

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MAY 15, 2014 MEETING**

The meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was held on May 15, 2014 at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room at 1926 Victoria Avenue in Fort Myers, Florida. In the absence of the officers of the Council, the Council appointed Pro-Tem Chair, Commissioner Frank Mann, who called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM. Vice-Mayor Shaw then led an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrative Specialist II, Nichole Gwinnett conducted the roll call.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Charlotte County:** Commissioner Chris Constance, Commissioner Tricia Duffy, Councilwoman Nancy Prafke, Ms. Suzanne Graham

**Collier County:** Commissioner Tim Nance, Mr. Alan Reynolds

**Glades County:** Commissioner Donna Storter-Long, Mr. Thomas Perry

**Hendry County:** Mr. Melvin Karau

**Lee County:** Commissioner Frank Mann, Commissioner Brian Hamman, Councilman Jim Burch, Vice Mayor Doug Congress

**Sarasota County:** Commissioner Charles Hines, Commissioner Carolyn Mason, Commissioner Cheryl Cook for Commissioner Rhonda DiFranco, Vice Mayor Willie Shaw, Councilman Kit McKeon

**Ex-Officio Members:** Ms. Carmen Monroy - FDOT, Mr. Jon Iglehart - FDEP, Mr. Phil Flood - SFWMD, Ms. Melissa Dickens - SWFWMD

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**Charlotte County:** Mr. Don McCormick

**Collier County:** Councilwoman Teresa Heitmann, Mr. Bob Mulhere, Commissioner Georgia Hiller

**Glades County:** Councilwoman Pat Lucas, Commissioner Russell Echols

**Hendry County:** Commissioner Karson Turner, Mayor Phillip Roland, Commissioner Don Davis, Commissioner Daniel Akin

**Lee County:** Commissioner Brian Hamman, Councilman Forrest Banks, Mayor Anita Cereceda, Ms. Laura Holquist

Sarasota County: Mr. Felipe Colón

Ex-Officio Membership: None

Ms. Gwinnett announced that there was a quorum.

**AGENDA ITEM #4  
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #5  
AGENDA**

Commissioner Hamman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and the motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Shaw. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #6  
Minutes of the April 17, 2014 Meeting**

The meeting minutes of the April 17, 2014 meeting were deferred for approval to the June 19, 2014 meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #7  
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item.

**AGENDA ITEM #8(a)  
Grant Activity Sheet**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item.

**AGENDA ITEM #9  
CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Nance made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Councilman Burch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #10  
REGIONAL IMPACT**

Mr. Crawford gave a PowerPoint presentation on the following items.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)  
Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan Amendment (DEO 14-5ER)**

Commissioner Cook asked Mr. Crawford if the changes affected Sarasota County's 2050 Plan. Mr. Crawford explained that they did not because none of the land uses would be changed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hines to approve staff recommendations. 1. Approve staff comments; and 2. Authorize staff to forward comments to the Department of Economic Opportunity and Sarasota County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mason; the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(b)**  
**Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan Amendment (DEO 14-6ESR)**

Commissioner Cook asked if the residential units are single or multi-family. Mr. Crawford explained that they were multi-family units.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mason to approve staff recommendations. 1. Approve staff comments; and 2. Authorize staff to forward comments to the Department of Economic Opportunity and the Sarasota County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cook; the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(c)**  
**LCEC's 2014 Electric Substation Planning Report**

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Congress to approve LCEC's 2014-2019 Electric Substation Planning Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nance; the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(a)**  
**Our Creative Economy Presentation**

Ms. Jennifer Pellechio gave a presentation on the "Our Creative Economy" project. Staff distributed the logo contest sheets to the members and they were asked to vote for one logo.

Commissioner Mann asked how the members who were participating on the conference call could vote. Ms. Pellechio explained that the survey link was located on the Council's website homepage at [www.swfipc.org](http://www.swfipc.org).

Councilman Burch asked Ms. Pellechio if he could make modifications to a logo. Ms. Pellechio explained that if someone made a suggestion to modify one of the logos it would be taken into consideration. When the voting is complete it will be narrowed down to the top three logos and staff will then work with those artists and make those recommendations.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(a)**  
**Budget & Finance Committee Report**

Councilman McKeon gave the committee report.

Commissioner Mann asked Regional Counsel McCabe what would be the ramifications if the Council's budget wasn't approved on August 14. Counsel McCabe said that he would have to look into it.

Commissioner Mann directed staff to notify the Council members prior to the August 14th meeting that there is a requirement to have a quorum at the August meeting in order to approve the Council's FY2015 budget by August 15.

Councilman Burch asked Counsel McCabe if an alternate could attend for a quorum and also vote at the August 14 meeting if the regular member of the Council was not able to attend. Counsel McCabe stated that he did believe that an alternate would be able to vote on behalf of their jurisdiction; however, he would like to confirm it.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(b)**  
**Economic Development Committee**

In the absence of Councilman Banks, Ms. Wuerstle gave the committee report. She announced that the next committee meeting was scheduled for May 27 at 9:00 AM.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(c)**  
**Energy & Climate Committee**

No report was given.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(d)**  
**Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management Committee**

Mr. Beever gave the committee report.

