

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCFRPC)
MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL) - SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING - OCTOBER 10, 2016

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

Vice Mayor 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.

Introductions (Rick Davis)

Jennifer Goff, Biological Scientist IV, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), and Jennifer Rice, Newberry City Clerk, were introduced. Other guests in attendance were also introduced.

Guest Speakers

Ginger Morgan, North Central Regional Coordinator, Landowner Assistance Program (LAP), and Josh Cucinella, Land Use Planning (LUP) Program Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), were the guest speakers. Ms. Morgan provided an overview of LAP involvement in the NCFRPC service area and around the state by concentrating primarily on the LUP functions and efforts carried out in the North Central Florida Region. Mr. Cucinella explained his role as a biologist in the LUP program. Ms. Morgan indicated FWC is divided into six operational divisions: law enforcement, hunting and game management, marine fisheries management, freshwater fisheries management, fish and wildlife research institute, and habitat and species conservation. Regional offices for FWC are located in Panama City (Northwest Region), Lake City (North Central Region), Ocala (Northeast Region), Lakeland (Southwest Region), and West Palm Beach (South Region). Ms. Morgan indicated the program has an impressive “customer friendly” history of establishing cooperative working partnerships with private landowners and managers.

Ms. Morgan stated the LUP program is generally designed to assist landowners in identifying measures to conserve wildlife and habitat while keeping land productive for numerous agricultural and recreational uses. Florida is home to 700 species of wildlife on land and more than 1,250 freshwater and marine species. In addition to each division having an on staff biologist available for consultation, an online resource guide is available which facilitates effective land use planning, project design, and habitat management with a focus on wildlife conservation. Ms. Morgan indicated it is an easy-to-use information source for fish and wildlife biology and wildlife conservation options. She also emphasized it is a valuable resource guide for:

Private Landowners with information concerning various FWC assistance programs which are available including incentive-based restoration and habitat management through the commission’s landowner assistance program.

Environmental Consultants and Landowners with information concerning recommended species-specific survey protocols, habitat management practices, and guidance regarding wildlife-friendly site design.

Public Agencies with information concerning wildlife-related protection recommendations related to minimizing impacts to wildlife and viable options for mitigation.

Following is a summary of LAP programs/services/activities/efforts which was extracted from the FWC website:

- Freshwater Conservation Programs

- Aquatic Plant Management. This program designs, funds, coordinates, and contracts invasive non-active aquatic plant control efforts in the state's 1.25 million acres of public waters.
- Aquatic Habitat Restoration/Enhancement. This effort focuses on managing, enhancing, and preserving aquatic habitat in the state for the long-term health and welfare of fish and aquatic wildlife to the benefit of Florida's residents.
- Fish Management Areas. A "Fish Management Area (FMA)" is defined as a pond, lake, or other body of water, which has been established for the management of freshwater fish as a cooperative effort between a local county or counties.
- Pond Management. Florida has more than 7,700 named lakes and countless ponds within its boundaries. Many of the ponds are located on private property. Landowners are encouraged to manage these bodies of water with care by taking into account the importance of observing conservation principles for the benefit of all Floridians.
- Stewardship and Angling Ethics. This issue is of major concern to LAP. They emphasize it should be important to every individual who utilizes Florida's fishery resources for any reason as protectors of the environment.
- Florida Bass Conservation Center. This center is located at the site of the old Richloam Hatchery (58,146 acres in Webster, Sumter County) and is the major freshwater fish production hatchery in the state. It supplies fish such as largemouth, striped and sunshine bass, crappie, catfish, bream, and triploid grass carp.
- Blackwater Fisheries Research and Development Unit. This center stocks fish for the state's fresh waters.
- Sport Fish Restoration Program. This is a national program, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), collects money from excise taxes on fishing equipment, import duties on fishing equipment and boats, and taxes on motorboat and small engine fuels. The revenue generated is used to create future fishing and boating opportunities.
- Wetland Habitat. This effort is critical in order to provide the greatest quantity and highest quality of habitat possible to support the state's waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife.

