

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 20, 2015 10:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONER LEE CONSTANTINE PRESIDING

In Attendance:

County Representatives:

Commissioner Jim Barfield, Brevard County
Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County
Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County
Commissioner Scott Boyd, Orange County
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, Osceola County
Commissioner Viviana Janer, Osceola County
Commissioner Lee Constantine, Seminole County
Commissioner John Horan, Seminole County
Councilwoman Joyce Cusack, Volusia County

Municipal Representatives:

Mayor Gary Bruhn, Tri-County League of Cities (Town of Windermere)
Commissioner Jose Alvarez, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Kissimmee)
Mayor David Mealor, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Lake Mary)
Vice Mayor Leigh Matusick, Volusia County League of Cities (City of DeLand)

Gubernatorial Appointees:

Mr. Jose A. Rivas, Orange County

Ex-Officio Members:

Ms. Heather Garcia, Florida Department of Transportation
Ms. Nancy Christman, St. Johns River Water Management District
Mr. Jordan Smith for Mr. Russell Gibson, City of Sanford

Other Attendees:

Mr. Pedro Leon, Volusia County Economic Development
Ms. Alayna Curry, Central Florida Expressway Authority
Ms. Susan McCune, Orange County Planning

Members not in Attendance:

Commissioner Andy Anderson, Brevard County
Commissioner Bryan Nelson, Orange County
County Chair Jason Davis, Volusia County
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando
Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast League of Cities (City of Cape Canaveral)
Commissioner Michael Holland, Lake County League of Cities (City of Eustis)
Ms. Jill Rose, Orange County
Mr. John Lesman, Seminole County
Mr. Jeff Prather, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Mr. William Graf, South Florida Water Management District

ECFRPC Staff in Attendance:

Attorney Jerry Livingston
Mr. Fred Milch
Mr. Luis Nieves-Ruiz
Ms. Pegge Parker
Mr. PJ Smith
Mr. Rick Stilp
Ms. Emily Niederman

Mr. Hugh Harling, Jr.
Mr. Steve Jones
Ms. Tara McCue
Mr. Andrew Landis
Ms. Lelia Hars
Mr. Tim Kitchen

I. Call to Order and General Business

Commissioner Constantine called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Ms. Pegge Parker called the roll and announced a quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Cadwell.

II. Consent Agenda

- Commissioner Constantine stated the four items on the Consent Agenda: March 2015 Council Meeting Minutes, February and March 2015 Financial Reports, Amended FY2015 Budget and Osceola County Housing Study. A motion was made to approve all by Commissioner Cadwell. It was seconded by Vice Mayor Matusick and the motion carried.
- Commissioner Constantine commented that for informational purposes, adjustments have been made over the last few months to the current budget. In the last Council meeting shortfalls were discussed and they have since been corrected. Further details regarding the Amended Budget will be discussed later in the meeting by the Executive Director.

III. Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant – SunRail/HUD (Station Area Planning) – Mr. Fred Milch, ECFRPC

Mr. Milch gave a presentation on the grant that ECFRPC has been working on for over three years that will end May 31. The brand for the HUD Sustainable Communities Grant is Enhance Central Florida. Mr. Milch discussed the grant overview which includes: SunRail; the East Central Florida Sustainable Communities Consortium made up of 26 partners; the six Station Area Plans; the Affordable Housing Assessment; the Fair Housing Equity Assessment; and the six Livability Principals. Out of the \$2.4 grant, \$1.7 went to the Sub-recipients which included DeBary (\$154,000), Seminole County (\$316,790), Longwood (\$422,386), Orlando (\$696,918) and Orange County (\$126,716) and each had to contribute a 20% match. Mr. Milch described Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and the 17 planning principles that define station areas. He then discussed the individual stations and their existing conditions, goals, and projects. The final Consortium meeting is scheduled for May 29 with discussions centering on future opportunities for the region, and the Final Report is due May 31.

Comments from the Council included the positive developments and activities happening around the individual SunRail stations. Vice Mayor Matusick stated that DOT has applied for a TIGER Grant for Phase II North which is to connect DeBary to DeLand, and they will be looking for letters of support. She requested that Mr. Harling discuss with Ms. Noranne Downs and made a motion to draft a letter in support of the TIGER Grant. Commissioner Grieb seconded the motion and it carried. Further discussions about the TIGER Grant included which counties within the area would be competing for the dollars. Vice Mayor Matusick responded there was a letter submitted that Osceola County was looking into considering a TIGER Grant application but that it has been withdrawn. Commissioner Janer did confirm that they have withdrawn that request and were considering sending a Letter of Support. Commissioner Cusack also confirmed that Volusia County was on board to support.

