

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

August 23, 2007
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gib Coerper, City of Alachua
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
David Dodge, Bradford County
Dixie Donovan, Columbia County
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
D. Ray Harrison, Jr., Gilchrist County
John Hersey, Bradford County
Emily Weed Ketring, City of Perry
Buddy Lamb, Dixie County
Rudolph Parker, Taylor County
Tracy Reeves, Madison County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County

GUESTS PRESENT

Nina Billingsley, FL Div. of Forestry
Peter Colverson, Pandion Systems, Inc.
Diana Davis
Douglas Drymon, City of Archer
Jordan Green, FL Dept. of Transportation
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
Gerald O'Neil, Alachua County
Keith O'Steen, FL Div. of Forestry
Scott Reynolds, City of Lake City
John Rimes, Town of Worthington Springs
Tom Sawyer, City of Lake City

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Jim Poole, Enterprise Florida

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Rick Bryant, City of Gainesville
Martha Butler, Hamilton County
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Cynthia Chestnut, Alachua County
Melaine Clyatt, Union County
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville
Kirk Eppenstein, City of High Springs
John Glanzer, City of Newberry
Randy Hatch, Suwannee County
Matthew Hawkins, City of Jasper
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville
Eddie Martin, Alachua County
John Martin, City of Hawthorne
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville
Heather Neill, Lafayette County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
James Painter, Alachua County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Andrew Smith, Union County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Ronald Williams, Columbia County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Michael Escalante
Scott Koons
Carol Laine

Board Members names are bolded

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Due to a vacancy in the chair position, Vice-Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. with an invocation given by Mayor Davis, and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Acting Chair Ellis stated that there was a quorum of the Board and all Council members were able to vote.

Acting Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed Douglas Drymon, City Manager of the City of Archer, Scott Reynolds, Interim City Manager of the City of Lake City and Tom Sawyer, Assistant City Manager of the City of Lake City.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 26, 2007

Acting Chair Ellis asked that the minutes of the July 26, 2007 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2007 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Local Government Comprehensive Planning Assistance Services Agreements - Fiscal Year 2007-2008
- B. Agreements with Counties to Conduct Hazardous Waste Monitoring Verification and Notification Activities - Fiscal Year 2007-2008
- C. Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection for Hazardous Waste Monitoring (Taylor County) - Fiscal Year 2007-2008
- D. Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness - Fiscal Year 2007-2008
- E. Amendment to Agreement with Bradford County for Hurricane Housing Recovery Program Administrative Services
- F. Agreement with Northeast Florida Regional Council to Assist with Regional Domestic Security Task Force Teams Workshop
- G. Agreement with Northeast Florida Regional Council to Assist with Public Safety Interoperable Communications Conference

Acting Chair Ellis asked if there were questions regarding the items on the Consent Agenda and requested that these items be approved.

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

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Acting Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed new member Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., representing Gilchrist County.

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation - Ronald K. Hall

Acting Chair Ellis asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for Mr. Ronald K. Hall, who served as a member of Union County's Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Lamb, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Mr. Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Certificate of Service - Michael Escalante - 20 Years

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Michael Escalante, who joined the Council staff on July 6, 1987 as an Associate Planner in the Local Government Programs Division. Mr. Escalante currently serves as a Senior Planner in the Council's Transportation Planning Division. Vice-Chair Ellis presented a 20-year Certificate of Service and a 20-year service pin to Mr. Escalante. Mr. Koons and Vice-Chair Ellis thanked him for his many years of dedicated service to the Council.

V. FLORIDA DIVISION OF FORESTRY PRESENTATION - FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

Vice-Chair Ellis introduced Mr. Peter Colverson from Pandion Systems, Inc., and Mr. Keith O'Steen and Ms. Nina Billingsley from the Florida Division of Forestry. Mr. Colverson presented a Power Point slide show on Florida's Firewise Communities. Mr. Colverson stated that Florida's growing population has continued to spread from communities into outlying areas where homes and wildland fuels intermingle. He stated that the Wildfire Hazard Assessment Guide was developed to help Floridians determine if a wildfire hazard exists for their neighborhood, evaluate the wildfire risk to the neighborhood and take action to mitigate the existing wildfire hazard, thereby reducing the risk of wildfires to an acceptable level. Mr. O'Steen then described the fires that occurred in the north central Florida region during the spring of 2007 and reported that no loss of

life or loss of dwellings occurred during these fires. Council members asked a number of questions and thanked Mr. Colverson and the Division of Forestry personnel for the informative presentation.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Reauthorization of Federal Farm Bill Rural Development Title

