

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

April 26, 2012  
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Stephen Bailey, Columbia County**  
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper  
Jim Catron, City of Madison  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County  
Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry  
**Roy Ellis, Madison County**  
**Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County**  
**Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville**  
*James Montgomery, Columbia County*  
**Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak**  
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer  
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
**Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke**  
*Lorene Thomas, Dixie County*  
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County  
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville  
*Charles Williams, Hamilton County*  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp  
Scott Koons  
Carol Laine  
Jean Strong

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Susan Baird, Alachua County  
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs  
Susan Bottcher, City of Gainesville  
Ben Boukari, Jr., City of Alachua  
Mike Byerly, Alachua County  
Todd Chase, City of Gainesville  
*Thomas Collett, Alachua County*  
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County  
*Sandra Haas, Suwannee County*  
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville  
Jason Holifield, Dixie County  
Jordan Marlowe, City of Newberry  
*Charles Maultsby, Taylor County*  
**Ronny Morgan, Hamilton County**  
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County  
James Tallman, Union County  
**Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County**  
Mark Wiggins, Taylor County  
*Mike Williams, Madison County*

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Bennett, City of Madison  
Diana Davis  
Greg Evans, Florida Dept. of Transportation  
Jordan Green, representing Florida Dept. of  
Transportation  
Adele Griffin, Regional Director for  
United States Senator Rubio  
Mickie Salter, Legislative Assistant for  
Representative Leonard Bemby  
Hon. Ina Thompson, Madison City Commissioner

**Board Members names are bolded**  
*Gubernatorial Members names are italicized*

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Catron and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Ellis stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed Adele Griffin, Regional Director for United States Senator Marco Rubio, Mickie Salter, Legislative Assistant for Representative Leonard Bembry, Florida House of Representatives, Ina Thompson, Madison City Commissioner, Tim Bennett, City Manager for the City of Madison and Diana Davis, wife of Council member Mayor Louie Davis.

Chair Ellis asked that Item VI.B.2. #64 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, which was received by staff after the meeting packets were mailed, be added to the agenda.

**ACTION: Commissioner Catron made the motion, with a second by Mayor Ogborn to add Item VI.B.2. #64 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 22, 2012

Chair Ellis asked that the minutes of the March 22, 2012 meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hamlin made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2012 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

III. GUEST SPEAKER - Greg Evans, District 2 Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation

Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed Greg Evans, District 2 Secretary for the Florida Department of Transportation. Secretary Evans briefly spoke about the state transportation budget for the current year and the opportunity for rural local governments to receive funding for projects. He stated that from 2000 to 2011, the Legislature appropriated approximately \$294 million for transportation projects in Florida Department of Transportation District 2. He urged members to contact him or Jordan Green, Florida Department of Transportation Rural Area Transportation Development Engineer, if they have any questions concerning their transportation needs. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. Chair Ellis thanked Secretary Evans for his comments.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Concerning Regional Economic Modeling, Inc.
- B. Amendment to Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Administration Services Agreement, Fiscal Year 2011 - City of Madison
- C. Enhanced Biennial Administrative Rule Review and Economic Impact Administrative Rule Review

D. Banking Services Proposals

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

**ACTION: Mayor Ogborn made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bailey, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Transportation Disadvantaged Resolution of Appreciation - Jeannie Carr

Chair Ellis asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for Jeannie Carr, who served as the Regional Workforce Representative on the Gilchrist County Transportation Disadvantaged Board since January 22, 2010.

**ACTION: Commissioner Spooner made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wells, to approve a Resolution of Appreciation for Jeannie Carr. The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Proclamation Declaring May 5-13, 2012 as Travel and Tourism Week

Chair Ellis stated that the Original Florida Tourism Task Force was created as a part of the Council 20 years ago. He reported that the mission of the 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." Chair Ellis added that the week of May 5-13, 2012 is National Travel and Tourism Week as declared by the Travel Industry Association. He further stated that to support and celebrate the tourism industry, the Executive Committee recommended that the Council adopt a proclamation, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, declaring the week of May 5-13, 2012 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida.

