

MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL)

January 23, 2020

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

ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING

February 24, 2020

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, fourteen member municipalities, Alachua, Archer, Gainesville, Hawthorne, High Springs, Jasper, Lake Butler, Lake City, Live Oak, Madison, Newberry, Perry, Starke and Waldo. The City of Lake Butler became a member of the Council in January 2020.

Call to Order. *Commissioner Robert Wilford, City of Alachua, 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 Patricia Bouie, City of Hawthorne*, delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance. Members and guests recited the pledge to the flag in honor of the United States of America.

Introduction of Guests. *Chair Wilford* introduced the guests in attendance. *Ms. Alice Hopkins, Office of External Affairs, Jimmy Patronis, Florida Chief Financial Officer*, was extended a special welcome.

Procedural Clarification Regarding Public Comments. *Chair Wilford* read a statement explaining the manner in which citizens are authorized to participate in the Council's business at this public meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda. The following consent agenda items were *approved unanimously*.

Minutes of the December 12, 2019, Meeting

Monthly Financial Reports for November and December 2019

Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointment for Commissioner Matt Brooks, Levy County Board of County Commissioners, to Serve as Chair of the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

Approval of Regular Agenda. The regular agenda was *approved unanimously*.

Guest Speaker. There was no guest speaker for tonight's meeting. However, *Lauren Yeatter, AICP, NCFRPC Senior Planner*, made a presentation regarding "Economic Development Strategies for North Central Florida." In addition to highlighting comprehensive economic develop strategies, identifying top and targeted industries, vital project areas, and rural areas of economic opportunity for

Columbia and Suwannee Counties using an econometric regional model, **Ms. Yeatter** briefed the Council regarding the Council's "Visit Natural North Florida (VNNF)" activities. She indicated:

- VNNF was founded as a result of a study conducted by NCFRPC to market the region as an attractive destination to increase visibility and tourism offerings.
- The mission VNNF is: *"Enhance tourism while preserving historical, cultural, and natural assets."*
- The membership structure of VNNF consists of 14 Counties with one task force member per County, one additional member if a County has a Tourist Development Council, and one additional member if a County has a population greater than 50,000--members are appointed by each individual County's Board of County Commissioners.
- Dues are based on the first two pennies of County bed tax revenues.
- The VNNF marketing program consists of travel shows, advertising with brochures distributed at welcome centers and digitally, a quarterly eNewsletter with a circulation of approximately 7,000, market research, member education, and a mobile-friendly website.
- The top country markets for VNNF are: (1) United States, (2) Canada, (3) United Kingdom, (4) India, (5) Germany, (6) South Korea, (7) Netherlands, (8) Philippines, (9) Brazil, and (10) Denmark.
- The top states accessing the VNNF website are: (1) Florida, (2) Georgia, (3) Texas, (4) North Carolina, (5) Illinois, (6) Virginia, (7) New York, (8) Tennessee, (9) Alabama, and (10) Michigan.
- The top metropolitan areas accessing the VNNF website are: (1) Atlanta, GA, (2) New York, NY, (3) Charlotte, NC, (4) Washington, DC, (5) Birmingham, AL, (6) Houston, TX, (7) Mobile, AL, (8) Chicago, IL, (9) Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX, and (10) Nashville, TN.
- The reasons for the travel shows are they: drive consumers to the VNNF website, inform consumers on a wide variety of products, place collateral material in the hands of consumers and collect emails for marketing, and allow direct interaction with, and provides advice to, potential consumers.
- In 2018-19, there were 12 out-of-state and five international shows attended.
- Due to budget cuts, in 2019-20, nine out-of-state and two international shows have been scheduled.
- As largely a result of VNNF activities, bed tax increases from FY 14/15 through FY 18/19 were **43.28%** for task force counties. Statewide increase were **35.9%**.