Scott Koons, Executive Director, reported that Congress is currently considering the reauthorization of the federal Farm Bill. Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, the Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, has been working to secure Senate support to reserve at least \$2 billion in new mandatory funding over the next five years for United State Department of Agriculture Rural Development programs and he recently sent a letter to the President of the National Association of Development Organizations requesting support for this initiative.

Mr. Koons added that the centerpiece of the revised Rural Development Title of the Farm Bill, the Rural Collaborative Investment Program, would provide \$500 million over five years to support regional strategies, collaborations and project investments and provide critical resources to support locally-controlled, multi-sector, multi-jurisdictional development strategies and projects. He stated that organizations such as the Council would be eligible to receive planning grants in the amount of \$200,000 each to develop these strategies. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the Chair to send letters to U. S. Senators Martinez and Nelson requesting their support of Senator Harkins' proposal for a Rural Collaborative Investment Program as part of the Rural Development Title of the Farm Bill.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Lamb to authorize the Chair to send letters to U. S. Senators Martinez and Nelson requesting their support of Senator Harkins' proposal for a Rural Collaborative Investment Program as part of the Rural Development Title of the Farm Bill. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Mr. Sandra Haas, Clearinghouse Committee Chair, reported that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening with a quorum and reviewed seven Committee-level items which require Council action.

#117 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-1)

Ms. Haas stated that, with regards to Item #117, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments, the Committee found that the amendments will not have significant adverse impacts to natural resources of regional significance, and with the exception of City items 07-26 and 07-37, have no significant adverse impacts to regional facilities or adjoining local governments.

However, she reported that the Committee recommended the preparation of an Objections, Recommendations and Comments Report for City items 07-26 and 07-37 to address an objection and recommendation regarding potential adverse impacts to segments of the regional road network.

Ms. Haas then introduced Steve Dopp, Senior Planner in the Regional and Local Government Programs Division, who reviewed the objection for City items 07-26 and 07-37 regarding potential adverse impacts to segments of the regional road network.

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee also recommended forwarding a Comment noting that Council review of comprehensive plan amendment impacts does not constitute a Development of Regional Impact analysis. She reported that the Committee found the City Comprehensive Plan, if amended as proposed by all City items with the exception of City items 07-26 and 07-37, would remain consistent with the regional plan. She also reported that the Committee found that the City Comprehensive Plan, if amended as proposed by City items 07-26 and 07-37 may be inconsistent with Regional Goal 5.1 and Regional Policy 5.1.9 of the regional plan. However, this inconsistency was not so great as to render the City Plan inconsistent with the regional plan. Therefore, the City Comprehensive Plan, if amended as proposed, would remain consistent with the regional plan.

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee recommended the inclusion of a comment and recommendation concerning the data and analysis report accompanying the City Comprehensive Plan amendment package submitted to the Council prepared by a consultant rather than the City. The Committee recommended that the City submit a letter to the Council and the Florida Department of Community Affairs stating that the City has reviewed the consultant's data and analysis report, is in agreement with the report, and that the City is submitting the consultant's data and analysis report as the City's data and analysis report for the Comprehensive Plan amendments.

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the City of Alachua and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #117 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-1). The motion carried unanimously.

#118 - Taylor County Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee reviewed Item #118, Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report. She reported that the Committee found that the County Comprehensive Plan, if amended as recommended by the Evaluation and Appraisal Report, will have no significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, natural resources of regional significance, or nearby local governments. Furthermore, she stated that the Committee found that, should the County Comprehensive Plan be amended to implement the recommendations of the County Report, it will remain consistent with the regional plan. Ms. Haas stated that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to Taylor County and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #118, Taylor County Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report. The motion carried unanimously.

