

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCFRPC)
MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL)

AUGUST 24, 2017

ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING - SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

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

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

Invocation

Robert Wilford, Alachua City Commissioner, delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the pledge to the flag in honor of the United States of America.

Introduction of Guests

Lorene Thomas, Gubernatorial Appointee for Dixie County, Chair, recognized guests in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

With two additional items being added, the agenda was ***approved unanimously***.

Attorney-Client Session (7:10 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)

Session was conducted by Jonathon Wershow, NCFRPC Attorney, regarding a public records complaint filed against the council concerning planning assistance NCFRPC is providing for Union County. Session was limited only to attendance by council members, Scott Koons, Executive Director, and Mr. Wershow. A court reporter was also in attendance to prepare a verbatim transcript of the session which will be made a matter of public record once litigation is finalized.

Regular Meeting Reconvened (8:17 p.m.)

Ms. Thomas reconvened the regular meeting.

Approval of Minutes for July 27, 2017

The July minutes were ***approved unanimously***.

Consent Agenda

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

Financial Report for July 2017

Highlights included revenues and expenditures are within budgeted figures for the first ten months of the fiscal year. Mr. Koons reported that the financial condition of the council remains sound.

Local Comprehensive Planning Assistance Service Agreements

Each year the council enters into technical assistance service agreements on a fixed fee basis to assist local governments in implementing their comprehensive plans and land development regulations. Categories of service include:

- **General Technical Assistance** - Includes conducting research, answering questions, and assisting with comprehensive plan and the interpretation of land development regulations. ***There are no local government service agreements in this category for FY 17/18.***
- **Amendment Assistance** - Includes all "Level I" services, plus the preparation of public notices, draft ordinances, data and analysis concurrency review for comprehensive plan text, map and land development regulations text, and zoning map amendments. ***The council has entered into the following service agreements for FY 17/18 in this category:***

<u>Local Government</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bradford County	23,500
Dixie County	13,000
Lafayette County	13,000
Taylor County	12,500
Union County	3,500
Archer	7,000
Bell	5,250
Chiefland	7,000
Fanning Springs	5,250
Inglis	7,000
Lake Butler	7,000
Madison (City)	17,000
Mayo	7,000
Micanopy	7,000
Perry	9,000
Starke	10,000
Williston	<u>7,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 161,000

- **Development Review Assistance** - Includes all Level I and II services plus, plus reviewing site and development plans, subdivision plats, and other development proposals for comprehensive plan and compliance with land development regulations. ***The council has entered into the following service agreements for FY 17/18 in this category:***

<u>Local Government</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Columbia County	35,000
High Springs	<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 45,000

Hazardous Waste Monitoring Verification and Notification Services Agreements - It is required in *Florida Statutes* on an annual basis for each county to monitor waste management practices of twenty percent of the government organizations and businesses which may potentially generate small quantities of hazardous waste. The majority of these operations involve motor vehicle maintenance. Each year the council enters into these service agreements on a fixed fee basis to assist counties fulfill this statutory requirement. On-site visits are required to collect information which is entered into an online data base. During these visits, council staff provides recommendations on correcting problems by instituting “best practices” management techniques. ***The council has entered into the following service agreements for FY 17/18 in this category:***

<u>Local Government</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bradford	7,882
Columbia	9,731
Dixie	2,717
Gilchrist	2,697
Hamilton	2,899
Lafayette	1,409
Levy	16,500
Madison	4,880
Suwannee	7,421
Union	<u>2,778</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 58,914

Chair Report

Ms. Thomas and ***Mr. Koons*** presented a length of service award to Michael Escalante, Senior Planner for Transportation Planning, for thirty years of service to the council and praised his commitment to excellence spanning three decades at NCFRPC.

Executive Committee Report

Mr. Koons briefed the council on a proclamation honoring Mr. James Montgomery, Gubernatorial Appointee for Columbia County, declaring September 24, 2017, as “James Montgomery Day” in the North Central Florida Region. Mr. Montgomery served on the council between 1976 and 2004 as a member representing the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners. In 2010, he was appointed as a Gubernatorial Appointee representing Columbia County. He has provided thirty-eight years of distinguished leadership and service to the council and has the longest length of service of any council member since its inception in 1969. The proclamation honoring Mr. Montgomery was ***approved unanimously***.

NOTE: Mr. Montgomery will be recognized and honored as “A Man for All Seasons” for his many years of service as a teacher for the Columbia County School System, an instructor for Florida Gateway College, a member of the First Presbyterian Church, and for his distinguished service on innumerable civic boards, committees, and community projects. A special event for Mr. Montgomery will

be held on Sunday, September 24, between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., at the Columbia County Fairgrounds, which is located at 438 Florida Road 247, in Lake City.

