

FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION (FRCA)
FRCA POLICY BOARD PARTNERS MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL)
FRCA POLICY BOARD BUSINESS MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL)

ORLANDO WORLD CENTER MARRIOTT
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
AUGUST 16, 2019

ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 26, 2019

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

NOTE (1): 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.

NOTE (2): There are ten (10) regional planning councils in Florida which serve the state's sixty-seven (67) counties and each are members of FRCA. 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 Council (NEFRC)	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

*Formerly known as the "West Florida Regional Council (WFRC)."

NOTE (3): 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.

NOTE (4): The mission statement of FRCA 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 organizations to address problems that are of greater-than-local concern.

NOTE (5): The following NCFRPC members represent the council on FRCA: Robert Wilford (Alachua City Commission - NCFRPC Chair), Charles Chestnut, IV (Alachua County Board of County Commissioners - NCFRPC Vice Chair), and Lorene Thomas (Gubernatorial Appointee - NCFRPC Former Chair).

FRCA POLICY BOARD PARTNERS MEETING

Call to Order

The Honorable Roxanne Horvath, Northeast Florida Regional Council, FRCA President, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Quorum

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

Introductions

President Horvath had attendees introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Policy Board Partners Meeting Summary for January 11, 2019

The meeting summary was ***approved unanimously***.

Legislative Agenda and Issues/Priorities for the Next Legislative Session, Florida League of Cities (FLC)

Jeff Branch, Attorney at Law, FLC Legislative Advocate, made the following report:

- Cyber security protection remains a concern.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Fire Regulations related to short-term rentals will be addressed.
- Enforcement of on-line taxes for retail businesses will be a high priority.
- The use of ***Sadowski Act (1992)*** funds being utilized as intended remains a continuing goal.
- Smoke-free zones in parks will be addressed.
- Local control of medical marijuana facilities will be a high priority.

Mr. Branch indicated ***HB 7103***, proposed in the last legislative session concerning affordable housing, was a "bad bill" due to issues related to making developers "whole" being of concern regarding timelines and other issues.

Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)

Jared Moskowitz, FDEM Director, made the following comments:

- FDEM has 250 employees.
- FDEM planning was poor until recently.
- Processing in the past, regarding disbursement of federal emergency funds prior to Governor DeSantis taking office, was too cumbersome and in total disarray due to audits being required prior to disbursement of funds being awarded.
- Follow-up with requesters was not being initiated by the department and was left up to those entities seeking federal emergency funds instead.
- Federal emergency funds totaling \$800 million dollars have been disbursed since Governor DeSantis took office in January which is a significant improvement over past disbursements.
- FDEM is cutting back on bureaucracy in working with entities seeking federal emergency funds.
- The department had billions of dollars in federal emergency funds sitting in its account going back as far as five years.
- FDEM offices are now located in Orlando and Palm Beach Council which will “regionalize” services; there was previously a single FDEM office which was located in Tallahassee.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Huiwei Shen, Manager, FDOT Systems Implementation Office, reported on the “Florida Multi-Use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES)” program. The following summary is taken from Ms. Shen’s comments and FDOT’s “M-CORE Website:”

- **Chapter 2019-43, Laws of Florida**, authorizes FDOT to work collaboratively with citizens as well as statewide and regional stakeholders to research the viability of developing three new infrastructure corridors within the state.
- FDOT will form and use a task force for each corridor to make high level recommendations for their respective areas which include the: (1) Southwest-Central Florida Connector which will create a new corridor from Collier County in Southwest Florida to Polk County in Central Florida, (2) Suncoast Connector which will extend the current Suncoast Parkway in Citrus County to Jefferson County near the Georgia border, and (3) Northern Turnpike Connector which will extend from Florida’s Turnpike (State Road 191) from its current terminus at Wildwood in Sumter County to the Suncoast Parkway.
- Scott Koons, NCFRPC Executive Director, was appointed to serve on both the Suncoast Connector and Northern Turnpike Connector which was finalized on August 1, 2019.
- The M-CORES program has multiple goals, including job creation, revitalizing rural communities, and to provide connectivity using technology to enhance quality of life and public safety.
- The objective of M-CORES is to advance the construction of regional corridors which are intended to accommodate multiple modes of transportation and multiple types of infrastructure including broadband, sewage, water, and electric systems.
- Projected study fact effects: (1) 21 counties, (2) 77 cities and towns, (3) 18,977 square miles of land area, (4) 3,215,800 residents, (5) 772,084 jobs, (6) 9,172 square land miles of state highway system, (7) 905 square land miles of active rail, (8) 2 seaports, and (9) 2 commercial service airports.

- Protecting the environment and natural resources will be a high priority during the process.
- There will be at least six meetings of each task force with the initial meeting being held on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. This meeting will be attended by all members of the three task forces.

Closing Comments

President Horvath thanked everyone for attending and indicated the next meeting will be held in January 2020 to coincide with next year's legislative session.

Adjournment

President Horvath adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

FRCA POLICY BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order

The Honorable Roxanne Horvath, Northeast Florida Regional Council, FRCA President, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Quorum

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

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was **approved unanimously** with one change which was the Nominating Committee report being moved up.

Approval of Policy Board Business Meeting Summary for January 11, 2019

The meeting summary was **approved unanimously**.

