MEMBERS PRESENT

William Alexander, City of Perry
Ralph Bowers, City of Jasper
William Copeland, City of Archer
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Steve Elder, Town of Micanopy
Billy Ray Foister, Union County
Oscar Harris, Alachua County
Grady Hartzog, City of Newberry
E.W. Hodges, Bradford County
Ed Jennings, Sr., City of Gainesville
Ray Kirkland, City of Lake City
Eddie Martin, Hawthorne
Dale McPherson, Alachua County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Dave Newport, Alachua County
Donald Odom, Suwannee County
Emory Philman, Gilchrist County
Kathy Pults, City of High Springs
Edd Sadler, Taylor County
Tom Sawyer, Columbia County
Bill Shaw, Lafayette County
M.N. Sullivan, Lafayette County
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County
Jane Walker, Alachua County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Aage Schroeder, FDOT

GUESTS PRESENT

Diana Davis
Jon Wershow

STAFF PRESENT

Robin Barnes
Steve Dopp
Charles Justice
Charles Kiester
Marcy Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Blakewood, Alachua County
Charles Chestnut, Alachua County
Bruce Delaney, City of Gainesville
Mike Deming, Taylor County
John Driggers, Dixie County
Lorata Franklin, Madison County
Steve Futch, City of Starke
Pegeen Hanrahan, City of Gainesville
Matthew Hawkins, City of Jasper
Bill Howard, Suwannee County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
Ricky Jenkins, Union County
Judy McGhee, City of Madison
Kathryn McInnis, Dixie County
Patrick Murphy, City of Alachua
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Joe Riddick, Bradford County
Sue B. Suggs, Gilchrist County
Mike Woods, Madison County

board members names bolded
Chairman McPherson called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present. Since it was early, Charles Justice gave the Director’s Report, which needed no action.

V. DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Charles Justice

A. Legislative Report - Mr. Justice reported that the growth management rules keep changing.

1. Tobacco Production Relief

Mr. Justice reported that Representative Stansel and Senator Mitchell introduced a bill to relieve tobacco farmers. He noted that the Governor had indicated to Senator Mitchell that he supported the bill.

No action was required on this item.

2. Housing Out-of-State Inmates

Mr. Justice reported that this bill had an unknown status. He noted that it had come before the legislature, then been withdrawn, and then brought forward again. There was nothing new to report at present.

B. NADO Award for Representative Alan Boyd

Mr. Justice reported that NADO had awarded Representative Alan Boyd an award for his help in getting economic development funds for rural counties.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 24, 2000

Chairman McPherson noted that the minutes should be amended to note that the City of Newberry had a representative, Grady Hartzog, on the Council. The representative was not present at the meeting, but needed to be added as being absent.

ACTION: Mr. Sawyer made the motion, with a second by Mr. Hodges, to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2000, meeting as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Assistance Services Agreement - City of Starke - $22,000
B. Community Development Block Grant Assistance Agreements

1. City of Live Oak - $87,500
2. Town of Mayo - $39,000
3. City of Perry - $47,000

Chairman McPherson asked that all items on the consent agenda be approved.

**ACTION:** Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Mr. Bowers, to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT - Chairman McPherson introduced and welcomed a new member from the City of Newberry, Mayor Grady Hartzog.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Transportation Disadvantaged Program

   a. Rescind Board Member Appointment

   **ACTION:** Mr. Sawyer made the motion, with a second by Mr. Bowers, to approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee to rescind the appointment of Lana Hawkins, Early Childhood Services Representative on the Hamilton County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. The motion carried unanimously.

   b. Lafayette County Community Transportation Coordinator Selection

   **ACTION:** Mr. Sawyer made the motion, with a second by Mr. Hodges, to approve the Executive Committee’s recommendation that the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged negotiate with Suwannee River Economic Council for the designation of Lafayette County Community Transportation Coordinator. The motion carried unanimously.
c. Coordinating board Membership Certifications - Bradford and Union Counties

**ACTION:** Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Mr. Hodges, to approve the Executive Committee’s recommendation to authorize the Chairman to sign the Bradford and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Membership Certifications. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Community Transportation Coordinator Annual Evaluation - Lafayette County

Chairman McPherson reported that at its March 20, 2000 meeting, the Lafayette County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board approved the annual performance evaluation of Suwannee River Economic Council. No action was required on this item.


