

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2016 10:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONER LEE CONSTANTINE PRESIDING

In Attendance:

County Representatives:

Commissioner Timothy Sullivan, Lake County
Commissioner Scott Boyd, Orange County
Commissioner Bryan Nelson, Orange County
Commissioner Viviana Janer, Osceola County
Commissioner Lee Constantine, Seminole County
Commissioner John Horan, Seminole County
Commissioner Garry Breeden, Sumter County
Councilman Doug Daniels, Volusia County

Municipal Representatives:

Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando
Mayor Gary Bruhn, Tri-County League of Cities (Town of Windermere)
Vice Mayor Leigh Matusick, Volusia County League of Cities (City of DeLand)

Ex-Officio Members:

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. Jordan Smith for Mr. Russell Gibson, City of Sanford

Other Attendees:

Mr. Craig Schmidt, Lake County

Members not in Attendance:

Commissioner Andy Anderson, Brevard County
Commissioner Curt Smith, Brevard County
Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, Osceola County
Commissioner Don Burgess, Sumter County
Councilwoman Deborah Denys, Volusia County
Commissioner Michael Holland, Lake County League of Cities (City of Eustis)
Commissioner Jose Alvarez, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Kissimmee)
Mayor David Meador, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Lake Mary)
Ms. Jill Rose, Orange County
Mr. Jose A. Rivas, Orange County
Mr. John Lesman, Seminole County
Ms. Laura Kelley, Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX)

ECFRPC Staff in Attendance:

Attorney Jerry Livingston
Mr. Lelia Hars
Mr. Luis Nieves-Ruiz
Ms. Pegge Parker

Mr. Hugh Harling, Jr.
Mr. P.J. Smith
Ms. Tara McCue

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 minutes from the January 2016 Council Meeting minutes. As there were no objections, Vice Mayor Matusick made a motion to approve the minutes and Mayor Bruhn seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.
- Mr. Harling discussed the December 2015 and January 2016 Financial Reports. Commissioner Constantine stated that a major goal of the Council was to be conservative with expenses and not to use the reserves to balance the budget. As of this time, the budget reflects that we are \$8,000 to the good, which includes payments to the two staff members who have PTO hours in excess of the new limit of 225 hours, and back payment to FRCA. Mr. Harling also confirmed that as of last week, we have had a staff reduction of one employee due to current workload. A budget amendment will be submitted to the Executive Committee in one of the next meetings to reflect this change. Commissioner Horan made a motion to approve the Financial Reports with a second from Mayor Bruhn. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.
- Mr. Harling stated that since there were no additional comments received on the 2015 Annual Report that had been submitted at the last Council Meeting, a final approval was requested. Commissioner Horan made a motion to approve and Commissioner Sullivan seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Constantine welcomed new Council members Councilman Doug Daniels and Councilwoman Deb Denys from Volusia County and welcomed back Commissioner Viviana Janer from Osceola County. Also attending is Mr. Jordan Smith, alternate for Mr. Russell Gibson, City of Sanford.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

IV. Water Bill Update – Mr. Jeff Prather, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Mr. Prather gave an overview of the Central District and how the DEP is a resource for each of the six Regulatory Districts. He also discussed the Water Bill of 2016 highlights which include the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act, the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program and Consumptive Use Permits, as well as minimum flow and levels, BMAP's, monitoring and reporting on water quality and quantity, and on conservation lands.

