

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCFRPC)  
MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL) FOR MARCH, APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE**

**ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING (JULY 27, 2015)**

**ROBERT W. WILFORD, ALACHUA CITY COMMISSIONER  
ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION LIAISON TO NCFRPC**

**Commissioner Wilford Note:** As a result of action taken in the recently completed legislative session, NCFRC is now comprised of the following thirteen counties: Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy (New), Madison, Marion (New), Suwannee, Taylor, and Union Counties. These notes cover four council meetings.

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**At** the March 26 meeting, Jim Wood, State Transportation Planning Administrator, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) made a presentation outlining the long-range plan for FDOT as well as the Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan and the Future Corridors Initiative.

**At** the April 23 meeting, Susan Davenport, Vice President for Economic Development, Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce made a presentation concerning economic development initiatives in Gainesville and surrounding areas. Ms. Davenport was very complimentary regarding the tremendous economic development activities which are ongoing in the City of Alachua.

**At** the May 23 meeting, Scott Koons, Executive Director, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC), made a presentation reviewing council activities during the past year in the Regional Planning, Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance, Economic Development, Local Government Assistance, and Transportation programs. Mr. Koons highlighted the services NCFRPC provides which benefit its local governments including community planning assistance, grant application and administrative services, transportation planning assistance, hazardous waste monitoring, emergency response planning assistance, and economic development activities.

**At** the June 25 meeting, Steven Dopp, NCFRPC Senior Planner for Regional Planning, made a presentation regarding regional tourism concepts and the activities of the Regional Florida Tourism Task Force. Mr. Dopp reported the four main areas of emphasis of the task force are attending national and international travel shows, advertising the region's many tourism attractions, marketing activities including the production of brochures and other informational materials, and maintaining several websites as a promotional tool for the region.

**Minutes of Previous Council Meetings**

**Motions** were approved at the individual meetings to accept the March, April, and May minutes.

**Consent Agenda**

**The** following consent agenda items were approved at the four meetings:

- Monthly financial reports for February, March, April, and May.
- U.S. Economic Development Administration Short Term Planning and State Grant Agreement.
- FDOT Joint Participation Agreement and Resolution.
- Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) membership certificates.
- TDLCB appointments.
- Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Re Economic Modeling, Inc.
- Meeting Schedule for Program Year 2015/2016.

- Amendment to Research Agreement with the University of Florida.
- Agreement with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hazard Analyses.
- Transportation Disadvantaged Program Designated Official Planning Agency for Levy County.
- Local Government Community Redevelopment Planning Services Agreement for Live Oak (FY 14/15).
- Local Government Local Mitigation Strategy Update Services Agreement for Levy County (FY 14/15).

#### **Chair Report (Carolyn Spooner - March - May and Daniel Riddick - June)**

##### **Introduction of New Council Members**

**The** following new NCFRPC members were introduced at the March meeting: William Hunter (Gubernatorial Appointee for Hamilton County) and Daniel Webb (Gubernatorial Appointee for Union County). The following new member was introduced at the April meeting: Doug Jones (Mayor of Archer).

##### **Resolutions of Appreciation**

**The** following resolutions for NCFRPC members were approved: Charles Williams (Gubernatorial Appointee) and Lauren Poe (Gainesville City Commission). The following resolutions for Transportation for the Disadvantaged Program members were approved: Jeanette d'Eauede, Alicia Fowler, Casey Ladd, Alana McKay, Jerry Pratter, Patricia Bonsteel, Patricia Fountain, Matthew Pearson, and Larry Sessions.

##### **NCFRPC Committee Appointments for 2015/2016**

**A** motion was approved regarding the membership of committees for the upcoming year. **NOTE:** Commissioner Chestnut (Alachua County Board of County Commissioners), Randy Wells (Gainesville City Commission), and Commissioner Wilford (Alachua City Commission) will serve on the Regional Planning Committee with Commissioner Wells chairing this committee. Commissioner Wells will also serve on the Clearinghouse Committee and Finance Committee. Commissioner Cornell (Alachua County Board of County Commissioners) will serve on the Finance Committee and be the Vice Chair of this committee. Mayor Davis (Waldo) will serve on the Executive Committee. Commissioner DeLoris Roberts (City of Hawthorne) will serve on the Program Committee. Commissioners Chestnut and Wilford and Mayor Davis will serve on the NCFRPC Board of Directors.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Executive**

**A** proclamation was approved declaring May 2 - 10, 2015, as Travel and Tourism Week.

**At** the May 28, 2015, meeting, Mr. Koons reported Senate Bill 1216 eliminated the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council and transferred Levy and Marion Counties to NCFRPC. Mr. Koons also indicated, in order to add these two new counties to NCFRPC, the existing member local governments will be required to amend the interlocal agreement. In addition, the Executive Committee is recommending the council consider making several amendments to the interlocal agreement. These amendments will address the following provisions: geographic area, governance structure, additional representatives, and dues credit.

The first amendment will add Levy and Marion Counties to NCFRPC.

