - 1. Alana McKay
 - 2. Jerry Pratter
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - * A. Executive Committee - National Travel and Tourism Week 29
May 2-10, 2015 Proclamation

- * B. Clearinghouse Committee

Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

1. #40 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Draft Amendment
2. #41 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Draft Amendment
3. #42 - City of Archer Comprehensive Draft Amendment

- * C. Regional Planning Committee - Evaluation and Appraisal Report of
North Central Florida Regional Planning Policy Plan 35

VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

This agenda item provides an opportunity for citizens to address the Council on any matter not included on the agenda. The comment period is limited to three minutes for each individual.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- * A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Report 37
- * B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard 41
- * C. Legislative Report 45
- * D. Check Fraud Status Report 51

* See Attachments

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

March 26, 2015
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Bill Hunter, White Springs
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
David Sullivan, City of Perry
James Tallman, Union County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Daniel Webb, Union County
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Mike Williams, Madison County

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

Jordan Green, Florida Department of Transportation
Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water Management
District
Russell Simpson, Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Craig Carter, City of Gainesville
Jim Catron, City of Madison
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Jason Evans, City of High Springs
Scarlet Frisina, Columbia County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
Doug Jones, City of Archer
Timothy Marden, City of Newberry
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County
Everett Phillips, Columbia County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Larry Sessions, Suwannee County
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

OTHERS PRESENT

Sandra Buck-Camp
David Cobb
Diana Davis
Stew Lilker
Jim Wood

STAFF PRESENT

Steven Dopp
Carmelita Franco
Scott Koons
Jean Strong

Board Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Spooner called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Riddick and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Spooner stated that there was a quorum.

Chair Spooner welcomed and introduced Sandra Buck-Camp member of the Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; Dave Cobb from Florida Power and Light; Stew Lilker; from the Columbia County Observer; and Diana Davis, wife of Council member Louis Davis.

II. GUEST SPEAKER - Jim Wood, State Transportation Planning Administrator
Florida Department of Transportation

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Jim Wood, State Transportation Planning Administrator, Florida Department of Transportation. Mr. Wood gave a presentation on the Department of Transportation update on the long-range transportation plan for Florida, as well as the Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan and the Future Corridors Initiative. Chair Spooner thanked Mr. Wood for his comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 26, 2015

Chair Spooner asked that the minutes of the February 26, 2015 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2015 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - February 2015
- B. U.S. Economic Development Administration Short Term Planning and State Grant Agreement
- C. Florida Department of Transportation Joint Participation Agreement and Resolution
- D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Membership Certifications
- E. Transportation Disadvantage Program Local Coordinating Board Appointment

Chair Spooner asked if there were any questions regarding any of the items on the Consent Agenda and requested that these items be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Wells made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Spooner introduced new Council members, Gubernatorial Appointees William Hunter from Hamilton County and Daniel Webb from Union County.

B. Resolution of Appreciation - Charles Williams

Chair Spooner asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for Charles Williams, who served as a gubernatorial appointee since January 2010.

ACTION: Councilman Bryant made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Charles Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation
Jeanne d'Eauede
Alicia Fowler
Casey Ladd

ACTION: Commissioner Roberts made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation for the past services for Jeanne d'Eauede, Alicia Fowler and Casey Ladd. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - None

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Due to the absence of Clearinghouse Committee Chair Sandra Haas, James Montgomery, Clearinghouse Committee Vice-Chair, gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed three local government comprehensive plan amendments.

#37, Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment;
#38, City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, and
#39, City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment.

He noted that the Committee finds that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, are not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjoining local governments. Mr. Montgomery also stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments, and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Mr. Montgomery made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Poe, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning #37, Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment; #38, City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft

Amendment, and #39, City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Regional Planning Committee - Evaluation and Appraisal Report of
North Central Florida Regional Planning Policy Plan

Commissioner Wells, Regional Planning Committee Chair, reported that, every five years the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is required by State law to prepare an Evaluation and Appraisal Report on its regional plan. He also stated that the Report is due by the end of 2015.

Commissioner Wells reported that the purpose of an Evaluation and Appraisal Report is to evaluate the successes and failures of the regional plan and to identify possible future amendments, revisions or updates to the plan. He also stated that to report serves as a basis for future amendments to the regional plan.

Commissioner Wells stated that the Regional Planning Committee met tonight and continued its review of the regional plan focusing on the Economic Development Element.

D. Program Committee - 2015-16 Overall Program Design

Commissioner Riddick reported that the Program Committee met earlier in the evening to review a draft of the Overall Program Design for the coming year. He stated that this document is to be use as the basis for the development of a budget and is also to give instructions to staff as to work which is to be done this year.

Commissioner Riddick also 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. He also reported that except for editorial changes, the document is essentially the same as the current year edition.

Commissioner Riddick stated that the Committee anticipates recommending the Overall Program Design to the Council for adoption at the May 28, 2015 Council meeting.

VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Jordan Green, Florida Department of Transportation, District 2 stated that they held a Construction Career Day in Jacksonville. He stated that the event focused on construction workers, utilities testing workers, industry and design consultants and inspection consultants.

Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that the Lower Santa Fe and Ichtecuknee River Minimum Flows and Levels rule recently became effective. He also mentioned that local cost share grants for water quantity and quality were available from the District.

