

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
June 11, 2015 MEETING**

The meeting of the **Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council** was held on **June 11, 2015** 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 Chair Bob Mulhere, Vice-Chair Don McCormick called the meeting to order at **9:03 AM**. **Mayor Willie Shaw** then led an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrative Assistant, Jerilyn Walker conducted the roll call.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Charlotte County:** Commissioner Ken Doherty, Commissioner Tricia Duffy, Councilwoman Nancy Prafke, Mr. Don McCormick

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

**Glades County:** Commissioner Weston Pryor, Mr. Thomas Perry

**Hendry County:** Commissioner Don Davis, Commissioner Daniel Akin

**Lee County:** Commissioner Frank Mann, Councilman Jim Burch, Councilman Mick Denham, Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Ms. Laura Holquist

**Sarasota County:** Mayor Willie Shaw, Mayor Rhonda DiFranco

**Ex-Officio:** Ms. Sara Catala - FDOT, Ms. Tara Poulton for Melissa Dickens - SWFWMD, Mr. Jon Iglehart -FDEP

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**Charlotte County:** Ms. Suzanne Graham

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

**Glades County:** Councilwoman Pat Lucas, Commissioner Tim Stanley

**Hendry County:** Commissioner Sherida Ridgill, Commissioner Karson Turner, Mr. Mel Karau

**Lee County:** Councilman Forrest Banks, Mayor Anita Cereceda

**Sarasota County:** Commissioner Charles Hines, Commissioner Carolyn Mason, Councilman Kit McKeon, Mr. Felipe Colón

**Ex-Officio:** Mr. Phil Flood - SFWMD

Following roll call it was noted that a quorum was not present at the time.

**AGENDA ITEM #4  
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #6  
Minutes of the May 21, 2015 Meeting**

Ms. Wuerstle announced that the May meeting minutes will be presented at the August meeting.

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

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item and also introduced the RPC's new Regional Counsel, Cynthia Wilson Orndoff. She also introduced the RPC's two summer interns from Dunbar High School, Tiana Benjamin and Shania Jackson.

**AGENDA ITEM #9  
WORKSHOP: FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE RPC**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item. She explained that she added additional information from the comments received from council members; one of the items was budget basics. She then presented the Council's draft budget and a 5 year comparison as included in the packet. She explained that it was a very conceptual budget for next year. For FY15-16 she was asked to look at what the budget would look like if the building was sold with a lease back. She also included what the budget would look like if the building was refinanced through Fifth Third Bank. The white paper lists the regulatory responsibilities that the RPCs are required to perform; those that were eliminated with Bill 1216 and those that are remaining in the statutes.

Ms. Wuerstle's presentation began with how the RPC is funded and its funding sources. Local assessments are received from each county totaling \$472,941. She noted that she was using FY14-15 amounts and not the projected amounts for next year. The RPC's special revenues are the awarded grants, the NOPCs that come in at \$2,500 each and DRIs. She noted there haven't been too many DRI's submitted since she was hired. Ms. Wuerstle went on to explain that the most significant revenues received are the indirect costs and fringe generated from the awarded grants. Approximately \$426,000 is generated in indirect costs. Every time that staff is working on a project through a grant the indirect percentages apply and it is estimated that this year's budget will bring in \$400,000. A total of \$991,000 is received from grants and the indirect rate. The salaries and the FICA, retirement, and health total \$932,000. If you look at the total revenue versus your total operating costs, the RPC has about \$129,000, which is for any match that has to be applied to the grants, anything that might go wrong with the building, and any additional assistance needed. She explained the need to be very careful about charging to our local assessments. We need to be hitting grants in order to close our budget every year. Without the special revenues through the

grants we would not be able to continue to function. For the last three years we have been very successful in identifying grants and actually securing grant.

