

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2008

Commissioner Teresa Jacobs Presiding

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Representatives

Commissioner Chuck Nelson, Brevard County
Commissioner Elaine Renick, Lake County
Commissioner Teresa Jacobs, Orange County
Commissioner Fred Brummer, Orange County
Commissioner John Quinones, Osceola County
Mr. Atlee Mercer, Osceola County
Commissioner Dick Van Der Weide,
Seminole County
Commissioner Mike McLean, Seminole County
Councilwoman Joie Alexander, Volusia County
Councilman Art Giles, Volusia County

Municipal Representatives

Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando
Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast League of
Cities
Mayor John Land, Tri-County League of Cities
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, City of
Kissimmee
John Gilmore for Mayor John Bush, Seminole
County League of Cities
Vice Mayor Mary Martin, Volusia County
League of Cities

Gubernatorial Appointees

Mr. Malcolm McLouth, Brevard County
Ms. Aileen Cubillos, Seminole County
Mr. Al Glover, Brevard County
Mr. Jon Rawlson, Orange County

Ex-Officio and Other Municipal Reps

Ms. Vivian Garfein, FDEP
Mr. John Moore, FDOT
Ms. Nancy Christman, SJRWMD
Ms. Susan Sadighi, FDOT
Mr. Russell Gibson, City of Sanford
Mr. Tom Tomerlin for Mr. William
McDermott, Enterprise Florida

Other Attendees

Gerald Livingston, ECFRPC Counsel
Mr. Allen Ibaugh, DTS
Ms. Lakshmi Ramaseshan, DTS
Ms. Liz Alward, Brevard County
Mr. Christopher Stapleton, UCF Institute for
Simulation

ECFRPC Staff

Mr. Phil Laurien
Ms. Ruth Little Ms. Lelia Hars
Ms. Kimberly Loewen Mr. Fred Milch
Ms. Claudia Paskauskas Mr. Sam Bitar
Mr. Jeremey Mikrut Mr. Andrew Landis
Ms. Tuesdai Brunsonbyrd-Bowden

Members not in Attendance

Commissioner Helen Voltz, Brevard County
Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County
Ms. Maryam Ghyabi, Volusia County
Mr. Daniel O'Keefe, Orange County

I. Call to Order and General Business

Chair Teresa Jacobs called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Ruth Little called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

II. Consent Agenda

Motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Brummer asked that the FDOT Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) contract item be discussed

separately. Chair Jacobs removed the third Consent Agenda item and the Motion to approve the first two items of the Consent Agenda was UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Discussion then moved to amending the FDOT LRTP Contract to include proposed Exhibit C. Mr. Livingston explained that the goal is to amend the LRTP Contract to eliminate any references to the words “green print” or “NRORS.” Mr. Mercer made a MOTION to approve the amendment to the contract as recommended by staff, pointing out that we are not approving the FDOT contract, only the amendment. The MOTION was seconded by Commissioner Grieb. Commissioner Renick questioned whether priorities 1 through 4 listed on Exhibit C have been resolved. A discussion followed and Commissioner Renick made a MOTION to approve the use of Exhibit C on the condition that the Ecological Greenways information be moved from Priority 3 to Priority 2. The MOTION was Seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. After additional discussion, Mr. Glover called the question and Mayor Land Seconded the Motion to Call. Commissioner Jacobs asked for a vote on the question of moving Ecological Greenways to Priority 2. The Motion FAILED. Mayor Land then called for a vote of the previous question which was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan. On the question of approving amendments to the FDOT LRTP Contract to include Exhibit C, the Motion passed with Commissioner Brummer and Commissioner Rennick voting against the Motion.

III. Action Items

A. *Move Funds from Unrestricted Reserve to Dedicated Building Fund for Office Purchase.* Mr. Laurien presented the financial analysis to support the Executive Committee’s recommendation to move \$1.6 million from unrestricted reserves to a dedicated fund for the purchase of building. Vice Mayor Martin made a MOTION to approve the executive committee’s recommendation and Commissioner McLean seconded the Motion. Commissioner Quiñones asked for followup on his earlier suggestion to share space with other regional boards such as Metroplan. Mr. Laurien responded that Metroplan leases their space, and after 45 years of renting, this is a good time to be an owner. Commissioner Brummer questioned whether it was wise to commit such substantial funds in light of the budget situations facing the member counties. Mr. Glover spoke from a business perspective that the current real estate market presents an opportunity for a good return on investment. The current lease of \$120,000 per year would use up the \$1.6 million reserve in 14 years, and owning vs. leasing will put the Council in a better cash flow position. Commissioner Jacobs asked for a vote on the Motion to move \$1.6 million from unrestricted funds to a dedicated building fund. The Motion PASSED with Commissioner Quiñones and Commissioner Brummer voting against.

