

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

July 26, 2012
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Thomas Collett, Alachua County
Jim Catron, City of Madison
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County
Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, City of Gainesville
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Jordan Marlowe, City of Newberry
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Ronny Morgan, Hamilton County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Charles Williams, Hamilton County

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Jean Strong
Bryan Thomas

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Susan Baird, Alachua County
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Todd Chase, City of Gainesville
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
James Tallman, Union County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Mark Wiggins, Taylor County
Mike Williams, Madison County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Bennett, City of Madison
Dave Cobb, Florida Power and Light
Greg Evans, Florida Dept. of Transportation
Jacob Grantham, Live Oak City Councilman
Jordan Green, Florida Dept. of Transportation
George Haas
Keith Hinton
Keith Mixon, Live Oak City Councilman
Jesse Quillen, Columbia County Economic
Development
Joe Riddick
Susan Ramsey, Hamilton County
Development Authority

Board Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Catron and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Thomas stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Thomas asked Mayor Sonny Nobles to introduce Councilman Keith Mixon and Councilman Jacob Grantham from the City of Live Oak. Chair Thomas introduced and welcomed Greg Evans, District 2 Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation, Tim Bennett, City Manager for the City of Madison, Dave Cobb from Florida Power and Light.

Chair Thomas welcomed and introduced Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee members Susan Ramsey, Executive Director of the Hamilton County Development Authority and Jesse Quillen, Director of the Columbia County Economic Development Department and Ms. Ramsey's guest Keith Hinton. She also introduced and welcomed former Council member Joe Riddick, who served as Chair of the Council during 1995-96 and George Haas, husband of Council member Sandra Haas.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 28, 2012

Chair Thomas asked that the minutes of the June 28, 2012 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mr. Maulsby made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2012 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA - None

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT - Introduction of New Members

Chair Thomas reported that there were no new members to introduce.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Regional Visioning Process

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director, stated that regional visioning initiatives bring together elected officials, economic development organizations, workforce boards, educational institutions, environmental and community representatives to develop a vision for the future based upon shared core values. The regional visioning process provides a framework for working together to accommodate growth, protect resources, maintain economic vitality and enhance quality of life while adding value to communities within a region.

Mr. Koons stated that a regional visioning process would advance the Council's mission of *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*. Mr. Koons further stated that the Florida Department of Transportation has agreed to partner with the Council to undertake a regional visioning process. Therefore, the Executive Committee recommended that the Council agree to convene and coordinate a regional visioning process for north central Florida.

ACTION: Vice-Mayor Spooner made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant to authorize staff to work with the Florida Department of Transportation to develop a scope, schedule and funding mechanism for a regional visioning process for north central Florida. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Banking Services Proposal

Mr. Koons reported that for the past year, the Council has maintained its bank account and the Employee Pension Plan Trust Fund account with Wells Fargo. The Council also manages bank accounts for the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area and The Original Florida Tourism Task Force with Wells Fargo.

Mr. Koons stated that the Council recently authorized staff to solicit proposals for banking services. The Executive Committee met on July 17, 2012 and reviewed the three proposals submitted for banking services. The Executive Committee recommended that the Council select Capital City Bank for Council and Employee Pension Plan Trust accounts for banking services.

ACTION: Mr. Collett made the motion, with a second by Vice-Mayor Spooner to select Capital City Bank for Council and Employee Pension Plan Trust accounts for banking services. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Employee Health Insurance Proposal

Mr. Koons reported that UnitedHealthcare has offered to continue health insurance coverage for the Council with a 7.5 percent increase in premiums for the coming year beginning September 1, 2012. UnitedHealthcare is proposing no change in life insurance premiums for the coming year. UnitedHealthcare is proposing a 5.4 percent increase in premiums for dental insurance.

On July 17, 2012, the Executive Committee met and reviewed two alternative proposals for health insurance from UnitedHealthcare. Both of the alternative proposals included reduced benefits for employees. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended the following four actions concerning health, life, dental and vision insurance.