IV. Council Orientation/Promotion – Tara McCue, ECFRPC

Ms. Tara McCue gave a presentation to assist new members. Her presentation included topics such as what the Regional Planning Councils are, functions of members of the Council Board and what services the RPC can provide. She explained that RPCs are authorized by Florida Statutes and our RPC serves seven counties and 73 cities. Funding for the RPC is made up of local county dues based on assessment per capita, grants and contracts. Historically, we provided over 50 primary specified tasks but with new legislation our responsibilities have been redefined. The remaining core responsibilities of the RPC, as well as the needs of our member communities, have been worked into our East Central Florida 2060 Plan (Strategic Regional Policy Plan).

Ms. McCue went on to explain the agency's Mission Statement, Regional Vision, and the East Central Florida 2060 Plan. These are the policies that guide our day-to-day activities and reviews of projects and programs. The plan recommends broad regional policy direction intended to filter down to local governments. The 2060 Plan is aligned with the State's Comprehensive Plan. Ms. McCue gave an overview of the different chapters in the Policy Plan which explained core areas of focus. The Chapters include: Natural Resources, Economic Development, Transportation, Emergency Preparedness, Affordable Housing, Resilient Community, Water, Community Design and Agriculture.

Ms. McCue discussed the role of the RPC Board to discuss regional approaches for local problems. Services the RPC offers include grant applications; Regional Economic Modeling (REMI); Economic Development Strategic Plans; Emergency Preparedness to assist with Continuity of Operations Plans and training and exercises; GIS and Data Development; and, Community Development.

At the Chairman's prompting, Luis Nieves-Ruiz provided an overview of the REMI software and how it can help to calculate the economic impacts of different policy decisions. Commissioner Constantine suggested reaching out to county economic development officials, starting with Seminole County, and then following up with the cities. Mr. Nieves-Ruiz will make a full presentation about REMI at the next Council Meeting.

V. Brief County Updates – County Representatives

- Osceola County – Commissioner Janer gave an update on county highlights which include the new Advanced Manufacturing Research Center; the County received positive news from legislative update that there is a minimum of \$5 million in an incentive budget; the County adopted a mobility fee to provide dedicated funding to transportation needs; and the approval

of the North Ranch Master Plan for submittal to the state, which is a huge development of 133,000 acres.

- Brevard County – Commissioner Barfield highlights include a number of new companies coming in, attracted by incentives, with two more coming up next week which between them add directly about \$60 million year in direct economic impact; and showing an upshot in real estate market with new buildings and houses.
- Volusia County – Commissioner Cusack stated that unemployment has gone from 7.1% to 5.8%. International Speedway Boulevard and the Williamson Boulevard interchange continue to show new developments; \$80 million in new residential permits and \$50 million in new commercial permits; the County has joined several surrounding counties and signed a memorandum of understanding with Federal Homeland Security on the Urban Area Security Initiative; and Public Works has been approved for \$14 million in design-build construction grants.
- Seminole County – Commissioner Horan discussed the 15-field Sports Complex near the Sanford Orlando International Airport which should be open by next May; proposed economic effect impact for the Sports Complex goes from \$12 million the first year up to \$22 million over the next five or six years; discussions recently about how the new Sports Complex will affect already full existing hotel rooms and that the County is open for development of new hotels. Commissioner Constantine stated that Flea World will be closing soon and that area could possibly be rezoned for a mixed used project. Casselberry is developing a new CRA; Altamonte Springs CRA is ending after 30 years; Casselberry Fire Dept. has merged with Seminole County which now makes three of seven cities served by Seminole County Fire Department which will increase efficiency, service and savings. Sabal Golf Course, after seven years, has finally reached an agreement with their homeowners and now the BOCC and State will have to decide if they will approve the agreement.
- Lake County – Commissioner Parks gave an update on the Sector Plan after meeting recently with the review team in Tallahassee. They are working on recommendations and addressing some of the issues and anticipate the plan will be adopted in July; also working with MPO addressing Safe Routes to School sites and projects such as bicycle and pedestrian issues. Commissioner Cadwell updated on the economic increase for hotels sand volleyball complex. Vice Mayor Matusick also added there are new college scholarships for volleyball including at Stetson University. Commissioner Cadwell stated that CFX Authority is starting their 2040 Master Plan and will contact counties about coming to their county and city meetings to collect input. Laura Kelley was hired as the new Executive Director of CFX. Commissioner Constantine expressed his appreciation for Commissioner Cadwell taking over the CFX during the difficult interim period.
- Orange County – Commissioner Boyd stated that there were over 62 million visitors in Orange County in 2014. The county continues to have a tremendous amount of growth in Southwest Orange County with approximately 34% of permits pulled in Orange coming out of that area; other areas of regional interest include North and South Lake Pickett which impacts Seminole County, the Sector Plan for Horizons West which impacts Lake County, the Northeast district for Osceola County and Morman Ranch, discussion with All Aboard Florida and the CFX Authority. Some challenges experienced include school related issues such as a site that was designed for a middle school site that was denied, but moving forward and working on a resolution.
- Commissioner Grieb welcomed new Council member, Commissioner Jose Alvarez representing the Tri-County League of Cities. Commissioner Alvarez discussed recent approval by the City of Kissimmee for a new project to complete the last section of the park

