

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2006

Chairman Jon Rawlson

Presiding

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Representatives

Commissioner Sue Carlson, Brevard County
Commissioner Jackie Colon, Brevard County
Commissioner Robert Pool, Lake County
Commissioner Teresa Jacobs, Orange County
Commissioner Brenda Carey, Seminole County
Commissioner Randy Morris, Seminole County
Councilwoman Joie Alexander, Volusia County

Municipal Representatives

Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando
Mr. Ed Booth, Space Coast League of Cities, Malabar
Mayor John Land, Tri-County League of Cities,
Apopka
Vice Mayor Wendell McKinnon, Tri-County League of
Cities, Kissimmee
Commissioner Michael Blake, Tri-County League of
Cities, Winter Springs
Vice Mayor Mary Martin, Volusia County League of
Cities, Port Orange

Gubernatorial Appointees

Mr. Malcolm McLouth, Brevard County
Ms. Janice Kershaw, Brevard County
Mr. Jon Rawlson, Orange County
Ms. Maria Grulich, Osceola County
Ms. Maryam Ghyabi, Volusia County

Ex-Officio and Other Municipal Representatives

Ms. Nancy Christman, SJRWMD
Ms. Vivian Garfein, FDEP
Mr. Thomas Genovese, SFWMD
Ms. Lennon Moore, FDOT

Staff

Mr. Jeff Jones
Ms. Susan Caswell
Mr. Fred Milch
Mr. Mark Sievers
Ms. Claudia Paskauskas
Ms. Tara McCue
Ms. Lelia Hars
Ms. Andrea Fant
Ms. Tuesdai Brunsonbyrd
Mr. Tom Tomerlin
Mr. Samer Bitar

Other Attendees

Mr. Jon Weiss, FDOT-D5
Ms. Susan Sadighi, FDOT-D5
Ms. Simone Babb, FDOT Consultant
Mr. David Marsh, FDOT-D5
Ms. Shelley Lauten, myregion.org
Mr. Harold Barley, Metroplan Orlando
Mr. Jeff Welch, Palmer Reifler & Associates P.A.
Mr. Dusty Calderon, Green Island Ranch DRI
Mr. Charley William, Geotechnical & Environmental
Consultants
Attorney Gerald Livingston

Members not in Attendance

Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County
Commissioner Homer Hartage, Orange County
Commissioner Bill Lane, Osceola County
Clerk of the Courts Larry Whaley, Osceola County
Councilman Dwight Lewis, Volusia County Councilman
William Harvey, City of Deltona
Commissioner Evelyn Smith, City of Eustis
Mr. Daniel O'Keefe, Orange County
Ms. Nancy Acevedo, Seminole County
Mr. Russell Gibson, City of Sanford

I. CALL TO ORDER AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Chairman Rawlson called the meeting to order at 10:11 am. Ms. Fant called the roll and announced a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Rawlson offered the January 2006 meeting minutes for consideration.

MOTION: Mr. McLouth moved to approve the January 2006 minutes. Councilwoman Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Chairman Rawlson offered for consideration the December 2005 and January 2006 financial reports.

MOTION: Commissioner Jacobs moved for approval of the December 2005 and January 2006 financial reports. Commissioner Carey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS UPDATE – Commissioner Morris

Commissioner Morris announced that his year as President of the National Association of Regional Councils will conclude in June. He noted memberships from the cities of New York and Los Angeles have been added to NARC during this past year, as well as many MPOs and RPCs, and he commended Harry Barley for his help with communication between the other agencies across the country. He made note that a primary issue NARC continues to face is the urban/rural divide. He added that DOT, Congress and the White House have shown increasing interest in working with NARC.

NARC's Executive Director resigned last year, and Commissioner Morris noted that the Association started a recruiting process in November, which lasted through the first week of this month.

Commissioner Morris concluded by stating his hope that Council members will become more involved in the organization, and he promised to forward to Council members the publications and updates that NARC members receive.

IV. COUNCIL RETREAT UPDATE – Chairman Rawlson

Chairman Rawlson announced the Retreat has been renamed to the Strategic Planning Summit. The Summit will be held at Stetson University's Conference Center. The rate for Council members to stay at the Celebration Hotel is \$139.00 per night. Another hotel nearby offers rooms for approximately \$89.00 per night.

A draft agenda for the Summit will be distributed to Council members by next week so members can respond to Mr. Jones with suggestions. The Summit will start at 1:00 pm on April 18th, with activities and a speaker that afternoon followed by a reception that night. April 19th will be dedicated to workshops and discussions. There will be a facilitator present to help Council members work through the process.

Mr. Jones made noted that this will be the first summit held by the ECFRPC since 1998.

