

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCFRPC)**  
**MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL)**  
**FEBRUARY 29, 2019**

**ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**MARCH 25, 2019**

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

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**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.

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**Call to Order**

**Mayor Davis, City of Waldo, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Quorum**

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

**Invocation**

**Commissioner Mortimer, City of Starke**, delivered the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Introduction of Guests**

**Mayor Davis** recognized the guests in attendance.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

**Minutes** of the January 24, 2018, meeting.

**Financial Report for January 19, 2019**

**Revenues** and expenditures are within budget for the first three months of the fiscal year--they are both at 26 percent. The adjusted general fund balance should remain at an acceptable level at the end of the fiscal year.

## **Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) Related to Regional Economic Modeling**

**An** additional year was added to the original agreement with TBRPC at their request for a fixed fee of **\$5,785.50**.

## **Transportation Disadvantaged Program (TDP) Planning Grant Resolutions for FY 19/20**

**The** Council is the designated official planning agency for the TDP's for Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, and Union Counties. These resolutions authorize the Chair to sign the FY 19/20 Disadvantaged Trust Fund Planning Grant Agreements with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged which provides the needed funds to provide staff services to local coordinating boards.

## **Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board (TDCB) Appointments**

The following TDCB appointments are recommended: **Ms. Lauren Adams, Florida Department of Transportation Representative**, as the Alternate on the Bradford, Columbia, and Hamilton, and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, and Union County boards, and **Commissioner Jamie Storey** as the Chair of the Dixie County board.

## **Approval of Regular Agenda**

**The** regular agenda was **approved unanimously**.

## **Guest Speaker, Christian Doolin, Legislative Consultant, Florida Small County Coalition**

**Mr. Doolin** briefed the Council on several of the bills the Coalition will be closely following during the current legislative session. He indicated it was a high priority for RPC's to protect what we have. Mr. Doolin distributed a handout entitled: *"The small County Coalition Legislative Program for the 2019 Regular Session."* The guiding principles of the Coalition for this session are:

- Continue funding in high priority need areas.
- Support efforts to promote quality of life issues in rural areas including access to quality health care, expanded internet services, and protection of water quality and the character and quality of rural communities and environments.
- Ensure effectiveness of economic development efforts, stimulate employment growth, and target actions to protect against job losses or economic instability.
- Oppose proposals that shift costs from the state to the local level, increases local costs, and maintains a "One Size Fits All" approach.
- Identify and eliminate, waive, delay, or mitigate requirements, regulations, mandated criteria, reports, studies, or other requirements that are non-critical, have unintended consequences, and result in increased local spending.
- Provide for meaningful local involvement in state or regional activities and local decisions.
- Support local control without regulatory or statutory pre-emptions to govern on issues of local impact including, but not limited to, the environment and fiscal matters.

Mr. Doolin also distributed a handout entitled: *"The Small County School District Council Consortium Legislative Priorities for the 2019 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature."* The priorities of the Consortium for this session are to support:

- Full funding of the sparsity supplement.
- Funding for the special facility construction account program.
- A base level funding for all districts within the digital classroom program.
- Increased safe school funding.
- Increased funding for mental health services for students and families.
- Local school board authority over public education outlay funding.
- Continued compression of ad valorem millage for public education where local level is less than the statewide average.
- Increased funding for school transportation.
- Funding for the regional consortia service program.
- A revision in the cost per student station caps.
- The current Florida Retirement System provisions.
- Local flexibility related to unfunded mandates or other proposals that will cause undue burden.
- Accountability and assessment of student performance.
- Job training and placement for adults with disabilities.
- Recruitment and retention to ensure the availability of instruction and administrative personnel in rural areas.
- Appropriation of school health funding.
- Hurricane shelter hardening funding related to new construction of schools.

**NOTE:** *Please refer to the Executive Director's report for specific bills the Council will be following.*

**Chair Report - Mayor Davis, City of Waldo** - No report.

**Executive Committee Report (Scott Koons, NCFRPC Executive Director, Presented the Report)**

**Resolution Recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the City of Gainesville**

*The* City of Gainesville was incorporated in 1869 and was named after General Edmund P. Gaines who was recognized as a hero of the Seminole Wars. In the middle 19th Century, Gainesville was connected to the Florida Railroad which ran from Fernandina to Cedar Key connecting the east coast to the west coast of Florida. Today, Gainesville prides itself as being home to the University of Florida and Santa Fe College and as a thriving center for education and healthcare. It proclaims itself with the distinction of being where nature and culture meet. The resolution was ***approved unanimously***.