Clearinghouse Committee Report

Commissioner Charles Chestnut, IV, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, presented the report. Local government comprehensive plan amendments/draft amendments for Alachua County (Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments), City of Gainesville (Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments), Alachua County (Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment), and Madison County (Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment), were **approved unanimously**.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (Non-Elected Officials) Report- No report.

Finance Committee Report - No report.

Nominating Committee Report - No report.

Program Committee Report - No report.

Regional Planning Committee Report - No report.

Ex-Officio Member Reports

Barney Bennett, Florida Department of Transportation, Katelyn Potter, Suwannee River Water Management District, Sean Greene, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and James Troiano, St. Johns River Water Management District, briefed the council on projects related to their organizations.

Citizen Comments - None.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Koons briefed the council on the following items:

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) - FRCA is the statewide organization which is comprised of ten regional planning councils. It strengthens Florida's regional planning councils and 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. One of the major activities conducted this past month was the coordination of logistics and preparation for the "Florida American Planning Association Annual Conference" to be held between September 6 and 8 in Daytona Beach.

Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard

Mr. Koons reminded council members that 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 Competiveness.
- Civic and Government Systems.
- Quality of Life and Places.

Mr. Koons reviewed the latest “State of Florida Metrics” report through July 2017:

- Unemployment Rate - 4.1%.
- Consumer Sentiment - 97.7%.
- State of Florida Visitors - 112.1 million.
- State of Florida Visitor Spending - \$112.3 million.
- Housing Starts - 7,889.
- Housing Sales - 27,854.
- Sales Tax Revenue - \$2,394 billion per month.
- Income Migration - \$879 thousand per hour.
- Poverty Rate - 15.8%.
- High School Graduation Rate - 80%.
- Voter Participation - 74%.
- State Heading in the Right Direction - 45%.
- State Heading in Wrong Direction - 36%.
- Land in Conservation - 27%.
- Population - 20.61 million.
- Jobs Created in Past Year - 238,600.

Regional Dispute Resolution Process

Mr. Koons reminded council members that, pursuant to *Section 186.509, Florida Statutes*, as amended, the council adopted a regional dispute resolution process which is codified in *Chapter 29C-8, Florida Administrative Code*. The intent is to provide a flexible process to reconcile differences on planning and growth management issues. The council received a request for an informal pre-initiation meeting as specified in the aforementioned *Chapter 29C-8* from Alachua County concerning a comprehensive plan amendment challenge the county has filed against the City of Gainesville which is currently the subject of an administrative hearing process. The next step in the proceedings is for the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners to consider the adoption of a resolution to initiate the process. Council members will be kept up to date on this matter at future meetings.

Public Records Complaint

Mr. Wershow made a recommendation to settle the aforementioned public records complaint out of court for \$17,000. As previously noted, the public records complaint was made against the council regarding planning assistance for Union County. It was also noted that current attorney’s fees are in excess of \$30,000 and will go higher if the council contests this case in court with little chance of recouping any of the fees for the council’s attorney. After a lengthy discussion, a motion to approve Mr. Wershow’s recommendation was **approved (three council members were in dissent)** providing the settlement includes language stating the council was not at fault for any wrongdoing.

NOTE: The council’s offer was accepted on August 28, 2017, with the requested “not at fault for any wrongdoing” language included in the settlement. This matter is now closed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the council will be held on September 28, 2017, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Lake City beginning at 7:00 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)
Michael Escalante, AICP, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning (Extension 114)
Lynn Franson-Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner, Transportation Disadvantaged (Extension 110)
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

David Arreola, Commissioner, City of Gainesville
Patricia Bouie, Commissioner, City of Hawthorne
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, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Louie Davis, Mayor, City of Waldo
Jason Evans, Commissioner, City of High Springs
Fletcher Hope, Commissioner, City of Archer
Robert Hutchinson, Commissioner, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Helen Warren, Commissioner, City of Gainesville
Robert Wilford, Commissioner, 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)	12	Gainesville
Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council (NEFRPC)	7	Jacksonville
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC)	8	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.

COMMISSIONER WILFORD NCFRPC ASSIGNMENTS

- Executive Committee (Secretary/Treasurer)
 - Board of Directors (Member)
 - Finance Committee (Chair)
 - Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA - NCFRPC Delegate)
 - North Central Areawide Development Company (ADCO - NCFRPC Delegate)
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