

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 MEETING**

The meeting of the **Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council** was held on **September 15, 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 **9:05 AM**. **Mayor Shaw** then led an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Nichole Gwinnett conducted the roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlotte County: Commissioner Tricia Duffy, Mr. Don McCormick

Collier County: Commissioner Tim Nance, Councilman Rex Buxton, Mr. Bob Mulhere, Mr. Alan Reynolds

Glades County: Mr. Thomas Perry

Hendry County: Commissioner Julie Wilkins, Mr. Mel Karau

Lee County: Commissioner Frank Mann, Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Councilwoman Anita Cereceda, Councilman Jim Burch, Councilman Forrest Banks, Vice-Mayor Mick Denham

Sarasota County: Mayor Willie Shaw, Councilman Fred Fraize, Vice-Mayor Rhonda DiFranco

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charlotte County: Commissioner Ken Doherty, Councilman Gary Wein, Ms. Suzanne Graham

Collier County: Commissioner Penny Taylor

Glades County: Commissioner Weston Pryor, Councilwoman Pat Lucas

Hendry County: Commissioner Karson Turner, Commissioner Don Davis, Commissioner Sherida Ridgill

Lee County: Ms. Laura Holquist

Sarasota County: Commissioner Charles Hines, Commissioner Carolyn Mason, Mr. Felipe Colón

Ex-Officio: Ms. Derek Burr- FDOT

**AGENDA ITEM #4
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #5
AGENDA**

Chair McCormick requested that all action items be presented at the beginning of the meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Banks to move Agenda Item #7 Director's Report to become the first item of discussion. The motion was seconded by Mayor Shaw and passed unanimously.

Councilman Burch requested Agenda Item 11(j) Water Quality and Water Resources Management be moved up to the beginning of the agenda for discussion.

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

Ms. Wuerstle presented the report. She reviewed the following:

**AGENDA ITEM #7(a)
FY16-17 Budget Amendments**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the proposed budget amendments. She explained there was a typo within the new budget under the assessments. She had already spoken with Lee County because it affects the "free seat" on the Council. She explained to them that they would need to select the city who would receive the "free seat" on the Council. When the FY16-17 budget was adopted, it included Village of Estero as paying assessments. However, the Village of Estero sent a letter stating that they didn't want to be a member of the Council. The FY16-17 Budget needs to be amended to reflect Village of Estero as not being a paying member of the Council. By default, the Village of Estero receives the free seat unless Lee County decides otherwise.

A motion was made by Councilman Banks and seconded by Councilman Burch to approve the proposed changes to the FY16-17 Budget as proposed.

Councilman Burch stated the issue of the free seat would be discussed later in the meeting. There isn't any consensus that states Lee County would pick the city who would receive the free seat.

Commissioner Wilkins noted there was a lot of audio feedback on the conference phone, so she is having difficulty hearing the discussion. She asked if the discussion contained mention that Sarasota County would not continue being a member of the Council.

Chair McCormick clarified the discussion involved the Village of Estero and whether or not they would receive the free seat on the Council. The item contained a discussion on a typo within the budget with the Village of Estero, who had sent a letter stating they wouldn't be participating on the Council; as a result, they wouldn't be responsible for paying their assessment as noted in the original adopted budget. The recommended action and motion contained removing the Village of Estero from the budget under the assessments.

The motion passed with Commissioner Wilkins opposed.

**AGENDA ITEM #7(h)
CEDS Project List Update**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item.

A motion was made by Councilman Burch and seconded by Mayor Shaw to approve the CEDS Project List Update as presented.

Commissioner Wilkins said due to the audio issues, she asked Ms. Wuerstle to repeat what she had stated.

The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #7(c)
Tuition Reimbursement Policy**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item.

Commissioner Mann asked if there could be an option where if an employee leaves before the 2 year requirement, the employee could refund the Council the cost(s) of the tuition. Ms. Wuerstle stated that is what the policy would state, staff carries vacation time on the books and when they leave the employment of the Council they are paid out their vacation time, up to 160 hours. Staff would be allowed to repay the Council the tuition cost(s) or it would be taken out of their last paycheck.

Vice-Mayor Denham clarified the courses need to be approved in order to assure the courses taken would benefit the Council. Ms. Wuerstle assured Vice-Mayor Denham the courses would need approval and she would only approve those courses that would benefit the Council.