and also approved a new residential development across from the park which includes hotel, condos and retail.

- Mayor Bruhn discussed the loss of seven officers' lives recently in the line of duty. Attended the Tallahassee Law Enforcement Memorial and also a candlelight vigil held in Washington D.C.
- Ms. Christman announced that the SJWMD will be holding Water Supply Planning meetings. The Water Initiative has been a large effort that includes five counties and cities within those counties. Public meetings will be held in June and you can look up the dates and review the Plan at cfwiwater.com.

VI. Chair's Report – Legislative Update

- CS/CS/SB 1216: Community Development – was approved. Highlights include:
 - Statutory mandates for RPCs – The Legislation eliminated RPC reviews of proposed natural gas transmissions, proposed electrical transmissions, proposed power plant facilities, site selection for hazardous waste, and urbanized area transportation plans.
 - Eliminated the mandatory requirement for certain state and local governments to utilize RPCs for dispute resolutions which was also not something that we did often.
 - It eliminated RPCs from involvement in new DRIs but existing DRIs will continue to be governed.
 - Reduces RPCs to ten by eliminating the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council which means ECFRPC picked up Sumter County which will become a member of this Council.
 - Eliminate the requirement for reports from the RPCs for appropriate legislative committees but still requires individual reports from the state land planning agencies, the DEO and the local government.
 - Regarding DRIs, those responsibilities have moved to the State, but agencies understand they may not be able to do all the new work given to them by the legislature so some projects might come back to RPCs through contracts.
 - We must continue to work together on a regional level to ensure what we do in our own counties doesn't adversely affect our neighbors.

VII. Executive Director's Report

- **Staff Organization** – Mr. Harling stated that we have had a reduction in staff due to resignations and other circumstances and current staff stands at 11. We are currently in the process of interviewing for the Emergency Preparedness Manager. Budget adjustments due to staff reduction have allowed us to be at a breakeven point in the budget.
- **Sumter County** - Mr. Harling reported that Sumter County shares a TPO with Lake County and is covered by District V of DOT which covers all of ECFRPCs seven counties. We are working with their County Manager and Development Manager to see what we can do to assist them including review of major road systems. FDOT is looking at one of their corridors for the possibility of adding a road which will run from the Southwest part of the state to the Northeast part of the state in an effort to relieve traffic on I-75.
- **Project Updates and Activities** – The meeting packet contains information on current, ongoing and prospective projects and activities for March and April 2015. Staff is working on several grants with the DEO including the planning for the future of golf courses going out

business. Mr. Harling stated that we are providing a promotions package to the Council Members that includes RPC brochures on the services we provide.

VIII. Announcements/Comments

- There was a discussion regarding the need for transportation research from the Airport to International Drive, the Florida Mall and other major retail centers through a partnership with the rail system, as well as shuttle services. Mr. Harling said that there would be further research on future connectivity.
- Commissioner Grieb welcomed Osceola County Commissioner Janer as a new member of the Council, as well as Commissioner Alavarez from the City of Kissimmee.
- Commissioner Horan discussed his concerns and the need for a solution to re-evaluate the timing of the construction of two new toll lanes on SR 417 planned to commence 2016 from the Orange County line north to SR 434 which would take three years at the same time as the I-4 Ultimate construction would be going on. Commissioner Constantine stated there was a discussion at the last MPO meeting with the Turnpike representative, which included Mayor Dyer, Mayor Jacobs, and several Commissioners, that it was not a good idea. The MPO was going to meet later with her regarding projects and they were hopeful that they will get them to re-evaluate the project.
- Vice Mayor Matusick announced Bike Florida in Clermont November 13-15.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Commissioner Constantine adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.