

# EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2009

Chair Vice Mayor Martin Presiding

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### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

#### **County Representatives**

Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County  
Commissioner Elaine Renick, Lake County  
Commissioner Fred Brummer, Orange County  
Councilman Jack Hayman, Volusia County  
Commissioner Dick Van Der Weide, Seminole  
Commissioner Brenda Carey, Seminole County  
Councilwoman Patricia Northey, Volusia County  
Commissioner S. Scott Boyd, Orange County  
Commissioner Brandon Arrington, Osceola  
County

#### **Municipal Representatives**

Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast League of  
Cities  
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, Kissimmee  
Deputy Mayor Joanne Krebs, Tri-County League  
of Cities  
Vice Mayor Mary Martin, Volusia County League  
of Cities

#### **Gubernatorial Appointees**

Ms. Jackie Colon, Brevard County  
Mr. Al Glover, Brevard County  
Mayor Melissa DeMarco, Lake County  
Mr. Daniel O'Keefe, Orange County  
Mr. Jon Rawlson, Orange County  
Ms. Melanie Chase, Seminole County  
Mr. Lonnie Groot, Volusia County  
Mr. William McDermott, Enterprise Florida

#### **Ex-Officio and Other Municipal Reps**

Ms. Nancy Christman, SJRWMD  
Ms. Vivian Garfein, FDEP  
Ms. Cecilia Weaver, SFWMD  
Ms. Susan Sadighi, FDOT

#### **Other Attendees**

Gerald Livingston, ECFRPC Counsel  
Mr. Chris Testerman, Orange County  
Ms. Alissa Barber Torres, Orange County  
Ms. Michelle Maikisch, OOCEA  
Mr. Charles Lee, Audubon

#### **Members not in Attendance**

Commissioner Robin Fisher, Brevard County  
Commissioner Andy Anderson, Brevard County  
Commissioner Hawkins, Osceola County  
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando  
Mayor John Land, Tri-County League of Cities  
Mr. Julius Melendez, Osceola County  
Ms. Aileen Cubillos, Seminole County  
Commissioner Jack Bridges, City of Sanford

#### **ECFRPC Staff**

Mr. Phil Laurien  
Mr. Andrew Landis  
Mr. George Kinney  
Mr. Jeremy Mikrut  
Ms. Claudia Paskauskas  
Ms. Lelia Hars  
Ms. Tara McCue  
Ms. Elizabeth Rothbeind  
Mr. Josh Hoffman  
Ms. Carolyn Knabel

### **I. Call to Order and General Business**

Chair Mary Martin called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Elizabeth Rothbeind called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

**II. Consent Agenda**

Chair Mary Martin made a MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. The Motion was seconded by Mayor Randels and UNANIMOUSLY PASSED. Chair Mary Martin welcomed all in attendance to the new ECFRPC office and Commissioner Van Der Weide reminded all that the ECFRPC is saving \$15,000 a year in the new Altamonte Springs location.

**III. Discussion and Possible Resolution of Support for Amtrak Service in Region 6 -**

*Andrew Landis*

Mr. Landis delivered a brief presentation on Amtrak's Service growth in our region. Mr. Landis discussed the resolution of support for the project that has been signed by several other RPCs and more than 50 cities, counties, and business organizations. Mr. Landis asked the Council to consider signing a resolution in support of the project. Mr. Landis opened the floor for discussion and questions. Chair Mary Martin asked the Council if they would like more time to consider the resolution before voting on it. The Council agreed that they needed more time to review the resolution and Commissioner Hayman stated that he would especially like to defer the resolution at this point because he needs additional information. Mr. Landis stated that time is of the essence here because stimulus dollars will begin to become available in the next couple of months. Chairwoman Martin concluded that the Council needed more time to review the resolution and we will bring this up again at the next Council meeting.

