

**UNOFFICIAL NOTES RE FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION (FRCA)
MEETINGS AT THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL IN TALLAHASSEE**

JANUARY 11, 2019

ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING PACKET

JANUARY 28, 2019

**ROBERT W. WILFORD, COMMISSIONER,
ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION DELEGATE TO NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCFRPC)**

FRCA POLICY BOARD MEMBER

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.

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 Council (NEFRC)	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.

One of my assigned duties as Vice Chair of NCFRPC is to serve on the FRCA Policy Board. The FRCA mission statement is:

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 organization to address problems that are of greater-than-local concern.

On Friday January 11, 2019, I attended two FRCA meetings in Tallahassee: (1) FRCA Policy Board Partners meeting, and (2) FRCA Policy Board Business meeting. The unofficial notes from both of these meetings are included in this report.

FRCA POLICY BOARD PARTNERS MEETING

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Roxanne Horvath, City of St. Augustine, Commissioner, and FRCA President, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The agenda was *unanimously approved*.

Quorum

A quorum was met in accordance with FRCA's bylaws.

Introduction of Members and Guests

Commissioner Horvath, had members and guests introduce themselves and the county, city, or entity they represent.

Approval of August 17, 2018, FRCA Policy Board Partners Meeting Summary

Said summary was *unanimously approved*.

Presentations

The following presentations were made:

Florida 2030: The Blueprint Uniting Leaders for Florida's Future. *Tony Carvajal, Florida Chamber Foundation, Executive Vice President*, distributed a "Florida 2030" handout and explained the focus of the chamber's efforts in addressing Florida's future. He indicated that the vision of "Florida 2030" offers a strategic blueprint for achieving a bright future for the Sunshine State. It defines goals and strategies to guide Florida's economic future and describes how public, private, and civic organizations statewide can work together toward this vision. The key targets and strategies in achieving global competitiveness, prosperity and high paying jobs, and vibrant and resilient communities, centers around six pillars: (1) Talent Supply and Education, (2) Innovation and Economic Development, (3) Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, (4) Business Climate and Competitiveness, (5) Civic and Governance Systems, and (6) Quality of Life and Quality Places. Mr. Carvajal explained that the "Florida 2030" blueprint is the culmination of three years of research, collaboration, and strategic planning. However, it is also the beginning of 12 years of action to prepare Florida for the year 2030. In reaching out to residents as part of a grassroots effort, he indicated that 10,000 Floridians were engaged around the state at 83 town hall meetings which included gatherings being conducted in all 67 of Florida's Counties.

Legislative Agenda and Update. *David Cruz, Attorney at Law, Florida League of Cities (FLC)*, indicated that the Legislative Policy Committee consists of the following sub-groups: (1) Finance, Taxation, and Personnel, (2) Land Use and Economic Development, (3) Municipal Administration, (4) Transportation and Intergovernmental Relations, and (5) Utilities, Natural Resources, and Public Works. As a result of the detailed work of these committees over the past year, the following major legislative priorities were identified for consideration in the 2019 session:

- **Home Rule.** FLC **SUPPORTS** "Home Rule" because cities are the only optional level of local government in Florida. Cities must provide their services as cost effectively as possible. City Councils and City Commissions know their success often rests on the "bottom line" and achieving key goals with a balance of efficiency, effectiveness, and innovation to create a city which residents are proud to call their hometown.
- **Communications Services Tax Protection.** FLC **SUPPORTS** legislation to reform this tax in a manner which is revenue neutral, provides for a broad and equitable tax base, provides for enhanced stability and reliability as an important revenue source for local government, and provides a uniform method for taxing communication services in the state.

Reform should promote a competitively neutral tax policy which will free consumers to choose a provider based on tax-neutral considerations.