Councilman Burch asked if it dampens staff's ability to submit grants if the grant requires a match versus those grants that don't require a match. Ms. Wuerstle explained that staff is very careful when it comes to a required match on grants. Staff always looks for grants that don't require any match; however, most of the federal grants do require a match whether it is in-kind or a cash match.

Commissioner Mann stated that a portion of the RPC's budget is made up of the local assessments received from the counties and cities. He wanted to know what would happen if one of those jurisdictions decided not to pay their assessment. Such as what happened with the City of Cape Coral not wanting to pay their assessment and it then fell back onto Lee County to have to pay. He asked what the status was on this issue and wanted to know if it would continue indefinitely. Ms. Wuerstle explained that it was an issue that is still in the works. There are inconsistencies between the RPC's Interlocal Agreement versus the RPC's rules/by-laws, which are part of the Florida Administrative Code. She explained that all of the counties within the RPC, except for Lee County, pay for their cities. Lee County has allowed one "free seat" on the RPC and the remaining cities are responsible for their assessments.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that with the RPC's rules/by-laws it is stated that the cities need to determine who has the free seat and then make that recommendation to Lee County. Commissioner Mann asked if there was a rotation schedule for the "free seat". Ms. Wuerstle stated that she believed that the cities were required to review who has the "free seat" on an annual basis.

Commissioner Pendergrass explained that he had contacted Lee County's County Manager asking about the issue of the "free seat" with the City of Cape Coral. Lee County has paid Cape Coral's assessment for the last three years. Since then Lee County's County Manager has contacted the City Manager at Cape Coral to submit an invoice to Cape Coral for the future. The City Manager stated that he would be bringing it before the City Council for approval of payment.

Councilman Burch explained that there are some conflicts with the RPC's rules/bylaws in the Florida Administrative Code that need to be resolved. At this point in time, there isn't any authority to be able to invoice the City of Cape Coral. The city is in receipt of an invoice for \$47,000, for which there wasn't any fore warning at all. Once the RPC's Interlocal Agreement, which is 40 years old, issue has been resolved and synced with the Florida Administrative Code he felt that there would be a better idea of who should be responsible for payment and also the rotation of the "free seat".

Commissioner Mann suggested forming a special by-law committee to research the issue and bring recommendations back to the full Council. There is clearly an inconsistent policy of how the counties are handled and how the counties handle their cities. He said that he felt that there needs to be a level playing field for all on how the RPC conducts itself in handling the individual assessments for the counties and cities. Councilman Burch said that he would be happy to chair the new committee. He also believed that there are major inconsistencies where 5 out of the 6 counties within the RPC pay for their cities; with Lee County being the only county who charges their cities.

Commissioner Doherty stated that since Charlotte County only has one municipality there isn't much of an issue. He then asked how the other five counties pay for their cities. Mayor Shaw explained that Sarasota County government pays for their four municipalities. Commissioner Doherty asked who has the "free seat" in Sarasota County. Mayor Shaw stated that it is currently the City of Sarasota.

Commissioner Doherty asked if the City of Fort Myers had the "free seat" within Lee County. Commissioner Pendergrass explained that in the past the "free seat" rotated through the cities. He then said that the "free seat" was once given to the City of Fort Myers, but currently the City of Cape Coral has it.

Commissioner Doherty asked Commissioner Nance about the Collier County's procedure. Commissioner Nance stated that Collier County government pays for all of their municipalities.

Councilman Burch noted that all of the counties pay for their municipalities, with the exception of Lee County.

Commissioner Mann asked if anyone knew how the other RPCs handle this issue, or if they even have the same issue. Ms. Wuerstle said that she did not know the answer to that question, but she would research it.

Vice-Chair McCormick agreed to set up the new by-laws committee and have Councilman Burch be the chair and appoint who he would like on the committee. He then asked what the structure was behind the local assessments. Ms. Wuerstle explained that it is based on 30 cents per capita. She explained that the way it has worked in the past within Lee County is if a city pays for their assessment, then that amount is deducted from Lee County's invoice.