Chair Wilford thanked **Ms. Yeatter** for her very informative presentation and stated: *"Your Power Point presentation was excellent. He then asked if it could be uploaded on NCFRPC's website at www.ncfrpc.org."* **Ms. Yeatter** indicated she would do so.

Chair Wilford Report

Introduction of New Member, Commissioner Jack Schenk, City of Lake Butler. **Commissioner Schenk** was welcomed as a new member to the Council. The City of Lake Butler recently became a member of the Council.

Resolution of Appreciation for Matt Hershom, Commissioner, City of Newberry. *Commissioner Hershom* served on the Council's Board since September 2018. In recognition of his commitment and concern for the growth and development of the North Central Florida Area, a resolution was recommended for approval by the Council. The motion was ***approved unanimously.***

Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Resolution of Appreciation for Commissioner John Meeks, Levy County Board of County Commissioners. *Commissioner Meeks* served as Chair of the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board since January 2015. In recognition of his leadership, a resolution was recommended for approval by the Council. The motion was ***approved unanimously.*** *Commissioner Meeks* will remain as a member of the Council.

Middle Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force Appointment. The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners has nominated *County Commissioner, William Martin*, to serve on the Task Force replacing *County Commissioner, Kendrick Thomas*. A motion was made to ratify the appointment of *Commissioner Martin* to the Task Force made by the Chair of the Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners. The motion was ***approved unanimously.*** *Commissioner Thomas* will remain a member of the Council. The Chair thanked *Commissioner Thomas* for being an original member of the Task Force.

South Florida Climate Change Compact and Tampa Bay Resilience Coalition. A presentation concerning this topic will be scheduled for a future Council meeting.

Executive Committee Report by Chair Wilford

Proclamation Declaring February 23-29, 2020, as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. A motion was made to approve a proclamation in observance of this week. The motion was ***approved unanimously.***

Resolution Recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the City of Starke. A motion was made to approve a resolution in recognition of this municipality achieving this milestone. The motion was ***approved unanimously.***

NCFRPC Land, Warehouse, and Office Building. *Chair Wilford* asked *Mr. Koons* to brief the Council regarding this item. A commercial real estate broker recently contacted Council staff expressing an interest in purchasing the land, warehouse, and office building owned by the Council. The intent of the party interested in purchasing said land, warehouse, and office building is to construct a parking lot for approximately **160** vehicles. After discussing **four** options in detail for possible consideration at last month's Council meeting, the Council ***approved unanimously*** to authorize the Executive Director to sign a site access agreement, authorize the Executive Director to have an appraisal of the land, warehouse, and office building completed, and authorize the Executive Director to research warehouse and office building relocation options.

Following is the follow-up to last month's meeting and a chronology of events regarding this property:

- **November 1, 1992 - August 4, 1999.** The Council rented the office building and warehouse during this period.
- **August 4, 1999.** The Council purchased the office building (**7,560 square feet**) and warehouse (**1,989 square feet**) located on a **4.4 acre** site at a purchase price of **\$490,400**. In addition to cash of **\$31,400**, the Council secured a 15-year promissory note from South Trust Bank in the amount of **\$459,000** to purchase the office building and warehouse. Since the Council is a governmental agency, and as such, is prohibited from mortgaging real property to secure a promissory note, the Council pledged certain revenues to repay the promissory note.
- **January 1, 2014.** A final payment in the amount of **\$3,134.95** was made which fully satisfied the aforementioned promissory note. As a result, the Council does not have any outstanding long-term debt. The average annual building and grounds occupancy cost including insurance, utilities, custodial services, heating, ventilation and air conditioning services, and termite and pest control services is approximately **\$45,000**.

- **2019.** The Alachua County Property Appraiser assessed the value of the land at **\$499,632** and the assessed value of the buildings at **\$318,562** making the total assessed value of the land and buildings **\$818,194**.

