

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCFRPC)
MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL)
APRIL 25, 2019

ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING
May 6, 2019

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

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

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 Wilford, City of Alachua, 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 March 28, 2019, meeting.

Financial Report for March 2019

Revenues and expenditures are within budget for the first six months of the fiscal year. Revenues are at 45% of the budget while expenditures are at 46% of the budget. The financial condition of the council remains strong and the adjusted general fund balance should remain at an acceptable level at the end of the fiscal year.

Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board (TDCB) Appointments

The following TDCB appointments are recommended: ***Mr. Jeffrey Aboumrad, Florida Department of Education Representative***, for the Dixie, Gilchrist, and Union County TDCB's, ***Ms. Monica Caraway, Local Medical Community Representative***, for the Bradford County TDCB, ***Mr. Ralph Williams, Florida Department of Elder Affairs***, for the Gilchrist County TDCB, and ***Mr. John Wisker, Florida Department of Children and Families Representative***, for the Bradford County TDCB.

Approval of Regular Agenda

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

Guest Speaker, Marilyn Stephens, Assistant Regional Manager, Atlanta Regional Office, United States Census Bureau

Ms. Stephens, explained the importance of the census by highlighting the following information:

- Every household will have the option of responding to the census online, by mail, or on the telephone.
- 95% of households will receive a census invitation in the mail.
- Information to be sent in the mail to households includes: (1) **March 12 - 20** - An invitation to respond online to the 2020 census, (2) **March 16 - 24** - A reminder letter, (3) **March 26 - April 3** - A reminder postcard, (4) **April 8 - 16** - A reminder letter and paper questionnaire, and (5) **April 20 - 27** - A final reminder postcard before a follow-up visit is made by a census worker.
- The census counts every person living in the United States.
- The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years--the first census was in 1790.
- The census is about fair representation in reapportioning the House of Representatives in determining the number of seats each state has representing them.
- The distribution of federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities is largely based on census data.
- State officials redraw (re-district) the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their respective states to account for population shifts.
- Completing the census is mandatory.
- Census data is used to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy.
- Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores thereby assisting in creating jobs.
- Local governments use census data for public safety and emergency preparedness.
- Real estate developers use census data in making decisions regarding the construction of building new homes and in the revitalization of old neighborhoods.

- It is anticipated that 80% of the 2020 census will be completed online.
- It is against the law for the U.S. Census Bureau to release private responses to the public which could identify respondents.
- The U.S. Census Bureau, by law, cannot share respondent answers with any other government agency.

Chair Report - Mayor Davis, City of Waldo

Resolution Recognizing the Service of Mr. P. Steven Futch as the Private Representative on the Bradford County TDCB

A resolution was ***approved unanimously*** for ***Mr. Futch*** for his service on the Bradford County TDCB since 1994.

Scott Koons, NCFRPC Executive Director, Elected Chair of the University of Florida Urban and Regional Planning Graduate Program Advisory Council

The general purpose of the Advisory Council is to provide professional guidance to the students, faculty, and in curriculum development with the primary functions being to: (1) Act as a liaison between planning and related professions and the department; (2) Offer advice and insight regarding practical issues and trends impacting the profession with relevance to urban planning education; (3) Assist with professional development and ethics training for students; (4) Serve as mentors to the students to equip them for life after school as planning professionals; (5) Support development and fundraising activities which position the department as the top planning school in the country as future leaders in the profession; (6) Provide proactive input to the curriculum of the department to ensure it prepares students to deal with urban and regional planning issues of the future; (7) Increase alumni engagement with the department; and (8) Advocate and assist in departmental re-accreditation activities and site visits as well as in significant college and university initiatives.

Executive Committee Report (Mr. Koons Presented the Report)

Proclamation Declaring the Week of May 5 - 11, 2019, as Travel and Tourism Week

The original “Florida Tourism Task Force” was created as part of the Council 27-years-ago. It is now a 14-county independent tourism marketing interlocal agreement organization. The mission of the task force is to: ***“Promote the natural, historic, and cultural attractions of the North Central Florida region to increase the number of visitors and extend their stay.”*** The proclamation was ***approved unanimously***.

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 (Draft) and City of Alachua (Adopted). Motion was ***approved unanimously***.

Program Committee Report - No report.

