

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

October 24, 2013
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Susan Baird, Alachua County
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
Jim Catron, City of Madison
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Don Cook, City of Perry
Karen Cossey, Union County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Charles Williams, Hamilton County
Mike Williams, Madison County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE

Ginger Travers, City of High Springs

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Jean Strong

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs
Susan Bottcher, City of Gainesville
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
Timothy Marden, City of Newberry
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Timothy Bennett, Madison City Manager
Bobby Crosby, Gilchrist County Administrator
Diana Davis
Brian Delburn, Florida Dept. of Transportation
Jordan Green, Florida Dept. of Transportation
Roni Jordan, Florida Department of
Environmental Protection
Buddy Haas
Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water
Management District
Doug Jones, Archer City Commissioner
Joseph Riddick

Board Members names are bolded

Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nobles called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Catron and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Nobles stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Nobles welcomed and introduced Timothy Bennett, City Manager for the City of Madison, Commissioner Doug Jones from the City of Archer, Buddy Haas, husband of Council member Sandra Haas and Joe Riddick, past member and former Council Chair from Bradford County. Commissioner Thomas then introduced County Administrator Bobby Crosby from Gilchrist County.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 26, 2013

Chair Nobles asked that the minutes of the September 26, 2013 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Councilman Bryant made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Davis to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2013 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Fiscal Year 2013-14 Technical Assistance Planning Grant Agreement - Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- B. Fiscal Year 2013-14 Community Redevelopment Area Planning Assistance Agreement - City of Madison

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

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

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT - Appointment of Florida Regional Councils Association
Policy Board Retreat Delegation

Chair Nobles stated that the Florida Regional Councils Association, a statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils, has scheduled a retreat for January 9-10, 2014, to be held in Tallahassee. He stated that the purpose of the retreat is to review the roles and responsibilities of regional planning councils in furthering their mission to improve the quality of life in regions throughout Florida and that the retreat will be facilitated by the SouthEast Regional Directors Institute. He stated that prior to the retreat, interviews and surveys will be conducted by the SouthEast Regional Directors Institute with regional planning council partners and stakeholders. Chair Nobles added that the composition of each regional planning council delegation is to consist of the three Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board representatives and two other Council members, provided that the delegation at a minimum includes the Chair and Vice-Chair of each regional planning council. He asked that the appointments of the following Council members be made to the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Retreat Delegation, as recommended by the Chair.

- Rick Davis, Executive Committee Member
- Garth Nobles, Jr., Chair, Policy Board Representative
- Carolyn Spooner, Vice-Chair
- Daniel Riddick, Secretary-Treasurer, Policy Board Representative
- Lorene Thomas, Immediate Past Chair, Policy Board Representative

ACTION: Commissioner Patterson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Roberts, to ratify the appointments of Rick Davis, Garth Nobles, Jr., Carolyn Spooner, Daniel Riddick and Lorene Thomas to the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Retreat Delegation as recommended by the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - None

B. Clearinghouse Committee

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

- #1 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #2 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #4 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment

Ms. Haas further stated that the Clearinghouse Committee also received the following sector plan.

- #3 - Plum Creek Sector Plan, Council Recommendations for the Long-Term Master Plan

Ms. Haas stated that the comprehensive plan amendments would be grouped for presentation purposes. She stated that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, do not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional significance, regional facilities or adjacent local governments. She 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: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hawkins, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #1, City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item #2, Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #4, Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Haas stated that with regards to the Plum Creek Sector Plan, Council Recommendations for the Long-Term Master Plan, the Committee recommends that:

1. The long-term master plan contain goals, policies and/or commitments which prevent, minimize and/or mitigate impacts to regional transportation facilities identified in the regional plan in a manner consistent with the goals and policies of the regional plan;
2. The long-term master plan contain goals, policies and/or commitments which prevent, minimize and/or mitigate impacts to regional transportation facilities

identified in the strategic regional policy plans of the Northeast Florida Regional Council and the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council;

3. The long-term master plan contain an analysis of impacts to the anticipated lifespan of the New River Regional Landfill;
4. The long-term master plan contain goals, policies and/or commitments which prevent, minimize, and/or mitigate impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance identified in the regional plan in a manner consistent with the goals and policies of the regional plan;
5. The long-term master plan include a commitment to address affordable housing impacts using the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council methodology, as amended; and
6. The long-term master plan include language which directs each detailed specific area plan be treated as a stand-alone project for purposes of affordable housing impact analysis.

