

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCFRPC)
MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL)
June 27, 2019

ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 22, 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, and, thirteen member municipalities, Alachua, Archer, Gainesville, Hawthorne, High Springs, Jasper, Lake City, Live Oak, Madison, Newberry, Perry, Starke and Waldo.

Call to Order

Commissioner Wilford, City of Alachua, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He thanked **Mayor Davis, City of Waldo**, for his outstanding leadership while serving as Chair of the Council this past year.

Quorum

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

Invocation

Councilwoman Bouie, City of Hawthorne, delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests

Commissioner Wilford recognized the guests in attendance.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Minutes

Minutes of the May 23, 2019, meeting.

Financial Report for May 2019

Revenues and expenditures are within budget for the first eight months of the fiscal year. Revenues are at 45% of the budget while expenditures are at 53% 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.

Approval of Regular Agenda

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

NCFRPC Presentation

Scott Koons, NCFRPC Executive Director, briefed members and guests on the many accomplishments made this year regarding the programs/projects the Council oversees. He also thanked members of the Council for their tremendous dedication this past year.

Chair Report, Commissioner Wilford, City of Alachua

New Member - Councilwoman Shirley Hampton, City of Perry, who had previously served on the Council, was welcomed back as a member of the Council.

Resolution of Appreciation

A "Resolution of Appreciation" was ***approved unanimously*** for **Mike Deming, City of Perry** who represented the City on the Council since December 2016.

Council Committee Appointments for Program Year 19/20

In accordance with Council's bylaws, each year appointments are made by the Chair to serve on the various committees of the Council. These appointments provide a broad geographic representation throughout the region and emphasis is placed on the attendance record of each appointee. Appointments were made by the Chair, which require ratification by the full Council, for the following Committees: Executive, Clearinghouse, Finance, Nominating, Program, Regional Planning, and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. In addition, the Chair appointed representatives to the Florida Regional Councils Association which also requires ratification by the full Council. The Chair's appointments were ratified and ***approved unanimously***.

Florida Small County Coalition Officers and Board of Directors Election

At the annual meeting of the Coalition held on June 12, 2019, **Commissioner John Meeks, Levy County**, was elected as Chair of the Coalition Board of Directors and **Commissioner Anthony Adams, Lafayette County**, was reelected to the Coalition's Board of Directors. The Coalition's primary mission is to assist Florida's small and rural counties address legislative issues from a small county/rural perspective and to work effectively with the leadership of various state agencies. The Chair praised these two Council members for their unwavering commitment to this highly critical Coalition regarding legislative issues.

Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Presidential Advocate Awards

At FAC's recent annual conference, **Commissioner Adams, Lafayette County, Commissioner Cornell, Alachua County, and Commissioner Meeks, Levy County** were awarded Presidential Advocate Awards. This distinguished recognition is given to county commissioners who have shown exceptional leadership in serving on various policy committees of the Association, guiding the policy development process, and advocating with FAC during the 2019 legislative session to advance the legislative agenda of the state's counties. The Chair thanked these dedicated commissioners for their outstanding work during this past legislative session for their commitment in representing all of the 67 counties in the state and especially for the 12 counties which comprise the Norther Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

Executive Committee Report - No report.

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: Madison County (Draft), City of Alachua (1 Adopted and 1 Draft), City of Lake City (2 Adopted), Columbia County (Draft), and Town of Micanopy (Draft). This motion was **approved unanimously**. The Chair thanked **Commissioner Adams** for his outstanding leadership efforts in chairing this committee for the Council.

Program Committee Report - No report.

Finance Committee - No report.

Regional Planning Committee Report - No report.

Nominating Committee Report - No report.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Report - No report.

Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force Report

Commissioner Rick Davis, Columbia County, presented the report and stated that the Task Force is not scheduled to meet until next month prior to the regular Council meeting. However, he did indicate that talks with representatives from the City of Valdosta are ongoing in order to address the continuing raw sewage spills emanating from two wastewater treatment plants in Valdosta 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. Following are excerpts from previous task force discussions:

- Commissioner Rick Davis, Madison County (Chair), Commissioner Cornell, Mr. Koons, and others attended a legislative committee hearing in Tallahassee during this past session 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 Task Force and Council.
- Several meetings of the Task Force with the Valdosta City Council have been 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 problems with spills.
- 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.

