

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Via Communications Media Technology

January 27, 2022
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
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
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
Ward Ketring, City of Perry
Travis Land, Suwannee County
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County
Donnie Waldrep, Madison County
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristin Adkins, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Glass, Suwannee River Water
Management District

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mary Alford, Alachua County
David Arreola, City of Gainesville
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
Reina Saco, City of Gainesville
James Tallman, Union County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Toby Witt, Columbia County

OTHERS PRESENT

Jason Lauritsen

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons
Tara Tucker
Lauren Yeatter

Executive Committee Members names are bold
Gubernatorial Members names are italicize

I. INVOCATION

Noting a quorum of the Council being present, Chair Thomas Demps called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and gave the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. INTRODUCTIONS - None

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes - December 9, 2021

B. Monthly Financial Reports - November 2021 and December 2021

C. Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Program Community Transportation Coordinator Selection for Madison County

D. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointment

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

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

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Jason Lauritsen, Chief Conservation Officer, Florida Wildlife Corridor Coalition

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Jason Lauritsen, Chief Conservation Officer, Florida Wildlife Corridor Coalition. Mr. Lauritsen gave a presentation to the Council concerning the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Chair Demps thanked Mr. Lauritsen for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT -

A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Charles Harris
2. John Meeks

ACTION: Commissioner Wheeler made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson, to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation for former Transportation Disadvantaged Program members Charles Harris, Central Florida Community Action Agency Representative voting member on the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board and John Meeks, who served as the Chair of the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Proclamation Proclaiming February 21-27, 2022 Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

Mr. Koons stated that the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee has designated the week of February 21, 2022 thru February 27, 2022 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week and that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council join in this public outreach effort by proclaiming the week of February 21, 2022 thru February 27, 2022 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in the north central Florida region.

ACTION: Commissioner Brown made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson, to approve the attached proclamation declaring the week of February 21, 2022 - February 27, 2022 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in north central Florida region. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution Supporting Creation of a Statewide Coordinated Planning and Prioritization Approach for Water Resource Investments Modeled on the Florida Transportation Commission

Mr. Koons stated that the Water and Environmental Sustainability Committee of the Florida Association of Counties recently proposed modeling state water resource investments on the Florida Transportation Commission and Florida Transportation Plan approach for planning, prioritization, a predictable multi-year capital construction program and oversight which reliably delivers transportation improvements.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler, to adopt attached Resolution No. 2022-01 Supporting Creation of a Statewide Coordinated Planning and Prioritization Approach for Water Resource Investments Modeled on the Florida Transportation Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson, 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.

- #32 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-4ESR)
- #35 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-8ESR)
- #36 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-9ESR)
- #37 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #38 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-2ESR)
- #39 - Town of Inglis Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #41 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-3ESR)
- #42 - City of Lake Butler Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #44 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #45 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR)
- #47 - Town of Mayo Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #48 - City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)

Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson 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. She stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #32 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-4ESR); Item #35 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-8ESR); Item #36 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-9ESR); Item #37 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #38 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #39 - Town of Inglis Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #41 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-3ESR); Item #42 - City of Lake Butler Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #44 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #45 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR); Item #47 - Town of Mayo Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #48 - City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS - None

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

B. Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Immediate Past Chair Charles Chestnut IV, Former Chair Lorene Thomas, Former Chair Robert Wilford and he attended the semi-annual forum of the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board held virtually via communications media technology on January 14, 2022.

Mr. Koons stated the Policy Board heard presentations from Secretary Shawn Hamilton, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Director Kevin Guthrie, Florida Division of Emergency Management. He also stated the Policy Board also heard reports on proposed building inspection legislation, a sentinel landscape project involving the Avon Park Air Force Range, a statewide water resource investment planning and programming proposal, and received the 2020-21 Florida Regional Councils Association Annual Report. In conclusion, Mr. Koons stated the Policy Board heard a legislative report.

C. 2020-21 Florida Regional Council Association Annual Report

Mr. Koons presented the 2020-21 Annual Report of the Florida Regional Councils Association that was included in the Council meeting packet. He stated the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide association of all ten regional councils in Florida. Mr. Koons noted 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 ten executive directors. He stated the following members of the Council currently serve on the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board: Charles Chestnut IV, Immediate Past Chair; Lorene Thomas, Past Chair; and Robert Wilford, Past Chair. In conclusion, Mr. Koons stated the activities of the Council are featured on pages 2, 8, 10, 11 and 12 of the annual report.

D. 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 January 2022 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

E. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons stated the 2022 Legislature Session convened on January 11, 2022 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 11, 2022. He reported on the status of bills of interest to the Council and member local governments.

F. Florida Job 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 stated in its first year, Fiscal Year 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), the Florida Job Growth Fund provided \$85 million. Mr. Koons stated the Fiscal Year 2021-22 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) state budget provides \$50 million for public infrastructure and job training projects that support growth and employment in Florida's diverse industries. He noted that public infrastructure projects can include transportation and utilities needed to support economic development.

