

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
OCTOBER 20, 2016 MEETING**

The meeting of the **Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council** was held on **October 20, 2016** at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council - 1400 Colonial Boulevard, Suite #100 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. Ms. Margaret Wuerstle conducted the roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlotte County: Commissioner Ken Doherty, Mr. Don McCormick

Collier County: Commissioner Penny Taylor, Councilman Reg Buxton, Mr. Alan Reynolds

Glades County: Mr. Thomas Perry

Hendry County: Commissioner Karson Turner, Commissioner Julie Wilkins, Mr. Mel Karau

Lee County: Commissioner Frank Mann, Councilman Jim Burch, Councilman Forrest Banks, Councilman Greg DeWitt

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

Ex-Officio: Mr. Jon Iglehart -FDEP, Ms. Tara Poulton - SWFWMD, Ms. Sarah Catala- FDOT

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charlotte County: Commissioner Tricia Duffy, Councilman Gary Wein, Ms. Suzanne Graham

Collier County: Commissioner Tim Nance, Mr. Bob Mulhere

Glades County: Commissioner Weston Pryor, Councilwoman Pat Lucas

Hendry County: Commissioner Don Davis, Commissioner Sherida Ridgill

Lee County: Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Vice-Mayor Mick Denham, Councilwoman Anita Cereceda, Ms. Laura Holquist

Sarasota County: Commissioner Carolyn Mason, Mr. Felipe Colón

Ex-Officio: Mr. Phil Flood - SFWMD

**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.

**AGENDA ITEM #6
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 MEETING**

A motion was made by Councilman Banks and seconded by Councilman Fraize to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**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 Doherty and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #10
REGIONAL IMPACT**

Mr. Dan Trescott presented the following item:

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)
Palmer Ranch Increment II NOPC**

Mr. Trescott presented the item. Councilman Burch noted that two of the maps in the presentation appear to be inconsistent. Mr. Jim Paulmann, the applicant's representative, explained that this is due to the difference in age between the two maps and that the legal description of those parcels is the same in both maps. Councilman Burch was still concerned that the two parcels do not look the same. Mr. Paulmann and Mr. Trescott assured the council that the legal description is the same in both maps. The room agreed that the two parcels look different. Commissioner Mann wanted the record to show that Councilman Burch was not crazy. An amendment was added to include that the vote was based on the legal descriptions of the two parcels being identical.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilkins and seconded by Commissioner Hines to approve staff's recommendation with the amendment. The motion passed with Mr. Reynolds abstaining.

AGENDA ITEM #11(a)
Budget & Finance Committee

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item. She noted the Council budget shows a \$68,000 positive balance for August. She stated that she was 99% sure that the Council will end the year with a positive balance. Mr. Perry reminded everyone that this fiscal year included the mortgage of the old building and moving costs and that the Council will not incur those costs next year.

A motion was made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Councilman Burch to approve the August 2016 financials as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair McCormick presented the item. Commissioner Wilkins explained that Hendry County recently adopted a resolution that was against the acquisition of additional land that would drain water south. Commissioner Wilkins explained that the presented plan does not address Hendry County's concerns about projects to the north.

Commissioner Doherty stated that he was concerned about potentially accelerating the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS). Chair McCormick stated that there was no intention of changing the IDS. Mr. Perry expressed that he would like to see item number 3 of the proposal dropped from the Council's recommendation. Councilman Banks stated that the City of Fort Myers adopted the Lee County policy. He believed that item 3 was not consistent with that plan and he would not be in favor of voting for it. He stated that he is voting for the South Florida Water Management District and Corp of Engineers plan. Commissioner Wilkins explained that part of the selling point of the plan was the inclusion of recreation lands and she wanted to make sure that that element remained in the plan. Councilman Burch recommended that the council adopt the entire plan because this plan works in favor of everyone. Chair McCormick reiterated that the Water Quality and Water Resources Management Committee is in full support of the IDS and does not wish to change anything within it. The Committee wished to highlight additional projects and vulnerabilities that could be addressed should additional funding become available. Commissioner Doherty recommended that the Council not take action until more information became available. Commissioner Turner stated that he was comfortable with items 1 and 2, but he could not support the acquisition of land stated in item 3. He said that the problem is that this issue has become politicized. Councilman Burch believed the plan will get a better response if item 3 is amended and not deleted and the plan needs to be precise rather than broad and open to interpretation. Commissioner Mann stated that he is not comfortable with having this discussion without Vice-Mayor Denham or Mr. Flood present and recommended tabling this discussion until they could

be present. Commissioner Turner believed that this was a good, productive discussion that shows the relevance of the Regional Planning Council.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mann and seconded by Commissioner Doherty to table this discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #7 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Wuerstle presented the report. 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 meeting will provide input for the update of the State's Economic Development Plan. 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. Additionally, the Council's CEDS plan is due for a major update in 2017 and this meeting will help with that update. The Council's SRPP is also due for an update. Councilman Burch reminded everyone about the Regional Economic Development Opportunity Map project and explained that this is an important economic development opportunity for the RPC.

