

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCFRPC)
MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL)
FEBRUARY 22, 2018

ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 12, 2018

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.

Call to Order

Lorene Thomas, Gubernatorial Appointee, Dixie County, Chair, declared the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Quorum

A quorum was met in accordance with the council's bylaws.

Invocation

Louie Davis, Mayor, City of Waldo, delivered the invocation. Mayor Davis, prior to delivering the invocation, requested attendees to observe a moment of silence for the recent school tragedy in Fort Lauderdale.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests

Ms. Thomas recognized the guests in attendance.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the January 25, 2018 meeting.

Financial Report for January 2018

Highlights included revenues and expenditures are within budget for the first four months of the fiscal year. The financial condition of the council remains sound.

Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Concerning Regional Economic Modeling, Inc.

In 2005, the council entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) to be a user of the Regional Economic Modeling, Inc., economic impact model. TBRPC is authorized to issue user rights to other parties subject to the collection of a fee to be paid to the Regional Economic Modeling, Inc., and is proposing to extend NCFPRC's existing memorandum of agreement for a one-year period at a fixed fee of **\$4,500**.

The Regional Economic Modeling, Inc., model is based upon an input-output engine which provides NCFRPC, the council's local governments, economic development agencies, and others with a dynamic tool for economic and demographic analysis and forecasting. It uses national data for the region but can also incorporate local data to enhance its accuracy. This model is capable of reviewing system-wide effects over both short- and long range time horizons. It includes economic and fiscal impact, policy impact, and economic development/redevelopment analyses.

The council's staff has used this model to evaluate the impact of several projects throughout the region. Specific projects in Alachua County included a hotel in the City of Gainesville, an Alachua County advertising agency, a sanitary sewer system in the City of Archer, and a food processing plant in the City of Newberry. Staff recommended that the council's Executive Director be authorized to sign an amendment to the agreement with TBRPC for an additional year as a user of the Regional Economic Modeling, Inc., economic impact model for a fixed fee amount of **\$4,500**.

Approval of Regular Agenda

Upon an additional item being included as number IX.B.4, Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, the regular agenda was **approved unanimously**.

Citizen Comments - None.

Guest Speaker - Justin Ryan, District Freight Coordinator, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 2

Mr. Ryan introduced Doreen Joyner Howard, Freight, Logistics, and Operations Manager, for District 2. Mr. Ryan then made a presentation regarding the programs, services, and roles and responsibilities, as well as, providing other information, pertaining to the district. He stated that:

- The district is responsible for 18 counties in Northeast Florida related to incoming and outgoing freight logistics.
- Outreach is a major function of the district with a targeted focus on relationship building with businesses and other private and public entities.
- The major trading partners for the district are Florida, Georgia, and Illinois. Illinois is a major partner because east and west rail systems converge in this state linking Florida for incoming and outgoing freight transported by rail.
- The major trucking areas in the district are located in Alachua, Gainesville, Jacksonville, Lake City, and St. Augustine. The City of Aachua is bolstered by having several distribution centers located in its city limits.
- There are three seaport terminals located in Duval County at Dames Point, Talleyrand, and Blount Island.
- The Jacksonville harbor is being deepened from 40 feet to 47 feet to accommodate larger freight ships.
- There is a spaceport located in Duval County.

- Truck drivers are allowed to drive a maximum of 14 hours in a single day and then must take a 10 hour break. The district is looking into creating additional truck parking sites to assist drivers in locating suitable places to rest.
- There is over \$160 billion of freight shipped annually in and out of the state consisting of 762 million tons of products.
- There are over 5,000 products produced from timber.

Chair Report - No report.

Executive Committee Report

Proclamation Declaring February 25, 2018 - March 3, 2018, Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

Scott Koons, NCFRPC Executive Director, stated that the North Central Local Emergency Planning Committee has the responsibility of increasing the safety in the council's communities from chemical releases into the environment. One goal of Hazardous Materials Awareness Week is to inform the public about the manner in which facilities, first responders and emergency management groups are working together to ensure that the council's communities are as prepared as possible 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 offered by the North Central Local Emergency Planning Committee. Motion ***approved unanimously***.