Pursuant to the last month's Council action, the Executive Director signed a site access agreement, engaged an appraiser to prepare an appraisal on the land, office building and warehouse, and secured the assistance of a commercial real estate broker to identify office space purchase and lease options for relocation. Both the appraisal and research of relocation purchase and lease options are currently in progress.

Clearinghouse Committee Report. *Commissioner Janice Mortimer, City of Starke, Chair*, presented the report and stated the Committee recommends the following "Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments" be approved for the City of Gainesville and the City of Newberry (**3 Amendments**). The Committee also recommends the following "Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments" be approved for Alachua County, Columbia County, and the City of High Springs. The motion was **approved unanimously**. The Chair thanked **Commissioner Mortimer** and her committee members for their exceptional work this month in reviewing a large number of adopted and draft amendments.

Program Committee Report. No report.

Regional Planning Committee Report. No report.

Finance Committee Report. *Commissioner Thomas Demps, Taylor County Board of County Commissioners, Chair*, briefed the Council on its FY 18/19 audit. There were no material weaknesses or problems cited. Consequently, there were no findings of non-compliance or reportable conditions. **Commissioner Demps** indicated the financial health of the Council is strong. A motion was made to accept the FY 18/19 audit and authorize payment to the auditor in the amount of **\$16,675**. The motion was **approved unanimously**. The Chair extended thanks to **Commissioner Demps** and his committee for their efforts in reviewing the audit. In addition, the Chair congratulated **Mr. Koons** and his staff for not having any material weaknesses which is indicative of the exceptional frugal management of the Council's funds.

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, Madison County Board of County Commissioners, Chair*, made the report. As reported at last month's Council meeting, **Commissioner Davis** reiterated a spill of **7.5 gallons** of raw sewage from a lift station outside of Valdosta occurred on December 9th. He stated the raw sewage discharged into Sugar Creek which is a tributary of the Withlacoochee River. **Chair Davis** noted the City used the notification system established by the Task Force earlier this year. He indicated this early notification allowed local, regional, and state officials to take immediate action concerning this spill. The Hamilton, Madison, and Suwannee County Health Departments issued timely health advisories for residents near the river to avoid contact with its waters. Also, the Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Suwannee River Water Management District began conducting daily water sampling activities along the river.

The cause of this spill was due to human error. A contractor working to install a telepathy system disconnected a reference cable at the lift station for testing and then failed to reconnect it. As a result, the level indicator and alarm agent at the lift station were inadvertently disconnected.

A joint workshop by the Task Force and the City of Valdosta was conducted on January 8th in Valdosta. The City provided an update on this latest raw sewage spill and its response and informed the Task Force the City recently received a permit from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to construct a **10 million gallon** equalization basin at the Withlacoochee Wastewater facility.

Commissioner Davis, asked **John Quarterman, WWALS Watershed Coalition (Suwannee RIVERKEEPER)**, guest in attendance, to provide additional information regarding this critical information. **Mr. Quarterman** indicated e-coli bacteria was detected in wells in Madison County and voiced concerns related to other water quality issues.

As a reminder from a historical standpoint, the Task Force, which is comprised of one county commissioner from each of the **twelve counties** in the NCFRPC region, was founded on October 25, 2018. **Commissioner Ken Cornell, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners**, represents Alachua County on the Task Force. Following are excerpts from task force actions/discussions since its inception:

- **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 continue to be 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 which routinely overflow as a result of heavy rainfall.
- Measures to improve and expedite "immediate notification requirements" to various State of Florida agencies have been implemented by the City of Valdosta.
- A holding area, which will capture **10 million gallons** of overflow, is scheduled to be developed and should alleviate some of the problems with spills.
- **A joint workshop was held on July 10, 2019, which was attended by several Task Force members and the City of Valdosta City Council, for the purpose of discussing the issue of raw sewage spills by the City and determining a process to resolve this serious problem. The City Council indicated they are still awaiting a permit from the State of Georgia to construct a ten million gallon equalization basin at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant later this year. NOTE: As indicated earlier, approval has recently been granted for this project.**
- **Task Force members met on October 9, 2019, at the Madison County Agricultural Extension Office in the City of Madison with representatives from the City of Valdosta for a joint workshop to discuss the issue of raw sewage spills by Valdosta and how the Task Force and the City can work together to resolve this ongoing issue. Task Force members received an update concerning ongoing projects being taken by Valdosta to address storm water infiltration into the sanitary sewer collection system. Progress remains slow but is proceeding in a very positive direction.**

