MEMBERS PRESENT

Rick Bryant, City of Gainesville
John Carlson, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
David Dodge, Bradford County
Dixie Donovan, Columbia County
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Gail Garrard, Lafayette County
John Hersey, Bradford County
Craig Lowe, City of Gainesville
Eddie Martin, City of Hawthorne
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
L. B. Nelson, City of Archer
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Emory Philman, Gilchrist County
Tamara Robbins, City of Alachua
Edd Sadler, Taylor County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Penny Wheat, Alachua County

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Charles Justice
Scott Koons
Carol Laine

MEMBERS ABSENT

William Alexander, City of Perry
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Minnie Crevasse, Alachua County
John Driggers, Dixie County
Steve Futch, City of Starke
Mitchell Gentry, Gilchrist County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Grady Hartzog, City of Newberry
Matthew Hawkins, City of Jasper
Ricky Jenkins, Union County
James King, Madison County
Ray Kirkland, City of Lake City
Rodney Long, Alachua County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Paul L. Remzey Samarrai, Town of Micanopy
Douglas Udell, Suwannee County
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Henderson representing Dave Byrd, DOT
Russell Simpson, DEP

GUESTS PRESENT

Ralph Bowers
Diana Davis
Consuelo Dodge
Jon Wershow

Board Members names are bolded
Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m., noting a quorum of the Council was present.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 4, 2003

Chairman Davis asked that the minutes of the December 4, 2003, meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Commissioner Sadler made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2003, meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Annual Grant Application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration

B. Community Transportation Coordinator Annual Performance Evaluations - Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union Counties

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program - Coordinating Board Membership Certifications

Chairman Davis asked if there were questions regarding the items listed on the Consent Agenda, and requested that these items be approved.

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

III. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT - Louie Davis

Chairman Davis noted that he had nothing to report.

IV. PRESENTATION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Justice introduced Ms. Jaimie Ross, President of the Florida Housing Coalition and the Affordable Housing Director for the 1000 Friends of Florida, who gave a presentation on affordable housing. Ms. Ross described affordable housing as safe, sanitary, quality housing for Florida’s workforce, the elderly and persons with disabilities who are classified as low income households. Ms. Ross stated that the Catalyst Program of Training and Technical Assistance was also created by the Sadowski Act, the dedicated revenue source for affordable housing. This program is administered by the Florida Department of Community Affairs and is used to provide free technical assistance and training to local governments and nonprofit organizations. Ms. Ross answered a number of questions and distributed a variety of brochures on affordable housing.
V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Clearinghouse Committee

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Chairman Philman reported that the Clearinghouse Committee met and reviewed four Committee-level items which require Council action.

#20 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 04-1)

#21 - Town of Fort White Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 04-1)

Chairman Philman stated that, concerning the Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment and the Town of Fort White Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, the Clearinghouse Committee concluded that the proposed amendments would not adversely impact regional facilities, natural resources of regional significance or adjacent local governments and that the Committee does not recommend the preparation of Objections, Recommendations, or Comments (ORC) reports. Chairman Philman reported that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Chairman Philman made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheat, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#22 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 03-3)

Chairman Philman stated that the Bradford County Comprehensive Plan, as amended, remains consistent with the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan provided the County limits the intensity of use to the remaining capacity of U.S. Highway 301 at the time of application for development approval of the subject properties. Chairman Philman reported that the Committee recommended forwarding this finding to Bradford County and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Chairman Philman made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheat, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.
#23 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 04-1)

Chairman Philman summarized the Clearinghouse Committee report. He stated that, concerning the Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments, the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding a finding requesting the preparation of an Objections, Recommendations, and Comments (ORC) report to address two objections noting potential adverse impacts to segments of the regional road network as a result of the amendments and one comment which notes that the adverse impact to stream-to-sink recharge areas may occur as a result of County items CPA 0122 and CPA 0123, since the County has not yet adopted its EAR-based amendments which include a map of the stream-to-sink recharge areas consistent with stream-to-sink recharge area maps contained in the regional plan. He reported that the draft EAR-based amendments were reviewed by the Council in October 2002 and, if adopted, will prevent adverse impacts to stream-to-sink recharge areas. Chairman Philman reported that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to Columbia County and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

**ACTION:** Chairman Philman made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheat, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Finance Committee - FY 2002-2003 Audit

Mr. Justice reported that the Finance Committee had met and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Annual Audit as prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. He stated that the audit conforms with both federal regulations and the rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida and that there were no issues or concerns documented.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Sadler made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Martin, to accept and approve the Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Annual Audit. The motion carried unanimously.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Sadler made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Nelson, to make payment to the auditor, Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. The motion carried unanimously.
VI. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. Proposed Changes in DRI Review Process

Mr. Justice stated that the last two applicants submitting Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) exercised their right under state law to challenge the fees charged for the review of their projects. He added that these challenges were expensive and time consuming. Mr. Justice stated that, as Council directed, staff has developed specific recommended changes, all of which are to be incorporated into the agreement entered into by the Council and the applicant for whom the DRI is to be reviewed. He added that the proposed changes have been sent to the staffs of Alachua County, the City of Gainesville and the Florida Department of Community Affairs, as well as Council Attorney Jon Wershaw for review and comment. Mr. Justice stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the DRI agreement amendments be approved and that staff be directed to alter the DRI review process accordingly.

ACTION: Commissioner Montgomery made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Sadler to approve the recommended DRI agreement amendments and to direct staff to alter the DRI review process accordingly. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Interbasin Transfer of Water

Mr. Justice briefly discussed letters received from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Dixie County which were handed out prior to the Council meeting. He stated that the Executive Committee recommended that a representative from the South Florida Water Management District be invited to give a presentation on the transfer of water at a future Council meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Montgomery, that a representative from the South Florida Water Management District be invited to give a presentation on the transfer of water at a future Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Cooperation with Suwannee River Water Management District on Quality Communities Program

Mr. Justice reported that he and Scott Koons, Assistant Executive Director, met with Mr. Jerry Scarborough of the Suwannee River Water Management District, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, the City of Live Oak, the City of Lake City and the Florida League of Cities regarding the Quality Communities Program. Mr. Justice stated that the purpose of this program is to designate communities in the Suwannee River Water Management District as quality
communities to assist them in receiving additional state funding in the form of grants and other state assistance.

D. Legislative Report

Mr. Justice reported that the Governor’s budget of $2.1 million for regional planning councils remained the same as this year.

Mr. Justice stated that the regional planning council legislative liaison has asked all regional planning council executive directors to meet with their legislators. He reported that he and the Council Attorney, Jon Wershow, met with Senator Smith and additional meetings will be scheduled with the remaining legislators in the near future.

Mr. Justice reported that a North Central Florida Areawide Development Co. Inc. meeting has not been scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

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Chairman                          Date