Councilman Burch said that at the end of the day the RPC needs to discuss where it goes from here. When the members approve the RPC's budget for the upcoming fiscal year they are deciding on whether or not the RPC survives or not. They also need to review the RPC's funding resources.

**At this time, Commissioner Weston Pryor joined the meeting by teleconference, which made a quorum.**

With a quorum present, Vice-Chair McCormick stated that he would like to place the current discussion on hold and return to the items which needed action taken.

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

Ms. Wuerstle noted that there was a resolution under the director's report that needed action taken. She explained there is a new transportation planning organization (TPO) that was set up in the Heartland area which includes Hendry and Glades Counties from our region. A joint agreement that was put together. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) is part of the agreement along with the SWFRPC. The resolution has been included in the packet on

page 17, with a request for the SWFRPC's Chair to have authorization to execute the resolution in order for the SWFRPC be a part of the HRTPO.

**A motion was made by Mayor Shaw to approve the resolution and then seconded by Commissioner Nance. The motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Mann asked Ms. Wuerstle if she could provide a summary of what had happened in Tallahassee with regards to the legislation pertaining to the RPCs. Ms. Wuerstle explained that it was part of the "white paper" which would be presented during her PowerPoint presentation.

**AGENDA ITEM #8  
REGIONAL IMPACT**

Mr. Dan Trescott of Trescott Planning Solutions presented the following items.

**AGENDA ITEM #8(a)  
Palmer Ranch MDO Update**

Vice-Chair McCormick asked if there was anyone present from Sarasota County who would like to take action on the item.

**A motion was made by Mayor Shaw to approve the development order as rendered. The motion was then seconded by Commissioner Doherty. The motion passed with Mr. Reynolds abstaining.**

**AGENDA ITEM #8(b)  
Palmer Ranch Increments 22 & 23 DO Review**

Mr. Trescott presented the item.

**A motion was made by Mayor Shaw to approve the development orders as rendered. The motion was then seconded by Commissioner Doherty. The motion passed with Mr. Reynolds abstaining.**

**AGENDA ITEM #9 - Continued  
WORKSHOP: FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE RPC**

Ms. Wuerstle continued with her presentation.

Commissioner Mann asked for Ms. Wuerstle to define the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). Ms. Wuerstle explained that the SRPP has several elements such as: transportation, economic development, emergency preparedness, affordable housing, environmental and natural resources. She said that the SRPP is a comprehensive plan for the six county area and all of the local governments' comprehensive plans need to be consistent with the SRPP and the SRPP needs to be consistent with the State's plan.

Councilwoman Prafke asked if the Florida Statutes define whether the staff of the RPC has to conduct the reviews or can a hired consultant perform the reviews. Ms. Wuerstle explained that it wasn't defined in the statute; however, it does define the timeframe of review, who the reviews are submitted to and who submits the comments.

Councilman Burch referred to page 302 of the agenda packet where it is stated "as a result of the action of the legislature" it lists the responsibilities taken away from the RPCs. He asked Ms. Wuerstle if she felt that it would be worth discussing those items. He said that he felt that it would be worthwhile to go through those and discuss how the RPC will be affected by those changes. Ms. Wuerstle explained that there were many items taken out. She said that she had attended the FRCA meeting where the executive directors went through the RPCs statutory requirements and it was decided that those were items that the RPCs didn't need statutory approval to perform, or they were never done in the past, or they were duplicative. The only item that she had concern about was the removal of the RPCs from reviewing the electrical substations. She said that it most likely won't have a tremendous negative impact on the region; however, she felt that the RPCs and communities should be aware of those types of projects.

Vice-Chair McCormick stated it also included gas transmission projects.

Ms. Wuerstle stated that the other authority that was taken away that caused a concern was the item where the RPCs conducts biennial reviews of the DRIs in order to ensure that they are complying with the adopted development orders. If the DRI is not in compliance, the RPC could then notify the local jurisdiction and they in turn could place a hold on the release of any permits. This requirement was removed from the statutes.