Ms. Haas stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these recommendations to Plum Creek, Alachua County and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hawkins, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning the Plum Creek Sector Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Jordan Green, Rural Area Transportation Development Engineer, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, reported that the Department is currently developing its five-year work program. He further stated that a public workshop will be held in Lake City on December 5, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to present the tentative five-year work program for all counties in the north central Florida region plus Levy County. He reported that a public hearing will be held in Jacksonville on December 9, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. for Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties.

Carlos Herd, Water Supply Division Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that a new Water Conservation Specialist position has been created. He stated that the Suwannee River Water Management Districts has received \$5.4 million from the State for springs conservation. He stated that drilling in Mallory Swamp is being conducted to determine the potential for water storage and aquifer recharge. He also stated that a feasibility study has been completed to obtain property adjacent to Camp Blanding to mitigate flooding in the Starke area. He stated that Suwannee River Water Management District is currently negotiating with the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to develop prevention/recovery strategies for the Lower Santa Fe River.

Roni Jordan, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that the Department continues to streamline the regulatory permitting process. She stated that assistance can be obtained by contacting her office.

VII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. He stated that the accomplishments of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven, are reported each month to the Council. He also highlighted several of the accomplishments listed in the September 2013 monthly activity report that was included in the Council meeting packet.

Mr. Koons stated that an assessment survey will be distributed via email to Council members, ex-officio members as well as city and county and economic development organization partners during the month of November 2013. The results of the survey will be used by the SouthEast Regional Directors Institute to develop a report which will be presented at the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Retreat in January 2014.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to develop a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. He further stated that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the Six Pillars benchmarked to the other 49 states. The Six Pillars are 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. He reviewed the October 2013 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

Mr. Koons then presented a video developed by the Florida Chamber Foundation on economic trends in Florida over the past 100 years.

C. National Association of Development Organizations Innovation Awards

Mr. Koons reported that the National Association of Development Organizations is a Washington, D.C.-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery and comprehensive strategies. The Association's Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities.

Mr. Koons stated that the Association recently awarded the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council two 2013 Innovation Awards. The first award was for the Fish Natural North Florida Regional Marketing Campaign and the second award was for the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Exercise. The 2013 slate of awardees included 93 projects representing National Association of Development Organizations members from 25 states.

F. Check Fraud Status Report

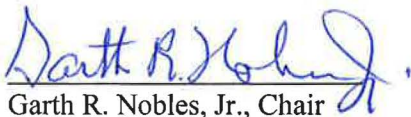
Mr. Koons reported that on March 20, 2013, a fraudulent check in the amount of \$49,523.00 that was written on the Council's bank account was processed and paid by Wells Fargo. Also on March 20, 2013, Council staff filed an affidavit of check fraud concerning this matter with Wells Fargo. On March 25, 2013, Council staff filed a crime report concerning this matter with the Gainesville Police Department. On April 18, 2013, the Council Attorney sent a letter to Wells Fargo requesting that Wells Fargo remit to the Council within 30 days the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's account. He added that on June 3, 2013, attorneys for Wells Fargo responded via letter stating that Wells Fargo will not reimburse the Council for the \$49,523.00 released from the Council's account by Wells Fargo.

Mr. Koons stated that at their meeting on July 25, 2013, the Council authorized the Council Attorney to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00, to engage Stanley Cushman from the law firm of Scruggs and Carmichael to serve as co-counsel for the lawsuit and to designate Scott Koons, Executive Director, as the Council's representative concerning all matters related to such lawsuit. He stated that on August 6, 2013, a lawsuit was filed against Wells Fargo to recover the Council's funds.

Mr. Koons further reported that on September 9, 2013, Wells Fargo responded to the complaint by filing a Motion to Compel Arbitration. Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Cushman responded to the motion stating that arbitration does not apply to the dispute and have filed a motion for a hearing on the motion to compel arbitration. The hearing has been scheduled for October 30, 2013.

Mr. Koons stated that Commissioner Robert Wilford will be retiring as Chief Executive Officer of the Central Florida Community Action Agency on November 1, 2013. He reported that Commissioner Wilford was recently honored by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners with a proclamation proclaiming November 1, 2013 as Robert W. Wilford Day in Alachua County, Florida. Commissioner Wilford continues to serve as a city commissioner for the City of Alachua and as the City of Alachua representative on the Council.

Chair Nobles informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on December 12, 2013 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.


Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

12/12/13
Date