Nominating Committee Re Election of Officers for 2019-2020 Policy Board Executive Committee

Councilman Scott Black, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Chair, delivered the committee's officer recommendations to serve on the Policy Board Executive Committee for next year. They are: (1) **Ms. Sandra Walters**, President, Gubernatorial Appointee, South Florida Regional Planning Council, (2) Indian River County Commissioner, **Peter O'Bryan**, First Vice President, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and (3) Leon County Commissioner **Kristin Dozier**, Second Vice President, Apalachee Regional Planning Council. A discussion ensued in which several members stated concerns indicating there will not be a municipality represented on the Executive Committee. Traditionally, membership on the Executive Committee has consisted of one county elected official, one elected city official, and one gubernatorial appointee. Chair Black provided reasoning for the committee's recommendation. FRCA's new Executive Committee members will assume their officer roles on October 1, 2019. The motion was **approved unanimously**.

Regional Planning Councils Report Out

President Horvath indicated this item is included to provide association members time to "brag" on their accomplishments. A representative from each council made a report. Commissioner Wilford, NCFRPC Chair, made the following report:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCFRPC)

“REGIONAL TOURISM PROMOTION PROGRAM”

The Council initiated a “Regional Tourism Promotion Program” by creating “The Original Florida Tourism Task Force” which is a governmental entity formed through “Interlocal” agreements with each of the twelve counties in the region. This highly innovative program promotes North Central Florida for nature-, heritage-, and cultural-based tourism. Each participating county appoints members to serve on the Task Force.

These appointed members are typically staff for, or members of, their local Tourism Development Council, as well as, private sector individuals representing the tourism industry. NCFRPC staff provides support for the Task Force in the implementation of its annual regional marketing plan which includes:

- Website design and information,
- Travel writer blogs,
- E-newsletter,
- Brochure distribution at: (1) Visit Florida Welcome Centers, (2) motels along I-75 throughout Georgia, and (3) motels along I-75 from the state line to Wildwood,
- A vigorous print and digital advertising campaign, and
- Attendance at domestic and international travel trade shows in partnership with VisitFlorida.

This program has proven to be very popular with the twelve counties in North Central Florida. As expected, it has been very successful in attracting visitors to the region.

FRCA Assembled Financial Statements for FY 17/18

Manny Pumariaga, CPA, reviewed the balance sheet, income statement, and one adjusting accounts payable journal entry. He did not identify any problem areas with FRCA’s accounting procedures. The financial statements were **approved unanimously**.

FRCA Financial Report and FY 18/19 Proposed Budget Amendment

Pat Steed, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, FRCA EDAC Treasurer, delivered the report. The budget amendment was necessary since the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council has been unable to pay only a portion of their dues because of financial difficulties. The budget amendment was **approved unanimously**; and, the financial report was **approved unanimously**.

Proposed Budget for FY 19/20

Chris Rietow, Apalachee Regional Planning Council, FRCA EDAC Chair, delivered the report. In addition to cancelling the contract in the amount of \$20,000, with the Florida Association of Counties for “Intergovernmental Services,” as an additional cost saving measure, it was recommended the Association meet a single time during FY 19/20 in Tallahassee in January 2020 in conjunction with the legislative session. The Executive Committee would then meet to conduct Association business in the summer of 2020. These recommended budget reduction measures were largely related to the aforementioned financial difficulties of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC). After several members expressed concern with not having two meetings of the Association in FY 19/20, it was decided to reduce the proposed budget in other areas and work with SWFRPC in assisting them with their financial issues. The proposed budget as amended was **approved unanimously**.

Legislative Report and 2020 Legislative Agenda

President Horvath directed members to the draft amendment handout in the board packet. She indicated FRCA's legislative issues and priorities for 2020 closely mirror those from the 2019 legislative session. Following is a brief summary of this handout:

- FRCA's **legislative agenda** is divided into two categories. They are: (1) legislative action items and top priorities for FRCA, and (2) other legislative priorities in support of Regional Planning Councils (RPC's) and their member local governments--this portion of FRCA's 2020 legislative agenda is organized under the "Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillar" framework which are: (a) Talent Supply and Education, (b) Innovation and Economic Development, (c) Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, (d) Business Climate and Competitiveness, (e) Civic and Governance Systems, and (f) Quality and Life and Quality Places.
- FRCA's **legislative action items** are divided into four support areas. They are: (1) legislation with an emphasis in RPC program areas of economic development, transportation, housing, emergency preparedness, and environmental protection, (2) legislation directing the use of all "Florida Housing Trust" funds for Florida's housing programs, (3) inclusion of RPC's as regional resources in resilience activities throughout the state, and (4) legislation that will allow SWFRPC to include participation by telephonic communication to meet quorum requirements.
- FRCA's **legislative priorities** in support of RPC's and their member local government include a plethora of issues identified under the aforementioned "Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillar" framework to include talent supply and education, innovation and economic development, infrastructure and growth leadership, business climate and competitiveness, civic and governance systems, and quality of life and quality places. ***Full funding of RPC's retaining the existing statutory authorities and vested in RPC's is an ongoing concern since these councils have not been funded in a number of years.***

Ron Book, Lobbyist, Ronald L. Book, P.A. discussed a number of legislative issues. He indicated the Department of Emergency Management is doing some good things and he expects even greater support out of this department. Mr. Book stated garnering funding for RPC's is still a difficult proposition and said a decision will need to be made for a recommended course of action to take in addressing the legislature in the upcoming session.

Other Business

President Horvath again thanked everyone for attending and indicated the next meeting will be held in January 2020 to coincide with next year's legislative session. Members expressed appreciation for President Horvath's leadership over the past year. Her term ends on September 30, 2019.

Adjournment

President Horvath adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