Councilman DeWitt asked Ms. Wuerstle if the employee would have the option to pay the course cost(s) out of their last paycheck if they didn't have enough leave time to cover the costs. Ms. Wuerstle stated the employee would have that option. Councilman DeWitt clarified that if the employee didn't have enough leave time, the cost(s) would be taken out of their last paycheck. Ms. Wuerstle replied yes, that is what would be done.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Denham and seconded by Mr. Mulhere to approve the Tuition Reimbursement Policy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Wuerstle explained the item of amending the Council's by-laws, which required some updates to be done. She then asked Ms. Nightingale to present the item. Ms. Nightingale explained that the changes to the by-laws contained minor changes and that the Council's address needed to be updated in order to reflect the Council's new address.

A motion was made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Councilman Burch to approve the proposed updates to the Council's by-laws as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #11(a)
Budget & Finance Committee

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item. She noted the Council's Executive Committee had met prior to the meeting and reviewed the June and July financial statements. She said she was anticipating on closing the year with a surplus.

By general consensus the financial statements for both June and July were approved.

AGENDA ITEM #7(d)
Florida Chamber Foundation Meetings

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item. She announced that on January 11, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Hodges University the Florida Chamber Foundation will be holding a town meeting. This was done approximately 4.5 years ago in order to receive input on the State's Economic Development Plan. These meetings are to provide input for the update of the plan. There will be meetings held in every county throughout the State. She encouraged the members to put the meeting on their calendars and also invite those individuals who they felt would be able to contribute to updating the plan.

Councilman Banks suggested that staff send out the information to the city and county managers once they receive it.

AGENDA ITEM #7(f)
Legislative Priorities

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item. She explained there were three legislative priorities which she would like the Council to consider approving.

1. Regional Economic Development Opportunity Map

Councilman Burch expressed the importance of working with the region's EDOs.

Mr. Mulhere asked if there would be coordination with the ongoing regional economic efforts of the Alliance. Ms. Wuerstle said there would be coordination with the Alliance on the issue.

By general consensus the Regional Economic Development Plan legislative priority was approved.

2. Regional Transportation Plan

Ms. Wuerstle noted that during the Executive Committee meeting it was suggested that she meet with FDOT and discuss the issue with Secretary Billy Hattaway to obtain his input. She noted she had spoken to Secretary Hattaway previously about the plan and he had stated that he has wanted to do such a plan since he was appointed to his position. She explained that the issue is not to compete with the region's MPOs; nor is it to take any funding away from the MPOs, but rather to conduct a regional transportation plan so there is understanding with the ongoing transportation projects and how those existing projects would affect the SWF region and the economic development plans. She said she believed each individual MPO understands what is going on within their county, but as a six county region there isn't a clue on what is going on.

Vice-Mayor Denham asked Ms. Wuerstle if she had discussions with the MPOs. Ms. Wuerstle explained she did prior to last year's legislative priorities and their main concern was that the Council would be competing for their funds and that isn't the case. She explained to them that the Council just wanted to coordinate with the MPOs. The MPOs don't have the funds to put such a plan together, so they seemed to be okay as long as there was reassurance that the Council wasn't going after their funding streams. Vice-Mayor Denham asked if there would be a conflict between the Council and the MPOs. He suggested staff have discussions with the MPOs before moving forward with this issue.

Commissioner Mann said he didn't understand how this mission would differ from what the MPOs do, so he isn't able to understand the potential conflicts. Ms. Wuerstle explained some of the MPOs meet with the adjacent county MPOs, i.e. Lee and Collier County MPOs and Charlotte and Sarasota-Manatee MPOs, but is the Lee MPO meeting with the Sarasota-Manatee MPO and also the new Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) which includes Glades and Hendry Counties.

Ms. Wuerstle explained the mission was to organize everything so everyone would be able to understand what transportation projects are happening within the entire region and not just focus on the individual counties. She noted the Council conducted a plan for veterans and their families and the public transportation needs. The MPOs were involved in the study and what was discovered was that there were many providers, both public and private, but no one was speaking with each other about needed services. Veterans weren't able to get to the Veteran Clinic in Cape Coral from Marco Island and back within the same day. Hendry and Glades have the same issue with veterans who live in Glades and Hendry Counties that are not able to get transit service from those counties to Lee County. This is one small example of the need for a Regional Transportation Plan. We need to understand what is going on with freight, airports, and public and private transportation

providers. We are not trying to compete with the MPOs, but instead trying to bring all of the information together and put it into one plan.