Russell Simpson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that the Northeast District is working on redevelopment of contaminated sites.

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils. 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. He stated that the accomplishments of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven, are reported each month to the Council. He also highlighted several of the accomplishments listed in the February 2015 monthly review report included in the Council meeting packet.

B. Chamber Scorecard

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to develop 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. He further stated that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the Six Pillars benchmarked to the other 49 states. The Six Pillars are Talent Supply and 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 March 2015 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2015 Legislative Session convened on March 3, 2015 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 1, 2015. He reviewed several bills that have been filed concerning regional planning councils and local governments. In particular, he discussed Senate Bill 484 by Senator Simpson which has been revised to only delete certain references to regional planning councils in state statutes. In addition, he also discussed Senate Bill 562 by Senator Simpson that would have new proposed developments that would qualify as developments of regional impact only be subject to the state coordinated review process for comprehensive plan amendments and Senate Bill 832 by Senator Simpson that would reduce the amount of information required by an applicant submitting a long-range master plan for a sector plan.

D. Governor Scott Letter Concerning Regional Planning Councils

Mr. Koons stated that Governor Scott had requested certain information concerning regional planning councils. He also reported that a response, letter from Ronald Book, Executive Director, Florida Regional Councils Associations, dated February 17, 2015, was sent to the Governor.

E. Congressman Yoho Letter Concerning Innovation Award

Mr. Koons stated that as you know, the Council received a National Association of Development Organizations 2014 Innovation Award in cooperation with partner organization the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Organization for developing a method to use geographic information system data to evaluate the success of safety improvements on the highway system. He reported Congressman Ted Yoho recently sent a letter to the Council congratulating the Council for receiving the Innovation Award.

F. Check Fraud Status Report

Mr. Koons reported that on March 20, 2013, a fraudulent check in the amount of \$49,523.00 that was written on the Council's bank account was processed and paid by Wells Fargo. Also on March 20, 2013, Council staff filed an affidavit of check fraud concerning this matter with Wells Fargo. On March 25, 2013, Council staff filed a crime report concerning this matter with the Gainesville Police Department. On April 18, 2013, the Council Attorney sent a letter to Wells Fargo requesting that Wells Fargo remit to the Council within 30 days the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's account. He added that on June 3, 2013, attorneys for Wells Fargo responded via letter stating that Wells Fargo will not reimburse the Council for the \$49,523.00 released from the Council's account by Wells Fargo.

Mr. Koons stated that at their meeting on July 25, 2013, the Council authorized the Council Attorney to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00, to engage Stanley Cushman from the law firm of Scruggs and Carmichael to serve as co-counsel for the lawsuit and to designate Scott Koons, Executive Director, as the Council's representative concerning all matters related to such lawsuit. He stated that on August 6, 2013, a lawsuit was filed against Wells Fargo to recover the Council's funds.

Mr. Koons further reported that on September 9, 2013, Wells Fargo responded to the complaint by filing a Motion to Compel Arbitration. Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman responded to the motion stating that arbitration does not apply to the dispute and have filed a motion for a hearing on the motion to compel arbitration. A hearing originally scheduled for October 30, 2013 in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida on the Motion to Compel Arbitration filed by Wells Fargo to resolve the dispute between the Council and Wells Fargo was rescheduled for January 24, 2014. Mr. Koons reported that at the conclusion of the hearing, the Circuit Court granted the Motion to Compel Arbitration.

Mr. Koons reported that a letter was sent to Wells Fargo on May 13, 2014 requesting additional information concerning the disputed check. On September 24, 2014 a Notice of Arbitration and Statement of Claim was filed with the American Arbitration Association by Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman on behalf of the Council. On October 14, 2014 attorneys from Wells Fargo filed a Respondent's Answering Statement to the Statement of Claim.

Council Attorney Wershow reported that an agreement has been reached with Wells Fargo concerning a mutually acceptable arbitrator, Robert Cowles from Jacksonville, FL. He further reported that a preliminary arbitration conference was held on February 2,

2015 and that the parties have agreed to schedule the arbitration hearing for May 11, 2015 in Gainesville.

Mr. Koons reported that a press release was sent to state and regional news media on March 3, 2015 concerning the fraudulent check matter.

Chair Spooner informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on April 23, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

4/23/15

Date



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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SPK*
SUBJECT: Monthly Financial Report - April 2015

Please find attached a copy of the Monthly Financial Report for the Council's activities for March 2015. The following paragraphs discuss revenues and expenditures to the budget for the month and year to date.

Revenue

The total revenue for the Council for year to date is within budgeted figures. Revenue at the end of six months is 43 percent of budget.

Expenditures

The total expenditures for the Council for year to date are within budgeted figures. Total expenditures at the end of six months is 45 percent of budget. It is anticipated that the year should end with revenues exceeding expenditures.

Conclusion

In conclusion, staff is pleased with the financial condition of the Council. The adjusted general fund balance should remain at an acceptable level at the end of the fiscal year.