The second amendment will address changing the governance structure of NCFRPC. The current structure provides representation based on population. Based on the current structure, the addition of Levy and Marion Counties would result in NCFRPC increasing from 48 members to 66 members. The Executive Committee reviewed three options and is recommending the population-based representation be deleted from local agreements resulting in 39 members serving on the council.

The third amendment will delete the additional representative provision. However, the interlocal agreement does provide for a member local government to appoint additional representatives if requested by the council to ensure representation of minority populations to maintain the required proportion of local elected officials.

The fourth amendment will delete the dues credit provision. The current interlocal agreement includes a provision for a dues credit to certain local governments of an amount equal to one percent of funds expended on planning activities during the preceding fiscal year. Mr. Koons stated the dues credit could not lower the dues assessment to an amount less than \$20,000. Only Alachua County and the City of Gainesville are currently eligible for the dues credit.

Mr. Koons indicated specific language will be prepared for the council for action at the June 25, 2015, meeting.

**At** the June 25, 2015, meeting, a motion was approved amending the “Interlocal Agreement Creating the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.” The following Gainesville City Commission members voted against the motion: Mayor Braddy and Commissioners Budd, Wells, and Warren. Each member local government will be requested to amend the “Interlocal Agreement Creating the North Florida Regional Planning Council.”

### **Clearinghouse**

**A** motion was approved regarding a Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment.

**A** motion was approved regarding a City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment.

**A** motion was approved regarding a City of Perry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment.

**A** motion was approved regarding a City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment.

**A** motion was approved regarding a Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment.

**A** motion was approved regarding a City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment.

**A** motion was approved regarding a Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment.

**A** motion was approved regarding a City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment.

### **Regional Planning**

**Each** Florida regional planning council is required to perform an “Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR)” every five years of its strategic regional policy plan in a manner similar to the process which is required by local governments. The due date for NCFRPC’s next EAR is January 1, 2016. The purpose of an EAR is to identify those areas of the plan in need of revision based upon new information, new or changing state comprehensive plan policy, or changing regional trends and conditions. The specific guidance for performing an EAR review is provided in *Rule 27 E-5, Florida Administrative Code*. An EAR consists of two steps. The first step involves the preparation and adoption of the EAR itself while the second step involves the preparation of amendments, if applicable, to the strategic regional plan. Such amendments are required by the guidelines specified in the aforementioned *Rule 27 E-5, Florida Administrative Code* to occur within one year of the EAR due date.

The NCFRPC strategic regional policy plan contains five subject areas of concern. They are:

- Affordable Housing which was reviewed at the February meeting.
- Economic Development which was reviewed at the March meeting.

- Emergency Preparedness which was reviewed at the April meeting.
- Natural Resources of Regional Significance which was reviewed at the May meeting.
- Regional Transportation which was reviewed at the June meeting.

In addition, the plan contains lists and maps of regionally significant resources and facilities, a coordination outline, an appendix containing the council's dispute resolution rule, a glossary of terms, maps of natural resources of significance, and descriptions of the listed species' habitats.

**Commissioner Wilford Note:** Interested parties are encouraged to review the NCFRPC January report which outlines the conditions and trends, problems, needs and opportunities, and goals and policies for each subject area of concern. This report was presented to the Alachua City Commission at its February 23, 2015, meeting.

The remaining schedule of committee meetings in finalizing the EAR is:

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TOPIC</u></b>
July 2015	Regionally Significant Resources and Facilities. Appendix. Executive Summary. Introduction Coordination Outline.
August 2015	Committee Approval of Draft EAR. EAR Forwarded to Council for Consideration at September 2015 Council Meeting.
September 2015	Council Adoption of EAR. EAR Forwarded to Executive Office of the Governor, State Agencies, and Local Governments.

**COMMISSIONER WILFORD NOTE:** The members serving on the Regional Planning Committee representing Alachua County are: Commissioner Charles Chestnut, IV (Alachua County Board of County Commissioners), Commissioner Randy Wells (Gainesville City Commission), and Commissioner Robert W. Wilford (Alachua City Commission). Commissioner Wells is chairing the committee and Steven Dopp, NCFRPC Senior Planner for Regional Planning, is serving as staff liaison to the committee.

#### **Ex-Officio Member Reports**

##### **Jordan Green, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT - District 2)**

**Mr.** Green stated at the March meeting FDOT had held a "Construction Career Day" in Jacksonville. This career day focused on construction workers, industry and design consultants, and inspection consultants.

##### **Russell Simpson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)**

**Mr.** Simpson stated at the March meeting FDEP is working on redevelopment and contaminated sites. He indicated at the May meeting district staff will be conducting a workshop in Jacksonville regarding medical waste and disposal on June 9.

##### **Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water Management District (SWRMD)**

**Mr.** Herd reported at the March meeting SWRMD the Lower Santa Fe and Ichteculknee River Minimum Flows rule recently became effective. He also indicated local cost share grants for water quantity and quality were available from the district. Mr. Herd reported at the April meeting SWRMD was closely monitoring *Senate Bill 918* regarding Florida's springs. At the May meeting, Mr.