Commissioner Nance stated based upon the most recent Collier County MPO meeting, there were agenda items which discussed a regional initiative by FDOT. It was strongly recommended by District Secretary Hattaway, he believed there were regional activities already started. He suggested Ms. Wuerstle meet with Secretary Hattaway to discuss that initiative; because based upon what he has heard, he is expecting to see a more regional approach by the MPOs instead of the MPOs competing with each other. Some of the regional infrastructure was mentioned so there may be an overlap between what Ms. Wuerstle is proposing and FDOT's current initiative.

Councilman Burch stated that he believed the initiative should be to have Ms. Wuerstle meet with Secretary Hattaway about the mechanics and the logistics between the SWFRPC and MPOs. The SWFRPC would like to have better communication with the MPOs and also the SWFRPC is interested in what FDOT has to say. He then said he agreed with Commissioner Nance that there is some redundancy that can be reduced by several communications between the organizations.

Mr. Mulhere stated that with the Promise Zone Designation existing in Glades, Hendry and Immokalee, some of the transportation projects would benefit Lee County, as well with connectivity. Due to the funding opportunities associated with the Promise Zones Designation to promote regional improvements; an application would score higher for projects that are regional in nature. He would include the Promise Zone Designation as part of the discussion with Secretary Hattaway.

Councilman Burch clarified that the motion included the discussion all of those issues with Secretary Hattaway.

Councilman Banks stated that he and Ms. Wuerstle met with Secretary Hattaway and he knew about the proposed Regional Transportation Plan and we encouraged him to do it. He said that he would work on it. The discussions at the MPO meetings on a regional initiative could be from that meeting.

Chair McCormick explained Ms. Wuerstle was looking for the Council's support to move forward with the idea of a Regional Transportation Plan.

Commissioner Duffy explained both the Charlotte County MPO and Sarasota-Manatee MPO discussed this issue very briefly at a recent meeting. The Charlotte County MPO voted against it. She then said she believed that both Charlotte and Sarasota would be involved in the Tampa area and they felt they would get lost in the shuffle, so Charlotte County isn't in favor of it.

Councilman Banks noted if Tampa already has a transportation plan and if you are not in it, then you are already lost in the shuffle. This is the issue, Tampa already has one and we don't.

Mayor Shaw noted that he is a member of the Sarasota-Manatee MPO and also TBARTA and he is all for the idea of coordination, but he is concerned about redundancy.

Discussion ensued regarding the possible conflict with the MPOs.

Councilman Burch stated that the motion is to direct Ms. Wuerstle to meet with Secretary Hattaway to discuss the coordination between the MPOs and the SWFRPC to try to eliminate redundancy. Then come back to the Council and give the report of the results.

Chair McCormick pointed out that there are conflicting motions on the floor.

Commissioner Mann said he would be referring to the motion that Councilman Burch described. He said he supports having a discussion, but he doesn't feel that he has enough information to know exactly what the mission is. It comes to his mind that the Legislature keeps trying to put the RPCs out of business and here we are internally trying to expand our mission to something that the Council hasn't done before. He doesn't know how the Council could casually get into thinking about MPO type affairs or how detailed, and if it is going to be detailed it will become an overwhelming undertaking. He said he needs a lot more information, he can support the motion but he is a long way of being convinced it is the right thing to do.

Commissioner Duffy said now that she had heard more the discussion and understands where the Council is going, she could support the motion for discussion.

Chair McCormick stated the motion on the floor is to direct Ms. Wuerstle to discuss the transportation item with Secretary Hattaway.

A motion was made by Councilman Burch and seconded by Councilman Banks to direct Ms. Wuerstle to meet with Secretary Hattaway on the transportation related issues discussed by the Council and bring a report back to the Council for review and comment. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Promise Zone

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item. Glades, Hendry and Immokalee of Collier County were awarded the federal Promise Zone designation. As part of the 10 year designation any application that is approved by the Steering Committee receives priority points. She explained she would like to have the State offer the same type of incentive for State funded grants.