#119 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-1)

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee reviewed Item #119, City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments. She stated that the Committee found that the amendments have no significant adverse impacts to adjoining local governments, and with the exception of City item CPA 2007-1, have no significant adverse impacts to regional facilities. However, she stated that the amendments may have significant adverse impacts to the Floridan Aquifer, a natural resource of regional significance as identified and mapped in the regional plan. Additionally, City item CPA 2007-1 may have significant adverse impacts to a segment of U.S. Highway 41/27 located within the City. Ms. Haas stated that the Committee recommended forwarding two Objections and Recommendations regarding potential adverse impacts to the Floridan Aquifer and U.S. Highway 41/27 as well as requesting the preparation of an Objections, Recommendations and Comments report to address these concerns.

Ms. Haas also stated that the Committee found that should the City Comprehensive Plan be amended as proposed, the City Comprehensive Plan will be inconsistent with Regional Goals 4.2 and 4.3, as well as Regional Policies 4.2.9 and 4.3.6. Since the City Comprehensive Plan would be inconsistent with only one regional issue (protection of the Floridan Aquifer), it will remain consistent with the North Central

Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan, if amended by City items CPA 2007-2, CPA 2007-3, CPA 2007-4, CPA 2007-5, CPA 2007-6 and CPA 2007-7. However, should the City Comprehensive Plan be amended as proposed by City item CPA 2007-1, the City Comprehensive Plan would also be inconsistent with Regional Goal.1 and Regional Policy 5.1.9. Therefore, the City Comprehensive Plan, if amended as proposed by City item CPA 2007-1, would be inconsistent with the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the City of Archer and to the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Mr. Dodge, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #119, City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-1). The motion carried unanimously.

#122 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-2)

Ms. Haas stated that, with regard to Item #122 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments, the Committee found that the amendments would not have significant adverse impacts to natural resources of regional significance, and with the exception of County item CPA 0173, have no significant adverse impacts to adjoining local governments. However, she stated that County items CPA 0172 and CPA 0173 may have significant impacts to segments of the regional road network. Furthermore, County item CPA 0173 may have significant adverse impacts to local roads in Suwannee County. Therefore, she stated that the Committee recommended the preparation of an Objections, Recommendations and Comments Report for County items CPA 0172 and CPA 0173 to address two Objections and Recommendations regarding potential adverse impacts to segments of the regional road network as well as local roads within Suwannee County.

Ms. Haas further noted that the Committee recommended forwarding 3 comments and 2 recommendations regarding a potential over-allocation of commercial land uses within the County, an internal inconsistency between two proposed policies, and a statement noting that Council review of comprehensive plan amendment impacts does not constitute a Development of Regional Impact analysis, and that a Development of Regional Impact analysis prepared by the Council will likely reach different conclusions for specific development proposals presented in an Application for Development Approval than contained in this Council Comprehensive Plan amendment review. Ms. Haas stated that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to Columbia County and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Parker, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #122, Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-2). The motion carried unanimously.

#123 - City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-2)

Ms. Haas stated that, with regards to the above Item #123, the Committee found that the amendment has no significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, natural resources of regional significance, or nearby local governments. Therefore, the Committee does not recommend the preparation of an Objections, Recommendations and Comments Report. Ms. Haas reported that the Committee found that the Comprehensive Plan, if amended as proposed, would remain consistent with the regional plan. Ms. Haas stated that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the City of Live Oak and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Mayor Ketring to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #123, City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-2). The motion carried unanimously.

#124 - City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 07-1)

#125 - Town of Horseshoe Beach Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 07-1)

Ms. Haas stated that, with regards to Item #124 and Item #125, the Committee found that the Comprehensive Plans of these two local governments, as amended, remain consistent with the regional plan. Ms. Haas stated that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #124, City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments and Item #125, Town of Horseshoe Beach Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Audit Committee

1. Selection of Auditor for Fiscal Years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 Audits

Mr. Koons, Executive Director, stated that at the May Council meeting, the Council authorized the Audit Committee to conduct a search for an auditing firm to recommend to the Council. The Committee met on July 26, 2007 and evaluated two firms that submitted statements of qualifications, and ranked them, as follows.

