

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

CORRECTED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2007

Commissioner Teresa Jacobs Presiding

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Representatives

Commissioner Helen Voltz, Volusia 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 Mike McLean, Seminole County
Councilwoman Joie Alexander, Volusia County
Councilman Art Giles, Volusia County

Municipal Representatives

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

Gubernatorial Appointees

Mr. Malcolm McLouth, Brevard County
Mr. Al Glover, Brevard County
Mr. Jon Rawlson, Orange County

Ex-Officio and Other Municipal Reps

Ms. Vivian Garfein, FDEP
Ms. Susan Sadighi, FDOT
Mr. John Weiss for Mr. Frank Hickson, FDOT
Mr. Thomas Genovese, SFWMD
Mr. Russell Gibson, City of Sanford

Other Attendees

Mr. Gerald Livingston, ECFRPC Counsel
Ms. Michelle Beaman, Osceola County
Ms. Eve Finley, FDOT
Mr. John Moore, FDOT
Mr. Karl Pansetti, Kittelson & Assoc.
Mr. Forest Michael, Transystems
Ms. Kathy Hattaway, HCI
Ms. Ivette Sanchez, Orlando Utilities Comm
Mr. John Kaliski, Cambridge Systems
Mr. Mark Jacobson, Newland
Ms. Debra Dremann, Newland
Ms. Patty Hurd, Glatting Jackson
Mr. Don Manley, Glatting Jackson
Mr. Scot Leftwich, Leftwich Co.
Mr. Keith Schue, The Nature Conservancy
Mr. Tim Shiran, Green Island DRI
Mr. Chuck Hurst, Embarq

ECFRPC Staff

Mr. Phil Laurien Ms. Ruth Little
Ms. Lelia Hars Ms. Kimberly Loewen
Ms. Tara McCue Mr. Fred Milch
Mr. Keith Smith Mr. Andrew Landis
Ms. Claudia Paskauskas
Ms. Tuesdai Brunsonbyrd-Bowden

Members not in Attendance

Commissioner Chuck Nelson, Brevard County
Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County
Commissioner Dick Van Der Weide,
Seminole County
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando
Mr. Daniel O'Keefe, Orange County
Ms. Aileen Cubillos, Seminole County
Ms. Maryam Ghyabi, Volusia County
Ms. Nancy Christman, SJRWMD

I. Call to Order and General Business

Chair Teresa Jacobs called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ruth Little called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

II. Draft Regional Green Print Methodology

Mr. Laurien reviewed the evolution of the Regional Green Print, beginning 18 months ago with the Green Print Committee made up of people from a variety of disciplines. The identification of the seven jewels of Florida was part of the *myregion.org* process. In addition, Florida statutes require RPCs to adopt a map identifying Natural Resources of Regional Significance (NRORS). Mr. Laurien explained the methodology used in developing the Green Print Map, seeking the Council's official approval of the methodology. When the Green Print Map is finalized, it will eventually become part of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. He noted that amendments are expected, and that new layers may be added or deleted. Today's request is for the Council to approve the methodology.

A question and answer period followed addressing issues such as County involvement, control of layers, individual property rights, and implementation details. Mr. Lee of the Audubon Society complimented the RPC for hard work in advancing the Green Print. He agreed with Commissioner Renick's opinion that all available science should be included, but recounted meetings where the scientists could not agree. Mr. Lee said a map of the basic minimums creates a starting place for agreement and encouraged Mr. Laurien's resolution to move forward. Commissioner Brummer pointed out the importance of recognizing the political aspects of the process. Mr. McLouth made a MOTION to adopt Resolution #3, Approval of the Green Print Methodology. The MOTION was seconded by Mr. Al Glover.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the input from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Thompson of The Nature Conservancy said that the TNC map and the FDEP Greenways maps are almost identical. Mr. Mercer emphasized that final decisions about what will be protected or developed will be made at the county and city level; the Green Print Map represents a starting point with a consensus agreement. Commissioner Renick voiced her reluctance to adopt a map that does not include the FDEP Greenways map. Mr. Rawlson called the question, seconded by Mayor Land. Mr. McLouth's MOTION TO ADOPT Resolution #03-2008 Endorsing a Methodology for Developing a Regional Green Print was PASSED with Commissioner Renick and Commissioner Jacobs voting against adoption.

III. Green Island DRI

Mr. Milch gave a presentation on the Green Island DRI and handed out white sheets with the latest revisions to Staff Recommendations. The Green Island DRI project is in Osceola County and covers just under 6,000 acres. The build-out population will be over 36,000, mostly in single family homes. The project also includes retail space, a regional mall, research and industrial space near the interstate, 5 schools, and 1,700 acres of conservation.