Overall, as is regularly reported, the financial condition of the Council is sound. Staff is not aware of anything in the current fiscal year that will change this situation. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
March 31, 2015

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Current Assets | |
| Checking / Savings | 978,742 |
| Accounts Receivable | 328,072 |
| Other Current Assets | 41,235 |
| Total Current Assets | <u>1,348,049</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u><u>1,348,049</u></u> |

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Accounts Payable | 1,033 |
| Other Current Liabilities | 95,451 |
| Total Liabilities | <u>96,484</u> |
| Equity | <u>1,251,565</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | <u><u>1,348,049</u></u> |

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
March 31, 2015

SUMMARY STATEMENT

| | Adopted Budget FY 2014 - 15 | March 2015 | Year to Date | Percent of Budget |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Revenue | 1,688,600 | 251,402 | 730,161 | 43% |
| Expenses | 1,688,600 | 125,608 | 766,014 | 45% |

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)

March 31, 2015

REVENUE

| Account | Adopted Budget FY 2014 - 15 | March 2015 | Year to Date | Percent of Budget |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Program Development | 24,800 | 0 | 23,877 | 96% |
| Regional Planning | | | | |
| Regional Planning & Review | 40,000 | 0 | 40,017 | 100% |
| Public Safety & Regulatory Compliance | | | | |
| Homeland Security Activities | 23,700 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Hazardous Waste Monitoring | 42,400 | 0 | 4,694 | 11% |
| Local Emergency Planning Committee | 93,500 | 10,500 | 20,598 | 22% |
| Hazards Analyses | 9,100 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Transportation | | | | |
| Gainesville Urbanized Area Transportation Planning | 502,000 | 0 | 112,911 | 22% |
| Gainesville Urbanized Area Mass Transit | 212,300 | 105,153 | 105,153 | 50% |
| Transportation Disadvantaged - Alachua County | 24,200 | 7,740 | 14,996 | 62% |
| Transportation Disadvantaged - Region | 173,700 | 56,321 | 108,407 | 62% |
| Economic Development | | | | |
| Comp Econ Development Strategy & Tech Assistance | 108,000 | 15,750 | 76,520 | 71% |
| Original Florida Tourism Task Force Staffing | 35,000 | 0 | 14,820 | 42% |
| Original Florida Tourism Task Force | 39,000 | 4,000 | 38,000 | 97% |
| Vision North Central Florida | | | 2,500 | |
| Local Government Assistance | | | | |
| General Technical Services | 10,000 | 0 | 10,004 | 100% |
| City & County Planning Services | 291,700 | 51,938 | 151,643 | 52% |
| Community Development Block Grant Administration | 59,200 | 0 | 6,021 | 10% |
| Total Revenue | 1,688,600 | 251,402 | 730,161 | 43% |

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
March 31, 2015

EXPENDITURES

| Account | Adopted Budget FY 2014 - 15 | March 2015 | Year to Date | Percent of Budget |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Audit | 15,000 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Building Occupancy & Grounds | 31,000 | 2,611 | 20,983 | 68% |
| Contractual Services | 20,000 | 16,797 | 36,042 | 180% |
| Dues, Publications & Subscriptions | 50,000 | 1,812 | 45,706 | 91% |
| Furniture & Equipment | 15,000 | 0 | 4,077 | 27% |
| Insurance and Bonding | 18,000 | 0 | 12,373 | 69% |
| Legal Costs | 14,000 | 1,928 | 14,248 | 102% |
| Machine Rental/Maintenance | 5,000 | 1,086 | 3,059 | 61% |
| Meeting Expenses | 19,000 | 0 | 6,386 | 34% |
| Moving Expense | 2,000 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Office Supplies | 21,000 | 507 | 8,257 | 39% |
| Personnel Costs | 1,270,700 | 94,157 | 571,914 | 45% |
| Postage | 8,000 | 518 | 2,545 | 32% |
| Printing | 2,000 | 0 | 442 | 22% |
| Recruiting | 2,000 | 0 | 60 | 3% |
| Reproduction | 13,000 | 610 | 5,673 | 44% |
| Telephone | 7,000 | 641 | 3,698 | 53% |
| Travel | 98,000 | 4,941 | 30,552 | 31% |
| Original Florida Tourism Task Force | 39,000 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Contingency | 38,900 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Total Expenses | 1,688,600 | 125,608 | 766,014 | 45% |



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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SRK*

SUBJECT: Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
 Concerning Regional Economic Modeling, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to sign an amendment to the memorandum of agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for an additional year as a user of the Regional Economic Modeling, Inc., for a fixed fee amount of \$4,500.

BACKGROUND:

In 2005, the Council entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council to be a user of the Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. economic impact model. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is a licensed user of the model by Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is authorized to issue user rights to other parties subject to collection of a fee to be paid to Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. At this time, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is proposing to extend the Council's existing memorandum of agreement for a one-year period for a fixed fee of \$4,500.

The Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. model is based upon an input-output engine and provides the Council, our local governments, economic development agencies and others with a dynamic tool for economic and demographic analysis and forecasting. It uses national data calibrated for the region, but also can accept local data sets to enhance its accuracy. This model can review system-wide effects over both short- and long-range time horizons, include economic and fiscal impact analyses, policy impact analyses and economic development/redevelopment analyses. The model can be configured to either address the entire region or any number of county-based subsets of the region, as well as including counties in adjacent regions.