V. ECFRPC Presentations

- Route Condition Analysis Tool – Mr. PJ Smith, Senior GIS Analyst/Urban Designer, discussed the need to re-look at transportation networks. The Route Condition Analysis Tool analyzes roadways for accessibility, safety, and other parameters to help determine appropriate countermeasures to improve roadways for pedestrians. The ultimate purpose for this tool is to correct the issue of dangerous roadways for pedestrians. This tool was developed for the Safe Routes to School portal and included the collection and development of data which focused on transportation safety and access for bicyclists and pedestrians but it can be applied towards many other areas including safe routes to trails and transit. By collecting data sets from the counties, cities, and FDOT, we were able to create a very comprehensive roadway GIS data set. The end product uses for the Route Condition Analysis Tool include roadway improvement needs, identification of secondary routes to trails and connection options, corridor studies, master planning, and for many other uses. Ms. Tara McCue, ECFRPC, stated that currently the tool is available for Lake and Volusia counties. The RPC does not have funding for Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter and Brevard counties. She stated we did apply for Orange County but did not get the award, and any assistance to identify possible funding for the other counties, would be welcome. The estimate per county for funding would depend upon how much roadway there is. We are working to get on the MetroPlan agenda as well as others.
- 2016 Hazmat Symposium – Ms. Michelle Cechowski, Emergency Preparedness Manager, reported on the 4th Annual Hazardous Materials Training Symposium held January 20-22, 2016 in Daytona Beach. Highlights included ten hands-on trainings, 32 classroom trainings, 181 hours of training, with 51 instructors, including 12 from out of state, who all donated their time. There was a 68% increase from last year's attendance with the ECFLEPC showing the largest participation for all the Districts. There was also a statewide Hazmat Competition for Individual and Team Awards.
- City of City of Kissimmee Medical Arts District – Mr. Luis Nieves-Ruiz, Economic Development Program Manager, gave a presentation about the recently completed strategic plan for the Kissimmee Medical Arts District. The City hired the ECFRPC to provide inventory of medical establishments within the District, identify health care businesses for recruitment and develop economic incentives program. The project is divided into three parts: Existing Conditions Analysis – It provides an overview of the land use characteristics of the study area including land uses and property entitlements. It also analyzed some of the City's plans and documents as they relate to the Medical District; Medical Profile – It includes an inventory of medical services within the study area. It also compares Medical District with other similar districts across the Metro Orlando region; Implementation - Staff used a case study methodology to identify how other medical districts across the nation address branding/identity, uses and zoning regulations, and economic incentives. Based on the above information, Mr. Nieves-Ruiz developed a series of targeted economic incentives to attract new medical businesses to Kissimmee's Medical District. These incentives include reductions in the development fees charged to medical practices and reimbursement of building permit and equipment expenses among others. The Kissimmee City Commission held a workshop on February 26 to discuss the new incentive program and should give final approval sometime in April.

- Vice Mayor Leigh Matusick requested at the earlier Executive Board meeting to add an item to the Agenda as an urgent request. On March 31st, the Florida Greenways and Trails Council will be looking at prioritizing trails for funds to go into the SunTrails System. St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop is part of the beginning of the Coast-to-Coast Connector and it goes through five counties: Brevard, Volusia, Putnam, Flagler and St. Johns. It comes down to the Volusia/Brevard county line to start our portion of the Coast-to-Coast Connector. In order to get on the SunTrails System and be eligible for funds, we're trying to get Letters of Support and/or a Resolution sent to DEP to make sure that St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop does get included. If the trails are not on this new prioritized list, they won't be considered for state funding for the SunTrails System. An earlier Resolution was issued by the Council when the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop was first started so we would just need an updated Resolution to send to DEP. Commissioner Constantine stated that this was an "urgent" request due to the deadline date of March 31st. Mr. Jerry Livingston stated that we need to pass a motion identifying the Resolution request as an urgent item because it was not currently on the agenda and not previously published. Once the motion is passed, a request for a Resolution can be added to the agenda and then it can be considered for adoption. Commissioner Sheehan made a motion to adopt the item as an urgent matter due to timing. Mayor Bruhn seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed. Vice Mayor Matusick made a motion to approve this Resolution and Commissioner Sheehan seconded. It was voted on and passed.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Harling gave an overview of five of the projects the staff is working on now.

- **Coast-to-Coast Trails** – The Coast-to-Coast Connector project is a partnership with Tampa Bay RPC. Three public workshops were conducted in January and a webinar at the end of March will present the design ideas and asset information. The RPCs have been using GIS to map assets along the corridor for eco-tourism and economic opportunities.
- **Osceola County Housing Study** – Staff has been working with Osceola County to finish the Housing Analysis. Inventory, market trends and demographics were analyzed and 12 census tracts and two CRAS were looked at specifically to address potential for mixed income housing to aid low income transition housing needs. The report should be completed in the next couple months.
- **Indian River Lagoon, Phase 2** – The RPC is in year two of DEO funding for the Indian River Lagoon project. This year we completed analysis of sea level rise impacts on the five counties and their outfalls that are in proximity to the lagoon. The staff is also developing a report on Best Management Practices for outfall maintenance and working to update last year's water quality database. We are working with the Treasure Coast RPC as they conduct an economic evaluation for the Indian River Lagoon as they look at various industries that are lagoon based. The final report will be completed by July.
- **River to Sea TPO** – We just entered into a contract with the River to Sea TPO to utilize the sea level data we modeled in the previous project to assess transportation facilities in Volusia and Flagler Counties. We will provide research discussion on the impacts of sea level rise on groundwater storage which impacts flooding issues.
- **I-75 Relief Task Force** – Mr. Harling stated that he attended the latest meeting in February. Discussions included the work plan, identifying areas of avoidance and minimization, analysis methodology, and freight and logistics, as well as the purpose and need of the project and

plans for public input and open houses. Representatives from FDOT and consultants were there as well as the counties, RPCs and others.

