

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

July 25, 2019  
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Anthony Adams, Lafayette County**  
David Arreola, City of Gainesville  
Robert Brown, Hamilton County  
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper  
James Catron, City of Madison  
**Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County**  
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
Rick Davis, Madison County  
**Thomas Demps, Taylor County**  
Shirlie Hampton, City of Perry  
Matt Hersom, City of Newberry  
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County  
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer  
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke  
Tim Murphy, Columbia County  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
Len Stapleton, Suwannee County  
James Tallman, Union County  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County  
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County  
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville  
**Robert Wilford, City of Alachua**

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristina Wright

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT

Barney Bennette, Florida Department of  
Transportation  
Tom Mirti, Suwannee River Water  
Management Water District  
Daniel Penniman, Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission

MEMBERS ABSENT

Patricia, Bouie, City of Hawthorne  
Ken Cornell, Alachua County  
Linda Jones, City of High Springs  
John Meeks, Levy County  
James Montgomery, Columbia County  
Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville  
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

OTHERS PRESENT

Sandra Buck-Camp  
Stew Lilker  
Talia Pate  
Hugh Thomas  
James Williams

STAFF PRESENT

Carmalita Franco  
Scott Koons  
Tara Tucker  
Lauren Yeatter

**Executive Members names are bold**

I. INVOCATION

Noting a quorum of the Council being present, Chair Wilford called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Bouie.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council and guests pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Welcomed and introduced James Williams, Union County Coordinator; Hugh Thomas, Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District; Talia Pate, Associate Director, CareerSource of North Central Florida; Sandra Buck-Camp member of the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; and Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes - June 27, 2019

B. Monthly Financial Reports - June 2019

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

**ACTION: Commissioner Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Wilford asked that Agenda Item VIII.B.4. Item #60 Levy County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ESR) be added to the regular agenda.

**ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to add Agenda Item VIII.B.4. Item #60 Levy County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ESR) to the regular agenda and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director  
Suwannee River Water Management District

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Tom Mirti, Deputy, Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District. Mr. Mirti gave a presentation on the Suwannee River Water Management District water supply plan and minimum flows and water levels. Chair Wilford thanked him for his presentation.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT - None

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Employee Health Insurance Proposal

Mr. Koons stated that United Healthcare has offered to continue health insurance coverage for the Council with an increase in premiums for the coming year beginning September 1, 2019. The total change in the cost to the Council for the coming year would be \$3,696 per annum or 4.1 percent. The resulting total monthly cost to the Council would be \$7,739.

Mr. Koons also stated that United Healthcare is proposing no change in life insurance premiums for the coming year. United Healthcare is proposing to decrease the cost for dental insurance to employees for the coming year by (\$1) per month or a decrease of (1.4) percent. The resulting total monthly cost to employees would be \$67.

Mr. Koons stated that staff secured alternative proposals for health insurance from United Healthcare for consideration by the Council. He stated that the alternative proposals include reductions in benefits for employees. He also reported that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council select the renewal option from UnitedHealthcare for the year beginning September 1, 2019.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to approve the renewal proposal received from UnitedHealthcare for Plan BH-7D/RX897 for health insurance, for dental insurance and life insurance for the year beginning September 1, 2019 as recommended by the Executive Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance

Chair Wilford stated at their June 27, 2019 meeting, the Executive Committee discussed Senate Bill 7068 that established the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance Program. Chair Wilford also stated there will be a presentation scheduled at a future Council meeting concerning Multi-use Corridors of Regional Significance.

3. South Florida Climate Change Compact and Tampa Bay Resilience Coalition

Chair Wilford stated at their June 27, 2019 meeting, the Executive Committee discussed two regions in the state that are addressing climate change and resiliency. In particular, the south Florida region has formed a Climate Change Compact and the Tampa Bay region has formed a Regional Resiliency Coalition. A presentation concerning this topic will be scheduled for a future Council meeting.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Commissioner Janice Mortimer, Clearinghouse Committee Chair, gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

#57 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR)

#58 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ER)

#59 - Northeast Florida Regional Council Strategic Regional Policy Plan  
Evaluation and Appraisal Report

Commissioner Mortimer stated subsequent to the distribution of the Council meeting packets, the Council received the following late-arriving item which required action prior to the next Council meeting Item #60 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment.