**Proclamation Declaring February 24 - March 2, 2019, as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week**

*The* proclamation was ***approved unanimously***.

**Assigned Fund Balance - Capital Reserve**

*The* depreciation for FY 17/18 in the amount of **\$6,218** for furniture, fixtures, and equipment was applied to the capital assets of the Council resulting in a total of **\$565,863** accumulated depreciation of fixed assets. A motion was ***approved unanimously*** to encumber **\$6,000** of the Council's unassigned fund balance as part of the assigned fund balance to increase the capital reserve fund balance for accumulated depreciation of building and equipment costs to **\$566,000**.

**Clearinghouse Committee Report**

***Commissioner Adams, Lafayette County, Chair***, presented the report and stated that the Committee recommends the following "Comprehensive Plan Adopted/Draft Amendments" be approved for: City of Alachua (Adopted), City of Gainesville (Adopted), City of Gainesville (Draft), City of Newberry (Draft), and City of Alachua (Draft). Motion was ***approved unanimously***.

**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Report** - No report.

**Program Committee Report** - No report.

**Nominating Committee Report** - No report.

**Regional Planning Committee Report** - No report.

**Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force Report**

**Commissioner Davis, Madison County, Chair**, presented the report and indicated that the Task Force met earlier this evening to discuss strategies to address the ongoing raw sewage spills emanating from two wastewater treatment plants in Valdosta, Georgia, into several of Florida's rivers and streams. The Task Force is comprised of one county commissioner from each of the twelve counties in the NCFRPC region. **Commissioner Ken Cornell, Alachua County**, represents Alachua County on the Task Force. **Mr. Koons** provided the following summary regarding a recommended resolution from today's meeting which identified ongoing problems. It is stated in the resolution that the Task Force:

- Finds unacceptable and intolerable the repeated raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta from its Withlacoochee and Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plants.
- Finds that the implementation of the "Consent Order" has not corrected this persistent problem.
- Requests the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Suwannee River Water Management District, and all other similarly situated agencies and entities with the authority to act, to join the Task Force in addressing raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta into the Withlacoochee River and Mud Creek.
- Requests that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Suwannee River Water Management District, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency carefully examine the conduct of the City of Valdosta, the Georgia Environmental Protection Agency, and any other parties to the operation of the City of Valdosta Withlacoochee and Mud Creek Pollution Control Plants to take any and all necessary and proper action to ensure spills of raw sewage into these waterways come to a lasting end.

**The** next Task Force meeting will be held on or before April 25, 2019, at a site to be determined.

**Ex-Officio Member Reports**

**Reports** were made by representatives from ex-officio members in attendance (Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Suwannee River Water Management District).

**Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO)** - Not in attendance.

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)** - Report made.

**Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)** - Report made.

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC)** - Report made

**St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)** - Not in attendance.

**Southwest Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)** - Not in attendance.

**Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD)** - Report made.

**Citizen Comments**

**Stew Lilker, Publisher, Columbia County Record**, made several comments and voiced his concerns regarding there not being a plan for creating a regional transportation system in the area. One other attendee commented about concerns over hydrologic fracking.

### **Executive Director Report**

**Mr. Koons** briefed the council on the following items:

#### **Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Monthly Activity Report**

Mr. Koons indicated that FRCA is the statewide organization which is comprised of ten Regional Planning Councils (RPC's). The mission of FRCA is to strengthen Florida's RPC's and its 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. **Denise Imbler, FRCA Statewide Coordinator**, advises and supports NCFRPC in fulfilling its mission. Mr. Koons summarized FRCA's activities for January.

#### **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 Competitiveness.
- Civic and Government Systems.
- Quality of Life and Places.