Mr. Koons stated that, in December 2021, the Big Bend Technical College, located in Perry, received a \$90,000 Florida Job Growth Fund grant award for a Virtual Reality and High Tech Manikin Training Laboratory. He reported that the funds will be used to purchase state-of-the-art programmable manikins and virtual reality equipment and software to replicate real-world scenarios to supplement clinical experiences to train nurses and patient care technicians.

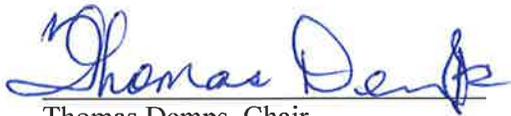
XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Wilford, City of Alachua, stated that he will not be seeking re-election to a fourth term in April 2022. He thanked the Council and staff for their support during his tenure as Chair of the Council.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Demps stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on February 24, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.


Thomas Demps, Chair

2/24/22
Date

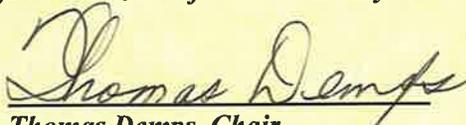
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Charles Harris has served as the Central Florida Community Action Agency Representative on the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since May 2018; and

WHEREAS, Charles Harris ably discharged the duties of the Central Florida Community Action Agency Representative on the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Charles Harris for dedicated service rendered to the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Levy County and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the community to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Charles Harris.


Thomas Demps, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

January 27, 2022

Date

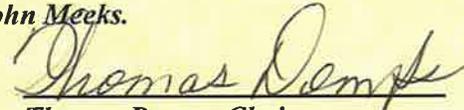
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Commissioner John Meeks has served as Chair of the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since March 2021; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner John Meeks ably discharged the duties as Chair of the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Commissioner John Meeks for dedicated service rendered to the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Levy County and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the community to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Commissioner John Meeks.


Thomas Demps, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

January 27, 2022
Date



PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 21, 2022 - FEBRUARY 27, 2022 AS HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, the safe use of hazardous materials is essential to citizens, business, industry and local governments to maintain economic stability and the public health; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of protecting our communities from both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials and joins the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, and numerous municipalities, counties and school boards, in publicly promoting community hazardous materials safety; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for local governments, regional planning councils and local emergency planning committees to work together to increase community safety by encouraging emergency responders to attend free training on how to safely respond to releases of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, citizens need to know that local governments, businesses, emergency responders and emergency planners are working together to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible for both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the week of February 21, 2022 - February 27, 2022 as *Hazardous Materials Awareness Week* throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 27th day of January 2022.

ATTEST:

SEAL

Janice D. Mortimer, Secretary-Treasurer

Thomas Demps, Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SUPPORTING CREATION OF
A STATEWIDE COORDINATED PLANNING AND
PRIORITIZATION APPROACH FOR WATER RESOURCE
INVESTMENTS MODELLED ON THE FLORIDA
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is a multi-purpose regional governmental entity with policy responsibility in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, natural resources and regional transportation; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council's geographical area is comprised of Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties and the 40 municipalities contained therein and home to over one-half million people; and

WHEREAS, the coastal marshes, rivers, lakes, wetlands and aquifers of the Region are identified as Natural Resources of Regional Significance in the Council's Strategic Regional Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, significant challenges face Florida in meeting the need for drinking water while also treating our sewage and protecting the environment; and

WHEREAS, a significant roadblock to effectively addressing the water challenges facing Florida is the fractured nature of responsibility for water and the uncoordinated investment of funds to meet our needs; and

WHEREAS, funding at the state level has been subject to shifting legislative priorities and local perspectives rather than a strategic approach, leading to inefficiencies and a growing backlog of needed infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, recognizing this situation, the Water and Environmental Sustainability Committee of the Florida Association of Counties recently proposed modeling state water resource investment on the Florida Transportation Commission and Florida Transportation Plan approach for planning, prioritization, a predictable multi-year capital construction program and oversight which reliably delivers transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, coordinated and efficient investment of sufficient state funding for regional systems in concert with local funding of local systems is needed in order to meet water needs and protect water resources and the environment now and into the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council that:

Section 1. The above recitals are declared to be true and correct and are hereby made a part of this resolution.

Section 2. The Council expresses its support for statutory changes that will lead to coordinated and strategic investment of state funds for water resources using a structure modeled on the Florida Transportation Commission and Florida Transportation Plan.

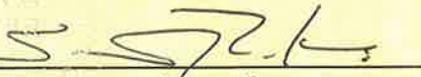
Section 3. A copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida League of Cities and all regional planning councils in Florida.

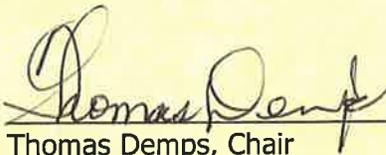
Section 4. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 27th day of January 2022.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:


Scott R. Koons, Executive Director


Thomas Demps, Chair