- a. Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants
- b. DDF Certified Public Accountant Group

Mr. Koons reported that the Audit Committee recommended the Council approve the selection of the auditing firm of Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants to conduct the Fiscal Year 2006-07, Fiscal Year 2007-08 and Fiscal Year 2008-09 audits of the Council's accounts, including the Council's Employee Pension Plan, with the understanding that this selection is for a three-year period unless the Council determines that the service being rendered is unsatisfactory.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Mr. Dodge, to approve the selection of the auditing firm of Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants to conduct the Fiscal Year 2006-07, Fiscal Year 2007-08 and Fiscal Year 2008-09 audits of the Council's accounts, including the Council's Employee Pension Plan, with the understanding that this selection is for a three-year period unless the Council determines that the service being rendered is unsatisfactory. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Engagement Letter for Auditor for Fiscal Year 2006-07 Audit

Mr. Koons stated that the Audit Committee met with Mr. Richard Powell of the auditing firm Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants, of Lake City on August 8, 2007, at the Council offices, at which time they discussed the methodology to be employed, the staff capability, experience of the firm with similar audits, and the fee that would be charged. Mr. Koons reported that the Audit Committee recommended that the Chair execute an engagement letter with Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants, to conduct the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 audit of the Council's accounts for a lump sum fee for this service of \$13,361, with the understanding that this engagement includes the auditor reviewing the Council's Employee Pension Plan for the same fiscal year.

ACTION: Ms. Thomas made the motion, with a second by Mr. Dodge, to authorize the Chair to execute an engagement letter with the auditing firm of Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants, to conduct the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 audit of the Council's accounts for a lump sum fee for this service of \$13,361, with the understanding that this engagement includes the auditor reviewing the Council's Employee Pension Plan for the same fiscal year. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Finance Committee

Mayor Davis, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee has agreed upon a budget amendment for the FY 2006-2007. He stated that this budget amendment takes into account action taken by the Council during the past year to accept work under contracts and additional grants which were not anticipated when the original budget was prepared. He reviewed the proposed budget amendment and noted that it contains an overall increase of \$65,300, which represents a 2.8% increase. Mayor Davis stated that the Finance Committee recommended that the Council approve the proposed amended Fiscal Year 2006-2007 budget.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to approve the amendment to the FY 2006-2007 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Quarterly Report for Period Ending June 30, 2007

Mr. Koons reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2007. He noted that the financial condition of the Council is sound and that, when taking into account all of decisions made during the year with respect to additional contracts and programs, the expenditure pattern for the past nine months is at 58.5%. He added that, providing that depreciation charges and interest income continue to accumulate as anticipated, it is expected the year should end with expenditures being less than budgeted revenue.

ACTION: Commissioner Hersey made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to accept the Financial Report for the Period Ending June 30, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Election of Officers and Board of Directors

Mr. Koons reported that the Nominating Committee met on May 10, 2007 to make, for the Council's consideration, recommendations regarding all officer positions, including the additional Executive Committee member, and other members of the Board of Directors. Subsequent to the meeting, staff was informed by the Governor's office that several Council members' terms have expired. In November 2006, Governor Bush reappointed David Dodge, Charles Maulsby, Gerald O'Neil, Andrew Smith and Lorene Thomas. He also appointed Frank Urban. In January 2007, Governor Crist withdrew these names from confirmation consideration by the Senate. Pursuant to an Attorney General Opinion, the terms of these members ended at the close of the 2007 Legislative session. Several of these individuals have been nominated by the Nominating Committee for officer and Board of Director positions.

Mr. Koons reported that at the May 24, 2007 Council meeting, the Council voted to postpone the election of officers and Board of Directors until the August 23, 2007 Council meeting, or until the Governor appointed additional members to the Council, whichever occurred first. On June 29, 2007, Governor Crist reappointed David Dodge, Andrew Smith and Lorene Thomas, for three year terms ending on October 1, 2009. Mr. Koons added that since Governor Crist had not made additional appointments to the Council from which nominations could be made, the election of officers and Board of Directors was still postponed until the August 23, 2007 meeting or until the Governor appointed additional members to the Council, whichever occurred first.