- Saltwater Conservation Programs

- Artificial Reefs. The more than 2,400 carefully planned artificial reefs constructed in the state and adjacent federal waters off of Florida's two coasts have been built to provide recreational fishing and diving enhancements, a socioeconomic benefit to adjacent coastal communities, and to increase structural habitat for reef associated or reef dependent fisheries and invertebrates.
- Catch and Release. Managers of Florida's fisheries use a combination of traditional measures to control harvests and protect fish stocks. These measures include bag limits, guidelines for harvesting minimum and maximize sizes of fish, closed seasons and areas, and in some instances, no harvest is allowed unless a special permit is purchased. It is important to note bag limits reduce the number of fish which are harvested and then allocate the catch over time so a year's total harvest is not taken in one season.
- Coral Reefs. Coral reefs can be described as the "rain forests of the sea." One recent census found 3,467 species of algae, plants, and animals are associated with coral reefs. Protection and wise use of Florida's coral reef habitat is of primary concern for state officials. ***The long-term "Coral Reef Monitoring Project (CRMP)" is the most comprehensive coral assessment program ever established in the Florida Keys.***

- Fish Handling Guidelines. Florida's anglers are given a great deal of credit for their conservation efforts. They have helped restore or sustain valuable fisheries including snook, red drum, and spotted seatrout which cannot be harvested in as good a condition as possible.
- Grouper Catch and Release. Goliath grouper are a prohibited species; therefore, this species receives greater protection to ensure its continued health which makes proper catch and release techniques all the more important.
- Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program. Every day, improperly discarded monofilament fishing line causes devastating problems for marine life and Florida's environment. Marine mammals, sea turtles, fish, and birds are often injured from becoming entangled or may die from ingesting fishing lines. Divers and swimmers can also be injured from improperly discarded fishing lines and damage to boat propellers may also occur.
- Seagrasses. Conservation and restoration of seagrass is the primary focus of program staff in this critical area of concern in protecting the state's water vegetation. Seagrass research is important for staff resource managers in obtaining the necessary data to make well thought out decisions about the preservation, management, and restoration of these sea communities.
- Sport Fish Restoration Program. This is a similar revenue producing program as explained earlier under the Freshwater Conservation Programs section.
- Terrestrial Programs
 - Critical Wildlife Areas. Critical Wildlife Areas (CWAs) are established under a "Florida Administrative Code" rule to protect important wildlife from disturbance during critical periods of their life cycles such as nesting.
 - Objective Based Vegetation Management (OBVM). The FWC has the lead management responsibility for approximately 1.5 million acres on 42 "Wildlife Management and Wildlife Environmental Areas (WMA/WEAs)" in the state. Land managers from FWC, in cooperation with the "Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI)," have developed and are implementing an objective-based vegetation management approach on these trustee-owned lands.
 - Habitat Restoration Projects. There are three aspects to restoration on FWC managed lands which encompass 1.5 million acres in the state. These aspects are hydrologic restoration, ground cover restoration, and exotic species control.
 - Landowner Assistance and Incentives. Over 50% of Florida property is privately owned. It is obvious private land owners will play a major role in determining the future of fish and wildlife in the Sunshine State.
 - Management Plans. There are approximately five million acres of natural resource land in Florida for the conservation of wildlife and habitat which FWC monitors on an ongoing basis.
 - Safe Harbor. Florida's safe harbor program is a voluntary conservation incentive plan for private landowners who want to manage their lands to provide habitat for imperiled species.
 - Safe Harbor: Red-cockaded Woodpecker Program. The critical goal of this program is to conserve federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker through partnerships with private landowners.
 - Upland Plant Management. This program incorporates ecosystem management concepts through involvement of "place-based management" which brings together regionally diverse interests to develop flexible and innovative strategies to address local upland invasive plant management issues on Florida's public conservation lands.