Herd indicated Ann Shortelle, SRWMD Executive Director, had accepted the Executive Director position with St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). He stated at the June meeting the district has received \$47.5 million in springs funding.

### **Citizen Comments**

*There* were no citizen comments at any of the meetings.

### **Executive Director Report (Scott Koons)**

#### **Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Monthly Activity Reports**

*Florida's* 11 (now 10 due to recent legislative action) regional planning councils have been in existence since the early 1960s. The FRCA is the statewide organization of the regional planning councils existing to strengthen its individual and collective efforts, partner with government and business entities thereby enhancing regional economic prosperity, and improve the consistency and quality of regional planning councils' programs to ensure they add value to state, regional, and local initiatives. A policy board, which is comprised of three representatives (county, municipal, and gubernatorial) from each regional planning council, governs the association while the Executive Directors of the 11 regional planning councils advise the policy board.

FRCA is committed to:

- Ensuring regional planning councils are effective service organizations to the state, its local governments, and the citizens they serve.
- Ensuring regional planning councils are consensus builders and problem solvers who serve as conveners of the region by helping to articulate multijurisdictional issues that need resolution.
- Encouraging and promoting opportunities for regional planning councils to become partners in state programs and initiatives while observing the unique themes of each region within the state and legislative environments.
- Monitoring substantive state and federal legislative issues for the benefit of its members and promoting mutually supportive policy positions among the regional planning councils.
- Representing regional planning councils in national and regional organizations such as the National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Development Organizations, and Southeast Regional Directors Institute.
- Fostering and coordinating relationships with state, regional, and national associations and organizations, nonprofit entities, public-private partnerships, the governor's office, state agencies, and others related to issues of mutual interest and concern mirroring FRCA's goals and programs.

The monthly reports included outreach, resource development/capacity building, legislative support, and association management activities for the March, April, May, and June council meetings as reported by FRCA's Executive Director.

### **Legislative Report**

A summary of bills introduced at the latest legislative session will be presented at the July meeting.

### **NCFRPC Annual Report for 2014**

**Report** was mailed to council members, local governments, and federal, state and local partners which included a list of accomplishments and the council's financial status.

#### **Letter from Congressman Yoho**

A letter was received from Congressman Yoho congratulating the council for receiving a National Association of Development Organizations award for 2014 for the development of a method to use geographic information system data to evaluate the success of safety improvements on the highway system(s).

#### **Chamber Foundation Scorecard**

**The** Florida Chamber Foundation developed the Florida Scorecard to provide state leaders with the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. In performing this task, the Florida Chamber's primary objective is to develop a 20-year statewide strategic plan which requires a commitment to measuring the state's current status toward accomplishing the stated goals of the "Six Pillars" which were established to measure trends and progress. The "Six Pillars" incorporate the strategic thinking of a diverse range of stakeholders including Century Commission for a Sustainable Future, Florida Council of 100, Enterprise Florida, Florida State University, Workforce Florida, 1000 Friends of Florida, and others. Metrics for each of the "Six Pillars" are reported on a regular basis in the Florida Scorecard and are benchmarked to the nation's other 49 states for relative comparison of success. The six pillars are:

- Talent Supply and Education.
- Innovation and Economic Development.
- Infrastructure and Growth Leadership.
- Business Climate and Competitiveness.
- Civic and Government Systems.
- Quality of Life and Places.

The Florida Scorecard was reviewed at the March, April, May, and June council meetings. Florida continues to fare well in five of the pillars. However, in the Talent Supply and Education pillar, Florida still ranks around 38th in the country and there remains a critical need for increasing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills in the state.

#### **Check Fraud Status Report (Wells Fargo)**

**The** council remains in litigation with Wells Fargo over a disputed check in the amount of \$49,523 which the bank honored on March 20, 2013, which was not approved or signed by an authorized NCFRPC signatory. After many months of legal maneuvering, a hearing was held on January 24, 2014, in the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County on the motion to compel arbitration filed by Wells Fargo to resolve the dispute between NCFRPC and Wells Fargo. At the conclusion of the hearing, the court granted the motion to compel arbitration which will be binding on both parties. Following one year of additional legal maneuvering (haggling) regarding the selection of an arbitrator, both parties, NCFRPC and Wells Fargo, mutually agreed to select an arbitrator who is located in Jacksonville. The hearing was scheduled for June 22, 2015, in Gainesville. In contesting the action of Wells Fargo in this matter, the legal fees for NCFRPC as of April 2015 are \$44,568. Upon receiving a question from the floor at several meetings concerning the reimbursement of legal fees providing NCFRPC is successful in prevailing in this dispute, NCFRPC's legal representative, Jonathan Wershow, Attorney at Law, indicated reimbursement of legal fees would be requested as part of the settlement but there is little likelihood the council will be reimbursed for legal fees.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of NCFRPC will be held on July 23, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Lake City.

#### **NCFRPC Contact Information**

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**NOTE:** In addition to representing the Alachua City Commission on NCFRPC, Robert W. Wilford, Alachua City Commissioner, serves as a member of the council's Board of Directors and Regional Planning Committee.