- Approve the alternative proposal received from UnitedHealthcare for Plan 9FU for employee health insurance, Plan P3416 for dental insurance and life insurance for the year beginning September 1, 2012;
- Approve making dental insurance a voluntary option with employees paying 100 percent of the premium effective September 1, 2012;
- Approve changing the employee life insurance premium payment Council share from 75 percent to 100 percent effective September 1, 2012; and
- Approve changing the health insurance premium payment Council share from 75 percent for both employee and dependent coverage to 100 percent for employee coverage only and 0 percent for dependent coverage by increasing the health insurance premium payment Council share for employee coverage by 5 percent per year over a five-year period and decreasing the health insurance premium payment Council share for dependent coverage by 15 percent per year over a five-year period beginning September 1, 2013.

ACTION: Commissioner Catron made the motion, with a second from Mr. Collett to approve the alternative proposal received from UnitedHealthcare for Plan 9FU for employee health insurance, Plan P3416 for dental insurance and life insurance for the year beginning September 1, 2012; approve making dental insurance a voluntary option with employees paying 100 percent of the premium effective September 1, 2012; approve changing the employee life insurance premium payment Council share from 75 percent to 100 percent effective September 1, 2012; and to defer action on changing the health insurance premium payment Council share from 75 percent for both employee and dependent coverage to 100 percent for employee coverage only and 0 percent for dependent coverage by increasing the health insurance premium payment Council share for employee coverage by 5 percent per year over a five-year period and decreasing the health insurance premium payment Council share for dependent coverage by 15 percent per year over a five-year period beginning September 1, 2013. The motion carried with 24 yeas and 1 nay.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Chair Sandra Haas gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed one local government comprehensive plan amendment.

#81 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found that the comprehensive plan, as amended, does not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance, regional facilities or adjacent local governments. Additionally, she stated that

the County comprehensive plan, as amended, remained consistent with the regional plan. The Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the County and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Mr. Maultsby, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #81, Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee
Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2013-2017

Mr. Bryan Thomas, Economic Development Program Director, presented a slideshow concerning the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. He reported that every five years, the Council prepares an update of the Strategy for submission to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to meet our contractual obligations with that agency, and to qualify our counties for funding under its economic development program.

Mr. Thomas stated that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee met July 17, 2012 to review and recommend to the Council Goals and Objectives and Priority Project Areas. He reported that the Strategy has been organized using the Florida Chamber Foundation Six Pillars for Securing Florida's Future Economy. By organizing the Strategy by the Six Pillars, it is in alignment with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's recently prepared Five-Year Strategic Economic Development Plan and the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars 20-Year Strategic Plan.

Susan Ramsey, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Chair, reported that the Committee has been working the past several months with staff to complete the required five-year update of the Strategy. The Committee has reviewed existing strategies and has recommended new strategies. She stated that the Committee completed a draft of the Strategy at its July 17, 2012 meeting and has provided the draft Executive Summary, Goals and Objectives and Priority Project Areas from the Strategy in the Council meeting packet. She further stated that the Committee recommended approval of the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2013-2017 and to authorize that the draft Strategy be noticed for a 30-day public comment period.

ACTION: Commissioner Marlowe made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant to approve the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2013-2017 and authorize that it be noticed for a 30-day public comment period as recommended by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. State Infrastructure Bank Loans

Mr. Koons introduced Jordan Green, Florida Department of Transportation Rural Area Transportation Development Engineer for District 2. Mr. Green presented a slideshow

concerning the State Infrastructure Bank. He stated that the Bank is a revolving loan and credit enhancement program consisting of two separate accounts and is used to leverage funds to improve project feasibility administered by the Florida Department of Transportation. The Bank can provide loans and other assistance to public or private entities for projects eligible under federal and state law. He emphasized that the Bank cannot provide assistance in the form of a grant. He noted that the application deadline for Fiscal Year 2013-14 is August 31, 2012.