Councilman Burch asked Ms. Wuerstle if she felt that with what the legislature has taken away and what is left that there is still a reason for the RPCs to exist. Ms. Wuerstle said that she felt that, with the exception of the removal of the DRI reviews, the other items were only minor changes.

Councilman Burch then noted that as part of the bill, Pasco County would become a "pilot program" for inner-city corridors 10-year program. He asked Ms. Wuerstle for a little background on the issue and if it was the location within where the Withlacoochee RPC was located. Ms. Wuerstle stated that she didn't know why it was put into the bill or why Pasco County was chosen for the pilot program.

Commissioner Doherty asked for clarification on the DRI process and programs. When looking at the State's coordinating review process, the RPCs appear to "still have a seat at the table." He asked if the RPCs would still be aware and have the ability to comment on any new DRIs. It is his understanding that even if the RPCs don't have a coordinating role that they still have a voice. Ms. Wuerstle explained that the RPCs would still have a voice when the DRI reaches the comprehensive plan amendment process, but not during the initial phases of the DRI. Commissioner Doherty clarified that the RPCs wouldn't have a voice during the initial ADA, NOPC, etc., but they would during the local government comprehensive plan amendment process. Ms. Wuerstle explained that everyone, including FRCA, is trying to understand on how the process would work. It is her understanding from a meeting with DEO that when a DRI

reaches the stage where the local jurisdiction needs to approve a comprehensive plan amendment, the RPC will conduct their review and submit comments.

Discussion ensued regarding the RPC's review of DRIs.

Commissioner Mann stated that there was reference to the Transportation Disadvantaged program for Glades and Hendry Counties. He said that he was in favor of the program, but how did the RPC get involved, why did it only involve Hendry and Glades Counties and does it require a day-to-day management function.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the TD program is part of her presentation, but first she wanted to clarify what the RPC's State regulatory requirements were. She said that in addition to those requirements the RPC also does emergency management where DEM coordinates their requirements through the RPC and provides the funding to the RPC in order to perform those requirements. The emergency management program covers at least three-quarters of a FTE position.

Ms. Wuerstle then explained that the RPC also handles the Transportation Disadvantaged program for Glades and Hendry Counties. This program is funded through the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) under Chapter 457, F.S. She explained that in accordance with Chapter 457, if there is an MPO within the designated area then the MPO would receive those TD funds. However, if the designated area/county did not have an established MPO then the TD funds go to a Designated Organized Planning Agency (DOPA), such as the RPC. She noted that the RPC does receive funding through the CTD for the Glades-Hendry TD Program and it covers approximately half of a FTE position.

Vice-Chair McCormick noted that all of the region's eligible transportation disadvantaged are covered under Chapter 457. The SWFRPC implements the TD program for Glades and Hendry Counties.

Commissioner Mann stated that the TD program within any county is always underfunded due to the unmet need. He then asked Ms. Wuerstle if the TD funds are adequate to cover the associated costs. Ms. Wuerstle stated that the RPC receives approximately \$42,000 annually which covers half of a full-time employee and staff has been able to fulfill the agreement's deliverables within the funded amount.

Commissioner Mann stated that it then leaves half of an employee to perform other duties. Ms. Wuerstle said yes, that staff person also coordinates the emergency management program. So between both the TD and Emergency Management programs one FTE is funded. She announced that Ms. Gwinnett is that staff person and she is doing a great job on both programs.

Ms. Wuerstle continued with her presentation stating that the RPC also coordinates a federal economic development district. There are currently 10 districts within the State of Florida. She explained that the RPC receives a three year grant from US EDA and that it is a matching grant. The RPC receives approximately \$63,000 per year.

