

**EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 2016 10:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONER LEE CONSTANTINE PRESIDING

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**In Attendance:**

**County Representatives:**

Commissioner Curt Smith, Brevard County  
Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County  
Commissioner Timothy Sullivan, Lake County  
Commissioner Bryan Nelson, Orange County  
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, Osceola County  
Commissioner Lee Constantine, Seminole County  
Commissioner John Horan, Seminole County  
Commissioner Garry Breeden, Sumter County  
Commissioner Don Burgess, Sumter County

**Municipal Representatives:**

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. John Lesman, Seminole County

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Ms. Judy Pizzo for Ms. Heather Garcia, Florida Department of Transportation  
Mr. Jeff Prather, Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Ms. Nancy Christman, St. Johns River Water Management District  
Mr. William Graf, South Florida Water Management District  
Mr. Russell Gibson, City of Sanford

**Other Attendees:**

Ms. Susan McCune, Orange County Planning  
Ms. Ashley Gardner, Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Mr. Bill Wharton, Seminole County  
Ms. Laura DiGruttolo, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioner  
Ms. Natalie Brown, Intern

**Members not in Attendance:**

Commissioner Andy Anderson, Brevard County  
Commissioner Scott Boyd, Orange County  
Commissioner Brandon Arrington, Osceola County  
County Chair Jason Davis, Volusia County  
Councilwoman Joyce Cusack, Volusia County  
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando  
Commissioner Michael Holland, Lake County League of Cities (City of Eustis)

Mayor Gary Bruhn, Tri-County League of Cities (Town of Windermere)  
Commissioner Jose Alvarez, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Kissimmee)  
Ms. Jill Rose, Orange County  
Mr. Jose A. Rivas, Orange County  
Ms. Laura Kelley, Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX)

**ECFRPC Staff in Attendance:**

Attorney Jerry Livingston	Mr. Hugh Harling, Jr.
Mr. Lelia Hars	Mr. Fred Milch
Mr. Luis Nieves-Ruiz	Ms. Tara McCue
Ms. Pegge Parker	Mr. Andrew Landis

**I. Call to Order and General Business**

Commissioner Constantine called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Ms. Pegge Parker called the roll and announced a quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Horan.

**II. Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Constantine asked if there were any discussions, deletions or additions to the two attachments which include: November 2015 Council Meeting minutes and the October and November 2015 Financial Reports. As there were no objections, Commissioner Cadwell made a motion to approve both attachments. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Matusick, voted on and passed unanimously.

**III. Public Comments**

- There were no public comments.

**IV. ECFRPC Annual Year-in-Review** – Fred Milch, ECFRPC

Mr. Milch gave a brief overview of the 2015 Annual Report which included the addition of Sumter County to the Council. A few brief facts were stated about Sumter County: It was created in 1853 and named after Thomas Sumter, a general in the American Revolutionary War, is 580 square miles and, as of 2015, has a population of 115,657. Cities in Sumter County include the county seat of Bushnell, Center Hill, Coleman, Webster and Wildwood. He discussed the various projects and programs of the RPC in 2015.

The fiscal year 2014-15 revenues were derived from Council Member Contributions, U.S. HUD, Federal and State Emergency Management, State and Local Government contracts for Planning, and Review Fees and other contracts for a total of \$2,626,513. Expenditures were \$2,234,687 and included Community Development, Economic Development, Emergency Preparedness, Data Development, Review Fee Expenditures and Unfunded Mandates.

Commissioner Constantine asked for any questions or changes to the Annual Report be submitted to staff and that once the Annual Report is approved, it will be sent electronically to FRCA to add to their website as well as all our regions' City and County administrators and the League of Cities, for

distribution. Commissioner Horan made a motion to accept the Annual Report subject to subsequent revisions that may be communicated to the Board and accepted and confirmed at a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grieb, voted on and passed unanimously.

**V. Regional 5 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (IMT)** – Assistant Chief Joseph Silvestris, City of Clermont

Mr. Harling stated that due to a Hazardous Material Symposium in Volusia County, Assistant Chief Joseph Silvestris, City of Clermont, had to postpone his presentation, “Regional 5 All Hazards Incident Management Team”, and will present at a future meeting.