Commissioner Nance noted he was thinking of something similar with having the Promise Zone Kick-off Meeting coming up and because it is a federal program the speakers and agencies are strictly federal. He then asked what role, if any, does the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services have in the designation and is it appropriate to ask them to become involved. Ms. Wuerstle explained the designation doesn't guarantee funding; it only gives priority points for being a federal designation. She said the only state department that she knew was aware of the Promise Zone Designation was DEO. The

Executive Committee suggested that the agencies be listed in the legislation before it is pursued.

Mr. Mulhere stated he felt DEO could act as a clearinghouse for the grant applications.

Councilman Burch agreed with Commissioner Nance's comments regarding Commissioner Putnam and DACS.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nance and seconded by Mr. Karau to approve the item and also reach out to State agencies.

Mr. Flood suggested reviewing the REDI program which deals with the rural economic challenged communities.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Wuerstle announced the Promise Zone Kick-off Meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2016 from 9-3 at iTech in Immokalee. There will be federal agencies in attendance to give an overview of their programs and then there will be breakout sessions that will allow different agencies and individuals to meet and discuss individual projects to determine where they go to obtain funding. She then introduced Mr. Jason Stoltzfus to give a further overview of the Promise Zone Kick-Off Meeting.

Mr. Stoltzfus explained the SWFRPC has worked through the initial stages of initiating our Promise Zone initiative. The first big step was the Task Force meetings and the purpose of the Task Force meetings is to set the goals; there are four Task Forces:

1. Crime Reduction
2. Economic Development
3. Education
4. Infrastructure

The purpose of those meetings was to bring agencies together throughout the region to discuss similar projects and priorities; also identify potential partnership opportunities in order to pursue more competitive federal grant opportunities. As a result of those meetings, we are already working on identifying and summarizing some of the projects that be provided directly to some of the federal agencies at the kick-off meeting, as well as the Promise Zone leads in Washington. There has been very good turnout at the Task Force meetings, in excess of 30 organizations attended and become partners.

Mr. Stoltzfus stated the following federal agencies have committed to being in attendance at the kick-off meeting:

- United State Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- Small Business Administration (SBA)

- Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

Commissioner Nance asked if there was a public notice published advertising that there will be public officials, elected officials, etc. at the meetings. Mr. Stoltzfus stated the meeting hasn't been officially published. Commission Nance recommended it be done since there will be federal, state and local officials in attendance.

Ms. Wuerstle encouraged the members to attend the kick-off meeting. She said even though Glades, Hendry and Immokalee will directly benefit by the designation it doesn't mean the Council couldn't apply for programs that affect additional counties. We can work outside of the Promise Zone area, but the Promise Zone area needs to be part of the project.

AGENDA ITEM #7(b)
DEM Letter Regarding Nichole Gwinnett

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item. She explained how Ms. Gwinnett had taken on three programs (Glades-Hendry Transportation for the Disadvantaged Program, Local Emergency Planning Committee, and Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning) over the past 4 years and has been able to turn them around and also obtain additional funding.

Ms. Wuerstle also announced that Mr. James Beever had published articles recently based on the work both he and Tim Walker has done at the SWFRPC.

Ms. Wuerstle explained she recently had to do some reorganization of staff due to Ms. Pellechio leaving. She said she would've had to hire another person or disperse the workload. Once again, staff has stepped up to the plate and taken on additional responsibilities. As a result, she went ahead and rewrote job descriptions based on their new responsibilities. Some staff has received promotions and a pay increases. Even with the pay increases she saved the RPC \$60,000 a year by not hiring another person.

AGENDA ITEM #6
MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2016 & JUNE 16, 2016 MEETINGS

A motion was made by Commissioner Nance and seconded by Mr. Perry to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2016 and June 16, 2016 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #8
STAFF SUMMARIES

This item was for information purposes only.

AGENDA ITEM #9
CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilman Banks to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nance and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)
Palmer Ranch Increment XXIV DO and MDO Final Review**

Mr. Dan Trescott presented the item.

Mr. Reynolds noted that he would be abstaining from voting on Agenda Items #10(a) and 10(b) due to a conflict of interest.

A motion was made by Mayor Shaw and seconded by Mr. Mulhere to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed with Mr. Reynolds abstaining.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(b)
Palmer Ranch Increment XXV Preapplication Checklist**

Mr. Dan Trescott presented the item.

A motion was made by Mayor Shaw and seconded by Mr. Mulhere to approve staff's recommendation.