Mr. Koons summarized the "State of Florida Metrics" for December 2018. He highlighted the following information: (1) High School graduation rate is at **86.1%** and is rising, (2) Unemployment rate is at **3.3%** and full employment is considered to be at **4%**, (3) Florida's economy is over **\$1 trillion** and is the **17th largest** in the world if it were classified as a country, (4) Population of the state is **20.98 million** which is the third largest behind California and Texas, (5) Consumer sentiment is at **97.8%** which is declining, (6) Probability of a Florida Recession is **20.7%** which is increasing, (7) Number of open jobs is **273,700** while there are **335,000** unemployed residents, (8) Percentage of residents who believe the state is headed in the right direction is **44%** while **38%** believe the state is heading in the wrong direction (9) State ranks **last** in volunteerism in the country at **22.8%**, (10) Percentage of students receiving free and reduced lunches is **60.5%** which is increasing, and (11) Poverty rate is at **15.5%** which is increasing.

#### **Legislative Report**

Mr. Koons indicated that the legislative session began on March 5, 2019, and is scheduled to adjourn on May 3, 2019. He stated that:

- Governor DeSantis did not recommend any funding for regional planning councils for FY 19/20.
- Senate Bill 70/House Bill 353 regarding the State Housing Trust Fund and Local Government Housing Trust Fund will be closely monitored by council staff.

- Senate Bill 214/House Bill 85 regarding Onsite Sewage and Disposal Systems will be closely monitored by Council staff.
- Senate Bill 428/House Bill 91 regarding Growth Management will be closely monitored by Council staff.
- House Bill 3235 regarding the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study will be closely monitored by Council staff.

#### **Next Meeting**

*The* next meeting of the Council will be held on March 28, 2019, 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**

**Mayor Davis** adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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#### **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC) Mission Statement**

*To improve the quality of life of the Region's citizens by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development, and providing technical services to local governments.*

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#### **NCFRPC Executive Director (Contact Information)**

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#### **NCFRPC Staff (Telephone Contact Information - 352.955.2200)**

Scott Koons, AICP, Executive Director (Extension 101)  
 Dwayne L. Mundy, Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance Program Director (Extension 108)  
 Kevin D. Parish, Information Technology and Property Management Director (Extension 133)  
 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)  
 Carmelita Franco, Planning Administrative Assistant, Local Government Comprehensive Planning (Extension 125)  
 Lauren Yeatter, AICP, Senior Planner, Economic Development and Regional Planning, Geographic Information Systems, and Original Planning Florida (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  
 Charles Chestnut, IV, Commissioner, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners  
 Ken Cornell, Commissioner, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners  
 Louie Davis, Mayor, City of Waldo  
 Matt Herson, Commissioner, City of Newberry  
 Fletcher Hope, Commissioner, City of Archer  
 Linda Jones, Vice Mayor, City of High Springs  
 Gigi Simmons, Commissioner, City of Gainesville  
 Helen Warren, Commissioner, City of Gainesville  
 Marihelen Wheeler, Commissioner, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners  
 Robert Wilford, Commissioner, City of Alachua  
 Kristina Wright, Non-Voting Delegate, City of High Springs

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**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.*

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

| <b><u>Council</u></b>                                    | <b><u>Number of Counties Served</u></b> | <b><u>Region</u></b> | <b><u>Headquarters</u></b> |
|--|---|----------------------|----------------------------|
| West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC)           | 7                                       | 1                    | Pensacola                  |
| Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)               | 9                                       | 2                    | Tallahassee                |
| North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC) | 12                                      | 3                    | Gainesville                |
| Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council (NEFRPC)     | 7                                       | 4                    | Jacksonville               |
| East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC)  | 8                                       | 5                    | Altamonte Springs          |
| Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)        | 5                                       | 6                    | Bartow                     |
| Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC)              | 6                                       | 7                    | Pinellas Park              |
| Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)     | 6                                       | 8                    | Fort Myers                 |
| Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC)         | 4                                       | 9                    | Stuart                     |
| South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC)          | 3                                       | 10                   | 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.

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**COMMISSIONER WILFORD NCFRPC APPOINTMENTS (CURRENT AND PAST)**

Vice Chair (Current)  
 Secretary/Treasurer (Past)  
 Executive Committee (Current)  
 Finance Committee (Chair - Past)  
 Program Committee (Chair - Current)

Regional Planning Committee (Past)

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA - NCFRPC Delegate - Current)

North Central Florida Areawide Development Company (ADCO - NCFRPC Delegate - Current)

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