**VI. Imperiled Species Management Plan** – Ms. Laura DiGruttolo, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioner

Ms. DiGruttolo gave a presentation overview of the Florida Fish and Wildlife’s Imperiled Species Management Plan’s comprehensive approach to conserving and managing state-listed species. The plan is designed to benefit the greatest number of species (instead of specifies by species) and diversity of habitats. Ultimately, the goal is to engage with partners and public to look for ways to effectively reduce the risk of extinction and remove some species from the imperiled list. There are a number of strategies outlined in the plan to minimize threats and reverse negative impacts such as filling data gaps to improve conservation and management, and maximize conservation benefits through direct communication, outreach and management.

Commissioner Curt Smith of Brevard County stated his concerns for manatees and the river qualities and asked whether the Fish and Wildlife are addressing their needs. Ms. DiGruttolo stated that Fish and Wildlife does have concerns about the manatees and how development activities are going to potentially affect the manatees. The Federal agencies and State agencies also have an interest in where manatees go, the areas they inhabit, as well as those water quality aspects that affect them. It’s a partnership effort to control what’s happening to the manatees and an ongoing concern of that unique winter time period that has killed so many manatees. In addition, the boating and waterways section within the division of law enforcement are examining speed zones and how boating traffic impacts manatees.

A hardcopy of this presentation was given as a handout.

**VII. Executive Director’s Report**

- **FRCA Update – Website Design** – Mr. Harling discussed a project Commissioner Constantine has instituted with FRCA to get the word out about Regional Planning Councils. One of these changes will be to design a better website that explains what RPCs do and shows the good work accomplished by all ten RPCs. Input will come from each of the regional planning councils.
- **I-75 Relief Task Force** – Mr. Harling gave a review of the first of a series of meetings held by the FDOT for an I-75 corridor study to relieve the traffic on I-75 from Southwest Florida to Northeast Florida. The next meeting is scheduled Monday, February 25, in Citrus County.

- **Projects and Activities** – Mr. Harling provided an overview on current, ongoing and prospective projects and activities for November and December 2015. A handout was provided with more specific information for each of these projects. Commissioner Constantine asked Commissioner Nelson if he heard about the possibility of Westgate withdrawing their DRI which was in the newspaper recently. He is looking for a report on that if anyone has any information. Mr. Harling also discussed a pending project that the RPC has now received for the Emergency Management department for \$134,000 with part of that money going to Treasure Coast RPC.

## **VIII. Chair's Report**

- **FRCA Website Design** – Michael Busha, Executive Director of Treasure Coast and Chairman of the FRCA Executive Board, Commissioner Constantine and the RPC Executive Directors are discussing how to rework the administration of the FRCA and get it working together with the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida League of Cities to build a synergism in order to work smarter, together. FRCA has proposed updating and redesigning an outreach program by the Regional Planning Councils as a group. All ten RPCs would work together to update the webpage and a monthly newsletter with current projects and information to inform what the RPCs are doing. The newsletter will be sent to all the elected officials in our regions on an ongoing basis.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Summit, Key West** – A coalition of cities, counties, government agencies and environmental groups met and discussed the issue of sea level rise that affects all of our counties, especially in our region.
- **Pathways Forward Committee** – The next teleconference meeting will be held this Friday, January 22. Membership includes members from all ten RPCs with Vice Chair Barbara Sheen Todd leading the meeting.

## **IX. Seminole County** – Mr. Bill Wharton, Principal Planner

- Mr. Wharton gave a presentation on two current projects in Seminole County. The first one is the Reagan Center located in Sanford on the property formerly known as Flea World on US 17-92. Flea World was closed in August 2015 to make way for the re-zoned Reagan Center, a mixed-use development, incorporating 827 multi-family units, 66 Townhomes, 236,000 SF of commercial and retail uses, and 216,000 SF of office on a total of 110 acres.
- The second project is Oxford Place located near US 17-92 and SR 436 which is a public private partnership project. The area has been identified as a catalyst for the US 17-92 CRA Master Plan Update. The redevelopment plan that was conducted based on the realignment for Oxford Road, saw the potential to change the quadrant along US 17-92. The area includes the Jai-Alai Fronton property and other properties all owned by the same owner. The County is working with the property owner on redevelopment options and land swaps for the roadway projects. The pedestrian-oriented project will result in a two lane road with on-street parking. Major challenges include wetlands, floodplains and a deep muck pocket. They are currently working on ways to mitigate and work around these challenges.