Council staff has used this model to evaluate the impact of several projects throughout the region. Examples of projects include a hotel in the City of Gainesville, an advertising agency in Alachua County, a sanitary sewer system in the City of Archer, a food processing plant in the City of Newberry, a computer technical support call center and manufacturing facilities in Columbia County, a hypothetical manufacturing plant in Gilchrist County, an ethanol plant in Hamilton County, a refrigerated container manufacturing plant in Madison County, a manufacturing facility and a sawmill plant in Suwannee County and an electric power generating plant in Taylor County.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Appointment

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint Andrew Singer as the voting Agency for Health Care Administration Representative on the Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Madison and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards.

BACKGROUND:

According to Rule 41-2.012 of the Florida Administrative Code, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency, is responsible for appointing members to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. It is recommended Andrew Singer be appointed as the voting Agency for Health Care Administrative Representative to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards for Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette Madison and Union Counties.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached resolutions of appreciation for Alana McKay and Jerry Prater.

BACKGROUND:

The attached resolutions of appreciation are regarding Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. Alana McKay served as the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Representative on the Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Madison and Union Counties Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since October 2007. Jerry Prater served as the Veterans Representative on the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since February 2000.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachments

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Alana McKay has served as the Florida Agency for Health Care Representative on the Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Madison and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since October 2007; and

WHEREAS, Alana McKay ably discharged her duties as the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Representative on the Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Madison and Union Counties 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 Alana McKay for the dedicated service she rendered to the Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Madison and Union Counties Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards, and for her concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, 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 Alana McKay.

Carolyn B. Spooner Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

April 23, 2015
Date

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Jerry Prater has served as the Veterans Representative on the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since February 2000; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Prater ably discharged his duties as the Veterans Representative on the Dixie 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 Jerry Prater for the dedicated service he rendered to the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, and for his concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Dixie 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 Jerry Prater.

Carolyn B. Spooner Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

April 23, 2015

Date




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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Proclamation Declaring May 2-10, 2015 as Travel and Tourism Week

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached proclamation declaring the week of May 2-10, 2015 as Travel and Tourism Week.

BACKGROUND:

The Original Florida Tourism Task Force was created as a task force of the Council 23 years ago. It is now an 11-county independent tourism marketing interlocal agreement organization. The mission of the Original Florida Tourism Task Force is to "Promote the natural, historic, and cultural attractions of the north central Florida region to increase the number of visitors and extend their stay. The goal is to enhance the area's economy, image, and quality of life through expanded revenues and employment opportunities. At the same time, the region will encourage the preservation of the resources which bring focus to the area."

The week of May 2-10, 2015 is *National Travel and Tourism Week* as declared by the Travel Industry Association. Activities are planned throughout the United States and Florida to support and celebrate the tourism industry.

It is recommended that the Council adopt the attached proclamation declaring the week of May 2-10, 2015 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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PROCLAMATION

DECLARING MAY 2-10, 2015 AS TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS, tourism brings over 97 million visitors annually to the State of Florida, generates over \$4.6 billion in annual sales tax revenues and employs over 1.1 million persons;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of tourism to the north central Florida regional economy and quality of life;

WHEREAS, local governments, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council support tourism opportunities in north central Florida; and

WHEREAS, local governments, businesses, chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council are working together to support this vital part of north central Florida's economy and all who play a role in tourism to ensure that north central Florida continues to be a place where traditions will be created and continued for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby declares the week of May 2-10, 2015 as Travel and Tourism Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 23rd day of April 2015.

ATTEST:

Rick Davis, Secretary-Treasurer

Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

SEAL:



VI.B.

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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Sandra Haas, Chair
Clearinghouse Committee

RE: Chair's Report

I. COMMITTEE-LEVEL REVIEW ITEMS

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Clearinghouse Committee is 6:00 p.m., April 23, 2015 at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 213 SW Commerce Boulevard, Lake City. At its meeting, the Committee will review the following Committee-level items which require Council action. I will present an oral report on the Committee's actions and recommendations at the Council meeting held later that evening.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

- #40 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DEO No. 15-1ESR)
- #41 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 15-1ESR)
- #42 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 15-1ER)

Please be advised that the Clearinghouse Committee meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on Clearinghouse Committee Full Packet).

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by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources,
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.



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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report

In a manner similar to the process required by local governments, every five years each regional planning council is required to perform an evaluation and appraisal of its Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The evaluation and appraisal process is a two-step process. The first step involves the preparation and adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report. The second step involves the preparation and adoption of amendments to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The purpose of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report is to evaluate the progress of the regional plan at achieving the goals and at implementing the policies contained in the plan. The Evaluation and Appraisal Report should identify those areas of the plan in need of revision based on new information, changes to Florida Statutes, or changing regional trends and conditions. Subsequent to the adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report, amendments may need to be prepared and considered by the Council for adoption based upon the recommendations contained in the Evaluation and Appraisal Report.

The Regional Planning Committee met on March 26, 2015 to continue its review of the plan focusing on the Economic Development Element. The Committee will meet on April 23, 2015 to discuss the Emergency Preparedness Element.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils. 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.

The Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying-out the following objectives.