Commissioner Mortimer stated with regards to these items, the Committee found that the local government comprehensive plans as amended and the strategic regional policy plan evaluation and appraisal report, were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, or adjacent local governments. She stated that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the Office of the Governor.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Warren, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #57 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-2ESR); #58 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ER); #59 - Northeast Florida Regional Council Strategic Regional Policy Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report; #60 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 19-1ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force

Commissioner Rick Davis, Chair of the Middle and Lower Suwannee and Withlacoochee River Task Force, stated that the Task Force met with the Valdosta City Council for a Joint Workshop on July 10, 2019 to discuss the issue of raw sewage spills by the City and how the Task Force and City can work together to resolve this ongoing issue in Valdosta. He stated at the joint workshop, the Task Force was informed that the City of Valdosta is still awaiting a permit to construct a ten million gallon equalization basin at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant later this year. Finally, he stated, the next meeting of the Task Force is tentatively scheduled for September 26, 2019 prior to the Council meeting at the Lake City Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Barney Bennett, Florida Department of Transportation, stated that the Department will be accepting applications for Transportation Alternatives Program, SunTrails Program, Small County Road Assistance Program and Small County Outreach Program beginning in September 2019 with applications due by mid-December 2019.

Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated the District Governing Board is considering designating water resource caution areas in the western counties of the District. He also reported that river grant project applications will be considered by the District Governing Board at their September 10, 2019 meeting for funding recommendations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Mirti also stated that springs grant project applications for Fiscal Year 2017-18 have been approved for funding by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and that springs grant project applications for Fiscal Year 2018-19 have been submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for funding consideration. Finally, he reported that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has announced the availability of \$40 million statewide for alternative water supply project grants.

Talia Pate, Associate Director, CareerSource of North Central Florida, stated that Dislocated Workers Grant funding is available for temporary jobs with local governments in Alachua and Bradford Counties for Hurricane Irma debris removal and cleanup.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten 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 Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the June 2019 activities report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the June 2019 report.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

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 developing 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. The Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars. Talent and Supply 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 July 2019 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Florida Jobs Growth Fund

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Job Growth Fund is an economic development program designed to build on Florida's success and economic prosperity. He noted that in its first year, Fiscal Year 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), the Florida Job Growth Fund provided \$85 million and in its second year (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019), the Florida Job Growth Fund also provided \$85 million. Mr. Koons reported that in its third year, Fiscal Year 2019-20 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), the Florida Job Growth Fund will provide \$40 million for public infrastructure and job training projects that support growth and employment in Florida's diverse industries.

Mr. Koons reported that during the first two years of the program, six local governments in the north central Florida region have received \$27.3 million for seven projects. Finally, he stated that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity recently announced that project proposals should be submitted to the Department and that projects will be funded on a first come first serve basis until all funds are committed to projects.

D. 2018-19 Certificates of Outstanding Attendance

Mr. Koons reported that an essential component of the ability of the Council to conduct its business is the regular attendance of members at Council meetings, and 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 Council meetings. He then presented a Certificates of Outstanding Attendance Award in recognition of their attendance at every scheduled Council meeting during Program Year 2018-19 to Commissioner Robert Brown, Hamilton County; Mayor Louie Davis, City of Waldo; Commissioner Janice Mortimer, City of Starke; and Gubernatorial Appointee Lorene Thomas, Dixie County.

E. Executive Directors 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 100 percent attendance by either county, city or gubernatorial members during a program year.

Mr. Koons presented the 2018-19 Executive Director's Cup to City members Louie Davis, City of Waldo and Janice Mortimer, City of Starke. He also stated that the Executive Director's Cup is prominently displayed at the Council office.

Chair Wilford informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on August 22, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



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Robert Wilford, Chair

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8/22/19

Date