Commissioner Carey asked Chairman Rawlson to verify the rates for the Celebration Hotel at \$139.00 as the rates listed in the agenda packet were different. Chairman Rawlson noted the rate is \$139.00 because the Stetson Center was extending its discount to Council members.

V. FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR CFGIS/REGIONAL MAPPING PROGRAM – Mr. Sievers and Ms. Moore

Mr. Sievers noted CFGIS is a 10-county initiative, including Brevard, Flagler, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia. He introduced Ms. Lennon Moore as the individual in charge of intermodal transportation planning for FDOT District 5.

Ms. Moore noted the purpose of her presentation was to discuss the CFGIS history, benefits, partners, products, and future direction. The CFGIS mission involves providing government agencies and businesses with GIS data and tools to meet their needs. CFGIS consists of several groups, including the Steering Committee and the Users' Group, as well as many partners.

Ms. Moore briefed the Council on the web-based interactive tools available through CFGIS. Through the DRI tool, users can access projects through a name or map search and download scanned documents related to the project. The FDOT District Five Adopted Work Program Tool includes a list of active projects and their respective phases, a description of the projects, and explanations of how

projects are funded. The Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Project Diary provides impacts and mitigation costs in advance and tracks commitments of FDOT.

Ms. Moore proposed for future consideration having the ECFRPC take a leadership role in the CFGIS program and merging data applications to create one focused program. She also proposed creating an Executive Advisory Committee for policy guidance and to seek additional funding. Ms. Moore proposed that the RPC develop an action plan for accomplishing these goals.

Ms. Ghyabi inquired as to how often updates are performed. Ms. Moore replied the group meets on a quarterly basis and that the system is always updated.

Ms. Ghyabi asked if the community used the program frequently. Ms. Moore noted CFGIS members have worked with Lake County on several projects and that the program helps other members of the community identify trends. Mr. Jones noted he used the program yesterday to obtain data sets for a meeting.

Ms. Ghyabi inquired as to whether CFGIS has obtained grants from Tallahassee. Ms. Moore replied in the negative.

Ms. Ghyabi suggested a presentation and discussion of the CFGIS program be included on the Summit's agenda. Chairman Rawlson noted he had already included it on the agenda.

Chairman Rawlson asked if there was an opportunity to gather GIS gurus to discuss a merger. Ms. Moore replied the Users Group serves such a purpose. Mr. Sievers noted the Users Group and Steering Committee provide a lot of guidance. He stated that discussions at the Steering Committee during the past year have made it clear that we probably need another level of involvement, a policy type board.

Commissioner Carey inquired as to whether the counties were putting all development projects, not just DRIs, onto the CFGIS site. Ms. Sadighi replied in the negative, but noted there is potential to expand the system.

Vice Mayor Martin stated there are ways to unify the CFGIS program from separate regions. She commented there is currently a problem with separate geographic information systems.

Commissioner Morris noted Seminole County has a program called SCI.NET, which is a government and public information system. He commented SCI.NET users don't have to continuously link to other sites, but instead are able to work through a coordinated system; he stated with SCI.NET's architecture, there is a true drill down system. He inquired as to whether Ms. Moore had worked with SCI.NET staff. Ms. Moore replied in the negative.

Chairman Rawlson asked if there can be an interconnection to eliminate the different links within the system. Ms. Sadighi replied in the affirmative, but noted the program needed to, first, be developed at the ECFRPC center location.

Commissioner Carey noted if the program is only on a platform within specific jurisdictions, then it only benefits those jurisdictions. She suggested having one location where people could go to gain information and insight. Commissioner Jacobs made note of the council of mayors created by myregion.org and suggested including them in discussions.

Chairman Rawlson stated he would like to put together a work group to discuss the agenda topics for the Summit.

Ms. Ghyabi asked if Council members could receive information on the system Seminole County uses. Commissioner Morris noted Seminole County has a PowerPoint presentation of the SCI.NET system.

Mr. McLouth suggested someone work on a glossary of terms because different agencies do different things. Chairman Rawlson stated he will have someone put together a packet of background materials, including a glossary of terms.

VI. DRI UPDATE – Mr. Fred Milch

Mr. Milch noted the Ormond Crossing DRI (Volusia) is expected to be submitted to ECFRPC staff in May, the Karlton DRI (Lake County) in July, and the Innovation Place DRI (Orange County) in September. No DRIs are scheduled to come before the board until June or July.

Chairman Rawlson inquired as to the amount of time it takes to build the DRIs. Mr. Milch replied approximately 20 years, but the time is different for each DRI.