**ACTION: Commissioner Spooner made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wells, to adopt a proclamation, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, declaring the week of May 5-13, 2012 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida. The motion carried unanimously.**

B. Clearinghouse Committee

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

Commissioner Hawkins further stated that subsequent to the distribution of the Council meeting packets, Council staff received one late-arriving local government comprehensive plan amendment which required action prior to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. He stated that this item was added to the Council meeting agenda earlier tonight and a copy of the staff report was handed out prior to the meeting.

#62 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments  
#64 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda)

Commissioner Hawkins stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found that the comprehensive plans, as amended, do not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance, regional facilities or adjacent local governments. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #62, City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments and Item #64, Union County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.**

## VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Legislative Report

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director, reported that on April 17, 2012, Governor Scott signed House Bill 5001, the \$70.0 billion State budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13. He stated that in signing the budget bill, the Governor exercised his line item veto authority and vetoed \$142.8 million of appropriations, including the \$2.5 million appropriated for all 11 regional planning councils. The Council's share of the appropriation would have been approximately \$179,000.

Mr. Koons reported that last year, the Governor vetoed \$615.3 million of appropriations, including the \$2.5 million appropriation for all 11 regional planning councils, from the \$66.5 billion State budget for Fiscal Year 2011-12.

#### Growth Management

Mr. Koons stated that on April 6, 2012, the Governor signed House Bill 781, the growth management glitch bill. The bill became effective upon signature of the Governor.

Mr. Koons further stated that on April 6, 2012, the Governor also signed House Bill 979, the development of regional impact bill. The bill becomes law on July 1, 2012.

B. Florida's Future Corridors Initiative

Mr. Koons stated that Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Prasad "Florida's 21st Century Transportation Vision" calls for planning a transportation system that maintains our competitive edge by meeting the needs of today as well as our needs for decades to come. He stated that in 2006, the Florida Department of Transportation, in cooperation with partners and stakeholders throughout the state, developed the Future Corridors Action Plan, which provided policy direction for a statewide network of high-speed, high-capacity corridors critical to the continued growth and development of the state over the next 50 years. He further stated that, in addition, the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan calls for Florida to make its most significant transportation decisions in the context of long-range visions about the future growth and development of Florida's regions, and the state as a whole.

Mr. Koons reported that study areas have been identified where the Florida Department of Transportation could explore potential new or transformed corridors. Five of these corridors exist today (I-4, I-10, I-75, I-95 and U.S. 27) and would be transformed to serve new functions. He added that the remaining corridor study areas represent regional pairs not well connected by a high-speed, high-capacity corridor today, or where existing corridors do not have the capacity to support anticipated growth in demand over the next 50 years. Examples of the highest priority study areas recommended by the Florida Department of Transportation for advancement include Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida; Central Florida-Tampa Bay; U.S. 27 Multimodal Corridor, Southeast Florida to Central Florida; and Southwest Florida to Central Florida.

Mr. Koons stated that the next steps in this on-going initiative would be to:

- Support on-going visioning efforts such as the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Strategic Plan for Economic Development and regional visioning processes throughout the state.
- Coordinate with agency stakeholders such as Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- Outreach to major landowners, develop options for building upon the sector planning process and develop sample agreements with landowners to preserve right-of-way.
- Intergovernmental and stakeholder coordination, including sample agreements to reflect corridor concepts in regional and local plans.
- Prepare enabling legislation for 2013 Legislative Session by August 2012.
- Update previous studies for the Northern Extension of the Turnpike and Suncoast 2 Corridors.

- Advance existing studies or initiate new studies for the following study areas: Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida, Central Florida-Tampa Bay, U.S. 27 Multimodal Corridor and Southwest Florida to Central Florida.
- Initiate project development and environmental studies on selected segments, where appropriate.

C. Florida Chamber Foundation Six Pillars Caucus

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation, founded in 1968, is a business-led, problem-solver and research organization, working in partnership with state business leaders to promote a vibrant Florida economy. He stated that a major initiative of the Foundation is to develop a statewide, 20-year strategic plan to promote prosperity and high paying jobs, vibrant communities and global competitiveness. The framework to accomplish such a task is known as the Six Pillars for Florida's Future Economy. The Six Pillars is a product of years of collaboration and research by the Florida Chamber Foundation, along with business, civic and government partners, which identifies the critical factors determining Florida's future: 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.