- **Federal Aid.** The FWC receives federal aid funding through various grants. Overall, approximately 20% of FWC's annual budgets are the result of the receipt of federal grant funds. A list of federal grants include:
 - Sport Fish Restoration Program.
 - Aquatic Resource Education Programs.
 - Boating Access Program.
 - Boating Infrastructure Program.
 - Clean Vessel Act Program.
 - Wildlife Restoration Program.
 - Hunter Education Program.
 - Multistate Conservation Program.
 - State Wildlife Program.

The "*Florida Constitution*" authorizes FWC to enact rules and regulations regarding the state's fish and wildlife resources. To accomplish this critical function, a seven member commission meets five times each year to receive reports, consider rule proposals, and conduct other business. Because stakeholder involvement is a crucial part of the process, meetings are conducted at various locations around the state which offer Florida's citizens the opportunity to address the commission concerning issues under consideration. The most recent FWC meeting took place in St. Augustine earlier this month. Interested parties desiring additional information about wildlife and environmental issues should contact FWC at 850.488.4676. The physical address for FWC in Tallahassee is 620 South Meridian Street, Farris Bryant Building. The website for FWC is www.fwc.com. Ms. Morgan's office is located in Lake City and she can be reached at 386.758.0525 or at Ginger.Morgan@MyFWC.com.

Minutes of Previous Council Meeting

The September 22, 2016, minutes were approved.

Consent Agenda

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- **Monthly** financial report for August. Revenues and expenditures are at 85% for the first eleven months of the fiscal year. Staff reports the financial condition of the council remains sound and they are not aware of any issue(s) which will alter this situation in the current fiscal year.
- **Agreement** with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness for FY 16/17 in the amount of \$55,610 on behalf of the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee. The council offers free hazardous materials response training to local government employees. This training includes basic awareness level training through more advanced technician level training. The Local Emergency Planning Committee will select a project at their November 2016 meeting to undertake for FY 16/17. Last year's training project was devoted to a commodity flow study to identify the most common hazardous materials transported in the North Central Florida Region.
- **Agreement** with the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council (NEFRPC) to provide services pursuant to a purchase order to assist with exercise planning, evaluation, and preparing documentation for a fixed fee amount of \$1,500. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has provided funding to the state for regional planning councils to assist in conducting training and various exercises. The council has been requested to provide technical assistance to NEFRPC with an exercise for the First Coast Disaster Council to be conducted in October 2016. The exercise will follow the methodology defined in the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program.

Chair Report (Rick Davis)

- **Kevin Parrish, NCFRPC Information Technology and Property Management Coordinator**, was awarded a “Certificate of Service” in recognition of his 30 years of employment at NCFRPC.

Committee Reports

Executive (Rick Davis)

- A proclamation was approved declaring October 2016 as “**Community Planning Month**” in the North Central Florida Region to celebrate “National Community Planning Month.” The American Planning Association (APA) and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), endorse this celebration as an opportunity to highlight the contributions sound planning and plan implementation make in improving the quality of life in communities and protecting the environment. The following NCFRPC staff members have achieved AICP certification:
 - Scott Koons, Executive Director.
 - Lynn Franson-Godfrey, Senior Planner, Transportation Disadvantaged.
 - Michael Escalante, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning.
 - Lauren Yeatter, Senior Planner, Geographic Information Systems.
- A proclamation was approved declaring October 7, 2016, as “**Manufacturing Day**” in the North Central Florida Region. The council joins the Fabrication and Manufacturers Association International, National Association of Manufacturers, and U.S. Department of Commerce Manufacturing Extension Institute in endorsing this celebration to recognize the significant impact manufacturing has on the North Central Florida Region. Our region is home to 600 manufacturing businesses which employ over 16,000 employees.
- A proclamation was approved declaring the week of October 16 - 21, 2016, as “**Florida City Government Week**” in the North Central Florida Region. The Florida League of Cities encourages every city municipality to take an active part in promoting their individual cities by providing civic education. Cities are encouraged to involve their local schools, businesses, media, and civic organizations during this week of celebration.
- A proclamation was approved declaring the week of October 16 - 22, 2016, as “**Hazardous Materials Awareness Week**” in the North Central Florida Region. One goal of this week is to let the public know hazardous waste facilities, first responders, and emergency management personnel are working together to ensure our communities are prepared for both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials. A second goal is to encourage local governments to take advantage of free hazardous materials training classes which are offered by the Local Emergency Planning Committee.
- A motion was approved, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to rate the Executive Director’s annual performance as “Exceeds Job Requirements” which is the highest rating achievable and to award him a five percent merit pay adjustment in recognition of his exemplary performance. Mr. Koons was praised by several NCFRPC members in attendance for his gargantuan efforts on behalf of the council.

