

**EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**JULY 22, 2015 10:00 A.M.**

**COMMISSIONER LEE CONSTANTINE PRESIDING**

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**In Attendance:**

**County Representatives:**

Commissioner Jim Barfield, Brevard County  
Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County  
Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County  
Commissioner Bryan Nelson, Orange County  
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, Osceola County  
Commissioner Lee Constantine, Seminole County  
Commissioner Garry Breeden, Sumter County  
County Chair Jason Davis, Volusia County

**Municipal Representatives:**

Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast League of Cities (City of Cape Canaveral)  
Mayor Gary Bruhn, Tri-County League of Cities (Town of Windermere)  
Mayor David Mealor, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Lake Mary)  
Vice Mayor Leigh Matusick, Volusia County League of Cities (City of DeLand)

**Gubernatorial Appointees:**

Ms. Jill Rose, Orange County  
Mr. Jose A. Rivas, Orange County  
Mr. John Lesman, Seminole County

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Mr. John Moore for Ms. Heather Garcia, Florida Department of Transportation  
Ms. Nancy Christman, St. Johns River Water Management District  
Mr. William Graf, South Florida Water Management District

**Other Attendees:**

Mr. Pedro Leon, Volusia County Economic Development  
Mr. David Bottomley, Sierra Central FL  
Ms. Sharon Leichering, Orange County  
Ms. Susan McCune, Orange County Planning

**Members not in Attendance:**

Commissioner Andy Anderson, Brevard County  
Commissioner Scott Boyd, Orange County  
Commissioner Viviana Janer, Osceola County  
Commissioner John Horan, Seminole County  
Commissioner Don Burgess, Sumter County  
Councilwoman Joyce Cusack, Volusia County  
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando  
Commissioner Michael Holland, Lake County League of Cities (City of Eustis)  
Commissioner Jose Alvarez, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Kissimmee)

Mr. Jeff Prather, Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Ms. Laura Kelley, Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX)  
Mr. Russell Gibson, City of Sanford

**ECFRPC Staff in Attendance:**

Attorney Jerry Livingston  
Mr. Fred Milch  
Mr. Luis Nieves-Ruiz  
Ms. Pegge Parker  
Mr. PJ Smith

Mr. Hugh Harling, Jr.  
Ms. Michelle Cechowski  
Ms. Tara McCue  
Mr. Andrew Landis  
Ms. Lelia Hars

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

Commissioner Constantine called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Ms. Pegge Parker called the roll and announced a quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Cadwell.

**II. Consent Agenda**

- Mayor Bruhn made a motion to approve the May 2015 Council Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Matusick, and the motion carried.
- Mr. Harling stated that the April and May 2015 Financial Reports are attached for review. The balance as of April 1 was \$974,917. After accounting for revenues received and payables for April, May and June, the anticipated balance for July 1 was \$961,310. Commissioner Cadwell made a motion to approve the Financial Reports. It was seconded by Mayor Bruhn and the motion carried.

**III. Public Comments**

- David Bottomley – Mr. Bottomley discussed his father’s legacy and the magnets he created in honor of his father, “Keep Walking on the Green Side”. He stated that he had extra magnets with him if anyone would like one after the meeting.

**IV. FY2014 Audit Presentation** – Dan O’Keefe, Moore Stephens and Lovelace CPAs

Mr. O’Keefe discussed the completion of the Independent Auditor’s Report for the ECFRPC for FY2014. He stated it was an unmodified report with no significant deficiencies and no violations of compliance issues or regulations. Commissioner Constantine commented that the Executive Board has been looking at the budget as it relates to a decreasing positive balance over the last number of years which is a concern of the Board and asked for comments from Mr. O’Keefe. Mr. O’Keefe stated that it is always important to pay attention to any declining trends which signifies an excess of expenditures compared to receivables. Improving the balance involves monitoring and reducing expenses and finding additional revenue sources.

There was a motion to receive the audit by Mayor Bruhn and seconded by Vice Mayor Matusick and the motion carried. Mr. Livingston noted that, pertaining to Mr. O’Keefe’s comment regarding

additional revenue sources, over a period of years the per capita assessment to the counties has been greatly reduced which has substantially decreased the income to the RPC in addition to the loss of the state funding.

