

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCFRPC)  
MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL) FOR SEPTEMBER 24, 2015**

**ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING (OCTOBER 26, 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.

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**Guest Speaker**

***Steven Dopp***, NCFRPC Senior Planner, provided an overview of the activities of the functions and activities of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program (TDP) in North Central Florida. He indicated TDP is established by *Florida Statutes, Chapter 427*, and *Florida Administrative Code, Rule 41-2*. The general purpose of the TDP is to provide transportation services to persons who are unable to transport themselves because of income, age, or disability. Support for nine transportation boards in North Central Florida is provided by NCFRPC. Members of these boards represent local and state agencies as well as private citizens. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged provides statewide policy guidance and oversight of the program.

**Commissioner Wilford Note:** The provider for services in Alachua County is MV Transportation, Inc., 3713 S.W. 42nd Avenue, Suite 3, Gainesville, FL 32608, 352.375.2784. Eligible riders include: *Americans with Disabilities Act* persons, persons on Medicaid, private pay customers, and transportation disadvantaged persons. Ridership is offered for education, employment, medical, nourishment, recreation, and shopping purposes. The approximate cost is: three dollars (\$3.00) each way for transportation disadvantaged and *Americans with Disabilities Act* persons, two dollars (\$2.00) each way for *Americans with Disabilities Act* persons going to dialysis treatment facilities, and one dollar (\$1.00) per trip for persons on Medicaid with the possibility of receiving a waiver of payment based on individual circumstances. Private pay customers may also receive services depending on the type and availability of vehicle needed. Prices can be obtained from MV Transportation for private pay customers.

**Minutes of Previous Council Meeting**

**A** motion was approved to accept the August 27, 2015, minutes.

**Consent Agenda**

**A** motion was approved for the following consent agenda items:

- Monthly financial report for August 2015.
- Submission of a six-month extension amendment for federal assistance for a short-term planning and state planning investment grant awarded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$200,000.
- Appointments to the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards for Debbie Andrews as alternate to the Dixie and Gilchrist Counties boards, Pamela Hagley as the voting member for the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration representative for Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Madison and Union Counties boards, and Daniel Taylor as the voting public education representative for the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties boards.

## **Chair Report (Daniel Riddick)**

### **Resolution of Appreciation**

A motion was approved ratifying the appointment of William Hunter to the NCFRPC clearinghouse committee, James Montgomery as Chair of the NCFRPC clearinghouse committee, and Patricia Patterson as Vice Chair of the NCFRPC clearinghouse committee.

A resolution of appreciation was approved for Sandra Haas (Gubernatorial appointee for Suwannee County) for service on the council since July 2000.

A resolution of appreciation was approved for Keith Hatcher (Public education transportation disadvantaged program representative for Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties) since July 2013.

An employee length of service certificate was awarded to Lynn Franson-Godfrey, NCFRPC Senior Planner, Transportation Division, for service since August 20, 1990 (25 years). Ms. Franson-Godfrey provided a brief overview of the many successes of the transportation disadvantaged programs in the council's service area and especially those related to providing rides for persons in need of dialysis treatment.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Executive**

A motion was approved proclaiming October 2015 as "Community Planning Month" in the North Central Florida region.

A motion was approved proclaiming October 2, 2015, as "Local Works Day" in the North Central Florida region sponsored by the Florida Local Government Coalition. "Local Works Day" is proclaimed to celebrate the trusted services local governments provide to enhance communities throughout the state and to emphasize the importance of "Home Rule" in the decision-making process. Florida is home to 67 counties and over 400 cities, towns, and villages fulfilling a diverse range of local needs.

A motion was approved to execute an engagement letter with the auditing firm of Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants, Lake City, to conduct the FY 14/15 audit for NCFRPC, for a fee of \$15,034 with the understanding this engagement includes an audit of the council's employee pension plan for the same fiscal year.

A motion was approved to accept "Option 2" for new interlocal agreements in NCFRPC's service area. This option retains a modified population-based representative formula, with any member local government with a population of 100,000 or more having three representatives, resulting in a total 48 representatives on the council as well as retaining the proportional dues assessment based on a per capita population. Mayor Braddy, Gainesville, thanked the membership for agreeing to a compromise to NCFRPC executive committee original plans which would have affected Gainesville and Alachua County in an adverse way. Background information follows regarding these new interlocal agreements.

A discussion was held regarding amendments to the interlocal agreement(s) at the August meeting. 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 had suggested several alternative options to address the governance structure of the council as it relates to local government representatives. The Executive Committee reviewed 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. The Executive Committee is recommending "Option 2." This item was included on the agenda at the September meeting.

**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** committee reported the executive director received a score of "5.0" on a "5.0" scale for his latest annual evaluation period. Based on outstanding performance, the committee recommended a five percent (5%) merit increase for the executive director. The executive director requested this merit increase to be deferred until FY 16/17. The committee agreed.

#### **Clearinghouse**

A motion was approved regarding Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments for Lake City.

A motion was approved regarding a Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment for High Springs.

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

A motion was approved regarding the Sabal Trail Natural Gas Pipeline Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

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

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

#### **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 *Florida Administrative Code, Rule 27 E-5*. 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 *Florida Administrative Code, Rule 27 E-5*, 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 which was reviewed at the August meeting. The following items were also reviewed at the August meeting:
  - 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.
  - It was noted a minimum of three public hearings will be conducted at different locations in the thirteen counties with one being conducted in Marion County.
- It was agreed at the September meeting, based on the work accomplished by the committee, the final recommendation for the EAR will be presented at the October NCFRPC meeting to become effective at a later date once Levy and Marion Counties are assimilated into the council.

**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:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
October 2016	Adoption of EAR by the council.
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.

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

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

**Mr.** Henderson spoke about the upcoming legislative session. He indicated a workshop will be held in Lake City on November 8, 2015, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**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. Abby Johnson indicated a new executive director has been selected for the district.

**Citizen Comments**

**There** were no citizen comments.

**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 August 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.

### **Legislative Report**

**The** 2016 Florida Legislature session will convene on January 12, 2016, and adjourn on March 11, 2016. Interim committee schedules are:

- Week of September 16, 2015.
- Week of October 5, 2015.
- Week of November 2, 2015.
- Week of November 16, 2015.
- Week of November 30, 2015.

### **Next Meeting**

**The** next meeting of NCFRPC will be held on October 22, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Lake City. A meeting of the council's North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc., will convene after the council meeting.

**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 (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.