

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 22, 2009

Chair Vice Mayor Martin Presiding

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Representatives

Commissioner Elaine Renick, Lake County
Commissioner Brandon Arrington, Osceola County
Commissioner Brenda Carey, Seminole County
Commissioner Jack Hayman, Volusia County

Municipal Representatives

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

Gubernatorial Appointees

Mayor Melissa DeMarco, Lake County
Ms. Melanie Chase, Seminole County
Mr. William McDermott, Enterprise Florida

Ex-Officio and Other Municipal Reps

Ms. Nancy Christman, SJRWMD
Ms. Vivian Garfein, FDEP
Mr. Jon Weiss, FDOT

Other Attendees

Gerald Livingston, ECFRPC Counsel
Mr. Chris Testerman, Orange County
Ms. Alissa Barber Torres, Orange County
Ms. Michelle Maikisch, OOCEA
Mr. John Moore, FDOT
Mr. Danny Williams, Wantmaw Group
Mr. Larry Pearson, SFWMD

Members not in Attendance

Commissioner Robin Fisher, Brevard County
Commissioner Andy Anderson, Brevard County
Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County
Commissioner S. Scott Boyd, Orange County
Commissioner Fred Brummer, Orange County
Commissioner Hawkins, Osceola County
Commissioner Dick Van Der Weide, Seminole County
Councilwoman Patricia Northey, Volusia County
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando
Deputy Mayor Joanne Krebs, Tri-County League of Cities
Ms. Jackie Colon, Brevard County
Mr. Al Glover, Brevard County
Mr. Jon Rawlson, Orange County
Mr. Daniel O'Keefe, Orange County
Mr. Julius Melendez, Osceola County
Ms. Aileen Cubillos, Seminole County
Mr. Lonnie Groot, Volusia County
Ms. Cecelia Weaver, SFWMD
Commissioner Jack Bridges, City of Sanford
Ms. Susan Sadighi, FDOT

ECFRPC Staff

Executive Director Phil Laurien
Mr. George Kinney
Ms. Claudia Paskauskas
Ms. Lelia Hars
Ms. Tara McCue
Ms. Elizabeth Rothbeind
Mr. Keith Smith
Mr. Josh Hoffman
Ms. Carolyn Knabel

I. Call to Order and General Business

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Elizabeth Rothbeind called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

II. Consent Agenda

Chair Martin made a Motion to approve the consent agenda. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jack Hayman and unanimously passed. Chair Martin welcomed all in

attendance and notified everyone that the 2008 Annual Report was on each attendee's seat. Chair Martin stated that we all have accomplished a great deal in the past year and asked Director Laurien if he had any comments. Director Laurien stated that for all of those who have been on the board in the past three years know, we have not completed our own in-house annual report. FRCA takes our DCA quarterly reports and compiles them to create the annual report that is sent to DCA. Director Laurien thought it was important to take a look back at everything the ECFRPC has accomplished. He displayed the numerous pages of spreadsheets listing comprehensive plans, EAR reviews, DRIs, and intergovernmental coordination reviews, which are usually transparent to the Council. These items are transparent because the ECFRPC does not place these reviews on the consent agenda, but if the Council would prefer to do so in the future, they can be added to the consent agenda. Other RPCs do place their reviews on the consent agenda, but they have fewer DRI reviews, giving them the time to go over the comprehensive reviews during each Council meeting. If we do start conversations about our reviews it will take a great deal of meeting time. Director Laurien stressed that these reviews are statutory and we complete hundreds of them each year, as displayed in the 2008 Annual Report. It was suggested that we list such completed reviews each month but not require a vote on them.

Director Laurien then spoke about the GIS manager, Claudia Paskausas, traveling to California last week for the ESRI annual conference, where training and demonstrations of the latest and greatest in GIS software is displayed. The ECFRPC was recognized at the ESRI conference by CEO Jack Dangerman when he displayed our Regional Vision model to describe the most sophisticated GIS modeling being done the right way.