Mr. Koons stated that the Council is not in a position at this time to conduct the elections of officers and Board of Directors based upon the recommended slate of the Nominating Committee and requested that the Council review two options available for consideration.

Option 1: Postpone the election of officers and Board of Directors to the December 6, 2007 Council meeting or until the Governor makes additional appointments to the Council, whichever occurs first.

Option 2: Request the Nominating Committee to prepare a revised slate of officers and Board of Directors based upon the current membership of the Council and hold the election of officers and Board of Directors at the September 27, 2007 Council meeting.

Mr. Koons further requested that, if Option #2 is chosen, the Council ratify the appointment of Mr. Eddie Martin as Chair of the Nominating Committee as recommended by Acting Chair Ellis to fill a vacancy in that position.

ACTION: Commissioner Lamb made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hamlin, to request the Nominating Committee prepare a revised slate of officers and Board of Directors based upon the current membership of the Council, hold the election of officers and Board of Directors at the September 27, 2007 Council meeting and to ratify the appointment by Acting Chair Ellis of Mr. Eddie Martin as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

C. SpringHills Comprehensive Plan Amendments for the Development of Regional Impact Lawsuit Status Report

Mr. Koons stated that the developers of the SpringHills development of regional impact filed a lawsuit and named Alachua County and the Council as co-defendants due to the denial of comprehensive plan amendments concerning the Substantial Deviation to a Previously Approved Development of Regional Impact by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners on May 3, 2007. He then introduced Jon Wershow, Council Attorney, who reported that the hearing to consider the Motion to Abate, Dismiss, Strike and for More Definite Statement filed by the County and Council has not been scheduled at this time.

D. Santa Fe Healthcare Development of Regional Impact Extension for First Sufficiency Response

Mr. Koons stated that the Santa Fe Healthcare Development of Regional Impact is located near the interchange of I-75 and State Road 222 in Alachua County adjacent to the SpringHills Development of Regional Impact. He stated that the denial of the comprehensive plan amendments and a substantial deviation for an expansion for the SpringHills Development of Regional Impact necessitated the revision of the Santa Fe Healthcare development plan for its site and the applicant for Santa Fe Healthcare has requested an additional 12 month period to respond to the first sufficiency request following a meeting scheduled for October 8, 2007 between the applicant and review agencies. Mr. Koons further reported that Council staff agrees with the request from the applicant to extend the first sufficiency response deadline to October 8, 2008.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Mayor Coerper, to approve the requested extension of the first sufficiency response deadline for the Santa Fe Health Park Development of Regional Impact to October 8, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Special Legislative Session Concerning State Budget

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Legislative Estimating Conference has recently reported that the State is anticipated to experience a projected \$1.5 billion shortfall in revenue for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. A special legislative session is scheduled to begin September 18, 2007 to consider budget reductions to address the projected revenue shortfall. He stated that state agencies have proposed some \$3 billion in budget reductions to address this situation and that Secretary Tom Pelham from the Florida Department of Community Affairs has proposed cutting the \$400,000 increase approved for regional planning councils by the Legislature this past session. Mr. Koons stated that the Council's share of this cut would amount to \$28,415.

F. Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting Report

Mr. Koons reported that he and Acting Chair Ellis attended the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board meeting in Orlando on August 17, 2007. He reported that the Framework for Planning Reform approved by the Council at its July 2007 meeting was reviewed and endorsed by the Policy Board, subject to appropriate funding being provided by the State legislature for regional planning councils to fulfill the new responsibilities associated with the Framework.

Mr. Koons stated that the Tampa Water attorney spoke to the Policy Board concerning the requirement for the development of alternative water supplies due to water shortage areas. He informed the Council that the Suwannee River Water Management District does not have any designated water shortage areas. He added that water management districts must look at local water sources first before any transfers of water between water basins are considered.

Mr. Koons stated that staff are currently conducting training for city and county staff concerning new requirements for the capital improvement element under the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act. He reported that the first training session was held at Council offices on August 21, 2007 and that a training session would be held at the Madison County Agricultural Extension Office on August 29, 2007.

Acting Chair Ellis announced that the next meeting of the Council will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City on September 27, 2007. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.



Roy Ellis, Acting Chair

9/27/07
Date