- **Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRA's).** FLC **SUPPORTS** legislation to protect and improve municipalities' use of CRA's to carry out redevelopment and community revitalization in accordance with "Home Rule" concepts.
- **Water Supply and Water Quality.** FLC **SUPPORTS** legislation to address the state's critical resource and water quality deficiencies to mitigate the negative economic impact of these deficiencies through priority corrective actions and funding. This legislation should include the/an: (1) establishment of a dedicated and recurring source of state funding to meet current and projected local government water supply and water infrastructure needs, (2) annual assessment by the State of Florida, regarding regional and local water resource and water quality infrastructure needs, and (3) development of regional plans to prioritize actions and schedules for addressing integrated water quality and water supply needs based on objective criteria.
- **Transportation and Funding.** FLC **SUPPORTS** legislation which preserves local control of transportation planning. This legislation should create an equitable transportation funding formula among state, municipalities, and counties while providing for additional transportation revenue to support innovative infrastructure and transit projects to meet the surging transportation demands driven by dramatic growth throughout Florida.
- **Short-Term Rentals.** FLC **SUPPORTS** legislation which restores local zoning authority with respect to short-term rental properties thereby preserving the integrity of Florida's residential neighborhoods and communities. In addition, FLC **OPPOSES** legislation which preempts municipal authority as it relates to the regulation of short-term rental properties.

Other legislative issues of importance include:

- **Affordable Housing.** FLC **SUPPORTS** legislation which requires all money from the "Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund" be used exclusively for Florida's affordable housing programs.
- **Annexation.** FLC **SUPPORTS** legislation which facilitates the municipal annexation of incorporated areas while protecting private property rights and respecting municipal boundaries.
- **Local Business Tax Protection.** FLC **SUPPORTS** legislation which protects general tax revenues collected from the local business tax. These revenues are used to provide essential municipal services such as public safety and the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges and public parks and open spaces. Maintaining a diversified revenue base strengthens the fiscal stability of local governments and improves their ability to serve its citizens and businesses.
- **Medical Marijuana.** FLC **SUPPORTS** legislation which will restore municipal authority to regulate medical marijuana facilities within municipal boundaries.
- **Sales Tax Fairness.** FLC **SUPPORTS** legislation which will reform Florida's sales tax laws that apply to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers. Changes to these laws are needed to ensure retailers are treated equitably.
- **School Resource Officers (SRO) Funding.** FLC **SUPPORTS** legislation which creates a dedicated and recurring revenue stream to offset any impacts on those cities providing SRO services to schools.
- **Sober Homes.** FLC **SUPPORTS** legislation which requires businesses classified as "Day or Night Treatment with Community Housing" to comply with current statutory requirements for certified recovery residences. In addition, FLC

SUPPORTS legislation which clarifies the fire-safety standards that can be imposed on sober homes to ensure compliance with federal fair housing laws.

The following key dates for the upcoming legislative session are:

- January 7 -11: House/Senate Interim Committee week.
- January 22-25: House/Senate Interim Committee week.
- February 4-8: House/Senate Interim Committee week.
- February 11-15: House/Senate Interim Committee week.
- February 12-13: Federal Action Strike Team (FAST) Fly-in (Washington, D.C.).
- February 19-22: House/Senate Interim Committee week.
- March 1 - May 3: Legislative Session.
- March 10-13: National League of Cities Congressional City Conference (Washington, D.C.).
- March 26-27: Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Days (Tallahassee).

Getting to Know the University of Florida in Your Backyard. Dr. Nick Place, University of Florida Extension Service, Dean, distributed the *"2017 UF/IFAS Extension Calendar and Statewide Report."* Dr. Place indicated that "water" defines the Florida experience and that at the UF/IFAS Extension preserving the quality and quantity of Florida's water is a priority issue and the focus of educational programs for everyone who relies on water for their lives and livelihood. He indicated that the UF/IFAS Extension has a presence in each of Florida's 67 counties. Specific UF/IFAS issues of concern or interest include: (1) water-efficient agriculture, (2) water stewardship, (3) water and health, (4) home water conservation, (5) wetland water quality, (6) water monitoring, (7) water and recreation, (8) protecting the waterfront, (9) reducing microplastics, (10) water-wise youth, (11) best management practices, and (12) reclaiming water. The following information was extracted from the annual report:

- **UF/IFAS Extension Personal Connections** - 30,145,704 (Social Media - 16,680,809, Web Visits - 9,734,941, Group Learning Participants - 2,538,532, E-mail Consultations - 734,852, Telephone Consultations - 234,382, Office Consultations - 131,831, Field or Site Visits - 66,405, and Educational Materials Produced - 23,952).
- **Number and Value of Volunteers** - 28,661 volunteers provided 1,296,705 hours of service valued at \$32,015,646.
- **Use of Information** - 76% of surveyed participants indicated that their problem was solved.
- **Making an Impact** - 176,405,796 gallons of water were saved which was enough to supply 2,005 households with water for one year and surveyed participants indicated that: (1) 39% saved money or had an increase in income, (2) 24% developed better skills as a leader or volunteer, (3) 24% conserved more water or energy, (4) 20% improved their health or well-being, and (5) 89% received some benefit.
- **Customer Satisfaction** - Surveyed participant data included: (1) 95% said information was up-to-date and accurate, (2) 95% said information was easy to understand, (3) 94% said information was delivered on time, and (4) 92% said information was relevant.
- **Funding Sources** - Federal (\$4,802,544), State (\$46,436,449), County (\$31,953,112), and Contracts and Grants (\$34,406,409)

Legislative Agenda and Update. David Suggs, Florida Association of Counties (FAC), Director of Public Policy indicated that many of FAC's legislative issues are carryover concerns from the 2018 legislative session. In addition, he stated that many of FAC's issues mirror those of FLC. Mr. Suggs also stated that the FAC's legislative action day will be held on March 27, 2019, in Tallahassee.

Florida's Economic Outlook. Amy Baker, Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Coordinator. Ms. Baker was not able to be in attendance due to serving on jury duty. A brief discussion ensued among those in attendance regarding Florida's economic outlook which appears to be bright.

Brian Teeple, Northeast Florida Planning Council (NEFPC), Chief Executive Officer. A proclamation was presented for approval recognizing the outstanding service of Mr. Teeple for a 33-year career (30 years as CEO) at NEFPC. During his illustrious career, Mr. Teeple received many statewide and national awards. The proclamation was ***approved unanimously***.

Next Meeting

FRCA's Policy Board Partners meeting will be held on August 16, 2019, at the Orlando Marriott World Resort in conjunction with FLC's annual conference.

Adjournment

Commissioner Horvath adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

FRCA POLICY BOARD PARTNERS BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Roxanne Horvath, City of St. Augustine, Commissioner, and FRCA President, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The agenda was ***unanimously approved***.

Quorum

A quorum was met in accordance with FRCA's bylaws.

Approval of August 17, 2018, FRCA Policy Board Partners Business Meeting Summary

Said summary was ***unanimously approved***.

Regional Planning Council (RPC) Recent Projects

A representative from each of the ten RPC's highlighted projects in their respective region. I made the following report regarding the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC) task force efforts in addressing raw spillage by the City of Valdosta, Georgia, into the Withlacoochee River. It reads:

Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force

For over ten years, the City of Valdosta, Georgia, has been releasing raw sewage into the Withlacoochee River which is a tributary of the Suwannee River. These spills have a very negative impact on public health, the environment, economic development efforts, and tourism promotion in the North Central Florida region.

The Suwannee River and its tributaries, the Apalachee, Ichetucknee, Santa Fe, and Withlacoochee Rivers, define our area and are the thread which binds the communities across the North Central Florida region together. In response to this ongoing critical

issue, NCFRPC formed the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force which is comprised of one county commissioner from each of its 12-county region. Council staff is providing various support services for the Task Force.

The Task Force recently held its first meeting in Madison County. Also in attendance at this meeting were representatives of the Suwannee River Water Management District, Florida Department of Health, Madison County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Santa Fe River, Suwannee and St. John's Sierra Club, Withlacoochee, Alapaha and Suwannee River Watershed Coalition, and a number of citizens at large.