B. 2012 Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Mr. Koons reported that 11 proposed constitutional amendments have been placed on the ballot by the Legislature for the general election to be held November 6, 2012. Several of the amendments have implications for local governments. He reviewed a summary of the proposed constitutional amendments.

C. Planning in America Opinion Poll

Mr. Koons reported that the American Planning Association recently released the results of a nationwide poll on the attitudes of Americans toward planning. The poll indicates that Americans generally have a favorable opinion of community planning.

D. Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Award

Mr. Koons reported that working together in a coordinated manner, all 11 regional planning councils completed a multi-year Statewide Regional Evacuation Study. The award-winning Study represented an unprecedented undertaking to concurrently update the regional evacuation studies for each region.

He stated that the Study had been previously recognized for excellence both at the state and national level. He added that the Florida Planning and Zoning Association granted the Study their 2011 Outstanding Public Study Award and at the national level, both trade associations for regional planning councils and regional development organizations have also granted awards for the Study. He stated that the National Association of Regional Councils granted the Study a 2011 Achievement Award and the National Association of Development Organizations granted the Study a 2011 Innovation Award. In addition, Mr. Koons reported that the American Planning Association recently recognized the Study by granting it the 2012 Best Practices in Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning Award.

E. 2011-12 Member Certificates of Outstanding Attendance

Mr. Koons stated that an essential component of the ability of the Council to conduct its business is the regular attendance of members at Council meetings. A Council Member Attendance Recognition Program was established by the Council at the May 22, 2008 Council meeting to recognize the commitment of those Council members actively engaged in the organization by regularly attending every Council meeting in a program year. He awarded a Certificate of Outstanding Attendance to the following members in recognition of their attendance at every scheduled Council meeting during Program Year 2011-12: Alphonso Dowdell, Councilman, City of Perry, Garth Nobles, Jr., Mayor, City of Live

Oak, Carolyn Spooner, Vice-Mayor, City of Starke and Daniel Riddick, County Commissioner, Bradford County.

F. Executive Director's Cup

Mr. Koons stated that in furtherance of the Council Member Attendance Recognition Program and to encourage attendance at Council meetings, an Executive Director's Cup is awarded each year to recognize the perfect attendance by either county, city or gubernatorial members during a program year. For Program Year 2011-12, he awarded the Executive Director's Cup to the city members, Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry, Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak and Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke, in recognition of their perfect attendance.

G. 2011-12 Florida Regional Councils Association Annual Report

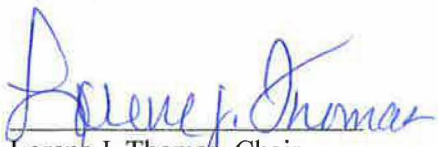
Mr. Koons reported that the 2011-12 Annual Report for the Florida Regional Councils Association was included in the Council packet. The Report highlights the accomplishments of the Association and its member regional planning councils. He reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide association of all 11 regional councils in Florida. He added that it is governed by a Policy Board made up of three representatives (county, municipal, gubernatorial) from each Council who are in turn advised by the Executive Directors Advisory Committee comprised of all 11 executive directors.

Mr. Koons stated that the Chair Lorene Thomas, Vice-Chair Garth Nobles, Jr. and Immediate Past Chair Roy Ellis currently serve on the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board.

Mr. Koons reported that there will be an Energy in North Florida Policy and Resiliency Workshop on August 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Gainesville Regional Utilities Eastside Operations Center in Gainesville and on August 29, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Northeast Florida Regional Council office in Jacksonville.

Mr. Koons stated that the Plum Creek economic development site, which includes the Columbia County Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern Catalyst Site, has recently been named the North Florida Intermodal Park.

Chair Thomas informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on August 30, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.


Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

8/30/12

Date