III. 2010 ECFRPC Budget

Mr. Livingston handed out a proposed change in the bylaws, which he stated we would not be taking action on today. Mr. Livingston presented a proposed amendment regarding the budget and work program. He explained that he worked with Commissioner Brummer and Chris Testerman to resolve the issue with Orange County. This proposed change to the bylaws resolves the issue with Orange County. Mayor John Land asked Mr. Livingston if he, Commissioner Brummer, and Mr. Testerman considered having cities participate in membership/dues and have each member city pay a fee for participation. Ten years ago this was part of the ECFRPC's budget model, however there was a major rewrite of the rules that relieved cities of this cost burden. The Mayor emphasized that this is something he recommends we look at. Chair Martin asked if the Council would like to create a committee to look at this issue. Due to the fact that there was a minimal group in attendance, the majority agreed to take a look at this issue again at the next Council meeting.

Director Laurien asked the Council if they were prepared to make a Motion on the budget or if they would like him to go through the entire budget in detail. The Council agreed on having Director Laurien explain the budget in detail.

Director Laurien began by discussing the issue of DCA's contract to RPCs. DCA gives RPCs a certain amount of money and a certain amount of required work. The two do not equal out, due to the fact that it costs significantly more to complete the amount of required work than the amount that DCA gives RPCs. The Council's dues go to funding work that

DCA tells us to do that we do not have enough money to complete. The ECFRPC has one of the leanest budgets, smallest staffs, and largest jurisdictions. Contracts help us cover costs and reduce the Council's dues and we try to find jobs to supplement our revenues where we are not competing with the private sector.

Director Laurien displayed the salary page that the Council asked for and demonstrated that there is a 0% salary increase and that we are leaving one position open (administrative assistant). We needed to reduce the folks in the DRI department after Senate Bill 360 reduced our authority over DRIs, so we let one person go and placed our DRI assistant in the front office position. Now SB 360 has been appealed by there is now a lawsuit challenging its constitutionality. Therefore, SB 360 may not affect us for years. Orange County Mayor Crotty sent out a letter stating that Orange County will not implement SB360 because the language is confusing. Indeed there may be a flurry of new DRI activity to try and get DRIs through before Hometown Democracy. So, getting back to the employee budget portion, there is one vacant administration assistant position, which is shown as \$0 in the budget. The Director is prepared to live with the reduced number of staff, however he stated that he wanted the ability to refill that position if either our contract work or DRI work increases. This will not increase dues, but would be paid from contracts or from reserves. It is also important to note that our rent has decreased and we do not have to pay for electric utilities anymore. We have reduced expenditures by \$430,000, but some of that money is pass through money.

Director Laurien then directed the Council to the revenues sheet and showed that dues is shown at \$609,892, which represents \$0.19 per capita. \$0.19 was the amount sent out to all County Managers and agreed upon, by the Council, in April 2009. If you take the dues multiplier and multiply it by the BEBR population you will see that there has been some growth in our region. We have a 5.2% bottom line dues reduction across the region from last year. Director Laurien told the Council that if they choose, the bottom line can be reduced by 10%. This is an action that can be taken if the Council chooses to vote for this, which would make our dues \$0.18269 per capita. Director Laurien stated that he will support this number if the Council chooses to vote on this and also urged the Council to look at the comparison between the ECFRPC and the other RPCs. He stated that we should be proud to be leaner and meaner, but the on paper comparison is tricky because the comparison is not apples to apples since some RPCs also includes MPO's or other revenue sources. However, all RPCs do have the same statutory requirements and the average Florida RPC staff size is 19 full-time and we have 12 full-time employees. Director Laurien concluded by asking for support on the budget and for the support to hire additional help if needed in order to finish our robust work program.