**V. Proposed FY2015-2016 Budget and Work Plan** – Mr. Hugh Harling, ECFRPC

Mr. Harling discussed the agency's Work Plan which includes the current projects and pending projects which are both included in the Proposed Budget.

Commissioner Grieb asked about the differences in the Health Impact Assessment that UCF was involved in, that was mentioned at MetroPlan, and what the ECFRPC was doing. Tara McCue explained that UCF was looking at the bus rapid transit from Ocoee to Alafaya Trail near UCF and the impact that mode of transportation would have on the community, both economically and health-wise. Commissioner Constantine asked Mr. Harling to check with Mr. Harold Barley of the MPO to make sure there is no overlap regarding US 192 between the MPO and the RPC and get back to Commissioner Grieb after the conversation.

Before going into the Budget discussion, Commissioner Constantine introduced new Council Member Commissioner Garry Breeden of Sumter County. With the dissolution of the Withlacoochee RPC, the ECFRPC gained Sumter County which now brings the total counties represented by ECFRPC to seven. The other new Sumter County Council Member is Commissioner Don Burgess.

Mr. Harling discussed the proposed revenue including several pending projects that have been confirmed since the last meeting. Commissioner Grieb asked how much was in reserves and if it was in writing anywhere. Mr. Harling responded that currently the RPC has \$700,000-\$800,000 in reserves and this line item would be included in the next Council meeting.

Commissioner Constantine stated that the RPC had recently performed a liability findings report to clarify what the expenses would be if the RPC had to close. As part of the liability findings report, the Executive Director and staff included the accrued payout liabilities for PTO for personnel. Mr. Livingston responded that if the RPC had to close, there would still be several hundred thousand dollars remaining in reserves to return back to the counties. Commissioner Grieb asked if the amount of reserves can be included in the budget and also asked about the differences between the dollar amounts listed on the Work Plan and what is actually listed in the Budget. Commissioner Constantine stated that the Executive Committee will be meeting before the next Council meeting to go through the budget line items and that this was a general overview with expectations of when contracts would be started between this fiscal and the next. Some contracts were pushed out so even though the total was a certain amount, the amount for the next fiscal year would be less with the remainder in the following fiscal year. Commissioner Cadwell made a motion to approve the Work Plan and Budget; Vice Mayor Matusick seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

**VI. Combination of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)** – Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

This presentation was postponed until the September Council Meeting.

## **VII. Economic Development Services – Mr. Luis Nieves-Ruiz**

Mr. Nieves-Ruiz explained the uses of economic impact analyses at the ECFRPC, as well as examples of economic models prepared for different jurisdictions, and the advantage of using the REMI Model. He stated that since the last Council meeting he has met with the City of Lake Mary, Seminole County, Osceola County and the US 192 development area and that he is available to meet with any staff that has an interest in learning more about the model.

Commissioner Constantine introduced Barbara Lenczewski of the DEO who was visiting the ECFRPC and meeting with the Executive Director about current grants.

## **VIII. Orange County Update – Ms. Susan McCune, Project Manager, Planning Division**

Ms. McCune gave a presentation on Market Area Planning in Orange County and its purpose which is to develop a planning strategy that sustains Orange County's diverse character and promotes quality growth and that fosters a sense of place.

Mayor Bruhn discussed the 60,000 homes going into Horizon West and the need for Orange County to look into creating east-west roadways for access to the community. Ms. Rose asked about the rural east market area and the very large projects being proposed for that area and expressed concern about the 0% population projections for 2040.