- Ensure regional planning councils are effective service organizations to the State of Florida, its local governments, and the citizens they serve;
- Ensure regional planning councils are consensus builders and problem solvers, and serve as conveners of the region by helping to articulate those multijurisdictional issues that need resolution;
- Encourage and promote opportunities for regional planning councils to become partners in state programs and initiatives, while promoting the unique themes of each region within the state and legislative environments;
- Monitor substantive state and federal legislative issues for the benefit of its members, and promote mutually supportive policy positions among the regional planning councils;
- Represent regional planning councils in national organizations, such as the National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Development Organizations, and SouthEast Regional Directors Institute; and
- Foster relationships and partnerships and coordinate with state, regional, and national associations and organizations; non-profit entities; public-private partnerships; the Governor's Office; state agencies; and others, on issues of mutual interest and concern, and with whom the Association shares mutual goals and programs.

Please find attached the March 2015 Monthly Activity Report highlighting the activities of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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 promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.



Sheri Coven
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
sheri.coven@flregionalcouncils.org
(850) 294-0526

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: March 2015

OUTREACH

- Began developing the Spring 2015 electronic newsletter, which will be issued in early April.
- Worked with staff from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Energy, on a U.S. Department of Energy grant application to develop an Energy Efficiency Financing Guide for Florida Local Governments.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in or attending the following: a meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission and Enterprise Florida, Inc.'s monthly teleconference. FRCA was also represented at meetings of the Rural Economic Development Initiative and Florida Defense Support Task Force.
- Distributed funding announcements from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Commerce, and U.S. Department of Environmental Protection.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Provided support to FRCA's Executive Director, Ron Book, and Brian Teeple, Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Florida Regional Council and Chair of the FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee, to address request for information pertaining to Senate Bill 484 and House Bill 933, pertaining to regional planning councils.
- At the request of the South Florida Regional Planning Council, developed talking points for Senate Bill 484.
- Completed House Budget Issue forms for regional planning council funding.
- Developed a list of U.S. Economic Development Administration projects that were funded due to direct involvement of a regional planning council to support those talking points.
- Attended the Small County Coalition's annual legislative luncheon.
- Attended/monitored numerous committee meetings in the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives and reviewed and summarized relevant pieces of legislation as needed.
- Created and distributed two Legislative Highlights reports covering the first four weeks of the Legislative Session and issued weekly versions of FRCA's bill tracking report.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Sent FRCA new membership orientation packets to Commissioner Tod Mowery, Indian River County (TCRPC), Mr. Michael Davis, Gubernatorial Appointee (TCRPC), Mr. Toby Overdorf (TCRPC), and Ms. Lisa Miller, Gubernatorial Appointee (ARPC).
- Began developing a FRCA Operations and Procedures Manual.
- Updated the FRCA Website to address regular maintenance issues and post meeting agendas and summaries.
- Prepared for and participated in the March 12-13 FRCA meetings.
- Finalized the logistics, secured speakers, developed agendas, and drafted meeting summaries for the April 9-10, 2015 FRCA meetings.
- Secured exhibit hall space and speakers for the June 19, 2015 FRCA meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference in Ponte Vedra Beach.
- Secured a hotel room block and meeting location for the July 10, 2015 FRCA Policy Board meeting, which will be held in Altamonte Springs.



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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

The Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. 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.

The Scorecard reports metrics for each of the Six Pillars benchmarked to the other 49 states. The Six Pillars are Talent Supply and Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems and Quality of Life and Quality Places. Please find attached the April 2015 Scorecard.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

The Metrics that Help Florida Leaders Secure Florida's Future

Search the Scorecard

Log-In to Your Scorecard

HOME

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES

BLOG

Florida Chamber

Florida's Future

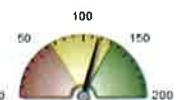
Florida's Scorecard



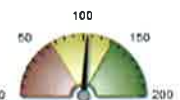
Talent Supply & Education



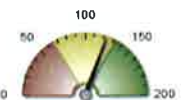
Innovation & Economic Development



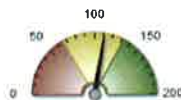
Infrastructure & Growth Leadership



Business Climate & Competitiveness



Civic & Governance Systems



Quality of Life & Quality Places

Current News

2030 Metrics

County Data

Interactive Chart

My Metrics

Tourism Indicators

Since 2010, Florida's Private Sector Businesses Created 651,300 Jobs for Florida Families

DID YOU KNOW? Florida job creators added 12,800 private-sector jobs over the month of September which helped lower Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to 6.1%, down two basis points to one of the lowest since the recession began. Nine of the ten major industries across Florida experienced positive over the year job growth through September, with only government employment showing a decline over the year. In September, 66 of Florida's 67 counties saw unemployment drop.

Since December of 2010, Florida has added 651,300 private-sector jobs and we have dropped five percentage points in unemployment, reducing Florida's unemployment rate from 11.1% to 6.1%. Our state has experienced 50 consecutive months of positive job growth and Florida's annual job growth rate has been better than the nation's rate since April of 2012.

Forecasts from the July meeting of the Florida Economic Estimating Conference suggest that, assuming no significant changes, Florida is forecasted to add approximately 200,000 over the year as it marches back to its peak employment by 2016.

