

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2008

Commissioner Teresa Jacobs Presiding

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Representatives

Commissioner Helen Voltz, Brevard County
Commissioner Chuck Nelson, Brevard County
Commissioner Elaine Renick, Lake County
Commissioner Teresa Jacobs, Orange County
Commissioner Fred Brummer, Orange 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
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
Mr. Daniel O'Keefe, Orange County

Ex-Officio and Other Municipal Reps

Ms. Vivian Garfein, FDEP
Mr. John Moore, FDOT
Ms. Nancy Christman, SJRWMD
Mr. Frank Hickson, FDOT
Mr. Larry Pearson for Mr. Genovese, SFWMD

Other Attendees

Gerald Livingston, ECFRPC Counsel
Ms. Liz Alward, Brevard County
Mr. Keith Schue, The Nature Conservancy
Mr. Jeff Jones, Osceola County
Ms. Julie Keifer Schrader, Greenberg Traurig

ECFRPC Staff

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

Members not in Attendance

Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County
Commissioner John Quinones, Osceola
County
Mr. Atlee Mercer, Osceola County
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, City of
Kissimmee
Mayor John Bush, Seminole County League
of Cities
Ms. Aileen Cubillos, Seminole County
Ms. Maryam Ghyabi, Volusia County
Mr. Russell Gibson, City of Sanford

I. Call to Order and General Business

Chair Teresa Jacobs called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Ruth Little called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

II. Consent Agenda

Mayor Land made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. With no questions being raised, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Alexander and UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

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

Mr. McLouth gave a report on the April 7, 2008 meeting of the SRPP Task Force. The natural resources element was the main topic. The State requires a map identifying Natural Resources of Regional Significance (NRORS), and to avoid confusion, the term “Green Print” will no longer be used in connection with the SRPP and NRORS. The Task Force also agreed to use map layers which identify organically shaped environmental areas as compared with maps depicting straight parcel lines. Mr. McLouth said the next required SRPP Public Meeting is set for July 21. The Task Force is considering hiring Shelley Lauten to help drive public involvement.

Because there has been some opposition from attorneys and others to adopting a “green print,” Mr. Laurien said it is important to be clear about how the NRORS map is different than the Green Print Map, how it will be created and what it means. Mr. Laurien and GIS Manager Claudia Paskauskas gave a demonstration of the council’s GIS capabilities, and showed maps depicting current urbanized areas, conservation lands, and many other map layers that are being considered for inclusion in the NRORS map.

A discussion followed including questions about endangered species maps and habitat maps, and concerns about using the best science available. Mr. Laurien explained the challenges in creating the NRORS map and illustrated the decisions that need to be made: what size wetlands should be considered, which endangered species should be included, which data should be used when conflicting science exists? Mr. Laurien reassured the Council that their input will be sought throughout the process. During the SRPP Kickoff Meeting in March, there was excellent response as attendees signed up to serve on topic-specific sounding boards, which will assure public input into the NRORS map.

Mr. McLouth reminded the Council that the NRORS map is a work in progress, and suggested the controversies may actually help generate more involvement from local governments as opponents get in touch with their elected officials. The Task Forces’ position is that maximum involvement from the public, land owners, environmentalists, and elected officials will result in the best final product.

A presentation of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Ecological Greenway Network maps which includes six layers of priorities was next. Discussion ensued about defining those layers. Mr. Laurien pointed out that the SRPP Task Force will not be creating any new data but will instead use existing studies from counties, the state, UF, conservation agencies, and others. The Council is not being asked to vote or take any action at this time, but Mr. McLouth urged all Council members to take the information back to their city or county, disburse the information and ask for involvement.

[Editor's Note: Staff was using DEP Ecological Greenways maps from 2002. The state has updated their priorities layers for the DEP Ecological Greenways in 2005. This was not clearly expressed, but it is the ECFRPC's intent to use the latest data from the state regarding the Ecological Greenways.]

IV. Wekiva Commission Update– *Kimberly Loewen*

Ms. Loewen gave a brief update on a question raised in the March Council meeting about the status of land acquisition for the Wekiva Parkway. According to Mike Snyder at the OOCEA, the State has until December 31, 2010 to acquire the Pines Plantation property. The OOCEA is working with the FDEP and the SJRWMD to secure funding. A second appraisal will be done soon and negotiations with the owner are expected to begin in the next month.

V. Chair's Report – *Chair, Commissioner Teresa Jacobs*

Commissioner Jacobs announced that new member Bill McDermott will be joining the Council in April representing Enterprise Florida. She also recognized Executive Director Phil Laurien's two-year anniversary with the ECFRPC. He was commended on doing a great job and looks forward to the next two years going by as fast as the first two.

VI. Executive Director's Report – *Phil Laurien*

Mr. Laurien reported that the Department of Community Affairs has officially notified the state's planning councils of a reduction in the current year budget. We expect that the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget will be cut further; much of these funds are being replaced by contract work such as UASI, a hurricane evacuation study and GIS work.

Mr. Laurien talked next about an upcoming meeting on Friday in St. Augustine between the ECFRPC and the North Florida Regional Council. The "mini water summit" will be our first efforts in heading off the brewing water war. Their region is not as efficient at reclaiming water as ours, but our region has higher water consumption.

The ECFRPC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) has been officially approved by the US EDA. The document is available on our web site, and projects listed in that document are now eligible for funding through the EDA. Brevard County is applying for funding to study the economic impact of ending the shuttle program.

VII. 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. Andrew Landis, ECFRPC Planner, had an announcement about the City of Deltona and the great job they did in incorporating language directly from How Shall We Grow into their Evaluation and Appraisal Report. Vice Mayor Martin invited everyone to Port Orange for their Jazz Festival this weekend. Commissioner Jacobs invited everyone to stay for the 12:30 Smart Growth Alliance.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36.