Chair Wilford thanked **Commissioner Davis** for his leadership of the Task Force and for its members in continuing to address this critical issue affecting our waterways and wells in North Central Florida.

Recent Update from Fay Baird, Senior Hydrologist, Division of Water and Land Resources, Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD)

Ms. Baird submitted a memorandum to the SRWMD Board of Directors on February 10, 2020, entitled **"January 2020 Hydrologic Conditions Report for the SRWMD."** This report contains insightful information regarding the following elements: (1) Rainfall, (2) Surface Water, (3) Groundwater, (4) Climate and Drought Outlook, and (5) Conservation. This information is currently

important, especially in order to monitor changes and problems and especially those related to rainfall, surface water, and groundwater, due to the aforementioned raw sewage spill at the Sugar Creek facility in Valdosta. No significant problems were noted in **Ms. Baird's** report at this time. **Ms. Baird** can be contacted at fay.baird@srwmd.org or **386.362.1001** for more information.

Recent Update from Ben Glass, Legislative and Government Affairs Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD)

On February 17th, **Mr. Glass**, emailed a copy of a health advisory to various government entities and other organizations in North Central Florida entitled: ***"Health Officials in Hamilton and Madison County Advise of Possible Bacterial Contamination in the Withlacoochee River: Elevated Levels of Fecal Bacteria."*** It reads in part: ***"People are urged to take precautions when in contact with the Withlacoochee River. Water contaminated with elevated fecal bacteria presents several health risks to humans. Microbes in fecal bacteria could cause gastrointestinal issues and other health conditions. Children and older adults, as well as people with weakened immune systems, are particularly vulnerable to disease from this bacteria. Therefore, every precaution should be taken if anyone comes in contact with this river water."***

Also, on this date, **Mr. Glass**, emailed a report to the aforementioned government entities and other organizations in North Central Florida from **Ms. Darlene Velez, Water Resources Chief, SRWMD**, regarding e-coli level measurements at the following locations: Withlacoochee River at County Road 150, Withlacoochee River at Highway 145, and Withlacoochee at Florida-6. The results for the period February 10th through February 13th are:

- **Withlacoochee River at County Road 150.** One e-coli reading taken on February 10th was **517.2**--any reading above **400** is alarming. The reading taken on February 13th was **193.5**.
- **Withlacoochee River at Highway 145.** One e-coli reading taken on February 10th was **770.1** which was very alarming. The reading taken on February 13th was **290.9**.
- **Withlacoochee River at Florida-6.** There were no readings above **400** during this period. The reading taken on February 13th was **2.9**.

All of the levels taken on February 13th were less than the **400** e-coli alarm threshold. **Ms. Velez** can be contacted at Darlene.Velez@srwmd.org for more information.

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). **David Tyler** presented the report and reminded Council members applications for the Small County Road Assistance Program and Small County Outreach Program must be submitted to the Department by January 31st.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC). **Daniel Penniman** did not make a 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). **Tom Mirti** reiterated the aforementioned raw sewage Sugar Creek spill which was attributed to mechanical failure caused by human error and was significant as has been previously indicated.

CareerSource North Central Florida (CSNCF). Not in attendance.