A presentation was made by Council staff to the group regarding the history, and related concerns, of raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta into the Withlacoochee River. The consent order between the City of Valdosta and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division concerning ongoing raw spillage spills was also discussed. In addition, the Task Force heard a report from the Florida Department of Health related to the most recent raw sewage spill which occurred on December 2, 2018.

Based on the very serious negative impacts of the spills, the Task Force identified public health, environmental, economic development, and tourism concerns. In addition, the Task Force proposed several strategic strategies including plans to contact federal and state officials, adoption of resolutions from county and city governments, sending letters to various public and private entities, meeting with the Mayor of Valdosta and its City Council, and engaging the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection (USDEP) for support.

Based on this meeting, 15 potential partners were identified in supporting the efforts of the Task Force to include the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, as well as, Valdosta citizens. These sewage spills are a detriment to the health and quality of life of North Central Florida citizens. The Council's member local governments are very supportive of the Task Force's initiative.

FRCA Annual Report for 2018. Pat Steed, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Executive Director, distributed said report and indicated that FRCA's priorities center around five areas: (1) Regional Convening, (2) Transportation, (3) Quality of Life, (4) Emergency Preparedness, and (5) Economic Development. Accomplishments in each area were listed in the report. Also included in the report was a summary of the devastating effects Hurricane Irma had on the state and subsequent recovery efforts. Various recipients of awards were recognized in the report including NCFRPC being lauded by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the establishment of an innovative "North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team." Finally, Scott Koons, NCFRPC Executive Director, was recognized for being elected as NADO's President for this year at the organization's annual conference in October 2018, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Economic Impacts of Red Tide. Sean Sullivan, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Executive Director, distributed a handout entitled: "The Economic Ripple Effects of Florida Red Tide." The report focused primarily on Tampa Bay and surrounding areas. Mr. Sullivan indicated that:

- The survey period covered the period August 13, 2018 through December 10, 2018.
- 246 responses were received from citizens across 12 counties.
- The direct damage to date for Pinellas, Manatee, and Hillsborough Counties is \$2.9 million.
- Total statewide damage to date is \$130.6 million.

FRCA Financial Report for December 31, 2018. Pat Steed, presented the report. Said report was **unanimously approved**.

Special Recognition of NCFRPC's 50th Anniversary. Commissioner Horvath, cited that NCFRPC's 50th anniversary will occur on May 7, 2019, and that a copy of a resolution was included in the board package. Said resolution was **unanimously approved**.

Legislative Report and 2019 Legislative Agenda. Rana Brown, Ronald L. Book, P.A., Legislative Consultant, distributed a handout and indicated that FRCA's 2019 Legislative Agenda is divided into two categories: (1) Legislative action items and top priorities for FRCA to include those where a proactive role and involvement is expected by FRCA's Executive Director and RPC membership in

order to accomplish them, and (2) Other legislative priorities in support of RPC's and their member governments to include statements in support of RPC's and various legislative priorities of mutual interest set forth by the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, and Florida Small County Coalition. This portion of FRCA's 2019 legislative agenda is organized under the "Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars" framework. The following is a list of the **"Legislative Action Items"** for 2019:

- FRCA **SUPPORTS** legislation with an emphasis in the RPC program areas of economic development, transportation, housing, emergency preparedness, and environmental protection.
- FRCA **SUPPORTS** legislation directing the use of all "Florida Housing Trust Funds" for the state's housing programs.
- FRCA **SUPPORTS** legislation for inclusion of RPC's as regional resources in resiliency activities throughout the state.
- FRCA **SUPPORTS** legislation which will allow the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) to include participation by telephonic communications in order to meet quorum requirements.

A list of **"Legislative Priorities in Support of Regional Planning Councils and Their Member Local Governments"** for 2019 include the following:

Talent Supply and Education

FRCA **SUPPORTS** enhanced economic competitiveness which must include an emphasis on "Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM)" and critical thinking in public education and training programs which are aligned with existing and emerging job markets and industry clusters.