## **IX. Chair's Report**

- **Legislative Schedule** – The Legislature will be meeting in August to redefine congressional districts; the Legislative schedule commences in January; and committee weeks start in August and September.
- **FRCA Update** – Ms. Jill Rose and Commissioner Constantine attended the July 10<sup>th</sup> FRCA Policy Board meeting held at the ECFRPC offices; Commissioner Constantine was elected the new Chair by the Executive Board and stressed the need to have a better working relationship between the Board of Directors and the Executive Directors, as well as continuing to show the relevance of RPCs and finding new ways to create revenue.
- **Policy and Procedures Update** – The Executive Committee has been concentrating on updating the Policy and Procedures manual. The first policy to be updated is the Personal Leave Policy with new recommendations on reducing the categories for earned PTO (combination of vacation/sick pay) based on years of employment, change in flex hours to make sure all working hours are covered, and a cap on accrued hours to control liability. The Executive Board gave direction to the Executive Director and a recommendation will be forthcoming at the next Council meeting.
- Commissioner Grieb returned to the prior agenda item regarding the FRCA meetings. The Commissioner asked about the Energy handout that mentions an energy assurance study and references the PACE program. She sits on the board of the Florida PACE Funding Agency and questioned whether there was an interest or intent by the RPC to merge these programs. Mr. Harling responded that he has provided a list of items discussed at the FRCA meetings that may represent potential revenue sources and discussed a loan financing program for businesses led by the South Florida RPC. Commissioner Grieb asked if the intent was for the RPC to develop its own PACE program or to promote others, and Mr. Harling responded that the intent is to work with

other entities to support their programs. Chairman Constantine reminded Council Members that each RPC's work program is unique to the specific region and that the diversity of projects and programs undertaken differs according to the needs of each region.

- Vice Mayor Matusick stated that there continues to be no appointments from the Governor's office for Volusia County and other vacant positions. Commissioner Constantine explained that it's not been a priority with the Governor. Vice Mayor Matusick asked what else can be done and Mr. Harling agreed to send another letter to the Appointment Secretary regarding the appointments.

#### **X. Executive Director's Report**

- **Sumter County Meeting Review** – Mr. Harling discussed the new maps showing Sumter County has joined the ECFRPC. He has attended meetings in Sumter regarding FDOT and Center Hill and very much appreciates Sumter County becoming part of the ECFRPC.
- **Project Updates and Activities** – The meeting packet contains information on current, ongoing and prospective projects and activities for May and June 2015.

#### **XI. Brief County Updates – County Representatives**

- Lake County – Commissioner Parks stated that the Wellness Way Sector Plan was adopted yesterday. Commissioner Cadwell reminded everyone to fill out the Expressway survey.
- Osceola County – Commissioner Grieb discussed the Great Outdoors Day this weekend which includes fishing tournaments for adults and kids, educational resource booths by FWC, SJWRMD and others, food and live music.
- Brevard County – Commissioner Barfield discussed the boom in economic development with the space program which includes Blue Origin coming to Kennedy Space Center. They will be the first company to design, manufacture, launch, and refurbish manned flight systems at KSC. It will include approximately \$220 million in facilities and bring in about 300 people. Commissioner Barfield also stated that Lockheed Martin is expanding and adding approximately 130 new jobs.
- Volusia County – Chair Davis stated that \$100 million Tangers Outlet Mall is coming to Daytona Beach which will include 80-100 stores, and create over 800 full- and part-time jobs; Jet Blue will be coming to the Daytona Beach International Airport next year; Volusia County is working with Brevard County on an artificial reef construction project which will enhance fishing and scuba diving; and, also a joint project with the Army Corps of Engineers on inlet dredging in the intracoastal waterway in Ponce Inlet and Disappearing Island.
- Sumter County – Commissioner Breeden stated that they are excited to be a member of the ECFRPC and looking forward to working together.
- Seminole County – Commissioner Constantine discussed UCF's proposal for a Senior Center for age 60+ adults located near the UCF Stadium which will include luxury condominiums, full healthcare and their own transportation system to be coordinated with UCF; Sabal Point owners and developers have worked out a deal with the citizens on supporting how to redevelop the Sabal Point golf course; today's Development Review Committee will include the review of the first project in 50 years in Winwood which is affordable housing for families.

## **XII. Announcements/Public Comments**

- Ms. Christman, SJRWMD, announced that the Water Initiative open comment period has been extended to August 17th to give people more time to comment. The website for reviewing is [cfwiwater.com](http://cfwiwater.com) .

## **XIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, Commissioner Constantine adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.