B. *CFGIS Action Plan.* GIS Manager Claudia Paskauskas gave a brief background of CFGIS and its development, and introduced Allen Ibaugh and Lakshmi Ramaseshan of Data Transfer Solutions (DTS), the consultant hired to redevelop the CFGIS website. Mr. Ibaugh gave information on the program structure, the Action Plan process, and the goals of the website design. Ms. Ramaseshan gave a live demonstration of the new website, showing clearinghouse functions, map galleries, and search capabilities. Mayor Land moved for approval of the CFGIS Website Action Plan. After discussion on some budget items in the Action Plan, the Motion was seconded and UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

C. *ECFRPC Website Redesign*. Mr. Laurien addressed the redesign of the ECFRPC website, which was an approved item in this year's budget. A request for proposals was published, six proposals were received, and four were selected for interviews. Mr. Mercer then talked about the interview process and said that there was unanimous agreement that Data Transfer Solutions (DTS) was the top candidate. Because their price proposal was within budget, the recommendation of the selection committee is to award the contract to DTS. Mr. McLouth made a Motion to approve the selection. Commissioner Sheehan seconded the motion and it was UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

IV. Chair's Report – Chair, Commissioner Teresa Jacobs

Commissioner Jacobs reported on the Water Summit held on April 18, 2008, between the ECFRPC and the Northeast Florida Regional Council. She described the Water Summit as a great first date with everyone on their best behavior. The ECFRPC will host the next meeting and Commissioner Jacobs encouraged all Council members to attend. Mr. Laurien added that Kirby Green from the St. Johns River Water Management District gave a good presentation and asked for input from the parties. Council members will be kept informed as dates in July are considered for the next meeting.

Next, Commissioner Jacobs announced that the Space Coast Growth Management Coalition extended an invitation to appoint a member to their board. The Executive Committee appointed Phil Laurien to represent the ECFRPC.

V. Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) Task Force – Mr. Malcolm McLouth

Mr. McLouth gave a report on the May 12, 2008 meeting of the SRPP Task Force. Much of the discussion concerned the NRORS map, identifying and correcting inconsistencies in the many GIS layers. Mr. McLouth commended the staff and reminded everyone that the finalization of the NRORS map is an on-going process. A Natural Resources Sounding Board sign-up was provided at the first public meeting, and people from public and private agencies will be invited to join. The SRPP Task Force will be seeking a public meeting facilitator to assist in outreach efforts and drive more participation into the SRPP process.

The next SRPP Task Force meeting will be held on June 16 and will include a presentation from Dr. Tom Hctor of the University of Florida's GeoPlan Center on the Critical Lands & Waters Identification Project (CLIP).

VI. Power Plant Transmission Line Update– Kimberly Loewen

Ms. Loewen briefly reviewed one transmission line and two power plant proposals. First was an alternate corridor proposal for the Lake Agnes-Gifford Transmission Line which will avoid a residential area and actually lower costs. There will be some impact on wetlands, but it represents only 2% of the entire proposed line. The Cane Island Power Park is proposing a new unit in the Kissimmee area. The application needs additional environmental information before approval. The last project under consideration is the repower of the Cape Canaveral Power Plant after its conversion to natural gas. The conversion results in a sleeker profile with shorter stacks and greater fuel efficiency.

VII. Economic Impact Study of Florida Business Incubators – Sam Bitar

Mr. Bitar discussed the economic impact study of business incubators in the state of Florida. The project was conducted at a state-wide level in cooperation with the University of Central Florida, the University of Florida and the UCF High Tech Incubator. The study showed an impact of \$85 million from the 12 incubators reporting in 2006. Future studies will track more incubators and include the impact of incubator graduates. Mr. Laurien pointed out that this study is a good example of the service we can provide to member counties. He encouraged economic impact studies on all public construction projects, such as the impact of the Wekiva Parkway that OOCEA has approached us about.

VIII. Executive Director’s Report – Phil Laurien

The Executive Director’s report was presented as written report this month. Mr. Laurien referred to that report, pointing out several items of interest.

IX. Announcements /Comments

Chair Commissioner Jacobs provided an opportunity for Council members and members of the public to bring up events, issues or other items of interest.

Nancy Christman announced that the St. Johns River Water Management District is going through rulemaking for lawn and landscape rules. Reclaimed water will now be included in the two-day-per-week rule, and a one-day-per-week schedule will be adopted in the winter. She provided handouts and invited attendance at the four public workshops starting in June.

Vice Mayor Mary Martin referred to Item 16 of the Executive Director’s report and complimented Mr. Laurien on his presentation “Overcoming Obstacles to Smart Growth and Green Development.” His report was very well received, and it was a good chance to show what the Regional Planning Council and staff can do.

Mr. McLouth is a consultant in the transportation cargo business, and is especially interested in a 20-mile rail segment connecting to OUC. This connector would reduce long haul traffic on I-95, I-4, and the Beach Line, provide competitive rail service to Central Florida businesses, reduce emissions and bridge maintenance costs. He is bringing up the idea again and will keep the Council informed.

Rocky Randels thanked Mr. Laurien for coming to City of Cape Canaveral and making a presentation on mixed use development.

Commissioner Nelson thanked the cities and counties that sent firefighters to Brevard County last week.

Mr. Laurien announced that he was contacted by the Governor’s Appointment Office regarding the three vacant slots. He also invited everyone to look at the Eatonville map series before they leave today. The maps were created for Eatonville with local technician assistance funding through DCA.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52.