

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
JUNE 16, 2016 MEETING**

The meeting of the **Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council** was held on **June 16, 2016** at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council - 1400 Colonial Boulevard, Suite #1 in Fort Myers, Florida. Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at **9:10 AM**. **Mayor Shaw** then led an invocation and **Councilman Fraize** led the Pledge of Allegiance. Margaret Wuerstle conducted the roll call and noted that that a quorum was not present at the time of roll call.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Charlotte County:** Commissioner Tricia Duffy, Commissioner Ken Doherty, Councilman Gary Wein, Mr. Don McCormick

**Collier County:** Councilman Rex Buxton, Mr. Bob Mulhere, Mr. Alan Reynolds

**Glades County:** None

**Hendry County:** Commissioner Julie Wilkins,

**Lee County:** Commissioner Frank Mann, Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Councilman Forrest Banks, Vice-Mayor Mick Denham, Councilman Greg DeWitt

**Sarasota County:** Commissioner Carolyn Mason, Commissioner Charles Hines, Mayor Willie Shaw, Vice-Mayor Rhonda DiFranco, Councilman Fred Fraize

**Ex-Officio:** Mr. Phil Flood - SFWMD, Ms. Tara Poulton - SWFWMD, Mr. Jon Iglehart -FDEP, Ms. Derek Burr- FDOT

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**Charlotte County:** Ms. Suzanne Graham

**Collier County:** Commissioner Tim Nance, Commissioner Penny Taylor

**Glades County:** Commissioner Weston Pryor, Councilwoman Pat Lucas, Commissioner Tim Stanley, Mr. Thomas Perry

**Hendry County:** Commissioner Don Davis, Commissioner Sherida Ridgdill, Commissioner Karson Turner, Mr. Mel Karau

**Lee County:** Councilman Jim Burch, Mayor Anita Cereceda, Ms. Laura Holquist

**Sarasota County:** Mr. Felipe Colón

**Ex-Officio:** None

**AGENDA ITEM #4  
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment was made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #5  
AGENDA**

Chair McCormick recommended that due to the lack of a quorum, Agenda Item #7 - Director's Report will be moved up to the beginning of the agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM #6  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2016 & APRIL 21, 2016 MEETINGS**

No action could be taken on this item at the time due to lack of quorum.

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

Ms. Wuerstle presented the Directors Report.

Ms. Wuerstle asked that the council discuss the July and August meeting dates. Several local governments are in recess in July and the scheduled August date clashes with the Florida League of Cities meeting, so it may be difficult to obtain a quorum for these months. Mayor Shaw stated that he would be attending the League of Cities meeting. Commissioner Mann noted that Lee County is in recess for July. Chair McCormick recommended that the Council cancel the July and August meetings. Commissioner Mason added that Sarasota County is also in recess for sections of July and August. Mr. Mulhere noted that two months is a long time to go without taking action and the RPC may have decisions that need to be made during that time. He asked if the Executive Board could be granted the authority to make decisions during that time. Ms. Wuerstle added that the FY2016-17 budget would need to be approved in July or August if a quorum is not present to vote for this meeting. Councilman Wein recommended that we have a meeting at some point during this time. Chair McCormick asked if the July meeting should be moved up and Mr. Mulhere recommended July 14. The Council members stated whether or not they would be able to attend on July 14.

Mr. Stoltzfus provided a report on the Brownfield Symposium. Chair McCormick thanked Mayor Shaw for his hospitality in regards to the Brownfield Symposium. Mayor Shaw was very grateful that the City of Sarasota was selected to host the symposium and emphasized the importance of the event.

Ms. Wuerstle presented the May financials.

Ms. Wuerstle announced that the RPC was awarded the Federal Promise Zones Designation in Glades and Hendry Counties and Immokalee. Chair McCormick thanked Ms. Wuerstle and the RPC staff and noted that there were only two rural designations in the entire nation and that we were the only Regional Planning Council that was awarded the designation.

**AGENDA ITEM #7(a)  
Proposed FY2016-17 Budget**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the proposed FY2016-17 budget.

At this time Vice-Mayor DiFranco, Vice-Mayor Denham, Commissioner Pendergrass joined the meeting and a quorum was reached. Action was taken on the following items:

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wilkins to move the July meeting to July 14 and cancel the August meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mulhere and carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Mulhere to approve the June agenda. The motion was seconded by Mayor Shaw and carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Fraize to approve the March and April 2016 minutes with two typo corrections. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wein and carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Mann to approve the FY 2016-17 budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Doherty and carried unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #8  
STAFF SUMMARIES**

This item was for information purposes only.

**AGENDA ITEM #9  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Doherty to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mulhere and carried unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #10  
REGIONAL IMPACT**

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)  
Palmer Ranch Increment XXIV and MDO NOPC**

Mr. Trescott presented the item.

Councilman Fraize asked how shelters are addressed regarding SWFL's development growth. Mr. Trescott stated that this DRI had hurricane evacuation addressed in the Master Development Order and this site is outside the Category 3 zone. Ms. Allred, who represents the applicant, noted that they coordinated with Sarasota County on shelter availability and it was determined that no additional shelters were needed. Councilman Wein explained that the State of Florida is very well prepared to deal with hurricanes.