Mr. Koons stated that as previously reported, he was appointed to the Foundation's Six Pillar Caucus System in 2011 and currently participates as a member of the Innovation and Economic Development Pillar. He stated that the annual two-day Six Pillar Caucus Retreat was held April 10-11, 2012 at St. Petersburg College Collaborative Labs in Largo. He stated that the retreat focused on prioritizing strategies and developing draft policy briefs for consideration by the Florida Chamber of Commerce Policy Council.

Mr. Koons further reported that the Innovation and Economic Development Pillar recommended several draft policy briefs addressing the development of a Declaration of Innovation and Economic Development to serve as One Voice : One Message to coordinate a unified system approach to economic development by the private sector, state government, regional organizations, local economic development organizations and local governments. He added that other recommended policy briefs addressed research transfer resulting in business development and expanding international trade, including inland multi-modal logistics centers.

D. Florida Leaders Organized for Water

Mr. Koons reported that on April 9, 2012, the fourth meeting of the Florida Leaders Organized for Water was held in Lake City. He stated that the Board of Directors for Florida Leaders Organized for Water reviewed and approved several technical amendments to the interlocal agreement creating the Florida Leaders Organized for Water. He further reported that the Board of Directors also established four working groups comprised of Florida Leaders Organized for Water representatives to develop action strategies. The four working groups created are Science, Legislative, Legal and Public Information. In addition, the Board of Directors agreed to add the City of Lake

City and the Town of Lee as member local governments of Florida Leaders Organized for Water. Finally, Mr. Koons stated that Council members Commissioner Lee Pinkoson from Alachua County and Commissioner Wesley Wainwright from Suwannee County are serving as representatives for their respective counties to the organization.

E. Original Florida Tourism Task Force Press Familiarization Tour

Mr. Koons stated that, as previously reported, the Council provides staff services to the Original Florida Tourism Task Force to assist them in implementing their work program. In order to increase tourism generated revenues in the north Florida region, the Original Florida Tourism Task Force implements campaigns to increase tourist visits to the Natural North Florida region.

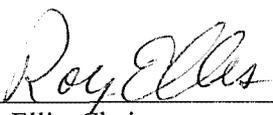
Mr. Koons stated that the Original Florida Tourism Task Force conducted a saltwater fishing themed press familiarization tour March 19-23, 2012. He stated that the tour highlighted the local saltwater fishing of counties in the region. Journalists sampled different local specialties at each location along the route, from Wakulla Springs, Steinhatchee, Horseshoe Beach to Yankeetown. He added that along the way, the writers bow-fished at night in the Gulf and visited the Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory and the Big Bend Maritime Center in Wakulla County, Gulf fished in Taylor County with the evening meal featuring the travel writers' catch of the day, Gulf fished in Dixie County, visited the Dakotah Winery in Chiefland and Gulf fished in Levy County.

F. North Central Florida Rural Planning Network Meeting

Mr. Koons reported that the next meeting of the North Central Florida Rural Planning Network would be held on April 27, 2012 at the Steinhatchee Community Center in Steinhatchee, Florida. He stated that guest speakers participating in the workshop will be Bo Taff, Vice-President for Planning, Foley Land and Timber Company, Jack Brown, County Administrator, Taylor County, Steven Dopp, Senior Planner, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and Dean Fowler, Owner, Steinhatchee Landing and Resort.

Mr. Koons asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Dr. John DeGrove, former Florida Department of Community Affairs Secretary in Governor Graham's administration. Dr. DeGrove died at the age of 87 on April 13, 2012.

Chair Ellis informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on May 24, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Ellis, Chair

5/24/12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# PROCLAMATION

## *DECLARING MAY 5-13, 2012 AS TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK*

WHEREAS, tourism brings 85 million visitors annually to the State of Florida and generates \$4.0 billion in annual sales tax revenues;

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

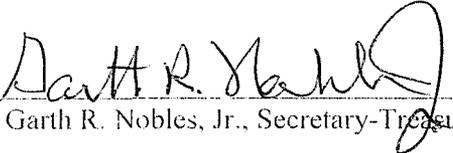
WHEREAS, local governments, businesses, chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council are working together to support this vital part of north central Florida's economy and all who play a role in tourism to ensure that north 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 5-13, 2012 as Travel and Tourism Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 26th day of April 2012.

ATTEST:

SEAL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Ellis, Chair