Clearinghouse (James Montgomery)

A motion was approved regarding two comprehensive adopted plan amendments, one for the City of Gainesville and one for the City of Madison, and two comprehensive draft plan amendments, one for Columbia County and one for the City of Ocala.

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 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 (FAC)*.” 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 FAC*” to occur within one year of the EAR due date.

The NCFRPC strategic regional policy plan contains five subject areas of concern which are affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, natural resources of regional significance, and regional transportation. In addition, a list of significant resources and facilities, the appendix, an executive summary, and an introduction to a coordination outline are included. Each of these items was reviewed by the committee and council in 2015.

The plan also 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. Each of these items was also reviewed by the committee and council in 2015.

The committee completed its initial work in September 2015 and presented conclusions at the October 2015 council meeting. It was emphasized the report would not amend the regional plan at that time, rather it provided a basis for developing future regional plan amendments which occurred 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, would be included as regionally significant facilities and resources of NCFRPC. **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 drafted in 2016.**

A review was completed between January and August (2016) of the proposed amendments for the five subject areas of concern as well as the 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. At the September 22, 2016, meeting of the committee, a draft copy of the “Evaluation and Appraisal Report-Based Draft Amendments” to the North Central Florida Regional Policy Plan was reviewed. This document will be further reviewed and “tweaked” over the next several months and is scheduled to be approved by the council in January 2017.

Vice Mayor Wilford Note: The members serving on the Regional Planning Committee representing Alachua County in PY 16/17 are Commissioner Helen Warren (Gainesville - Vice Chair) and Commissioner Charles Chestnut, IV (Alachua County Board of County Commissioners). Steven Dopp, NCFRPC Senior Planner for Regional Planning, remains as staff liaison to the committee.

Audit Committee (Rick Davis)

A motion was approved to select the auditing firm of Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants, with offices located in Lake City, to conduct the council’s audits for FY 15/16, FY 16/17, and FY 17/18, as recommended by the Audit Committee, with the understanding the selection for a three-year period can be revoked at any time if the council determines the service being rendered is unsatisfactory.

A motion was approved authorizing the chair to execute an engagement letter with the auditing firm of Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants, with offices located in Lake City, to conduct the FY 15/16 audit of the council’s accounts for a

lump sum of \$15,500 with the understanding this engagement includes an audit of the council's employee pension plan be conducted for the same audit year at no additional cost.

NOTE: Statements of qualifications were accepted from interested parties through August 15, 2016. Out of a large number of letters which were sent out to various auditing firms, only two firms submitted qualifications for consideration to perform the council's audit(s). They were Powell and Jones (Lake City) and Carr, Riggs and Ingram (Gainesville). The auditing committee met on August 26, 2016, to rank the applicants. Each firm had impeccable credentials. Powell and Jones received the number one ranking from the committee. Subsequent to this action, the auditing committee met with Mr. Richard Powell at the NCFRPC offices on September 15, 2016, to discuss the methodology to be employed in conducting the audit, staff capability of the firm, firm experience in conducting similar audits, and the fee to be charged for conducting the audit(s). The initial fee will be \$15,500 with an annual adjustment for FY 16/17 and FY 17/18 based upon the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers not to exceed three percent per year. The initial fee of \$15,500 is \$466 greater than the amount charged to prepare the audit for the current fiscal year.

