

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Via Communications Media Technology

March 24, 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
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville
Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer
Travis Land, Suwannee County
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Reina Saco, City of Gainesville
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Donnie Waldrep, Madison County
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristin Adkins, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Logan Benedict, Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
Ben Glass, Suwannee River
Water Management District
David Tyler, Florida Department
of Transportation

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mary Alford, Alachua County
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Cynthia Chestnut, City of Gainesville
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
Ward Ketring, City of Perry
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler
James Tallman, Union County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Toby Witt, Columbia County

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Davis
Laura Jones
Stew Lilker
Britney Moore

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons
Lauren Yeatter
Tara Tucker

Executive Committee Members names are bold
Gubernatorial Members names are italicize

2 Proclamation Declaring April 11-15, 2022 Community Development Week

Chair Demps stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation declaring April 11-15, 2022 as Community Development Week in the north central Florida region. He further stated that Community Development Week is to bring attention to the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

ACTION: Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks, to adopt the proclamation proclaiming April 11-15, 2022 as Community Development Week, 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 Brown, Vice-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.

- #65 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR)
- #66 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER)
- #67 - City of Waldo Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR)
- #68 - City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER)
- #69 - City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)

Commissioner Brown 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 Brown made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #65 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ESR); Item #66 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER); #67 - City of Waldo Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR); #68 - City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER); and Item #69 - City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Program Committee - 2022-23 Overall Program Design

Commissioner Adams, Vice-Chair of the Council and Program Committee Chair, gave the Program Committee Report. He stated that the Program Committee met virtually via communications media technology earlier in the evening to review a draft of the Overall Program Design for the coming year. Commissioner Adams stated that this document is to be used as a basis for the development of a budget and is also to give instruction to staff as to the work which is to be done during the next year. He stated that there are no changes proposed in the Overall Program Design which include new programs not previously discussed and/or approved by the Council. In conclusion, Commissioner Adams finally stated the Committee anticipates recommending the Overall Program Design to the Council for adoption at the May 26, 2022 Council meeting.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

David Tyler, Rural Transportation Planning Manager, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, stated that the Florida Department of Transportation will be hosting a Rail and Transit Regional Listening Session on March 29, 2022 at the Urban Area Office in Jacksonville. Also, he reported that District 2 is currently reviewing Small County Road Assistance Program grant applications and the Small County Outreach Program grant applications recently submitted by local governments to District 2.

Logan Benedict, Climate Adaptation Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, discussed the Florida Fish and Wildlife Strategic Conservation Initiative.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed the Florida Department of Transportation upcoming rail and transit regional listening session on March 29, 2022 in Jacksonville.

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 February 2022 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the February 2022 report.

B. Florida Regional Councils Association Forward Newsletter

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Council Association distributes an electronic newsletter each month to approximately 2,300 elected officials, state agencies, partner organizations and interested individuals statewide. He discussed an article from the February 2022 monthly Forward Newsletter that was included in the Council meeting packet featuring the staff services provided by the Council to The Original Florida Tourism Task Force, a multi-county destination marketing organization promoting nature-based, heritage based and cultural-based tourism in the north central Florida region. Mr. Koons stated the area consists of 14 predominantly rural counties and covers approximately 10,000 square miles. He noted that the Task Force brands and markets the region as Visit Natural North Florida. In conclusion, Mr. Koons stated marketing activities of the Task Force include a website, digital and print advertising campaigns, distribution of brochures, a quarterly electronic newsletter, and attendance at travel shows.

C. 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 March 2022 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

D. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons stated the 2022 Legislature Session convened on January 11, 2022 and adjourn on March 14, 2022. He reported on the status of bills of interest to the Council and member local governments.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson thanked the Council for their thoughts and prayers for her and her family concerning the death of her sister. She also thanked Clearinghouse Committee Vice-Chair Brown for chairing the Clearinghouse Committee meeting and presenting the Clearinghouse Committee report.

Mayor Mortimer invited Council members to attend the Bradford County Strawberry Festival to be held on April 2-3, 2022 in Starke.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Demps stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on April 28, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.


Thomas Demps, Chair

4/28/22
Date

Resolution

OF APPRECIATION

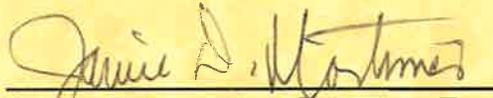
WHEREAS, David Arreola has been representing the City of Gainesville on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since May 2017;

WHEREAS, David Arreola has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to David Arreola for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region 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 region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of David Arreola.


Thomas Demps, Chair


Janice D. Mortimer, Secretary-Treasurer

ATTEST:

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING
OF March 24, 2022.



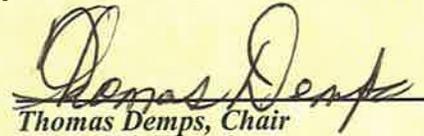
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Selvin Cray has served as the alternate Regional Workforce Board Representative on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, and the voting Regional Workforce Board Representative on the Dixie County, Gilchrist County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since April 2017; and

WHEREAS, Selvin Cray ably discharged the duties of the alternate Regional Workforce Board Representative on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, and the voting Regional Workforce Board Representative on the Dixie County, Gilchrist County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Selvin Cray for dedicated service rendered to the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, and the Dixie County, Gilchrist County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Suwannee and Union Counties 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 Selvin Cray.


Thomas Demps, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

March 24, 2022
Date



PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022 AS COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties serving more than 300 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe, vibrant and economically resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, counties move America forward by building infrastructure, maintaining roads and bridges, providing health care, administering justice, keeping communities safe, running election, managing solid waste, keeping records and much more; and

WHEREAS, counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in effective and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, in order to remain healthy, vibrant, safe and economically competitive, America's counties provide transportation and infrastructure services that play a key role in everything from daily commutes to shipping goods around the world; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties has designated April as County Government Month and encouraged counties across the country to actively promote their programs and services to the public they serve.

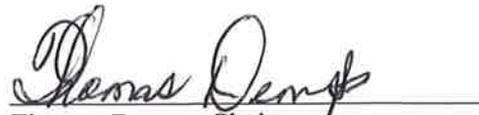
NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, hereby proclaims April 2021 as County Government Month throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 24th day of March 2022.

ATTEST:

SEAL


Janice D. Mortimer, Secretary-Treasurer


Thomas Demps, Chair



PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 11-15, 2022 AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK

WHEREAS, the week of April 11-15, 2022 has been designated as National Community Development Week to recognize and celebrate the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program; and

WHEREAS, since 1975, the Community Development Block Grant Program has provided funding and flexibility to local communities to provide affordable housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, since, 1992, the HOME Program has created and preserved affordable housing for low-income families; and

WHEREAS, communities across the north central Florida region have made contributions to the viability of the housing stock, infrastructure, public services and economic vitality of their communities using federal funding from these two programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, hereby proclaims April 11-15, 2022 as National Community Development Week in the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 24th day of March 2022.

ATTEST:

SEAL


Janice D. Mortimer, Secretary-Treasurer


Thomas Demps, Chair