Clearinghouse Committee Report

Commissioner Adams, Lafayette County, presented the report. Local government comprehensive plan adopted amendments/draft amendments for Alachua County (Two Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments), Alachua County (Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment), and Union 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, District 2 - No report.

Ben Glass, Suwannee River Water Management District - Mr. Glass stated that the district has received 64 applications for the 2018 springs and river projects with March 1, 2018, being the target date to start the review process.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection - No report.

Daniel Penniman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - No report.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Koons briefed the council on the following items:

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Monthly Report

FRCA is the statewide organization which is comprised of ten regional planning councils. It's mission is to strengthen Florida's regional planning councils and partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improve the consistency and quality of regional planning councils to ensure they add value to state, regional, and local initiatives. During January, the association coordinated with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regarding a community resilience grant opportunity. In addition, the association assisted with the final 2016-17 FRCA Annual Report.

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 as a tool 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 an ongoing 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" for January 2018:

Talent Supply and Education

- Third Grade Scores: Reading (58% - Improving) and Math (62% - Improving).
- Eighth Grade Scores: Reading (55% - Declining), Math (46% - Declining) and Science (48% - Unchanged).
- National Fourth Grade Rankings: Math (18th - Improving), and Reading (10th - Declining).
- National Eight Grade Rankings: Math (42nd - Declining) and Reading (32nd - Declining)
- High School Graduation Rate: 82.3 % (Improving).
- College Affordability: Second (4-Year Unchanged).
- Educational Attainment: Bachelor (27.8% - Improving) and Associate Degrees (37.4% - Improving).
- Unemployment Rate: 3.7% - Improving.
- Jobs Created Over Last Year: 213,500.

Innovation and Economic Development

- Patents Granted: 4,243 - Improving.
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP): \$976.7 Billion - Improving.
- Venture Capital: \$2,139,300 - Improving.
- Visitors: 112.4 Million.

- Visitors Spending: \$111.7 Billion.
- Top Six Importers: Market Share (29.7% - Declining and Amount - 15.44 Billion - Declining).
- Exports: \$52 Billion - Declining.
- Imports: \$73.7 Billion - Improving.
- Industry Diversification: 20th - Improving.
- Employment by Foreign Countries: 327,200 - Improving.

NOTE: If Florida was a country and it reaches \$16 trillion in Gross Domestic Product , it will become the equivalent of the sixteenth largest country in the world.

Infrastructure and Growth Leadership

- Land in Conservation: 27%.
- Population: 20.98 million.
- Vehicle Miles Traveled: 214.64 Billion - Improving.
- State Housing Starts: 6,090 - Declining.
- State Housing Sales: 22,903 - Improving.

Business Climate and Competitiveness

- Probability of Recession: 9% - Unchanged.
- Chief Executive Officer Rank: 2nd - Unchanged.
- Business Tax Climate: 4th.
- Consumer Sentiment: 99.8 - Improving.
- Sales Tax Revenue: \$2.118 Billion Per Month - Declining.
- Open Jobs: 261,600 - Declining.
- Unemployed Persons: 374,000 - Increasing.
- State Ranking for Automobile Insurance Affordability: 44th.

Civic and Governance Systems

- Voter Participation: 75% - Improving.
- Right/Wrong Direction: Right (56%) and Wrong (27%).
- Inmate Population: 97,794.
- State Government Employment: 212,800.
- Local Government Employment: 752,400.
- Volunteerism: 19.1% (Florida ranks 50th in the Country).
- State Debt: \$22.7 Billion.
- Citizens Insurance Exposure Policies: Exposure (\$109,300 Billion) and Policies (452,354).
- Underfunded State Pension: \$892.6 Million.