Ex-Officio Member Reports

Barney Bennett, Transportation Planning Manager, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT - District 2)

Mr. Bennett, indicated FDOT is focusing heavily on "Florida's Safe Route to School (FSRS)" projects related to improving sidewalks for children who walk or ride their bicycles to school. He also stated grant application guidelines for other projects should be available next week.

Carlos Herd, Water Supply Division Director, Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD)

Mr. Herd, indicated the joint draft plan between SRWMD and SJRWMD should be completed by the end of the month. It will be available for public review for a period of sixty days and is scheduled to be finalized by January 2017. **NOTE: The final public hearing for the FY 2017 district's budget will be conducted on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at the district headquarters in Live Oak.**

Susan Davis, Intergovernmental Coordinator, Saint Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)

Ms. Davis, indicated SJRWMD is accepting "Cost Share Project Applications" through October 13, 2016. There is five million dollars in funding available for rural communities for innovative projects which support the district's core missions. Project proposals should benefit water supply, improve water quality, provide flood protection, or protect or enhance natural systems.

Russell Simpson, Planning and Environmental Manager, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)

No report. Mr. Simpson was not in attendance.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Executive Director Reports (Scott Koons)

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Monthly Activity Report for July/August 2016

The FRCA is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. 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 to ensure they add value to state, regional, and local initiatives. Denise Imbler, FRCA Coordinator, provided a written report highlighting the association's most recent meeting. Ms. Imbler:

- Attended the following meetings: Rural Economic Development Initiative, FDOT Safe Mobility for Life Coalition, and Future of Florida Forum Partners (conference call).
- Researched the following grants: Countering Violent Extremism, National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine Healthy Communities, Department of Homeland Security Training for Cybersecurity, and Hazardous Material, Economic Recovery, and Preparedness.
- Assisted with the development and collection of statewide project initiatives for the association's legislative committee.
- Completed the fourth quarter report for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Strategic Plan for Economic Development Reporting Protocol.
- Updated FRCA's website to address regular maintenance issues and posted meeting agendas, summaries, and monthly newsletters.
- Participated in the July 7 - 8, 2016, Executive Director's Advisory Council (EDAC) and policy board meetings.
- Finalized the logistics, secured speakers, developed agendas, and drafted meeting materials for the August 18 - 19, 2016, association's EDAC and partners' meetings.
- Finalized the logistics and prepared handout materials for the Florida League of Cities annual conference.
- Secured exhibit hall space and submitted graphics for the Florida American Planning Association Conference in Tampa.
- Secured a meeting location for the September, October, and December association EDAC and policy board meetings.
- Began review of the FRCA "Operations and Procedures Manual" and the new membership orientation packet.

Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard

Mr. Koons reminded council members 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. 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.

Mr. Koons reviewed the latest “State of Florida Metrics” report. Interesting facts include:

- Unemployment Rate - 4.7% (Unchanged).
- Consumer Sentiment - 89.0% (***Declining***).
- State of Florida Visitors - 106 million (\$89.1 billion in visitor spending).
- Housing Starts - 6,403 (Improving).
- Housing Sales - 23,758 (Improving).
- Sales Tax Revenue - \$2.352 billion per month (Improving).
- Income Migration - \$805 thousand per hour.
- Poverty Rate - 16.6% (Improving).
- High School Graduation Rate - 77.8% (Improving).
- Voter Participation - 51% (***Declining***).
- State Heading in the Right/Wrong Direction - 46% (Right) and 37% (Wrong).
- Land in Conservation - 28%.
- Population - 20.27 million.

Mr. Koons stated Florida was now the number one visitor destination in the world with France being the second most visited location around the globe.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the council will be held on October 27 , 2016, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Lake City beginning at 7:30 p.m. and preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee at 6:00 p.m., Clearinghouse Committee at 6:00 p.m., and Regional Planning Committee at 6:30 p.m.