VII. CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE – Chairman Rawlson

Chairman Rawlson updated the Council on the status of the Executive Director Search. Mr. Bernard from The Par Group submitted the resumes of 12 candidates to the Executive and Search committees for their consideration. The Executive and Search Committee chose 5 out of the 12 candidates for interviews. The Search and Executive Committee interviewed each of the 5 finalists on January 30th. After the interviews and much discussion and evaluation, the interviewing board chose Mr. Phil Laurien. Chairman Rawlson commented there were a variety of individuals, but Mr. Laurien stood out, exhibiting a number of qualities fit for the Executive Director position.

Commissioner Blake stated the entire search was a very comprehensive process. He noted Ms. Jenifer Domerchie did a great job in providing information to the candidates. He commented the search process elicited a number of very qualified candidates. Commissioner Blake stated Mr. Laurien really stood out, not just in terms of his experience, but also by his level of enthusiasm and professionalism. Commissioner Blake said he is excited about the selection and is sure Mr. Laurien will become a regional leader.

Mr. McLouth stated the influence of the ECFRPC will expand and it needs a leader with goals fit for the future of the planning council. He commented Mr. Laurien was outstanding and that he ranked Mr. Laurien first amongst the candidates.

Chairman Rawlson stated the ECFRPC is below market in a number of areas and that the Executive Committee will conduct a study for benefits soon after Mr. Laurien takes office.

Attorney Livingston made reference to a handout titled Talking Points and discussed the contract agreement for Laurien.

Councilwoman Alexander asked if 9 months severance was the standard in the market. She commented she believed 9 months to be too much. Chairman Rawlson replied the time frame ranges between 6-12 months.

MOTION: Mayor Land moved to approve both Mr. Phil Laurien as the Executive Director and the contract. Mr. McLouth seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Councilwoman Alexander and Commissioner Carey opposing the terms of the contract.

Ms. Caswell made mention that ECFRPC staff do not have separate sick and vacation time, but that all paid leave falls under personal leave time. Chairman Rawlson noted Mr. Laurien’s paid leave will be different than the other ECFRPC staff members.

Commissioner Morris inquired as to who was on the selection committee for choosing the finalists for the Executive Director position. Chairman Rawlson replied the interviewing board consisted of himself, Commissioner Blake, and Mr. McLouth. He noted every member of the Search and Executive Committee was invited to sit on the board and invitations were also extended to Council members at the last Council meeting.

Mr. Booth noted he gets 5 months severance pay and that 6 months should be sufficient for the new Executive Director. Councilwoman Alexander noted the County Manager recently hired for Volusia County has 6 months severance pay.

Attachment 1

Chairman Rawlson made note that the board conducted a salary survey. He stated the Council approved a salary range from \$80,000 – \$125,000 and the board decided on \$120,000. He commented the Council members can discuss severance, but the board had made decisions based upon the market. He mentioned Ms. Sandra Glenn's salary had not been raised in 7 years.

Commissioner Carey inquired as to Mr. Laurien's experience in working in large metropolitan areas. Mr. McLouth replied that Mr. Laurien had many qualifications and that selecting a final candidate also involved personal judgment.

Commissioner Jacobs noted she was unable to attend the interview because her daughter was ill and her husband was out of town. She commented all 5 candidates were highly qualified and in choosing an individual, it was a matter of selecting the best candidate. Commissioner Jacobs stated she supports the motion. She noted with respect to severance pay, the planning business is precarious and the Council members are asking someone to move.

Commissioner Morris commented \$120,000 is good and he supports the salary decision. He noted Mr. Laurien is coming to a region with extremely high growth and asked if Mr. Laurien was suitable for such a position. Chairman Rawlson stated he believes Mr. Laurien is highly qualified and is the best candidate.

Commissioner Blake noted the search was a very lengthy process. He commented by the time the board reached the interviewing process, it had been presented with five extremely qualified candidates.

Chairman Rawlson mentioned Clerk of Courts Whaley expressed concerned about the search process after the first Search Committee meeting. Chairman Rawlson noted members of the Search Committee relayed Clerk of Courts Whaley's concerns to the search firm at the beginning of the process.

Commissioner Morris stated the Council members granted Chairman Rawlson and the Search Committee authority to make decisions and the board cannot now renege.

Mayor Land noted during the Search Committee meetings, there was a consensus that the Executive Director salary needed to be raised. Mayor Land commented he was a little embarrassed about the previous salary amount. He mentioned in getting someone to move here from out of the state, there needs to be an incentive.

Chairman Rawlson noted he will coordinate a time to have everyone meet with Mr. Laurien. He stated he would like to extend appreciation to Mr. Jones for his work.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – *Chairman Rawlson*

Chairman Rawlson adjourned the meeting at 12:12 pm.

Approved by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 15th day of March 2006.

Mr. Jon Rawlson