Citizen Comments. *Chair Wilford* reminded speakers of the procedures which were outlined at the beginning of the meeting including adhering to civility in making comments. The following individuals made comments: ***Merrilee Malawitz-Jipson, Our Santa Fe River, Kristen Rubin, Our Santa Fe River, John Quarterman, WWALS Watershed Coalition (Suwannee RIVERKEEPER) and Stu Lilker, Publisher, Columbia County Observer.*** Most of the comments made were about water quality and the aforementioned recent raw sewage spill. In addition, ***Mr. Lilker*** made a comment concerning the lack of transportation in rural areas not being addressed.

Executive Director Report. ***Mr. Koons*** briefed the Council on the following items:

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Monthly Activity Reports. ***Mr. Koons*** indicated FRCA is the statewide organization which is comprised of ***10 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 activity reports for December 2019.

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Policy Board Meeting Report. ***Mr. Koons*** reported ***Commissioner Charles Chestnut, IV, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners,*** and he, attended the semi-annual Policy Board meeting on January 10th. Reports were made by: ***Chris Emmanuel, Director of Infrastructure and Governance Policy, Florida Chamber of Commerce, Frank Bernandino, Co-Founder, Florida Resiliency, and Callie DeHaven, Director Division of State Lands, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.*** In addition, the Policy Board: (1) heard reports by the membership regarding various projects being performed around the state, (2) received the FRCA FY 18/19 annual report, (3) heard a legislative report, (4) reviewed the latest financial report, (5) appointed a Nominating Committee for 2020-21, and (6) received FRCA's annual report for 2018-19. ***NOTE: The Policy Board is comprised of three representatives (county, municipal, and gubernatorial appointees) from each Council who, in turn, are advised by the Executive Directors Advisory Committee (EDAC) which are comprised of all ten Executive Directors. The following members of NCFRPC currently serve on the FRCA Policy Board: Charles Chestnut, IV, Vice Chair, Lorene Thomas, Member, and Robert Wilford, Chair.***

Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard. ***Mr. Koons*** reminded council members 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 and others. The "Six Pillars" are: (1) Talent Supply and Education, (2) Innovation and Economic Development, (3) Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, (4) Business Climate and Competitiveness, (5) Civic and Government Systems, and (6) Quality of Life and Places. ***Mr. Koons*** referred to the report contained in the "State of Florida Metrics" information for December 2019 which was included in the Council packets.

Legislative Report. ***Mr. Koons*** indicated the Governor did not recommend any funding in the budget for Regional Planning Councils for FY 20/21. He reviewed several legislative items Council staff is following:

- **Growth Management (Senate Bill 410 by Senator Perry).** This bill requires a local comprehensive plan to include a property rights element and adherence to other provisions in the bill. Bill was referred to the Community Affairs, Judiciary, and Rules Committees.
- **Growth Management (House Bill 203 by Representative McClain).** This bill requires a local government to include a property rights element. Bill was referred to Local, Federal, and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee and Commerce and State Affairs Committees. Bill was ***passed*** by the Local, Federal, and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. It is now in the Commerce Committee.

- **Water Quality Improvements (Senate Bill 712 by Senator Mayfield).** This bill requires the Florida Department of Health to provide a specified report to the Governor and the Legislature transferring the Onsite Sewage Program within the Florida Department of Health to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and adherence to other provisions in the bill. Bill was referred to Community Affairs and Appropriations Committees and Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture Environment. Bill was ***passed*** by the Community Affairs Committee. It is now in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, and General Government.
- **Water Quality Improvements (House Bill 1343 by Representative Payne).** This bill requires the Florida Department of Health and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to submit reports and recommendations relating to the transfer of the Onsite Sewage Program from the Florida Department of Health to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and adherence to other provisions in the bill. Bill was referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee and Appropriations and State Affairs Committees. It is now in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee.
- **Statewide Regional Evacuation Study (House Bill 3179 by Representative Burton).** This bill provides an appropriation of ***\$1.2 million*** for the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study update. Bill was referred to the Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee. It is now in the Appropriations Committee.

Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES). **Mr. Koons** reiterated, from previous Council meetings, M-CORES consists of three Task Forces. They are: (1) Southwest-Central Florida Connector which extends from Collier County to Polk County, (2) Suncoast Connector which extends from Citrus County to Jefferson County and includes Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, and Taylor Counties, and (3) Northern Connector which extends from the Northern terminus of the Florida Turnpike Northwest to the Suncoast Parkway which includes Levy County. The purpose of M-CORES is to revitalize rural communities, encourage job creation, and provide regional connectivity while leveraging technology, enhancing quality of life and public safety, and protecting the environment and natural resources. 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.

The Suncoast Task Force met on December 17th in Perry and the Northern Connector Task Force met on December 18th in Ocala. Both Task Forces reviewed draft avoidance and minimization guiding principles followed by a discussion of mitigation and enhancement guiding principles. The next meeting of the Suncoast Connector Task Force will be on February 11th in Madison and the next meeting of the Northern Connector Task Force will be on February 12th in Fanning Springs. Finally, **Mr. Koons** indicated both Task Forces will continue a review of draft avoidance and minimization guiding principles and begin review of draft mitigation and enhancement guiding principles.

Economic Development District Grantee Performance Report for the Period January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019.

Mr. Koons reminded the Council is a federally-designated economic development district by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. As such, the Council submits a report on job creation/retention, private sector investment, and public sector investments for projects funded by the U.S. Economic Development District or other sources which implement the Comprehensive Economic Development adopted by the Council. **Mr. Koons** highlighted the report by indicating an estimated ***1,205*** jobs were either created or retained, an estimated ***\$63,850*** in private investment and an estimated ***\$572,00*** in public investment occurred on ***seven*** projects for the reporting period.

Regional Directory. **Mr. Koons** reported the regional directory for 2019 was recently mailed to local, regional, state and federal officials, and planning related agencies. A downloadable version of the directory is available on the Council website at ***www.ncfrpc.org***.

Celebration of Life Ceremonies for James Montgomery and Dwayne Mundy. **Mr. Koons** indicated a celebration of life was held for **Mr. Montgomery**, longtime member of the Council, on January 11th, in Lake City, and for **Mr. Dwayne Mundy**, longtime employee of the Council, on January 18th, in Gainesville.

Chair Wilford thanked **Mr. Koons** and his staff for their continued excellent work on behalf of the Council.

Council Member Announcements. There were no announcements made by members of the Council. However, ***Chair Wilford*** thanked ***Ms. Hopkins*** for her attendance at tonight's meeting.

Chair Wilford thanked everyone for attending tonight's Council meeting, to be safe on the drive home.

Next Meeting. ***Chair Wilford*** indicated the next meeting of the Council will be held on February 27th, at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Lake City, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment. ***Chair Wilford*** adjourned the meeting at 8:35 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 Mailing Address

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Lauren Yeatter, AICP, Senior Planner, Geographic Information Systems, Community Development, Economic Development, and Regional Planning, and Original Planning Florida (Extension 113 - yeatter@ncfrpc)
Tara Tucker, Assistant to the Executive Director (Extension 100 - tucker@ncfrpc)

Alachua County Representation on NCFRPC Contact Information

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Robert Wilford, Commissioner, City of Alachua (rwwexd1@cox.net)

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 (NCFRPC - Current)

Executive Committee (Chair - Current, Vice Chair - Past, Secretary/Treasurer - Past, and Member - Past)

Finance Committee (Chair - Past)

Program Committee (Chair - Past)

Regional Planning Committee (Past)

Audit Committee (Chair - Past)

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

President (Current) and Vice President (Past) - (North Central Florida Areawide Development Company {ADCO} - NCFRPC Delegate)

"When power leads man toward arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations. When power narrows the area of man's concern, poetry reminds him of the richness and diversity of existence. When power corrupts, poetry cleanses. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

John F. Kennedy