NCFRPC Mission Statement

To improve the quality of life of the region’s citizens by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development, and providing technical services to local governments.

NCFRPC Executive Director (Contact Information)

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Scott Koons, AICP, Executive Director (Extension 101)
Andre M. Davis, Finance Director (Extension 107)
Dwayne L. Mundy, Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance Program Director (Extension 108)
Kevin D. Parish, Information Technology and Property Management Director (Extension 133)

Steven Dopp, Senior Planner, Regional Planning (Extension 109)
Lynn Franson-Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner, Transportation Disadvantaged (Extension 110)
Michael Escalante, AICP, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning (Extension 114)
Sandra Joseph, Senior Planner, Local Government Comprehensive Planning (Extension 111)
Lauren Yeatter, AICP, Senior Planner, Geographic Information Systems (Extension 113)

Carmelita Franco, Planning Administrative Assistant, Local Government Comprehensive Planning (Extension 125)
Jean Strong, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director (Extension 134)
Tara Tucker, Secretary II (Extension 100)

Alachua County Representation on NCFRPC

Harvey Budd, Commissioner, City of Gainesville
Charles Chestnut, IV, Commissioner, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Rick Coleman, Commissioner, City of Newberry
Ken Cornell, Commissioner, Vice Chair, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Louie Davis, Mayor, City of Waldo
Jason Evans, Commissioner, City of High Springs
Adrian Hayes-Santos, Commissioner, City of Gainesville
Fletcher Hope, Commissioner, City of Archer
Lee Pinkoson, Commissioner, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
DeLoris Roberts, Commissioner, City of Hawthorne
Scott Thomason, Non-voting Delegate, City of High Springs
Helen Warren, Mayor Commissioner Pro Tem, City of Gainesville
Robert Wilford, Vice Mayor, City of Alachua

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Mission Statement

Fosters regional strategies, solutions, and partnerships to support economic growth and improve quality of life; promotes a standard of excellence in the delivery of regional planning council programs and technical professional assistance and expertise; and, advocates for the role of regional planning councils as the state's primary organizations to address problems that are of greater-than-local concern.

There are ten (10) regional planning councils in Florida which serve the state's sixty-seven (67) counties. They are:

<u>Council</u>	<u>Number of Counties Served</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>
West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC)	7	Pensacola
Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)	9	Tallahassee
North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC)	13	Gainesville
Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council (NEFRPC)	7	Jacksonville
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC)	7	Altamonte Springs
Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)	5	Bartow
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC)	6	Pinellas Park
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)	6	Fort Myers
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC)	4	Stuart
South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC)	3	Hollywood

Membership on regional planning councils consists of one-third of the total representatives being gubernatorial appointees with the remainder being member local government appointees. Two-thirds of council representatives must be locally-elected officials. Regional councils provide a large variety of services to benefit its local governments in addition to coordinating regional planning and review activities. Services include: technical planning assistance, grant and loan planning assistance, transportation planning assistance, hazardous waste monitoring, emergency response planning assistance, and economic development activities.

VICE MAYOR WILFORD NOTE: In addition to serving as the Alachua City Commission Delegate to NCFRPC and being a former member of the council's Regional Planning and Finance Committees, I perform the following functions associated with membership on the council:

- Member, Executive Committee (Mayor Louie Davis {Waldo} and I are two of the five members serving on this committee. This is a distinct honor for Alachua County since there are thirteen counties in the council's district. Mayor Davis is serving as the committee's Secretary-Treasurer.)
- Member, Audit Committee (Commissioner Todd Chase {Gainesville}, Mayor Louie Davis {Waldo}, and I are three of the six members serving on this committee--another distinct honor for Alachua County.)
- Member, Board of Directors.
- Member, Board of Directors, North Central Florida Areawide Development Company (ADCO), Inc.

