

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCFRPC)
MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL) FOR FEBRUARY 25, 2016

ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING FOR MARCH 28, 2016

ROBERT W. WILFORD, ALACHUA CITY COMMISSIONER
(ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION DELEGATE TO NCFRPC)

Commissioner Wilford Note: The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRC) is comprised of the following thirteen counties: Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union Counties.

Guest Speaker

Prior to the guest speaker's presentation, Patrick Juliano, Regional Manager, representing Chief Financial Officer, Jeff Atwater, reported there was a telephone scam occurring from individuals saying they represented the Internal Revenue Service. These callers are claiming recipients of the call(s) owed back taxes and legal action would be taken if payment of said taxes was not resolved immediately over the telephone by providing credit card information. Unfortunately, a number of citizens have fallen for this scam.

Noah Valenstein, Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District (SWRMD), was the guest speaker. Mr. Valenstein provided an overview of SWRMD's mission, projects, and programs. He indicated the focus of SWRMD was on developing partnerships, planning for adequate water supply, and managing water resources throughout North Central Florida to include an emphasis on "Minimum Flow Level" issues. Valenstein indicated there was "new" money in the FY 16/17 state budget to address springs and assistance for fiscally distressed rural communities.

Minutes of Previous Council Meetings

The minutes for council meeting for January 28, 2016, were approved.

Consent Agenda

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- Monthly financial report for January 16, 2016.
- Purchase order with the South Florida Regional Council for Coastal Flood Hazard Resiliency Training.
- Purchase order with the Dixie, Gilchrist, and Levy County Departments of Health to plan and conduct a "Mass Immunization Tabletop" exercise.

Chair Report (Daniel Riddick)

A motion was approved regarding the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Planning Grant Resolution - Fiscal year 16/17.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee (Daniel Riddick)

Marlie Sanderson, NCFRPC Assistant Executive Director, retired on February 3, 2016, as an employee of the council and also as a trustee of NCFRPC's Employee Pension Plan. A motion was approved accepting the resignation of Sanders and appointing Steven Dopp, Senior Planner, as a trustee of the NCFRPC Employee Pension Plan.

Clearinghouse (James Montgomery)

A motion was approved regarding comprehensive draft plan amendments for the Cities of Alachua, Belleview, and Chiefland, and the Counties of Alachua (two amendments), Levy, and Marion.

Regional Planning (Beth Burnam)

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 was 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 in 2015 as indicated:

- Affordable Housing at the February meeting.
- Economic Development at the March meeting.
- Emergency Preparedness at the April meeting.
- Natural Resources of Regional Significance at the May meeting.
- Regional Transportation at the June meeting
- List of significant resources and facilities at the July meeting.
- Appendix at the July meeting.
- Executive summary at the July meeting.
- Introduction to the coordination outline 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 once the plan is amended in 2016.

The committee completed its initial work in September 2015 and presented conclusions at the October 2015 council meeting. It was emphasized the report does not amend the regional plan at this time, rather it provides a basis for developing future regional plan amendments which is anticipated to occur during 2016 with final approval expected in January 2017. In addition, since Levy and Marion Counties are now included in NCFRPC's area of responsibility, it was determined regionally significant facilities and resources, which are located in these two counties and identified in the Withlacoochee Strategic Regional Policy Plan, be considered for inclusion as regionally significant facilities and resources of NCFRPC.

At the February 25, 2016, meeting of the committee, a review of the proposed amendments to the “Economic Development” element of the plan was conducted. Statistical information was reviewed regarding an analysis of economic opportunities and problems, innovation and economic development, infrastructure and growth leadership, business climate and competitiveness, civic and governance systems, and quality of life and places.

Commissioner Wilford Note: Alachua County fared well and was at top, or near the top, in all categories reported compared to the other twelve counties in the region.

Commissioner Wilford Note: The members serving on the Regional Planning Committee representing Alachua County in 2016 are Commissioner Wilford (Vice Chair) and Commissioner Charles Chestnut, IV (Alachua County Board of County Commissioners). Steven Dopp, NCFRPC Senior Planner for Regional Planning, will serve as staff liaison to the committee.

Nominating (Carolyn Spooner)

No report.

Ex-Officio Member Reports

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

Mr. Henderson briefed the council on the progress of the I-75 corridor road work.

Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water Management District (SWRMD)

No report. Mr Herd was not in attendance.

Russell Simpson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)

No report. Mr. Henderson was not in attendance.

Citizen Comments

Charles Trowbridge of White Springs stated he opposed the location of a concentrated agricultural feed operation for chickens in Columbia County.

Marshall Morper of Lake City stated he opposed fracking and a concentrated agricultural feed operation for chickens in Columbia County.

Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Save our Santa Fe River, stated she intends to request the state to designate the Santa Fe River as an area of critical state concern.

Stew Liker, the *Columbia County Observer*, stated he objected to the use of 2010 census data in the proposed update of the “Economic Development” element of the NCFRPC Regional Policy Plan.

Executive Director Report (Scott Koons)

Florida Regional Council Association (FRCA) Policy Board Meeting

Mr. Koons stated Lorene Thomas, Secretary/Treasurer, and he attended the semi-annual meeting of FRCA. He indicated the association heard presentations at the meeting from the following individuals;

- The Honorable Jack Latvala, Senator, District 20, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee.
- The Honorable Kristin Jacobs, Representative, District 96.
- Amy Baker, Coordinator, Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research.
- Jerry Parish, Chief Economist and Director of Research, Florida Chamber Foundation.
- Eric Poole, Assistant Legislative Director, Florida Association of Counties.
- David Cruz, Legislative Advocate, Florida League of Cities.

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Monthly Activity Report

Florida's 11 (now 10 due to 2015 legislative action terminating the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council) 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, includes a summary of outreach, resource development/capacity building, legislative support, and association management activities for January 2016, was not provided at this meeting.

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 in each of the meetings covered in this report. Florida continues to fare well in five of the pillars. However, in the Talent Supply and Education pillar, Florida ranks 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 the January report include:

- Florida's employment rate has dropped from 5.7% to 5.0% 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 are 984,500 since December 2010.
- Home sales have increased 12.4% in the past year with an increase of 10% in the median home sales price.
- The state had 79.1 million visitors between January 2015 and September 2015.
- 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 are expected to be 800,000.
- New jobs needed in Florida in 2030 are expected to be 2,000,000.

Legislative Report

The regular legislative session convened on January 12, 2016, and is scheduled to adjourn on March 11, 2016. Interim committee meetings commenced on September 16, 2015, and ran through November 30, 2016. The following bills are of special interest to NCFRPC:

- **Senate Bill 7000 (Developments of Regional Impact - DRIs)**. This bill proposes that development which is consistent with local government comprehensive plans is not required to undergo review pursuant to the state coordinated review process. Bill not passed.
- **Senate Bill 304 (Agritourism)**. This bill prohibits local governments from enforcing an ordinance, regulation, rule, or policy which prohibits, restricts, regulates or otherwise limits an agritourism activity on land classified as agricultural land. Bill not passed.
- **House Bill 59 (Agritourism)**. This bill is a companion bill to Senate Bill 304. Bill passed.

- **Senate Bill 552 (Water Policy)**. This bill requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to publish, update, and maintain a database of conservation lands; authorizes certain water management districts to designate and implement pilot projects; prohibits water management districts from modifying permitted allocation amounts under certain circumstances; and creates the *Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act*. Bill passed and has been signed by the governor.
- **Senate Bill 1190 (Growth Management)**. This bill authorizes the governing body of a county to employ tax increment financing; specifying that certain developments must follow the state coordinated review process; establishing deadlines for the state land planning agency to take action on recommended orders relating to certain plan amendments; providing criteria under which one approved land use may be submitted for another approved land use in certain land development agreements under certain circumstances; and specifying conditions under which certain proposed developments are not required to undergo the stated coordinated review process. Bill not passed.
- **House Bill 1361 (Growth Management)**. This bill is a companion bill to Senate Bill 1190. Bill was passed by the Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee and Local Affairs Subcommittee. Bill passed.
- **House Bill 1173 (Growth Management) - Introduced by Representatives Perry and Van Zant**. This bill requires local governments to address protection of private property rights in comprehensive plans; requires comprehensive plans to include a property rights element that addresses certain objectives; requires counties and municipalities to adopt land development regulations consistent with a property rights element; provides deadlines for local governments to adopt a private property rights element; and, requires the state planning agency to approve a private property rights element adopted by local governments if it substantially complies with specified form. Bill not passed.

North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership

The committee met on January 25, 2016. Presentations were heard from water district management staff.

National Association of Development Organizations Innovation Awards

The council received two awards from this organization for its leadership efforts.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the council will be held on April 28, 2016, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Lake City beginning at 7:30 p.m. and preceded by a meeting of the Clearinghouse Committee at 6:00 p.m. and a meeting of the Regional Planning Committee at 6:30 p.m.

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 (Facsimile)

koons@ncfrpc.org (Email)

www.ncfrpc.org (Website)

COMMISSIONER WILFORD NOTE: In addition to serving as the Alachua City Commission Delegate to NCFRPC, I perform the following functions associated with membership on the council:

- Member, Board of Directors
- Member, Finance Committee
- Vice Chair, Regional Planning Committee
- Member, Board of Directors, North Central Florida Areawide Development Company (ADCO), Inc.