- **Projects and Activities** – Mr. Harling provided an overview on current, ongoing and prospective projects and activities for January and February 2016. A handout was provided with more specific information for each of these projects.

VII. Chair's Report

- Mr. Harling discussed last week's FRCA meeting in Tallahassee. South Florida RPC worked to put together a scope of work with DEO for an economic development project and budget for inclusion in the legislative budget in which each RPC would get a portion of the funding. However, this was on the Governor's veto list. Also, Commissioner Constantine stated that we did not ask for a specific line item for the RPCs in the budget this year since it has been vetoed four years in a row. We will continue to do the projects that are necessary.
- Commissioner Constantine stated that the lease for this office is up the end of September so the Executive Director is in the process of researching other offices and will update the Council at the next meeting.
- Attachment five shows the latest update on Bills from FRCA for review.

VIII. Brief County Updates – County Representatives

- Lake County – Commissioner Sullivan commented on the Route Condition Analysis Tool as far as the Safe Routes to School program and how it's been a tremendous help as they move forward in coordinating with the school system on how to spend limited resources, especially in the area of sidewalks. It also ties into the FDOT Complete Streets Program.
- Orange County – Commissioner Boyd gave an update on growth and connections within the county including the Wellness Way Corridor linking both 429, Southwest Orange, to Highway 27 and it's Feasibility Study.
- Osceola County – Commissioner Janer stated they have selected a planner to come up with a master plan for FARM, which is located by the Advanced Manufacturing Center on SR 192 near the Florida Turnpike. They are hopeful they will get funding for the Advanced Manufacturing Center. Poinciana Valencia Community College is coming in and getting a second round of funding for that in conjunction with Lynx and FDOT to address connectivity in that area. GDP for Osceola County was 5.6%.
- Seminole County – Commissioner Horan reported that the 2015 GDP for Seminole County is 3.4%, higher than the Florida average of 3.2% for growth. Other items of interest for Seminole County include: Altamonte Springs just approved providing subsidies and discounts with Uber for travelers within Altamonte Springs to connect with the SunRail system; and, the Sports Complex will be opening in May with over 40 events already booked. Commissioner Constantine discussed state funding of \$500,000 received by FWC for bear management with 60% guaranteed to go to the counties that have implemented a bear management program. As of now, Seminole County is the only county that has a bear management program which includes bear resistant cans.

- Volusia County – Commissioner Doug Daniels stated that water is the big issue, both quantity and quality, and that they have joined the Indian River Lagoon Council. They are moving forward with plans to clean up the Lagoon and trying to get additional funding from the government. In Volusia County proper, the problem is mainly septic tanks. They pollute the Lagoon and are expensive to upgrade or replace, so money is needed from the State to help take care of the problem. The homeless situation continues to be an issue and the County would be interested in hearing from other counties on how they handle the situation. They have reviewed the Housing First model that Orlando has for short term shelters and this appears to be a good option for the direction for Volusia to proceed. Volusia County is in need of economic planning and would like to reach out to the RPC for some assistance. Commissioner Constantine agreed that the purpose of the RPC is to lend assistance to all the counties and offer solutions. He also stated Seminole County spent \$100,000 on a Homeless Task Force Report that is coming out in April and will share it when it's available. He agreed that the State will have to address the ongoing septic tank problem which is an issue for the entire state.
- St. Johns River Water Management District – Ms. Nancy Christman stated that on March 8th the St. Johns River Water Management District adopted April as Water Conservation month. They are contacting all the local governments asking them to adopt their own proclamations to show a commitment to water conservation and also to get the word out to citizens that their governments think it's important and to raise awareness that citizens should conserve water on a daily basis. Also, the spring cost share program has just opened and information is available on the district website.

IX. Announcements/Public Comments

- The ECFRPC was awarded the DEP Coastal Partnership Initiative Grant to pilot new tools in the FDOT Sea Level Scenario Sketch Planning Tool in Volusia County. It will look at Storm Surge on top of sea level rise.
- There were no public comments at this time.

X. Adjournment

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