**IV. The Effects of Sea Level Rise on Florida Coastlines: Current Science and Mitigation Strategies— *Dr. Randy Parkinson***

Director Laurien introduced Dr. Randy Parkinson to all in attendance. Dr. Parkinson thanked everyone for having him and continued with his presentation on the science of climate change and sea level rise and what it all means. The effect of rising sea level is a fundamental issue that we need to grapple with. Most coastal areas manage under the notion that sea level rise is not significant, but a new reality exists that we must take into consideration. Dr. Parkinson displayed a plot of sea level rise and fall throughout history. "A Florida Perspective" was discussed in detail and Dr. Parkinson raised the question "what should be done now?" The floor was opened for questions and Mayor Randels, Commissioner Arrington and Director Laurien all posed interesting questions about sea level rise, CO2, and beach sand to Dr. Parkinson.

**V. Chairwoman's Report – *Vice Mayor Mary Martin***

Chairwomen Martin reported that she had nothing of note to say at this time.

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

Director Laurien began his report with a discussion about Senate Bill 360 and stated that this is a significant piece of legislature which will alter growth management. Senate Bill 360 will have impacts on Regional Planning Councils. Director Laurien explained what a DULA was and what this meant for DRIs. Director Laurien stated that there would likely be a loss of influence over exempt areas, but there will be increased influence on other areas. There is language in the Bill that gives credence to regional visioning, which is significant for our RPC considering the complete rewrite of the SRPP that is currently underway.

Director Laurien told the Council that there has been a lot of change occurring – we have moved into a new office and Senate Bill 360 has passed. Director Laurien spoke about the recent discussion of Senate Bill 360 via conference call with Secretary Pelham, which had 1,100 people tune in. However, there are still a lot of questions that need to be answered and there is still a lot of rule making that needs to be done. The official DULA list is projected to be published by the State on July 1, 2009 and Orange and Seminole Counties will basically be exempt. Director Laurien said that it is too soon to say how big of an impact Senate Bill 360 will have on our daily business, but things will definitely change.

Director Laurien then went through staffing specifics and there was a preliminary discussion about the budget. Director Laurien had previously stated that if Senate Bill 360 passed there would probably be staff reductions, which the ECFRPC has begun. The ECFRPC has eliminated one position in last month and made one internal transfer.

Director Laurien restated the importance of completing the state-required SRPP rewrite and explained the complexities of the project and that it is the ECFRPC's largest project this year. The ECFRPC needs staff to complete this large project, but the ECFRPC does see staff reductions as appropriate and thus has already reduced the staff.

Director Laurien then directed the Council to Attachment 5, which detailed the 2010 draft work program. The draft work program had been discussed with the Executive Committee the week prior and the work program needs to be finalized so that the budget can be presented next month for the Council's approval. The ECFRPC has already advised all County Managers about the reduction of dues.

Commissioner Carey briefly commented on the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study and asked the ECFRPC staff to pay particular attention to State Road 46. Director Laurien mentioned the plan of creating light rail in the I-4 corridor and right of way on 17-92 if SunRail is unable to be revived.

Director Laurien opened the floor for questions and comments. Ms. Colon asked if it was mandatory for Brevard County to pay member dues and stated that she has been asked about dues and fees by members of the press. Mr. Livingston stated that there is no truth in anyone stating that a member community does not have to pay dues and that it is statutory for a member County to pay their dues to the ECFRPC. Ms. Grieb added that unfortunately many may think that the ECFRPC handles DRIs only, but in actuality the ECFRPC does so much more. Mr. Charles Lee then rose to discuss specifics of Senate Bill 360 in greater detail. Chairwoman Martin then requested that Mr. Charles Lee place all of his comments in an e-mail to Director Laurien who will then forward that e-mail on to all Council members. Commissioner Carey requested that she be on record as stating that Seminole County eliminated 160 staff positions and that we must look very closely at the costs associated with various programs and what is and is not required of the ECFRPC. Chairwoman Martin then asked the Council how many people would like to wait until next month to vote on the work program when cost analysis will be available. The majority of the Council chose to wait to vote on the draft work program.

**VII. Announcements and Comments**

Chairwoman Martin made an announcement about the next Wekiva Commission Meeting and Commissioner Brummer requested documentation of all staff positions and the cost associated with these positions. Director Laurien stated that as it is done each year there will be detailed cost analysis given to each Council member.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, Chairwoman Martin adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.