Ms. Wuerstle stated that as a wrap-up the RPC is required to perform the following:

- Glades-Hendry TD Program
- Emergency Management Program
- Economic Development District (EDD)
- Growth Management issues, as required within the Florida Statutes

Ms. Wuerstle gave a brief summary of the past five years. She then announced that when she started preparing the FY15-16 budget the Council was facing a \$350,000 deficit. However, since then there has been one layoff and one employee left which totaled approximately \$75,000 in savings, but will leave only 7 employees. She said that there are a couple large grants pending, which she is hoping will be awarded.

Councilman Burch asked how the proposed budget fits into what the legislature is proposing. Ms. Wuerstle stated that nothing was placed into the budget that didn't have guaranteed funding.

Ms. Wuerstle proceeded by stating that the question was asked what would happen if the building was to be sold. She said that she had found some important issues. She explained that the paperwork received was not an official offer, but a letter of interest with an offer of \$1.2 million. She explained that if the Council decided to sell the building then it would have to be advertized. The building has not been advertized at this time because she first wanted to know what the Council would be responsible for if the building was sold and also if a dollar amount would be included in the advertisement. She explained that the paperwork that was received states that it was a “triple net” lease. It is her understanding that a “triple net” would require the Council to be responsible for all costs, including property taxes which the Council doesn’t currently pay as a government agency. However, when she spoke to the realtor he said that it was really common area maintenance (CAM) agreement, where the Council would pay \$10.50 per square foot and then another \$4.10 for the CAM. The CAM depends on the final negotiations. There are many unknowns at this time. With the current proposal, the total rental cost for the Council would be approximately \$102,000 annually, which would increase 3% every year. Currently the Council pays \$128,000 annually, so it really wouldn’t be a lot of savings. However, if the Council did sell the building they would receive approximately \$151,000 from the sale at \$1.2 million.

Mr. Reynolds asked if the letter of interest was only if the Council agreed to rent the space back. Ms. Wuerstle said that she did speak to the realtor about that, but she hasn’t received back a definite answer.

Mr. Reynolds asked about the proposal of having a long-term lease. Ms. Wuerstle explained that she has stated to the realtor that she wants to have the sale and lease separate. She also said that there is always the option of selling the building and moving to some other location where the rent would be cheaper.

Commissioner Mann noted that it is currently a buyers or renters market. He also stated that there is an over abundance of available office space. He said that he would like to see the market recover more before selling the building.

Ms. Holquist explained that all six counties within the Council currently own the building.

Councilman Burch stated that if for some reason the SWFRPC is disbanded, the remaining balance of the building note falls back onto the six counties. He felt that it is important for this board to resolve the Council's funding issues. Once that has been done then it can be determined as to whether or not to sell the building.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that she had also looked at the option of refinancing the building. The balloon payment comes due in June 2016, so the building needs to be refinanced. She currently has an offer from Fifth Third Bank to refinance where the annual cost would be \$82,000, which would be an approximate annual savings of \$46,000 for the next five years, based on a lower interest rate.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that there would be a prepayment penalty of approximately \$44,000. Commissioner Mann asked Ms. Wuerstle if there are any associated costs with the refinance. Ms. Wuerstle explained that there would be closing costs.

Commissioner Taylor asked the members if anyone had a staff member who could negotiate with the bank. She noted that Collier County has a staff member on board who does the county's negotiations and was able to save a considerable amount of money in the past. She said that she was concerned with the pre-payment penalty from the current bank. Ms. Wuerstle explained that staff had tried in the past, with no avail, to renegotiate with Bank of America.

Ms. Wuerstle announced that the costs associated with the refinance are as follows:

- Principal payoff is \$904,895
- Interest is \$399,007
- Pre-payment penalty is \$44,342
- Plus the closing costs

Discussion ensued.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mann to have the Council's Chair form a Refinance Committee, with Mr. Mulhere being the Chair of the committee, and have four members from the RPC on the committee to overview the financing of the building. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor.**

Commissioner Duffy stated that from the previous discussion on a possible sale of the building, she felt that the Council needed to decide on whether or not to move forward with the sale, because if the Council decides to sell the building then she doesn't see any purpose in refinancing the building.