Mr. Justice reported that each year the council prepares a report for submittal to the EDA to meet our contractual requirement with them regarding the funding it provides the Council’s economic development program. He noted that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council authorize sending this report, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 1999 Annual Report (CEDS), to individual counties for their review and approval.

**ACTION:** Mr. Sawyer made the motion, with a second by Mr. Hodges, to approve the Executive Committee’s recommendation to authorize staff to send the CEDS report to individual counties for their review and approval. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Employee Health Insurance Program

Mr. Justice reported that the Executive Committee had reviewed health insurance options for employees. He noted that after careful consideration, they had decided to go with Option #3. He noted that this option was not as much coverage as the current plan, but it was still a reasonable plan for employees.
ACTION: Mr. Sawyer made the motion, with a second by Mr. Sullivan, to approve the Executive Committee’s recommendation to change the Council employee’s health insurance. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Chairman McPherson asked that Item IV.B. #109, Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments be added to the agenda.

ACTION: Mr. Sawyer made the motion, with a second by Mr. Sullivan, to amend the agenda to add Item IV.B. #109, Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments. The motion carried unanimously.

#89 Town of Worthington Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
#90 City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#91 Town of Lee Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#92 Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#98 City of Hampton Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
#108 Town of Brooker Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Mr. Bowers reported that the Clearinghouse Committee had reviewed five adopted amendments and one draft amendment designed to bring local government comprehensive plans into conformance with legislative requirements which require local governments to identify land use categories where public schools are an allowable use.

Mr. Bowers noted that the Committee concluded that the draft amendment will not adversely impact regional facilities, adjacent local governments, or natural resources of regional significance. The committee further concluded that the comprehensive plans, as amended by the adopted amendments, remain consistent with the regional plan. Therefore, the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Mr. Bowers made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Martin, to approve the recommendations of the Clearinghouse Committee. The motion carried unanimously.
#109, Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments

Mr. Bowers reported that the Committee reviewed one draft amendment to the Madison County Comprehensive Plan, and concluded that the draft amendment may adversely impact adjacent local governments and several natural resources of regional significance. The Committee recommends forwarding the five objections and five recommendations contained in the staff report to Madison County and the Florida Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Bowers also noted that the Committee further recommends that the Council request the preparation of an Objections, Recommendations, and Comments report to address these concerns.

**ACTION:** Mr. Bowers made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Martin, to approve the recommendations of the Clearinghouse Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Council Policy to Guide the Review of Local Plan Amendments

Mr. Bowers noted that this was a proposed solution to the timeframe problem faced by the Council in reviewing local plan amendments. He noted that this item would come back before the Council next month with more details.

No action was taken on this item.

C. Regional Planning Committee

Ms. Walker reported that the Regional Planning Committee had met to review the Natural Resources of Regional Significance Element and that they had directed staff to continue with their recommendations.

No action was taken on this item.

V. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Justice reported that most of the Council’s gubernatorial appointments had expired last October. He relayed that he had been talking with the appointments coordinator in the Governor’s office and hoped to have some information by next meeting on the status of new appointments.

It was recognized that this was Ed Jennings’ last meeting as a Council member.

**ACTION:** Mr. Sawyer made the motion, with a second by Mrs. Walker, to invite Mr. Jennings to the next meeting of the Council that was to be held at
the Suwannee River Cove Restaurant. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McPherson announced that the next meeting of the Council was scheduled to be held at the Holiday Inn Restaurant in Lake City on May 25, 2000.

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Chairman

Date