Finance Committee - No report.

Regional Planning Committee Report - No report.

Nominating 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 did not meet quorum requirements earlier this evening. However, a discussion ensued among task force members and others in attendance regarding the continuing 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. **Commissioner Davis** indicated that:

- He, Commissioner Cornell, Mr. Koons, and others recently attended a legislative committee hearing, which was well received, in Tallahassee and presented the Council's concerns regarding the ongoing Valdosta spills.
- The Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and his staff are being very cooperative in collaborating with the Council.
- A meeting of the task force with the Valdosta City Council was recently held to discuss critical issues regarding the ongoing spills which are most often the result of major rain events.
- The City of Valdosta has 6,000 manholes.
- A holding area which will hold 10 million gallons of overflow will be developed in the near future which should alleviate some of the spill(s) problem(s).
- Measures to improve and expedite "immediate notification" requirements are being undertaken.
- Another meeting with the Valdosta City Council will be conducted on July 10, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in Valdosta.
- The next meeting of the task force will be held on July 25, 2019.

Ms. Darlene Velez, Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), made a presentation to the task force regarding 'Water Quality Monitoring' in the SRWMD service area. She stated that:

- The SRWMD Water Quality Mission is to: (1) Ensure quality improvement projects in support of FDEP "Total Maximum Loads" and "Basin Management Action Plan" efforts are ongoing; (2) Develop and update "Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM)" plans; (3) Assist state partners in identifying trends and areas of concern in environmental monitoring functions; and (4) Assist in emergency response sampling.
- SRWMD monitors trends regarding nutrients, metals, alkalinity, chlorophyll, physical parameters, total organic carbon, common anions, and cations.
- SRWMD does not monitor trends regarding bacteria, pesticides, herbicides, mercury, pharmaceuticals, radionuclides, industrial byproducts, and petroleum products.
- SRWMD and FDEP groundwater and surface water quality trend stations are strategically located and regularly-scheduled tests are done monthly, quarterly, biannually, or yearly depending on a pre-determined schedule.

- SRWMD, FDEP, and the Florida Department of Health have specific missions and collaborate with one another to address water concerns. Health advisories are issued by FDOH when E. coli results are above 410 cfu/100ml and sampling continues until an acceptable level is reached.
- The spill sampling response for the December 2, 2018, Valdosta spill was: (1) On Monday, December 3, 2018, Florida's state agencies were notified with FDEP coordinating sampling efforts; (2) On Tuesday, December 4, 2018, FDEP sampled the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers; (3) On Wednesday, December 5, 2018, SRWMD sampled the Alapaha, Withlacoochee, and Suwannee Rivers; (4) On Friday, December 7, 2018, FDEP sampled Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers; and (5) On Tuesday, December 12, 2018, SRWMD sampled the Lower Suwannee River.

The next Task Force meeting will be held on July 25, 2018, at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Lake City beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Ex-Officio Member Reports

Reports were made by representatives from ex-officio members in attendance:

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

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) - Not in attendance.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) - **Barney Bennett** - No report.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) - Not in attendance.

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) - **Ben Glass** - River grants have been received and are scheduled to be reviewed in August and September.

Citizen Comments

Stew Lilker, Publisher, Columbia County Record, made a comment regarding a fundraiser being held this Saturday in Columbia County related to animal issues. He also encouraged the Council to make reports at its board meetings regarding county and city projects and success stories.

Commissioner Helen Warren, Gainesville, reported that the city received a transportation grant and the city's Regional Transit System (RTS) is making trips from Lake City to the Oaks Mall and Shands. **Commissioner Gigi Simmons, Gainesville**, also stated RTS is making trips between Trenton and Newberry to the same locations in Gainesville. She stated that the trips are free and ridership is the key to make this transportation program a success.

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 March.

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 March 2019. Of note, the unemployment rate rose to 3.5% in March but is still below the full employment rate of 4%.

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 the majority of bills the Council was following did not pass this year.

50th Anniversary of NCFRPC

Mr. Koons indicated a special celebration will be held prior to the May 23, 2019, board meeting to commemorate this auspicious occasion.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on May 23, 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 8:05 p.m.

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.

NCFRPC Executive Director (Contact Information)

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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 Hersom, 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

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>Region</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>
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.

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)