Mr. Reynolds stated that with the Council's current budget issues he felt that the best thing to do would be to sell the building.

Commissioner Doherty stated that he agreed with Mr. Reynolds and the Council should review both issues of refinance and sale. He also agrees with having the Refinance Committee.

**Commissioner Mann agreed to amend his motion to include having the Refinance Committee review both the sale and refinance of the building.**

Commissioner Nance stated that he felt that there should be an appraisal done on the building. We should know whether or not we are upside down in the property.

Commissioner Doherty said that we really need to understand the value of this asset. He then asked what would happen with the proceeds and/or debt from the sale of the building. Does it go back to the six counties or stay with the Council. He doesn't understand what the process would be. Ms. Wuerstle explained that the Council obtained the loan based on their revenue stream and the Council's Chair signed the final documents. There wasn't a need for each of the individual counties to pass a resolution. She also noted that any proceeds received from the sale of the building would stay within the RPC.

**Commissioner Mann read the amended motion as having the Council's Chair designate up to four members of the Council to serve on a Refinance Committee in order to review all options available on refinancing and also explore any items related to the potential sale of the building simultaneously and then report back to the full Council within three months.**

Ms. Poulton asked if there was a deadline for the letter of interest. Ms. Wuerstle said that she was sure that there was a deadline, but she didn't know it at this time; however, they are pushing for us to advertise the building.

Regional Counsel explained that once the Council makes a decision to sell the building, it is required to advertise the sale of the building in the region's newspapers. She then suggested that the RPC does a "competitive bidding process".

**Commissioner Taylor agreed to the amendment to the motion.**

Commissioner Pendergrass asked if the motion included Commissioner Nance's suggestion on having an appraisal done on the building. The members replied that it would be included in the committee's review.

Mr. Reynolds said that he had a concern with holding up the potential sale with waiting three months for the results of the committee. Regional Counsel explained that with the process of advertising it would take a couple of months.

Vice-Chair McCormick asked if another motion should be made to empower the Refinance Committee to spend the funds for an appraisal. Commissioner Mann stated that the Executive Director has the authority to approve having an appraisal done on the building.

**The motion carried with Mr. Reynolds opposed.**

Ms. Wuerstle stated that the last item for discussion was the local assessment figures. The current assessment is set at \$0.30 per capita and it has never changed. She then presented what the local assessments would raise with a one to five cent increase.

Commissioner Doherty asked when the Council's budget had to be approved because the last Charlotte County BCC meeting is scheduled for July 28. Ms. Wuerstle replied that the budget will be presented to the Council at an August 6 meeting because the budget has to be approved by August 15. The conceptual budget that was presented did not use any of the Council's reserves. If the Council had to use its reserves they would only last one year.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Nance requested that the executive director send out the calculations to all of the RPC members. Ms. Wuerstle explained that the calculations were included within the agenda packet.

Commissioner Pendergrass announced that Lee County BCC's last meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday and then they are off the month of July.

Commissioner Mann stated that Lee County will not agree to any increase in assessments --- they are currently in the process of reviewing their budget. He suggested to Ms. Wuerstle that the Council's budget be proposed as if there were not going to be any changes in the local assessments.

Ms. Holquist stated that even raising the local assessments will not close the FY15-16 budget.

Commissioner Nance suggested having the executive director come back to the Council with what it would take/cost to close the budget.

Councilwoman Prafke asked what would be the difference with having staff perform certain functions versus hiring a consultant. Ms. Wuerstle explained that the indirect rate is a very important factor to close the RPC's budget.

Vice-Chair McCormick asked what was the Council's pleasure on the white paper. Councilman Burch explained the purpose of the white paper.

Councilman Denham stated that his interpretation of the white paper was to justify the Council's existence to its existing membership. Also is it something that we can continue to support with the changes that are happening at the state level.