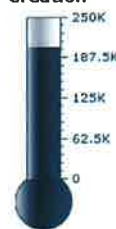
As we project forward to 2030, population growth and demographic changes are going to play a big part in Florida's future workforce. Based on Florida Chamber Foundation estimates, we will need to create close to two million net new jobs across the state to maintain a six percent unemployment rate. "The kind of jobs we create will define the kind of Florida we live in," said Chamber Foundation Executive Vice President Tony Carvajal. "As the global landscape continues to evolve and Florida positions itself as the leading place for talent and economic opportunity, we will need to maintain a focus on the diversification of our economy in every community in order to achieve global competitiveness, high wage jobs, and vibrant and sustainable communities."

Is your community experiencing the benefits of the economic recovery of the last four years? What kind of activities would you like to see the state continue, or avoid, as we continue our growth? How is your community and industry preparing for the economy of tomorrow? Tell us your story



Employment - Monthly

Florida Net 12-Month Job Creation



206.9K



FLORIDA JOBS



SCORECARD NEWSLETTER

Provide your email address to receive monthly Scorecard updates

SUBSCRIBE

Ranking Florida

Key Indicators



Home Foreclosures

As Florida continues to recover from the housing market collapse, trends in home foreclosures provide insight into Florida's progress through the extended recovery...



Consumer Confidence

The Florida Consumer Confidence Index measures residents' perceptions of personal finances now compared to a year ago and expectations of U.S....



Population

Florida has the 4th largest population in the U.S., estimated at just over 19 million in April 2012...



Unemployment Rate

Florida has an labor force of over 9 million, ready to meet the workforce needs of businesses...



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April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

The 2015 regular Legislature session convened on March 3, 2015 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 1, 2015. The legislative interim Committee schedule was, as follows:

- Week of January 5, 2015
- Week of January 20, 2015
- Week of February 2, 2015
- Week of February 9, 2015
- Week of February 16, 2015

The following paragraphs provide a summary of bills of interest to date.

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL FUNDING

The Governor did not recommend any funding for regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2015-16. The House of Representatives adopted budget does not include any funding for regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2015-16. The Senate adopted budget includes \$200,000 in funding for all 11 regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2015-16. The Council's share of the \$200,000 in funding would be approximately \$15,000.

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

Senate Bill 484 by Senator Simpson relates to regional planning councils. Requires the state land planning agency to identify parties that may enter into mediation relating to the compatibilities of developments with military installations; requires electric utilities to notify the county, rather than the regional planning council, of its current plans to site electric substations; authorizes local governments to enter into agreements to create regional planning entities; revises the requirements for the statewide emergency shelter plan to include general location and square footage of special needs shelters by county rather than by regional planning council region. **Referred to Community Affairs Committee; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development; and Appropriations Committee. Passed Community Affairs Committee as an amended Committee Substitute; and Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development as an amended Committee Substitute. The bill is now in Appropriations Committee. (The provisions of the bill have been added to Senate Bill 1216.)**

This bill as amended removes regional planning councils from certain state statutes and transfers their duties and responsibilities to other entities.

House Bill 873 by Representative Mayfield relates to regional planning councils. Repeals provisions creating regional planning councils and regional planning agencies; repeals provisions specifying duties of such councils and agencies; transfers duties formerly performed by such councils and agencies to state land planning agency or local governments, as appropriate and; authorizes local governments to create regional planning entities. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in the Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee. (The provisions of this bill have been added to House Bill 933.)**

DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT

Senate Bill 562 by Senator Simpson relates to developments of regional impact. Requires plan amendments proposing a development that qualifies as a development of regional impact to be subject to the state coordinated review process; provides that new proposed developments are subject to the state coordinated review process and not the development of regional impact review process. **Referred to Community Affairs Committee; Transportation Committee; and Rules Committee. Passed by Community Affairs Committee; Transportation Committee and Rules Committee. The bill is now on Senate calendar for Second Reading. (The provisions of this bill have been added to Senate Bill 1216.)**

House Bill 579 by Representative Gaetz relates to developments of regional impact. Requires plan amendments for developments that are developments regional impact to follow the state coordinated review process; provides that certain proposed developments that are considered developments regional impact are subject to the state coordinated review process and not the developments regional impact review process. **Referred to the Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee. (The provisions of this bill have been added to House Bill 933.)**

SECTOR PLANS

Senate Bill 832 by Senator Simpson relates to sector plans. Requires that comprehensive plan amendments that propose an amendment to an adopted sector plan follow the specified state-coordinated review process; establishes that this section is intended to promote development of a long-term vision for conservation, development and agriculture on a landscape scale; provides that an applicant may request a preapplication conference with the local government that has jurisdiction before filing an application for a detailed specific area plan, subject to certain requirements; requires the applicant for a detailed specific area plan to transmit copies of the application to specified reviewing agencies for review and comment. **Referred to Community Affairs Committee; Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee and Fiscal Policy Committee. Passed by Community Affairs Committee; and Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee. The bill is now in Fiscal Policy Committee. (The provisions of this bill have been added to Senate Bill 1216.)**

House Bill 933 by Representative LaRosa relates to sector plans. Revises provisions regarding adopted sector plans; long-term master plans, and specific area plans; revises dates for recording conservation

easement for certain lands; authorizes certain water permit durations to be commensurate with certain development orders; provides permitting criteria in certain situations; clarifies public interest test; specifies rule of statutory construction. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism**

Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee, State Affairs Committee; and Economic Affairs Committee. Passed by Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now pending House of Representatives action.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY WEB PAGE

House Bill 75 by Representative Combee relates to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity web page. Requires the Department to create a web page accessible through its internet website that provides certain information; provides purpose of web page; requires the Department to collect all local business information available to the Department; requires the Department to request relevant local government to provide any otherwise unavailable information; requires local governments to provide notice of changes in information collected by the Department; authorizes local government entities to provide summary that includes certain information for the Department's web page.

