

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Via Communications Media Technology

April 22, 2021
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Mary Alford, Alachua County
David Arreola, City of Gainesville
Robert Brown, Hamilton County
James Catron, City of Madison
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Mark Clark, City of Newberry
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
Travis Land, Suwannee County
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Donnie Waldrep, Madison County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristyn Adkins, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

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

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
Mike Deming, City of Perry
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Reina Saco, City of Gainesville
James Tallman, Union County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

OTHERS PRESENT

Amy Brown
Susan Davis
Stew Lilker
Emily Ryan

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons
Tara Tucker
Lauren Yeatter

Executive Committee Members names are bold
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION

Noting a quorum of the Council being present, Chair Chestnut called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Vice-Mayor Wilford gave the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Chestnut welcomed and introduced Susan Davis, St. Johns River Water Management District, Emily Ryan, St. Johns River Water Management District and Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes - March 25, 2021
- B. Monthly Financial Report - March 2021

Chair Chestnut asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

ACTION: Vice-Mayor Wilford made the motion, with a second by Vice-Mayor Mortimer to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

ACTION: Commissioner Simmons made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Amy Brown, Chief, Office of Water Supply
Suwannee River Water Management District

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Amy Brown, Chief, Office of Water Supply Suwannee River Water Management District. Ms. Brown gave a presentation to the Council concerning regional water supply planning. Chair Chestnut thanked Ms. Brown for her presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT -

- A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation Frederick Johnson

ACTION: Mayor Louie Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Simmons to authorize the Chair to sign Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation for former Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board member Frederick Johnson, alternate Florida Department of Children and Families Representative Union County. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Proclamation Proclaiming May 3-7, 2021 as Travel and Tourism Week

Chair Chestnut stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation proclaiming May 3-7, 2021 as Travel and Tourism Week in the north central Florida region. He further stated that Travel and Tourism Week is where activities are planned throughout the United States and Florida to support and celebrate the tourism industry.

ACTION: Commissioner Clark made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Brown to adopt the proclamation proclaiming May 3-7, 2021 as Travel and Tourism Week in the north central Florida region, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Proclamation Proclaiming May 9-15, 2021 Economic Development Week

Chair Chestnut stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation proclaiming May 9-15, 2021 as Economic Development Week in the north central Florida region. He further stated that Economic Development Week is to promote economic well-being and quality of life for communities create, retain and expand jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base.

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Vice-Mayor Wilford to adopt the proclamation proclaiming May 9-15, 2021 as Economic Development Week in the north central Florida region, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Commissioner Hope, Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee, reported that the Clearinghouse Committee met virtually via communications media technology earlier in the evening and reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

#35 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ESR)

#36 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)

#38 - Town of Horseshoe Beach Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER)

Commissioner Hope stated with regards to these items, the Committee found that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjacent local governments. He stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Commissioner Hope made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #35 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ESR); Item #36 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #38 - Town of Horseshoe Beach Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER). The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

David Tyler, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, reported that the Department recently updated the publication entitled A Guidebook: Partnering with the Florida Department of Transportation.

Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that the District is currently preparing the five-year update to the Regional Water Supply Plan, continuing the development of the Lower Santa Fe River and Ichetucknee River minimum flows and minimum water levels program, and will be initiating development of the Lake Butler minimum flows and minimum water levels. He also stated that the District is currently reviewing cost share river grant applications.

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. He stated that 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. Mr. Koons stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the March 2021 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the March 2021 report.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. He stated that 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. Mr. Koons noted that 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 April 2021 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Forward Newsletter

Mr. Koons reported that an article from the March 2021 monthly Florida Regional Councils Association Forward Newsletter featured the community development activities provided to local governments by the Council. He stated the article highlighted the assistance provided by the Council to the City of Madison concerning a sanitary sewer upgrade project. Mr. Koons also stated the project consisted of the rehabilitation of a master sanitary sewer lift station, installation of a new sanitary sewer gravity flow interceptor line, and replacement of dilapidated neighborhood sanitary sewer collection lines and service laterals.

D. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2021 Legislative Session convened March 2, 2021 and is scheduled to adjourn on April 30, 2021. He also stated legislative committee meetings began the week of January 11, 2021 and concluded the week of February 15, 2021. Mr. Koons reported on the status of bills of interest to the Council and its member local governments.

E. U.S. Economic Development Administration Grant Award - Lake City

Mr. Koons reported that the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration has awarded the City of Lake City a \$2.3 million Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act Recovery Assistance Grant to support the aviation maintenance and repair industry at the Lake City Gateway Airport. He stated the funds will be used to retrofit two City-owned, World War II era hangars for use by the aircraft maintenance and repair service industry. Mr. Koons stated the grant will be matched with \$724,675 in local investment and is anticipated to create 300 jobs, retain 512 jobs, and generate \$1.2 million in private investment.

He also stated that this project was made possible by the regional economic development planning efforts led by the Council. Mr. Koons noted that the project will further strategies in the North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to strengthen the economy of the north central Florida region.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Chestnut informed the Council that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on May 27, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.



Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair

5/27/21
Date