

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCFRPC)  
MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL) FOR AUGUST 27, 2015**

**ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING (SEPTEMBER 28, 2015)**

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

**Commissioner Wilford Note:** As a result of action taken in the 2015 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.

---

**Guest Speaker**

***Steven Dopp***, Senior Planner, Regional Planning, provided an overview of the activities of the Regional Planning Committee. Refer to "Regional Planning" under the "Committee" agenda item which summarizes Mr. Dopp's presentation.

**Minutes of Previous Council Meeting**

***Motion*** was approved to accept the July 23, 2015, minutes.

**Consent Agenda**

***The*** following consent agenda items were approved:

- Monthly financial report for July 2015.
- Agreement with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness for FY 15/16.
- Local government comprehensive planning assistance services agreements for FY 15/16.
- Hazardous waste monitoring verification and notification services agreements for FY 15/16.
- Local mitigation strategy facilitation services agreement.
- Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board appointments.
- Amendment to agreement with the Florida Department of Emergency Management for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness for FY 15/16.

**Chair Report (Daniel Riddick)**

**Resolution of Appreciation**

***Action*** was deferred until a later date on one Transportation Disadvantaged Program resolution of appreciation.

**Committee Reports**

## Executive

A motion was approved proclaiming the week of September 13 - 20 as "Hazardous Materials Awareness Week."

A resolution was approved recognizing Terry Joseph, Executive Director of the West Florida Regional Planning Council, who is retiring after 31 years of service 10 of which were at the Executive Director level.

A resolution was approved recognizing Manny Pumariaga, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, who is retiring after 35 years of service 16 of which were at the Executive Director level.

A discussion was held regarding amendments to the interlocal agreement(s). This action is necessary since the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council was eliminated resulting in Marion and Levy Counties being assimilated into NCFRPC. The current population-based representation formula would increase the total number of representatives from 48 to 66.

At the June 25, 2015, meeting the council, on a seven (7) yeas and five (5) nays vote, recommended amendments to the interlocal agreement(s) to be submitted to local governments. The amendments addressed the following provisions:

- Geographical area.
- Governance structure.
- Additional Representatives.
- Dues credit.

Subsequent to the June 25, 2015, meeting, representatives of the Gainesville City Commission have suggested several alternative options to address the governance structure of the council as it relates to local government representatives. The Executive Committee is reviewing these options which are:

- **Option 1:** Adoption of this option would eliminate the population-based system resulting in 39 representatives on the council and change the per capita population-based dues assessment from the current 30 cents per capita to each member local government paying an equal share of \$8,425 of the total dues assessment amount of \$219,050. **NOTE:** If this plan is adopted, the City of Alachua's share would increase from \$2,844 to \$8,425 per year.
- **Option 2:** Adoption of this option would retain a modified population-based representation formula with any member local government with a population of 100,000 or more having three representatives which would result in a total of 48 representatives on the council as well as retaining the proportional dues assessment on a per capita population basis. **NOTE:** If this plan is adopted, the City of Alachua's share would remain at \$2,844 per year based on a population of 9,479.
- **Option 3:** Adoption of this option would retain a modified population-based representation formula with any member local government with a population of 100,000 or more having three representatives, any member local government with a population of 250,000 having four representatives, and any member local government with a population of 500,000 or more having five representatives which would result in a total of 51 representatives on the council.

The Executive Committee is recommending "Option 2." This item will be on the agenda at the September meeting.

## Clearinghouse

A motion was approved regarding Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments for Gainesville.

A motion was approved regarding a Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment for Suwannee County.

A motion was approved regarding a Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment for Fanning Springs.

### **Regional Planning**

**Each** Florida regional planning council is required to perform an “Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR)” every five years for 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 and a list of significant resources and facilities, the appendix, an executive summary, and an introduction to a coordination outline. Items were reviewed as indicated:

- 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
- List of significant resources and facilities which was reviewed at the July meeting.
- Appendix which was reviewed at the July meeting.
- Executive summary which was reviewed at the July meeting.
- Introduction to the coordination outline was reviewed at the August meeting.

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. These items were reviewed at the August meeting. It was noted that a minimum of three public hearings will be conducted at different locations in the thirteen counties with one being conducted in Marion County.

**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>
September 2015	Council Adoption of EAR.
January 2016	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.

## **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic**

*The* council has been designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration as an “Economic Development District” since 1978. As such, the council is responsible for developing and adopting a comprehensive strategy whose purpose is to analyze the regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. This committee’s focus is on bringing the public and private sectors into a partnership which includes representatives from the public sector, community leaders, workforce development boards, higher education, and minority and labor groups. The council adopted the current strategy in September 2012. The committee met on August 19, 2015, to review activities conducted during the past six months in support of the goals and objectives of the strategy.

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

#### **Bill Henderson, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT - District 2)**

*Mr.* Henderson was not in attendance. No report was given.

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

*Mr.* Simpson reported a hazardous materials workshop will be conducted in Gainesville on November 3, at the Eastside Facility of Gainesville Regional Utility.

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

*Mr.* Herd was not in attendance. No report was given.

### **Citizen Comments**

*One* citizen in attendance commented on internet broadband abuses in North Central Florida and recommended the council becoming involved in seeking grants from the federal government designated for rural broadband initiatives.

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

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

*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 10 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 written report, which is prepared by Martha Lord, FRCA's Director for Intergovernmental Affairs, for July 2015, included a summary of outreach, resource development/capacity building, legislative support, and association management activities.

### **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 the 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. Florida continues to fare well in five of the pillars. However, in the Talent Supply and Education pillar, Florida still ranks around 37th in the country and there remains a critical need for increasing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills in the state. Interesting facts in this month's report include:

- Florida's employment rate has dropped from 6.1% to 5.5% in the past year.
- Current average hourly earnings in Florida are \$22.52 while across the nation they are \$24.96.
- Jobs created in Florida since December 2010 was 870,500.
- Home sales have increased 10% in the past year.
- The state had 28.4 million visitors in the past year resulting in the generation of 25% of the Florida sales tax.
- High school graduation rate in 2003-2004 was 59.2% while in 2013-2014 it was 76.1%.
- Adult heart disease has decreased since 2000.
- New jobs needed in Florida in 2020 is expected to be 800,000.
- New jobs needed in Florida in 2030 is expected to be 2,000,000.

## **Regional Directory**

**The** 2015 regional directory was mailed to local, regional, state, and federal officials. **NOTE:** A downloadable version in “PDF” format is available on the council’s website at [www.ncfrpc.org](http://www.ncfrpc.org).

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

**The** council completed 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 was 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 was located in Jacksonville. ***The final hearing was held on June 22, 2015, in Gainesville and the arbitrator issued his ruling on August 4, 2015, in favor of Wells Fargo.*** In contesting the action of Wells Fargo in this matter, the final legal fees for NCFRPC were \$61,642.

## **Next Meeting**

**The** next meeting of NCFRPC will be held on September 24, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Lake City.

## **NCFRPC Contact Information**

Scott Koons, Executive Director  
North Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
2009 N.W. 67th Place  
Gainesville, FL 32653

352.955.2200 (Extension 101)  
352.955.2209 (Fax)

koons@ncfrpc.org (Email)  
[www.ncfrpc.org](http://www.ncfrpc.org) (Website)

**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.