Commissioner Mann asked Mr. Beever when the vote would take place regarding Amendment 1. Mr. Beever explained that it would be on the ballot at the general election. Commissioner Mann asked if the constitutional amendment was placed on the ballot by signatures or by legislation. Mr. Beever explained that it was placed on the ballot by signatures.

Commissioner Mann said that it was his understanding that Amendment 1 designates a portion of doc stamp revenues to be used for acquisition of certain sensitive lands in Florida. Mr. Beever explained that the acquisition can be fee simple, in less than fee simple and for management.

A motion was made by Councilman McKeon to support Amendment 1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cook and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(e)**  
**Executive Committee**

No report was given.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(f)**  
**Legislative Affairs Committee**

Vice Mayor Congress gave the committee report.

Councilman McKeon asked if he was overly optimistic regarding the RPC funding. Vice Mayor Congress explained that the governor has vetoed the RPC funding in the past.

Commissioner Nance said that regarding the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center funding there is a major ongoing effort for the funding for the research and education center, where there are only 13 in the State. They would like to have it put back into the IFAS budget rather than have it be a legislative battle for funding on an annual basis. There may be an opportunity for support on that issue in the coming year. The South Florida Ag Council will be meeting at the center later in the month to discuss consistent efforts as it happens.

Discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Congress asked Commissioner Nance to keep the Council updated on the status of the funding for the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center.

Councilman Burch said that he would like to volunteer to be a member on the Council's Legislative Affairs Committee. Commissioner Mann said that as the Pro-Tem Chair he would appoint Councilman Burch to the Legislative Affairs Committee unless Counsel states to the contrary.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(g)**  
**Quality of Life & Safety Committee**

Vice Mayor Shaw gave the committee report. He explained that one of the issues of great concern is mental health issues because it is a contributor to homelessness.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(h)**  
**Regional Transportation Committee**

No report was given.

**AGENDA ITEM #13**  
**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #14**  
**STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS**

FDEP - Mr. Iglehart announced that the first quarter non-compliance results for the region have been released. The good news is that there has been an up-tick in business. There were 91

businesses with non-compliance issues in violating environmental regulations and out of those 91 businesses, after FDEP worked with them, 89 are in compliance without having to do any enforcement. FDEP has been able to reduce their staff by 20% over the last 18 months.

**AGENDA ITEM #15  
COUNCIL ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS**

Counsel McCabe explained that regarding appointment of committee members, the Chair does have the power to appoint committee members; however, the committee members will serve their term for the same period as the appointed Chair.

Commissioner Mann requested that the appointment of Councilman Burch to the Legislative Affairs Committee be addressed at the Council's June meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #16  
COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Nance stated commented on the Everglades Restoration project with moving water from Lake Okeechobee through to the Everglades. Collier County is happy to report that USACOE staff has been working on the pump stations, but it also seems that they have run into a conflict with the US Fish & Wildlife Service over starting the pump stations because there is a concern that manatees, which have been accustomed to point source water releases in the Ten Thousand Islands, might not have the same temperature of water to which they have become accustomed. Apparently, there have been discussions on creating a "manatee spa" down in the Ten Thousand Islands.

Councilman McKeon expressed his concern over the possibility of water shortages in the future. Mr. Flood explained that water shortages are facing all of us, but it is all about diversification and conservation measures in order to meet the growing demand. He noted that the current week is the SFWMD's "Water Reuse Week". The Southwest Florida region has really embraced water reuse by using almost 100% of reclaimed water for irrigation purposes, which keeps from drawing more water from the aquifers. He announced that both Collier County and City of Naples have now gone to capturing storm water and storing it in underground water storage facilities and then pumping it back up during the dry season for irrigation. He explained that the WMDs have developed water supply plans to plan for future demand supplies.

Ms. Dickens explained that Sarasota County has been extremely successful in lowering the per capita, which is currently the lowest with the SWFWMD's region. She announced that the SWFWMD is gearing up to update their regional water supply plan and she would be happy to have someone come down from their Water Supply Plan Team and give a presentation on the water conservation measures and also a project that was done to find alternative water supply sources.

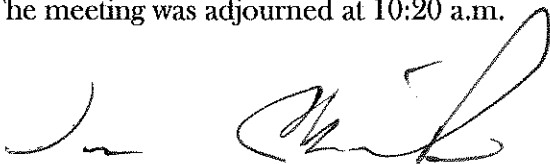
Councilman Burch explained that Cape Coral's reuse system has been used as a national model.

Commissioner Mann thanked Councilman McKeon for bringing the water supply issue up for discussion. He said that recently everyone has been focused on water quality issues and taken water quantity for granted.

Commissioner Cook stated that she agreed with Councilman McKeon because North Port is only a quarter built out and will be eventually facing an enormous water quantity issues.

**AGENDA ITEM #17  
ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don McCormick', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Don McCormick, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the May 5, 2014 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 40, Number 87.