The new website is to be solely dedicated to the collection and publication of data and information that are relevant and of significance to the creation of new business within the state or the expansion of existing businesses within the state. The purpose for doing so is to (a) provide a comprehensive overview of conditions that exist within the various cities and counties of the state that are conducive or advantageous to the creation of new businesses or the expansion of existing businesses; (b) enable prospective employers both within and outside the state to effectively and accurately evaluate the business climate of cities and counties within the state; and (c) provide prospective business owners and operators and cities and counties within the state with immediate access to specific charges and costs related to the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a business in any city or county within the state. The Department is given until January 1, 2016 to collect the data then post it to its web page "as soon as practicable." The bill includes a lengthy list of the specific information that is to be collected. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local Government Affairs Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

Senate Bill 232 by Senator Hays relates to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Requires the Department to create a web page accessible through its internet website that provides certain information; provides the purpose of the web page. **Referred to Commerce and Tourism Committee; Community Affairs Committee; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Committee; and Fiscal Policy Committee.**

FREIGHT LOGISTICS ZONES

House Bill 257 by Representative Ray relates to freight logistics zones. Defines freight logistics zone, authorizes county or two or more contiguous counties to designate geographic area or areas within its jurisdiction as freight logistics zone; requires adoption of strategic plan which must include certain information; provides that certain projects within freight logistics zones may be eligible for priority in state funding and certain incentive programs; provides evaluation criteria for freight logistics zones.

The bill defines a freight logistic zone as a grouping of activities and infrastructure associated with freight transportation and related services within a defined area around intermodal logistics center as defined in Section 311.101(2), Florida Statutes. It allows a county or two or more contiguous counties to designate a geographic area or areas within its jurisdiction as a freight logistics zone. The designation must include a strategic plan adopted by the county(ies) that includes a map depicting the geographic area of the jurisdiction and identification of existing or planned freight facilities or logistics clusters; existing transportation infrastructure; existing workforce availability; existing planned local, state, or federal workforce training capabilities; any local, state, or federal plans concerning the movement of freight; and financial or other local government incentives to encourage new development, expansion of existing development, or redevelopment with the proposed zone. The plan must include documentation that it is consistent with applicable local government comprehensive plans and adopted metropolitan planning organizations long-range transportation plans. Projects within these zones that are consistent with the state's Freight Mobility and Trade Plan may be eligible for priority state funding and incentives. Criteria for determining that eligibility are included in the bill. **Referred to the Transportation and Ports Subcommittee; and Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee. Passed by Transportation and Ports Subcommittee; and Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee. Passed by House of Representatives.**

Senate Bill 956 by Senator Simpson relates to freight and logistics. Authorizes a county or two or more contiguous counties to designate a geographic area or areas within its jurisdiction as a freight logistics zone; requires the adoption of a strategic plan which must include certain information; provides that certain projects within freight logistics zones may be eligible for priority in state funding and certain incentive programs; and provides evaluation criteria for freight logistics zones. **Passed by Community Affairs Committee; and Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development. The bill is now on the Senate Calendar for Second Reading.**

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

House Bill 551 by Representative Perry relates to private property rights. Requires local governments to address protection of private property rights in their comprehensive plans; requires comprehensive plan to include property rights element that addresses certain objectives; requires counties and municipalities to adopt land development regulations consistent with property rights element. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local Government Affairs Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

Senate Bill 1424 by Senator Evers relating to property rights. Requires local governments to address the protection of private property rights in their comprehensive plans; requires comprehensive plans to include a property rights element that addresses certain objectives; and requires counties and municipalities to develop regulations consistent with this element within a specified timeframe. **Referred to Community Affairs Committee; Judiciary Committee; and Fiscal Policy Committee.**

WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION AMENDMENT

Senate Bill 586 by Senator Dean relates to water and land conservation constitutional amendment. Provides that specified distributions to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund are not subject to the service charge under Section 215.20 Florida Statutes repeals provisions relating to beach erosion control project

staffing, funding for the state beach management plan, and the Florida Preservation 2000 Trust Fund; requires specified public recreation projects to have been selected through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's competitive selection process prior to the release of funds. **Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; and Appropriations Committee. Passed by Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government as an amended Committee Substitute; Appropriations; Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee. The bill is now on the Senate Calendar for Second Reading.**

House Bill 1291 by Representative Boyd relates to the water and land conservation constitutional amendment. Terminates obsolete trust funds and provides for disposition of balances; revises distributions of documentary stamp tax revenues into certain trust funds; revises distributions of revenues upon sale of certain lands; reenacts the Land Acquisition Trust Fund; deletes obsolete provisions relating to use of bond and trust funds proceeds; and conforms provisions. **Passed by Agricultural and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; and Appropriations Committee. The bill has been laid on the table on Third Reading.**