Mr. Mulhere suggested scheduling a presentation from Mr. Trescott and Emergency Management directors from the region to provide an update on hurricane evacuation planning practices. He also noted that building codes are much stronger since Hurricane Andrew. Commissioner Wilkins added that gated communities such as this have community centers that could be used as shelters. Councilman Wein stated that this is an important topic and one that the RPC should concern itself with.

Commissioner Mann asked for clarification on Sarasota County's limited certification process. Mr. Trescott explained that this was done to keep the RPC involved in the DRI process.

Mr. Reynolds abstained from the vote.

**A motion was made by Mayor Shaw to approve staff's recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mulhere and carried with one abstention.**

**AGENDA ITEM #10(b)  
The Commons NOPC**

Mr. Trescott presented the item. This NOPC was presented to the RPC in May, but there was an error on one of the maps. Mr. Mulhere explained the error in the map.

Mr. Mulhere abstained from the vote.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Wilkins to approve staff's recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Shaw and carried with one abstention.**

**AGENDA ITEM #11  
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #11(a)  
Budget & Finance Committee**

The financial statement was addressed under Directors Comments.

**A motion was made by Mr. Mulhere to accept the May financials as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Doherty and carried unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #11(b)**

**Economic Development Committee**

No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(c)  
Energy & Climate Committee**

No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(d)  
Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management (EBABM) Committee**

Mr. Beaver presented an update on the EBABM.

Commissioner Mann asked when the sea grass studies were conducted. Mr. Beaver clarified that it took place in 2014 and does not include the heavy rains from earlier in 2016. He went on to explain the methodology of the study. Mr. Flood and Mr. Beaver explained that it took so long for this data to be published because the results needed to be confirmed through physical inspections. Mr. Beaver stated that the results are positive for our region as a whole, but sea grass is declining in some areas and it is difficult to determine sea grass levels in the Caloosahatchee. Mr. Flood confirmed that there was some increase in the Caloosahatchee. Commissioner Mann noted that this is the first study he remembers that shows positive results. Mr. Beaver commended the local governments on their efforts to improve water quality. Chair McCormick thanked Vice-Mayor Denham for his work on fertilizer. Commissioner Doherty asked what the baseline data was for this research. Mr. Beaver stated that the earliest data is from 1953.

Councilman Fraize asked if there was a correlation between the rise in sea grass levels and the rise in oysters. Mr. Beaver stated that the oyster increases often occur in different areas than the sea grass increases.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(e)  
Executive Committee**

No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(f)  
Legislative Affairs Committee**

No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(g)  
Quality of Life & Safety Committee**

Mayor Shaw gave thanks for the Brownfield Symposium.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(h)**

## **Regional Transportation Committee**

No report was given at this time.

### **AGENDA ITEM #11(i) Interlocal Agreement/Future of the SWFRPC Committee**

No report was given at this time.

### **AGENDA ITEM #11(j) Water Quality & Water Resources Management**

Vice-Mayor Denham sent a report to Ms. Wuerstle, who sent it to the RPC members. Mr. Flood explained that this forum was put together by the Florida League of Cities and looks at the 16 counties of the SFWMD.

### **AGENDA ITEM #12 NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **AGENDA ITEM #13 STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS**

SFWWMD - Ms. Poulton stated that the SFWWMD is prepping for their Annual Cooperative Funding Initiative. She also noted that their executive director is leaving.

FDEP - Mr. Iglehart announced that FDEP is doing a waste tire roundup to help prevent zika in Naples.

SFWMD - Mr. Flood announced the SFWMD is getting ready to kick off their water supply plan effort and the first workshop is in Bonita Springs on June 30.

FDOT -Ms. Burr announced that a position was taken on the rail corridor at the last Lee County MPO meeting. Projects must be 50% funded by the US DOT, 25% by FDOT, and 25% by local governments and must compete with all other projects. Commissioner Mann stated that this is still a long way off.

Commissioner Doherty shared part of a discussion with FDOT's Secretary Hattaway regarding increased cooperation between the region's MPOs and the importance of regional transportation.

### **AGENDA ITEM #14 COUNCIL ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS**

Ms. Nightingale added some notes on the Promise Zones Designation: Since 2014 over \$550 million in funding was provided to Promise Zone designees by the federal government. It's still

possible that the government will provide tax incentives to companies that relocate within Promise Zones.

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

Councilman Fraize wanted to thank everyone for making his 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary one to remember.

Councilman Wein wished everyone a happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Commissioner Mann asked what date was set for the Water Symposium. Mr. Stoltzfus stated that September 22 was the tentative date. Commissioner Mann gave an update on a positive trip that he had in Washington with the US Army Corp of Engineers and he invited them to present in Lee County. He explained that more federal money is coming down to SWFL than ever, contrary to popular opinion. He wants the Corp to educate the population before the rainy season begins. He recommended that our Water Symposium build off of the Corp's presentation.

Commissioner Pendergrass asked that the interlocal agreement issue not be discussed in July. Council agreed that this discussion will not be had until all sides are fully represented.

Chair McCormick offered to speak for the RPC at any upcoming meetings and stressed the importance of the RPC's role in SWFL.

Commissioner Wilkins wanted to thank the RPC staff on the DEO grant.

**AGENDA ITEM #15  
ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.



Mr. Tommy Perry, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the June 7, 2016 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 42, Number 110.