Councilman Burch asked if the Palmer Ranch development was located close to I-75. Mr. Trescott replied it was. Councilman Burch asked if interchanges have been proposed.

Mr. Trescott noted there have been discussions on a possible new interchange. He then introduced Mr. Jim Paulmann who is the consultant for the developer.

Mr. Jim Paulmann from Stantec gave an overview of the project's transportation planning. He explained the traffic impacts are reanalyzed every five years. He said there was a plan for an interchange at Central Sarasota Parkway; however, it was decided to move the interchange down to SR681 and it is scheduled for 2035.

Councilman Burch asked Mr. Paulmann who pays for the interchange when it comes time to construct it and where does the funding come from. Mr. Paulmann explained that the developer has the responsibility of making sure the traffic stays off of the external roadways. The traffic analysis is updated every five years and if something comes out as being out of balance then those other issues come into play. Individual developments only look for access to and from the site; however, under the Master Development Order a traffic analysis is required to be conducted every five years.

Mr. Trescott explained the traffic development study includes projections for future development.

Vice-Mayor Denham stated that he travels within that area of Sarasota frequently and the traffic congestion in that area has become very heavy over the last few years.

Vice-Mayor DiFranco noted that she has watched that area grow and it is getting congested. There was only one way northbound from that area on SR681 and there is only one-way getting off of I-75 onto SR681. She said she was curious as to why FDOT hasn't developed an off-ramp both north and south bound.

Mr. Paulmann explained that Stantec had noticed that issue and has approached FDOT with the issue. However, the interchange and funding for the interchange is "years" out. He said that Stantec had spoken with FDOT about the need for a south bound slip-on on SR681 back in 2010. FDOT is interested in it but funding becomes the issue.

The motion passed with Mr. Reynolds abstaining.

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

Vice-Mayor Denham presented the item. He said he would like to hold a conference call with the committee members to come up with some recommendations to bring back to the Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Burch and seconded by Mr. Mulhere to approve holding a conference call with the Water Quality and Water Resources Management Committee to come up with recommendations to bring back to the Council.

Mr. Mulhere suggested a representative from Lee County be involved in the conference call since the main focus is on the Caloosahatchee River. Vice-Mayor Denham said he agreed and then asked Commissioner Mann if he would be interested in volunteering his time on the committee.

Commissioner Mann said if it isn't himself someone from Lee County will participate. He then asked what happened to the Summit that was to be held. Vice-Mayor Denham stated he tried to move forward with it, but unfortunately it didn't work out. Commissioner Mann stated he was under the impression that the SWFRPC was going to hold the Summit in order to develop a position so we could speak collectively with a "single voice". Vice-Mayor Denham explained there were several people who didn't think it was appropriate at that time.

The following members have volunteered to serve on the Committee:

1. Mr. Tommy Perry, Glades County Governor Appointee
2. Commissioner Karson Turner, Hendry County BCC
3. Mr. Phil Flood, SWFWMD
4. Commissioner Frank Mann, Lee County BCC
5. Vice-Mayor Mick Denham, City of Sanibel
6. Councilman Forrest Banks, City of Fort Myers
7. Councilman Jim Burch, City of Cape Coral
8. Mr. Mel Karau, Hendry County Governor Appointee
9. Tara Poulton, SWFWMD
10. Mr. Don McCormick, Charlotte County Governor Appointee

Commissioner Pendergrass wanted to know the purpose of the Committee. Vice-Mayor Denham said the objective is that we all want clean water and want less water to be released in the coastal regions; but the question is how we are going to get there. As you know various people have ideas of what it should be and he believed that the RPC should have a position on what it should be and support that position. We need to speak as the SWFRPC as to what our position might be.

Councilman Burch suggested having the Committee meet first and then bring the Committee's recommendations back to the Council for their consideration. The fear is to get this bias rolling along amongst all of us. He suggested to Vice-Mayor Denham that he brings the "White Paper" with him to the meeting.

Commissioner Mann said "we don't have to reinvent the wheel". Lee County has adopted the continuing evolving "White Paper" that the SFWMD has blessed. Let's see if we can speak with one voice, we don't need to start from the beginning.