Ms. Darlene Velez, Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), made a presentation to task force members in May 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 on: (1) Monday, December 3, 2018, Florida’s state agencies were notified with FDEP coordinating sampling efforts, (2) Tuesday, December 4, 2018, FDEP sampled the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers, (3) Wednesday, December 5, 2018, SRWMD sampled the Alapaha, Withlacoochee, and Suwannee Rivers, (4) Friday, December 7, 2018, FDEP sampled Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers, and (5) 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, as indicated, 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) - **Daniel Penniman** - No report.

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

Citizen Comments

The following individuals voiced their concerns regarding the legislature’s toll road(s) proposal (**SB 7068**). A summary of comments by each speaker follows:

Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson (St. Johns Suwannee Sierra Club, Our Santa Fe River, Water Advocate, Environmental Activist, and Former Candidate for the Florida House of Representatives). Mr. Jim Tatum, Our Santa Fe River, distributed two Marion County handouts.

One handout contained excerpts from a “Large Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment” and the other was a “Resolution” passed by the Marion County Commission in opposition to the toll road proposal between I-75 and the Gulf of Mexico which may destroy our rural way of life, the area’s wildlife, and farmlands. She encouraged the Council to take similar official action advising other counties and municipalities to adopt similar resolutions and write letters to the governor, legislators, and state agencies in opposition to the proposed toll roads. **NOTE: Ms. Malwitz-Jipson’s name was incorrectly reported in last month’s “Notes” as Malwitz-Jackson.**

Eight members representing the “Alachua County Trust - Young Leaders for Wild Florida” organization also made insightful presentations in opposition to **SB 7068** regarding the proposed toll road. They were: Christian Landaeta, Ivan Landaeta, Makena Lang, Oscar Phychas, Anna Slayton, Emma Turner, Noah Turner, and Elizabeth Walker. The Chair complimented these engaged young people for their involvement in legislative and governmental processes. He further stated that they are our future leaders of tomorrow and it is encouraging to see them embrace civic responsibility as a way of life in making meaningful change in our municipalities, county, state, and country.

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 June.

Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard

Mr. Koons reminded council members that the Florida Chamber Foundation developed the Florida Scorecard to provide objective criteria 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 May 2019. Of note, the unemployment rate improved to 3.4% from the previous month’s 3.5% rate and remains below the national unemployment rate of 4%; the high school graduation rate remained at 86.1%; and, the high school graduation rate for children with disabilities remained at 77%. ***One metric that remains alarmingly constant is that the state ranks last in the country in “Volunteerism” with only 22.8% of Floridians volunteering.***

U.S. Economic Development Administration Grant Award - Santa Fe College

Mr. Koons reported that the “United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development,” awarded Santa Fe College a \$4.8 million grant to assist in re-building and expanding the “Santa Fe College Center for Innovation and Economic Development”

at the Blount Center which is located in Gainesville. This project will be matched with \$1.2 million in local funds as part of a “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Designated Opportunity Zone.” The Blount Center serves early stage startups across a broad spectrum of industry sectors. This project was made possible by regional planning efforts led by the Council.

Florida Small County Coalition Outstanding Service Award - Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force

Mr. Koons reported that the Council’s Task Force received a “Florida Small County Coalition Outstanding Service Award” for displaying effective leadership and advocacy in addressing the issues related to the City of Valdosta wastewater treatment plants. This award was presented at the “Small County Coalition Annual Meeting” on June 12, 2019.

Financial Disclosure Requirement for Council Members

Mr. Koons reminded Council members that they are required to file a financial disclosure form by July 1, 2019.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on July 25, 2019, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Lake City beginning at 7:00 p.m. Committee meetings will precede the Council meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. if applicable.

Item from the Floor

Commissioner Ken Cornell, Alachua County, asked if the Executive Committee had addressed ***SB 7068, Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (Toll Roads)***. Commissioner Wilford indicated that the Committee had discussed this bill in its meeting earlier this evening. Commissioner Cornell requested the Council be briefed regularly regarding the process that will be taken to address this issue.

Adjournment

Commissioner Wilford adjourned the meeting at 8:00 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)

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)
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, Geographic Information Systems, Community Development, Economic Development, and Regional Planning, and Original Planning Florida (Extension 113)
Tara Tucker, Assistant to the Executive Director (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>
Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC)*	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

*Also referred to as “West Florida Regional Council (WFRC).

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)

Chair (Current)

Vice Chair (Past)

Secretary/Treasurer (Past)

Executive Committee (Chair - Current)

Finance Committee (Chair - Past)

Program Committee (Past)

Regional Planning Committee (Past)

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

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