Mr. Milch informed the Council that the major issue with the development has been transportation. Osceola County would like the street network on a grid layout with transit oriented development, and the project may require redesign to meet the Osceola County Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Milch then reviewed each of the recent changes to Staff Recommendations as found in the white sheets. Mr. Glover made a motion that a recommendation be added prohibiting the use of Lake Toho for water consumption, based on recent events in Jacksonville. A discussion followed, including input from the Water Management District. Mr. Livingston said that the RPCs recommendation will be of no consequence if the water management district grants a permit.

Mr. Glover restated his concern extending beyond this lake and this project. His objective is to express the Council's concern. Commissioner Quinones offered an alternate motion to abide by the policies of the South Florida Water Management District. Mr. Glover agreed to the substitute motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mercer and UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Next, Ms. Julie Kendig-Schrader, representing the applicant, made a brief presentation of the Green Island project, addressing such items as the applicant's prior projects, the use of green building practices, and environmental impacts. The applicant supports the latest revisions to the Staff Recommendations and comments contained in the white pages.

Mr. John Adams added that 28% of the total acreage is preserved wetlands, and there are additional open spaces in the form of parks, wildlife buffers, and landscapes, resulting in gross open space over 50%.

Commissioner Jacobs opened the floor to questions and discussion. Mr. Lee of the Audubon Society gave his support to the Staff Recommendations, citing the conservation of eagles' nests. He also clarified that the National Audubon Society is not associated with the "Audubon Certification" mentioned in relation to the golf course. Mr. Lee also mentioned two undecided items that may impact this project: the expressway alignment under consideration by OOCEA, and Osceola County's new Comprehensive Plan density regulations, which will ultimately conserve habitat.

A request was made for more information about the organization that grants "Audubon Certification" for golf course design. After discussion, Commissioner Jacobs suggested two changes to the Recommendations: strike "designed to be Audubon certified" and replace with "designed with accepted best practices" in reference to golf course design, and use the word "multiple" where two lanes are referenced in the Transportation section. Mr. Mercer moved for acceptance of the Staff Recommendations as amended. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Quinones and UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Commissioner Quinones disclosed that he had recent discussions with Mr. Whidden. Mr. Mercer disclosed the he also has spoken with many parties involved as items were brought before the county.

IV. Consent Agenda

Mr. Mercer made a motion to approve the four items contained in the Consent Agenda. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Ralwson and PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. Wekiva Commission Update

The next meeting of the Wekiva River Basin Commission is February 27. A more complete report will be made at the March meeting.

VI. Green Mountain Scenic Byway Master Plan

Patty Hurd & Dan Manley from Glatting Jackson presented final recommendations for the Green Mountain Scenic Byway Master Plan. The purpose of the Scenic Byway is to help attract resources along the byway, create a story that travelers can understand when they visit, and promote and unite resources along the corridor. Mr. Hurd showed maps of the Byway which travels through Orange and Lake Counties. Some of the recommendations included traffic circles replacing signaled intersections, parks and trails, and blueways. Corridor enhancements, “wayfinding” signage and landscape standards were also shown. At council member request, staff will place the Master Plan on the ECFRPC web site.

VII. Chair’s Report

Commissioner Jacobs recognized Commissioners Brenda Carey and Robert Dallari of Seminole County, and Commissioner Mary Bolin of Brevard County for their service on the ECFRPC and thanked them with a certificate of appreciation.

VIII. Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Laurien reported on a recent meeting in Jacksonville and the anticipated water dispute between central Florida and Jacksonville. He is recommending a joint summit between the ECFRPC and the East Florida Regional Council, commenting the need for cooperation between regions on this issue. Central Florida did receive credit for being near 100% reuse levels, while Jacksonville is at about 7%.

Next, Mr. Laurien informed the Council of the proposed budget cuts by DCA in funding the state’s 11 RPCs. Mr. Laurien made an appeal to council members to let their contacts in Tallahassee know that the ECFRPC is relevant and necessary, and ask for their help in keeping funding level. He also reviewed several new contract opportunities which will produce revenue while serving our member counties. Lastly, he introduced new staff member Jeremy Mikrut who will be working with Fred Milch and DRIs.

IX. Announcements / Comments

Commissioner Jacobs asked for announcements, events, other items of interest. Council-woman Alexander brought up the school facilities element discussed in the January meeting. Volusia County legal staff have talked with DCA and it appears that the issues will be resolved on a positive note. Ms. Garfein announced that Governor Crist will be making a trip to Central Florida regarding brownfields.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.