Chair Martin asked the Council if there were any comments on the budget and Director Laurien's presentation. Commissioner Hayman commended staff on their due diligence and coming up with a workable solution. He also stated that with respect to the one vacant position he does think that we should have the authority to reach into reserves, if needed, to fill that position. In regard to the budget, Commissioner Hayman was pleased to see a reduction in dues, thanked Director Laurien, and stated he will support the \$0.19 per capita. Commissioner Carey stated that she does recognize that we have reduced staff by 7%,

however Seminole County has reduced staff by 20%. She is expressed her opinion that taking money out of reserves is not a wise thing to do. Commissioner Carey does not support taking money from reserves here or in Seminole County. She supports what the ECFRPC is trying to do and would only support the \$0.18269 per capita. Commissioner Carey also noted all of the items on the budget and apologized for being late. Directory Laurien explained that these line items are statutory requirements and that DCA does not fund us to the extent that they need to. Some of the ECFRPC support comes from dues because we run out of money from DCA every year. Commissioner Carey also questioned the reason behind conducted comprehensive plan reviews and stated that she does not see our conducted reviews. Director Laurien explained that our comments are included in DCA's report and that it is a statutory requirement to complete comprehensive plan reviews.

Mayor Land asked the Council if we had a Motion on the proposed dues budget made by Commissioner Carey. There was no second to the \$0.18269 per capita dues. Mr. Testerman from Orange County rose to speak about his discussion with Commissioner Brummer and Commissioner Boyd. He relayed the message that both Commissioners wish to see a 10% reduction.

Commissioner Hayman made a Motion to approve the budget at \$0.19 per capita and the Motion was seconded by Commissioner Renick. Chair Martin asked if there were any additional comments.

Director Laurien stated that the difference in dues proposed is only a total of \$30,000 and this amount can be taken from reserves. Mr. Livingston added that he thinks Commissioner Carey's motion was correct in order to resolve the issue with Orange County.

Commissioner Renick withdrew her second after learning that this was something discussed in length during the Executive Committee meeting. Chair Martin asked if there was another second for the Motion made by Commissioner Hayman for the \$0.19 per capita dues. Bearing no second the Motion failed.

Commissioner Arrington then made a Motion to pass the \$0.18269 per capita budget as long as the ECFRPC is able to tap into reserves and Mr. McDermott seconded this Motion. The budget passed at \$0.18269 per capita.

Ms. Garfein stated that Director Laurien should include all the work that the ECFRPC does on a monthly basis so that the Council will understand the ECFRPC's time and efforts. Chair Martin added that if nothing else it gives us the satisfaction of knowing what you all are doing. Commissioner Renick suggested creating a quarterly report as the update.

IV. Resolution of Support for Amtrak Service in Region 6

Director Laurien notified the Council that the information regarding the Resolution of support for Amtrak service in Region 6 is in the packets. Without our Council's support we are the hole in the middle of the doughnut. All the resolution asks for is that the state prioritize this project so that it may be eligible for stimulus dollars. Commissioner Hayman

added that the information provided is terrific and made a Motion to adopt this resolution. Commissioner Grieb seconded the Motion to adopt this resolution. Chair Martin asked the Council if they had any other discussion on this issue and then all in attendance stated that they were in favor and no one was opposed. There was some discussion about whether or not a formal resolution of support needed to be signed and mailed, but the consensus was that this was an oral form of support for the resolution.

V. Executive Director's Report

Director Laurien showed the Council some of the projects that the ECFRPC is working on to implement the Regional Vision. One of these big projects is a visioning project for the City of Cape Canaveral. The ECFRPC is conducting six workshops to help the city create their vision. Director Laurien delivered a Power Point presentation which outlined in detail all of the steps of the project and what has been done thus far.

VI. Strategic Regional Policy Plan Progress Report

Planning manager, Mr. Kinney, delivered a short presentation to update the Council on the progress of the Regional Policy Plan update. Mr. Kinney went through the status of each chapter and concluded by saying that the SRPP Task Force has been working diligently to complete this update by our target draft date of October 2009.

VII. Announcements and Comments

Ms. Garfein spoke about the note card she placed at each person's seat announcing the new website www.protectourwater.org. Ms. Garfein also asked everyone to check out the video on the website and report back with the commissioner's name who starred in the video who is also on the ECFRPC Council.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Chairwoman Martin adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.