Innovation and Economic Development

FRCA **SUPPORTS** full funding for RPC's to, at a minimum, leverage the role of said councils as federally designated economic development districts, providing support to state and regional economic development initiatives and activities, providing assistance to local economic development organizations, and covering the cost of statutory responsibilities.

FRCA **SUPPORTS** retaining the existing statutory authorities and responsibilities vested in RPC's.

Infrastructure and Growth Leadership

FRCA **SUPPORTS** a continued state and regional role in assisting local governments accommodate future growth while ensuring economic prosperity and preparing for and responding to emergencies and natural disasters.

FRCA **SUPPORTS** future transportation corridors, a diverse and competitive statewide multi-modal transportation network, and sustainable sources of funding which are consistent with and support regional visions and further the regional "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies" of Florida's federally-designated "Economic Development Districts."

FRCA **SUPPORTS** a comprehensive action plan related to coastal flooding and loss with energy policies and other funding initiatives to reduce greenhouse emissions, sea level rise, and salt water intrusion, and to address ecosystem sustainability, long-term water supply, flood protection, public health and safety, adaptation and mitigation, infrastructure needs, and economic prosperity.

FRCA **SUPPORTS** maintaining and protecting the integrity of all trust funds for their stated use.

Business Climate and Competitiveness

FRCA **SUPPORTS** providing a strong, but fair development impact mitigation process which addresses extra-jurisdictional impacts including those to natural resources of regional significance and other regional resources.

FRCA **SUPPORTS** providing a seat at the table for all impacted local governments.

FRCA **SUPPORTS** preserving the role of RPC's as conveners and their right to collect fees for services

FRCA **SUPPORTS** utilizing dispute resolution processes of RPC's.

FRCA **SUPPORTS** protecting the entitlements and vested development rights as necessary for large-scale, long-term financial investments.

FRCA **SUPPORTS** unlimited ability of a RPC to provide planning and technical services for a fee in furtherance of its mission and in support of its local governments.

Civic and Governance Systems

FRCA **SUPPORTS** the positions and policies of organizations which share a common membership with RPC's including the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Small County Coalition, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council. These entities have mutual interests and concerns.

FRCA **SUPPORTS** an evaluation of impacts which growth management law changes have had on Florida's economy, environment, local and regional infrastructure, and community development.

Quality of Life and Quality Places

FRCA **SUPPORTS** regional visioning as a means to guide the future of Florida, build public/private coalitions to implement key regional and statewide initiatives, and serve as the basis for strategic statewide planning and budgeting initiatives.

FRCA **SUPPORTS** a comprehensive and balanced multi-modal approach with context sensitive solutions which are tied to strategic statewide planning and budgeting initiatives for solving the state's traffic congestion and mobility problems.

A motion was made to approve FRCA's legislative priorities for 2019 which was ***unanimously approved.***

To conclude this agenda item, **Peter O'Bryan, Indian River, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, Commissioner, and FRCA 2nd Vice President,** briefed those in attendance about the anticipated state budget and incoming leadership of the Florida Senate and House. He indicated that Bill Galvano, representing Manatee County and Part of Hillsborough County, is the Senate President, and Jose R. Oliva, representing Part of Miami-Dade, is the Speaker of the House. Mr. O'Bryan stated that there is a budget surplus but it does not mean the budgeting discussions will not be contentious.

Appointment of FRCA Nominating Committee for 2019-2020 Policy Board Officers. **Commissioner Horvath,** appointed five individuals to serve on said committee.

Other Business

Lee Constantine, Seminole County, Commissioner, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, made two motions regarding "unfunded mandates" for RPC's required by statute for FRCA to initiate a process seeking legislative funding for these mandates. Both motions were ***unanimously approved.***

Commissioner Constantine stated that it was not yet confirmed but he is under consideration for appointment as the Supervisor of Elections for Seminole County and should know something in the next several days.

Next Meeting

FRCA's Policy Board Partners business meeting will be held on August 16, 2019, at the Orlando Marriott World Resort in conjunction with the Florida League of Cities annual conference.

Adjournment

Commissioner Horvath adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