AGRITOURISM

Senate Bill 594 by Senator Stargel relates to agritourism. Prohibits a local government from enforcing an ordinance, regulation, rule or policy that prohibits restricts, regulates, or otherwise limits an agritourism activity on land classified as agricultural land. **Referred to Agriculture Committee; Community Affairs Committee; and Rules Committee. Passed by the Agriculture Committee, Community Affairs Committee; and Rules Committee. This bill is now on Senate Calendar for Second Reading.**

House Bill 569 by Representative Combee relates to agritourism. Prohibits local governments from enforcing local ordinances, regulations, rules, or policies that prohibit, restrict, regulate, or otherwise limit agritourism activities on land classified as agricultural land. **Passed by Local Government Affairs Subcommittee as an amended Committee Substitute. The bill is now on House Calendar for Third Reading.**

WATER CONSERVATION

House Bill 605 by Representative Porter relates to water conservation. Authorizes local governments to adopt certain residential and nonresidential landscape irrigation conservation measures; authorizes water management district governing boards and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to issue water shortage notice in public information release and post such notice on the district's or the Department's website; directs water management district governing boards in affected and adjacent counties to issue certain orders and provide certain notice when emergency conditions exist due to water shortage. **Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee; Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; and State Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee.**

There is no companion Senate bill.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.



April 16, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Check Fraud Status Report

On March 20, 2013, a fraudulent check in the amount of \$49,523.00 that was written on the Council's bank account was processed and paid by Wells Fargo. Also on March 20, 2013, Council staff filed an affidavit of check fraud concerning this matter with Wells Fargo. On March 25, 2013, Council staff filed a crime report concerning this matter with the Gainesville Police Department.

On March 28, 2013, Council Attorney Jonathan Wershow and Council staff briefed the Executive Committee concerning this matter. On April 18, 2013, the Council Attorney sent a letter to Wells Fargo requesting that Wells Fargo remit to the Council within 30 days the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's account. On April 25, 2013, Council staff briefed the Council concerning this matter. On June 3, 2013, attorneys for Wells Fargo responded via letter to Mr. Wershow's letter stating that Wells Fargo will not reimburse the Council for the \$49,523.00 released from the Council's account by Wells Fargo.

On July 25, 2013, the Council authorized the Council Attorney to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00 and designate Scott Koons, Executive Director, as the Council's representative concerning all matters related to such lawsuit. In addition, the Council authorized the Council Attorney and the Executive Director to contact federal and state law enforcement agencies to discuss the fraudulent check processed and paid out of the Council's bank account by Wells Fargo.

On August 5, 2013, Council Attorney Wershow and I met with Mr. William Cervone, State's Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida to discuss the check fraud incident. Mr. Cervone offered the assistance of his staff to work with the Gainesville Police Department to secure the bank records relating to the check fraud incident.

On August 6, 2013, Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Council Stanley Cushman filed a five-count lawsuit in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida, against Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's bank account.

April 16, 2015

Page 2

On September 9, 2013, Wells Fargo responded to the complaint by filing a Motion to Compel Arbitration. Wells Fargo alleges that disputes related to the Council's checking account are to be resolved by an arbitrator. Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman responded to the motion stating arbitration does not apply to the dispute.

A hearing was scheduled for October 30, 2013 in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida on the Motion to Compel Arbitration filed by Wells Fargo to resolve the dispute between the Council and Wells Fargo. However, the hearing was rescheduled for January 24, 2014. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Circuit Court granted the Motion to Compel Arbitration.

A letter was sent to Wells Fargo on May 13, 2014 requesting additional information concerning the disputed check. On September 24, 2014 a Notice of Arbitration and Statement of Claim was filed with the American Arbitration Association by Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman on behalf of the Council. On October 14, 2014 attorneys from Wells Fargo filed a Respondent's Answering Statement to the Statement of Claim.

Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman have coordinated with the attorney of Wells Fargo on the selection of an arbitrator and on January 8, 2015 mutually agreed to American Arbitration Association Arbitrator Robert Cowles of Jacksonville, FL. On February 2, 2015 a preliminary arbitration conference was held via teleconference. The arbitrator and parties have agreed to schedule the arbitration hearing for May 11, 2015 in Gainesville, FL.

On March 3, 2015, the attached press release concerning the check fraud incident was issued to regional and state news media.

Please find attached a summary of legal fees incurred to date concerning the lawsuit.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachments

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Wells Fargo Lawsuit
Legal Fees

April 16, 2015

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|----------------|----------------|
| August 2013 | \$1,383 |
| September 2013 | \$2,253 |
| October 2013 | \$3,445 |
| November 2013 | \$180 |
| December 2013 | \$0 |
| January 2014 | \$2,760 |
| February 2014 | \$1,410 |
| March 2014 | \$2,502 |
| April 2014 | \$2,669 |
| May 2014 | \$2,970 |
| June 2014 | \$6,515 |
| July 2014 | \$330 |
| August 2014 | \$420 |
| September 2014 | \$810 |
| October 2014 | \$3,429 |
| November 2014 | \$0 |
| December 2014 | \$2,295 |
| January 2015 | \$454 |
| February 2015 | <u>\$2,978</u> |
| Total | \$36,803 |