Quality of Life and Quality Places

- Free and Reduced Lunch: 60.2% - Increasing.
- Youth Obesity: 12.3% - Worse.
- Per Capita Income: \$45,953 - Improving.
- Homeless School Children: 69,596.
- Poverty Rate: 14.8% - Better.
- Home Ownership Rate: 64.5% - Improving.

Mr. Koons stated that the 2018 legislative session convened on January 9, 2018, and is scheduled to adjourn on March 9, 2018. He reviewed the following legislative bills/items decided or under consideration but indicated they are unlikely to pass since the session is due to end in less than two weeks:

Regional Planning Council Funding

Governor Scott did not recommend any funding for regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2018-19. The governor has not recommended any funding for regional planning councils during his entire tenure.

Regional Economic Development Initiative

- **Senate Bill 170** by Senator Grimsley revises the duties, responsibilities and membership of the Rural Economic Development Initiative; deletes the provision limiting the number of rural areas of opportunity that may be designated; and, deletes a provision listing the economic development incentives for which the governor may waive the criteria or similar provisions. This bill was **passed** by the Commerce and Tourism, Agriculture, and Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committees.
- **House Bill 1403** by Representative Avila revises legislative intent; redefines the term rural area of opportunity; revises duties, responsibilities and membership on the Rural Economic Development Initiative; deletes the provision limiting the number of rural areas of opportunity that may be designated; deletes a provision listing economic development incentives for which the governor may establish criteria or similar provisions; and, deletes the requirement that certain catalyst projects be identified as such by Enterprise Florida, Inc. This bill is now in the Agriculture and Property Rights Committee.

Developments of Regional Impact

- **Senate Bill 1244** by Senator Lee revises the statewide guidelines and standards for developments of regional impact; specifies that amendments to a development order for an approved development may not alter the dates before which a development would be subject to downzoning; unit density reduction or intensity reduction, except under certain conditions; and, requires local governments to file a notice of abandonment under certain conditions. This bill was **passed** by the Community Affairs Committee and Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development. This bill is now in the Appropriations Committee.
- **House Bill 1151** by Representative La Rosa repeals, creates, and revises the provisions for statewide guidelines, standards, and requirements of developments of regional impact relating to authorizations to develop; and includes many other provisions related to developments of regional impact thereby, in effect, seriously limiting local government autonomy. This bill **passed** the house on first reading.

Community Redevelopment Agencies

- **Senate Bill 432** by Senator Lee prohibits a person from lobbying a community redevelopment agency until he or she has resigned as a lobbyist with that agency; authorizes community redevelopment agencies to adopt rules to govern the registration of lobbyists; and, requires ethics training for community redevelopment agency commissioners. This bill was **passed** by the Community Affairs Committee. This bill is now in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development.
- **House Bill 17** by Representative Raburn provides reporting requirements; revises requirements for operating community redevelopment agencies; prohibits the creation of community redevelopment agencies after a certain date; provides a phase out period; creates criteria for determining whether a community redevelopment agency is inactive; provides hearing procedures; authorizes certain financial

activity from inactive community redevelopment agencies; revises requirements for use of redevelopment trust fund proceeds; revises county and municipal government reporting requirements; revises criteria for finding that a county or municipality failed to report; and, requires the Florida Department of Financial Services to provide a report to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity concerning community redevelopment agencies with no revenues, no expenditures, or no debts. This bill **passed** the house with “72 yeas” and “26 nays” being cast.