Commissioner Pendergrass asked what would've happened if the Council didn't approve the DRI items since Sarasota County had already approved the items. Ms. Wuerstle explained that the Council's comments would've been submitted to both DEO and Sarasota County.

Commissioner Doherty stated that southwest Florida is an "outstanding" region with a combination voice in both Tallahassee and Washington. Councilman Burch stated that there was a need to consolidate everything that the Council does. Councilman Denham stated that there wasn't a link with the RPC at the state level. We need to have a defined voice. Commissioner Duffy stated that she agreed with all of the comments. The RPCs are reinventing themselves and we need to make ourselves known to the legislators.

Councilman Denham stated that the Council needed to create a strong alliance with DEO and use it as a link to help Southwest Florida.

Ms. Holquist stated that the purpose of the workshop was to redefine the RPC and she is very concerned in having to use the RPC's reserves.

Commissioner Pendergrass stated that there were already organizations throughout the region that work with the state, such as the Horizon Council, The Alliance, MPOs, etc.

Discussion ensued regarding who should be members of the new Vision-Reinventing Committee.

Ms. Wuerstle stated that she was under the impression that the new vision and the relevancy of the RPC was supposed to be the purpose of today's workshop. Councilman Burch said that these issues needed to be taken care of immediately.

Discussion continued on the purpose of the Vision-Reinventing Committee.

Commissioner Mann stated that the RPCs are "creatures" of the legislature. The RPC doesn't have the authority to define itself, because the legislature defines what the RPC does.

Councilman Burch asked what needed to be changed within the white paper in order to close the budget.

Commissioner Nance stated that the counties are cost sharing. The legislature gave the RPCs statutory requirements without funding to achieve those requirements.

Commissioner Doherty said that the word is "relevancy". The legislature doesn't see the RPCs as being relevant.

Commissioner Taylor suggested having the committee members review the white paper and highlight what they feel the RPC should be doing and then bring it back to the Council at the next meeting.

Regional Counsel suggested placing a timeline for comments on the white paper and those comments be sent to her so she can organize them and also look up the legal ramifications.

Vice-Chair McCormick said that the deadline will be June 25. He suggested sending the comments to Ms. Wuerstle.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #10 STATE AGENCY COMMENTS/REPORTS**

FDOT - Ms. Catala announced that the first of FDOT's FTP and SIS Regional Workshops are scheduled for June 23 at Lee Tran's new facility in Fort Myers. She noted that four advisory committees were formed and three already submitted their comments to the steering committee. The third round of workshops will be held between August and September.

She announced that Laura Lockwood has been appointed as District One's Interim Director and she will be in the SWAO two days per week.

FDOT has sponsored two community workshops for complete streets. For rural based planning the workshop is scheduled for July 22 in Arcadia at the DeSoto Adult Education Facility. For urban based planning the workshop has been scheduled for July 16 in Port Charlotte at the Murdock Administration Facility for the school board.

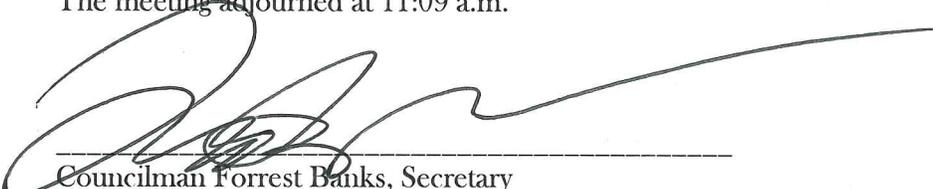
Ms. Catala then announced that one of the ways that FDOT could help out the RPC is give presentations on the region's planning and key projects. Commissioner Doherty said that he liked the idea of having FDOT give those presentations.

**AGENDA ITEM #12  
COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

No comments were made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #13  
ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.



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Councilman Forrest Banks, Secretary

**The meeting was duly advertised in the June 01, 2015 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 41, Number, 105.**