- Commissioner Constantine added that the City of Casselberry has a CRA on the other side of the street from Oxford Place so the City and County are working together in the area around the Jai Alai Fronton. When talking about Flea World, on the opposite side of US 17-92 referred to as Five Points, is where all the County Administrative Buildings are including the Sheriff's Department, Criminal Court, and Public Works (except for the County Commission facility which is in Sanford) and where we expect most of the long term development of county facilities to be. That property is directly across the street and they are in the process of aligning the driveway for both.

**X. Brief County Updates – County Representatives**

- Brevard County – no updates
- Lake County – Commissioner Sullivan discussed working on the Wellness Way Sector Plan which made it through DEO but came back as an Urban Services Area Plan as opposed to an overall Sector Plan for multiple reasons. Commissioner Cadwell gave background information on new Council member, Commissioner Sullivan, which included his work in planning and logistics and serving as a General in the National Guard. He also stated that on February 12, 10:00 a.m., there will be a ribbon cutting at the SR 417/Boggy Creek interchange. Commissioner Constantine congratulated Commissioner Cadwell as re-elected Chairman of the Central Florida Expressway Authority. He also stated that Sections 4E and 4F of the Wekiva Parkway were opened at 9:00 a.m. today.
- Orange County – Commissioner Constantine read a message from Commissioner Nelson inviting everyone to attend the free event Birdapalooza Saturday, February 6, at Magnolia Park at Lake Apopka from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Osceola County – Commissioner Grieb discussed the continuing work on the UCF Smart-Sensor project and its Master Plan for that facility including an eating facility; the Mecum Auto Show which runs through February 24 at Osceola Park; next month's Osceola County Fair February 12 - 21; and the Kissimmee 5K, benefitting the American Heart Association, February 13 along the Lake Toho lakefront and Toho Square.
- Seminole County – Commissioner Horan discussed an issue in Seminole County regarding panhandling and the ordinance passed last year. It is a returning safety and social issue and cited a study done in Denver, Colorado on panhandling at the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall which retrofitted the parking meters to collect for panhandlers and divert it the needy programs they have. He is interested in hearing about best practices from any of the other counties having to do with panhandling. Another issue is the public safety problem with the bears, especially in the western part of the county. In November, a Bear Management Ordinance was passed which is basically a public safety ordinance which talks about best practices on how to secure your refuse, be bear aware, etc. It is a very serious problem which the public needs to be aware of in all of the counties. Commissioner Horan spoke last night at a neighborhood group meeting in the Winwood area of Altamonte Springs specifically to address the affordable housing report that was commissioned as part of the HUD grant. After reviewing the report again, there were all kinds of suggestions that Seminole county should do and follow up on. He suggested that after the RPC council sends these reports, they should do follow ups with

the counties and funding partners to ensure they they realize the value of the reports and the RPC. Commissioner Constantine discussed the Scottish Highlands Games held this past weekend in Winter Springs; Wekiva Island Paint Out which will be at Wekiva Island the February 29 – March 5; and, the Travel Channel this week will be talking about Secret Watering Holes of the World and will feature Wekiva Island. Commissioner Constantine met with FDOT to discuss the I-4 rest areas/truck stops in Seminole County and their possible relocation to Volusia County.

- Sumter County – Commissioner Burgess commented that the presentation on Sumter County failed to mention the Villages. The Villages spans three counties, Marion, Lake and Sumter County and four municipalities. The rapid economic growth has been incredible and as an example, there are eight Publix stores within the Villages. There is a new exit being considered on I-75 which will bring traffic into an economic development section of the Villages.
- Volusia County – Vice Mayor Matusick discussed the Speedway project which is up and going and on time. Florida Hospital is having a grand opening of their Emergency Medical Clinic which is attached to the facility and they will be providing healthcare for not only the drivers but spectators who are in need. Vice Mayor Matusick mentioned that there is a lot of new commercial growth at LPGA Boulevard and I-95; a new outlet mall is coming and a Traders Joe distribution center; Consolidated Tomoka just sold a lot of property around there for some additional commercial growth; Stetson University just applied for another multi-million dollar building plan to expand; and, Embry Riddle University is moving up closer to being #1 in Aerospace Technology.
- FDEP – Jeff Prather said he would give a brief update on the passing of the water bill that was passed recently by the legislature at the next meeting.

## **XI. Announcements/Public Comments**

- Ms. Tara McCue, ECFRPC, asked the Council to send her recommendations for sites to hold a State Search and Rescue Exercise. Suggestions included contacting the Emergency Management contact, Mr. Alan Harris for Seminole County, for abandoned buildings and the Sprint Building which is four or five stories.

## **XII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, Commissioner Constantine adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.