Private Property Rights

- **Senate Bill 362** by Senator Perry requires local governments to address the protection of private property rights in their comprehensive plans; requires the comprehensive plan to include a private property rights element that sets forth principles, guidelines, standards and strategies to achieve certain objectives; provides a deadline by which each local government must adopt a private property rights element; and, requires the state land planning agency to approve the private property rights adopted by each local government if it is substantially in a specified form. This bill was referred to the Community Affairs, Environmental Preservation and Conservation, and Rules Committees.
- **House Bill 207** by Representatives McClain and Clemons requires local governments to address protection of private property rights in their comprehensive plans; requires comprehensive plans to include a private property rights element; requires counties and municipalities to adopt and amend land development regulations consistent with a private property rights element; provides deadlines; and, requires the state land planning agency to approve the private property rights element if it is substantially in a specified form. This bill **passed** the house on first reading.
- **Senate Bill 874** by Senator Passidomo (Co-sponsors: Farmer, Mayfield, Montford, Stewart, Taddeo, Thurston, and Torres) exempts the State Housing Trust Fund and the Local Government Housing Trust Fund from a provision authorizing the Legislature, in the General Appropriations Act, to transfer unappropriated cash balances from specified trust funds to the Budget Stabilization Fund and General Revenue Fund. This bill was **passed** by the Community Affairs Committee. This bill is now in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development.

NOTE: There is no companion house bill to this legislation.

Florida Job Growth Fund

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Job Growth Fund is a new economic development program designed to build on Florida’s success and economic prosperity since 2010. In its first year, FY 17/18 (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018), this fund will provide \$85 million for public infrastructure and job training projects which support growth and employment in Florida’s diverse industries. Public infrastructure projects can also include transportation and utilities elements which are needed so support economic development. Workforce training projects will provide Floridians with transferable and sustainable skills which are applicable to many employers. The Department of Economic Opportunity and Enterprise Florida, Inc., will be responsible for making project recommendations to the governor who can approve projects for funding based on local and regional needs. Specific requirements for each area include:

Public Infrastructure Grant Eligibility

- **Promote** economic recovery in specific regions of the state, economic diversification or economic enhancement in a targeted industry.
- **Are** not for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation, or business entity.

- **Are** not for infrastructure which is owned by the public and is for public use or predominately benefits the public.

Workforce Training Grant Eligibility

- **Support** programs and associated equipment at state colleges and technical centers.
- **Provide** participants with transferable and sustainable workforce skills which are applicable to more than a single employer.
- **Are** offered to the public.
- **Are** based on criteria which is established by the state colleges and technical centers.
- **Prohibits** the exclusion of applicants who are unemployed or underemployed.

Mr. Koons further stated that, since the legislature created the \$85 million pool of funds for economic development, more than 235 requests had been received totaling over \$821 million from local governments, schools, and business groups. The proposals range from \$24,110 to \$25 million and the requests are divided into two grant areas: public infrastructure and workforce. On February 6, 2018, Governor Scott made an announcement at the Florida Department of Transportation, District 2, offices in Jacksonville, identifying the initial nine recipients to receive funds totaling \$35 million under this grant. Three of the nine initial recipients are located in the North Central Florida Region:

- **Columbia County.** This county will receive **\$3,135,600** for the construction of the North Florida Mega Industrial Park Rail project to construct a rail spur to allow access to an industrial park.
- **Suwannee County.** This county will receive **\$3,125,000** to provide water supply and fire protection to the interchange located at Interstate 75 and County Road 136.
- **City of Alachua.** This city will receive **\$6,755,000** to construct the San Felasco Parkway with nearby utilities connecting a large bioscience cluster, including the Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute to a shovel-ready site of 280 acres. **Of note... This amount is 8% of the total \$85 million available in this grant.**

Moment of Silence for The Honorable Thomas Coward

Mr. Koons requested attendees to pause for a moment of silence for recently deceased former Alachua County Commissioner Thomas Coward. He was also a former member of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for a number of years.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the council will be held on March 22, 2018, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Lake City beginning at 7:00 p.m. Committee meetings, if applicable, will precede the council meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Ms. Thomas declared the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (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)

Scott Koons, AICP, 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)

NCFRPC Staff (Telephone Contact Information - 352.955.2200)

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
Fletcher Hope, Commissioner, City of Archer
Robert Hutchinson, Commissioner, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Helen Warren, Commissioner, City of Gainesville
William Whitelock, Non-Voting Delegate, City of High Springs
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 APPOINTMENTS

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