Commissioner Nance stated that he felt it was a very worthy and important project, but the members of the Council need to realize it is going to be very difficult because some of the issues have become very political, especially in Glades and Hendry Counties. He doesn't want to see the coastal and interior counties at cross purposes. He then said that he wasn't stating that Collier County isn't interested, but Collier County shares objectives, they are in a completely different basin, and is involved with the restoration of the Everglades.

Commissioner Wilkins noted the Hendry County BCC passed a resolution at the direction of Commissioner Karson Turner. The resolution stated Hendry County would support any funding for any projects, but the funds shouldn't be used to purchase additional land. Basically, the county wants to have the agencies involved working on the current projects which can help all of the counties affected. She said Commissioner Turner stated he was going to approach the other cities and counties around Lake Okeechobee and ask that they pass a similar resolution. However, she wasn't sure if Commissioner Turner was planning on bringing it before the SWFRPC. The City of LaBelle will be considering it in October.

Mr. Flood gave an update on what has been done since the last time he reported to the Council. The Governor has since declared a State of Emergency on the coast and around Lake Okeechobee with the blue-green algae. As a result, it has freed up some of the funds and regulations which will give the SFWMD a little bit more flexibility. The SFWMD has been able to store more water north of the Lake and raise the water levels higher up in the Kissimmee Basin. Also, improvements have been made on conveyances down in the Everglades National Park. More significantly, the SFWMD has begun two large planning efforts that are on the Intergraded Delivery Schedule (IDS) and part of the Everglades Comprehensive Restoration Plan. Last month a study began north of the Lake -- Lake O Watershed Study -- where the SFWMD is looking to find another 200,000 feet of water storage north of the Lake. It is all about capturing, storing and treating the water and having more flexibility for keeping it out of the Lake. The goal is to have that water available when it is needed to the south. The other project is a planning effort in the Hendry County area called the Western Everglades. The project consists of increasing the conveyance and flow from Lake Okeechobee through the Everglades and into the Big Cypress Basin. The focus is on increasing the conveyances and improves the water quality which assists in alleviating some of the problems. Both of the planning efforts are 3 year planning efforts and there will be some

recommendations coming out within the next two months. The recommended alternatives will then be evaluated.

Mr. Flood explained the Central Everglades planning project, which is a big project that includes conveyances and storage south of the Lake. The project was approved by the State several years ago and is awaiting federal authorization.

**AGENDA ITEM #11
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Ms. Wuerstle stated the financial statement and budget amendments were addressed under the Directors Report.

**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 the item. He announced the EBABM is planning on hosting a conference at FGCU on December 12 and 13 called Cela Tega. Topics of discussion will include sea level rise and adaptation planning in the Estero Bay watershed.

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

Chair McCormick stated he had no report 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 stated he would like to bring back a report to the Council at its October meeting on quality of life and safety based upon the Florida League of Cities recent conference.

**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 #12
NEW BUSINESS**

None

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

FDEP - Mr. Iglehart stated he had no report at this time.

FDOT - No comment.

SFWMD - Mr. Flood announced the SFWMD is on its second day of the Caloosahatchee Science Symposium where two years of research are being presented to researchers and scientists involved in ecological indicators within the Caloosahatchee River. The focus is on low water flows and how to manage the estuary for low water flows. Also, the Association of City and County Managers are holding a water forum on September 23 at FGCU.

SWFWMD - Ms. Poulton stated she had no report at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #14
COUNCIL LEGAL CONSULTANT'S COMMENTS**

No report was given at this time.

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

Councilman Banks announced that there was a miracle over the weekend where an undercover law enforcement officer had stopped someone who turned out to have an automatic rifle in his possession and the passenger had a handgun at a bar in his Ward. He expressed that the criminal activity that has recently plagued Fort Myers and other cities needs to be gotten under control.

Councilman Burch addressed the State agency representatives and said that if they don't understand why they are part of the RPC and have questions to feel free to ask those questions. He said the reasoning for having those State agencies involved with the RPC is to be able to have coordination between the agencies and cities and counties.

Commissioner Wilkins apologized for not being able to attend the meeting in person and she stated the audio on the conference phone was not audible, there was a lot of feedback and she couldn't clearly hear the discussions.

Commissioner Duffy stated she agreed with Commissioner Wilkins' comments about the issues with the audio on the conference phone.

**AGENDA ITEM #16
ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.



Mr. Thomas Perry, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the September 1, 2016 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 42, Number 171.