Ms. Wuerstle announced that she has a meeting with Senator Passidomo on November 1 to discuss legislation to support the Promise Zone. A meeting with Secretary Hattaway regarding the Regional Transportation plan was cancelled due to Hurricane Matthew. She was referred to Bob Herrington to discuss MPO coordination. The advice she received was to invite the MPO directors to meet with the Council to discuss the Regional Transportation Map, rather than pursuing funding. Commissioner Wilkins asked if the Heartland TPO would be included and Ms. Wuerstle confirmed that they would be involved. Commissioner Doherty informed the Council of efforts to encourage the regional MPOs to communicate more frequently. Councilman Burch agreed that this was necessary. Commissioner Taylor, as the chair of the Collier County MPO, expressed willingness to work with the RPC and she explained that the difference in population size between the counties may make this process difficult. Councilman Buxton, who also serves on the Collier MPO, voiced his support of Commissioner Taylor. The Council instructed Ms. Wuerstle to move forward with coordinating a meeting between to MPO directors. Ms. Wuerstle stated that she will wait until after the elections to seek support for the Regional Economic Development Opportunity Map.

Ms. Wuerstle added that the Council is closing last year's budget and the new budget began on October 1. The Council has already acquired \$320,000 in grants addition to what has already been adopted in the 2017 budget.

Mr. Jason Stoltzfus provided an update on the Promise Zone. He gave a report on the kickoff meeting that was held in Immokalee last month. Outcomes of the meeting include a conference call between the U.S. Department of Education and the Promise Zone Education Taskforce, collaboration between the City of Clewiston and USDA on a grant opportunity to relocate their utilities, and conference calls with the Department of Justice and Economic Development Administration. Councilman Burch asked if the federal agencies provided information on how to receive funding for projects. Mr. Stoltzfus explained that the agencies will help with matching

projects to potential funding sources. Commissioner Wilkins attended the meeting and added that the meeting went very well. Commissioner Taylor also attended the meeting and she sees this as the biggest thing that has ever happened to Immokalee. She asked if every project for the Promise Zone needs to go through the RPC and Mr. Stoltzfus explained that this is not the case. Commissioner Taylor also asked if the priority was only for loans and Mr. Stoltzfus explained that many of the agencies have grant programs that will be pursued. Ms. Wuerstle added that, although grants do not need to be submitted through the RPC, the RPC needs to keep track of Promise Zone applications and projects for reporting purposes. She also added that private foundations have significant grants that the Promise Zone communities can take advantage of. Commissioner Wilkins also heard that all projects need to be submitted through the RPC and she recommends that the Council do what it can to correct this misinformation. Councilman Burch explained the importance of the RPC's role as Promise Zone record keeper. Strong reporting will help the Promise Zone communities earn more funding in the future. Commissioner Taylor asked if there was a funding ceiling for the Promise Zone and Mr. Stoltzfus explained that there was no ceiling. Ms. Wuerstle added that communities outside of the Promise Zone could be a part of and benefit from Promise Zone applications as long as a Promise Zone community is also involved and benefiting.

AGENDA ITEM #8 STAFF SUMMARIES

This item was for information purposes only.

AGENDA ITEM #11 COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 met last month and had a presentation from the City of Bonita Springs regarding the DR/GR and whether it will fall under the rules of the City of Bonita Springs or Lee County. Lee County also presented on issues related to the DR/GR. Planning is also going on for the upcoming Cela Tega meeting. Mr. Beaver announced that he will be doing climate change studies for the City of Cape Coral and the Pelican Cove Community in Sarasota County.

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

No report was given at this time.

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 that due to the wastewater discharges in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area and subsequent miscommunications, the governor directed FDEP to deliver an emergency rule regarding discharges and spills. Councilman Burch asked if these rules were EPA or DEP rules and if they were proactive or reactive. Mr. Iglehart commented that it was a little of both.

Mr. Iglehart announced that, on November 9, FDEP will be having their Annual Paychecks for Patriots Hiring Event. This event is aimed at helping veterans learn how to successfully apply for jobs. Councilman Burch requested that information about this event be sent to the Council.

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

FDOT - Ms. Catala announced that the area has a new facility designation: the Punta Gorda Airport is now a Strategic Intermodal System Facility. Councilman Burch applauded the growth of the region's airports. Chair McCormick commented that he's from Punta Gorda and he's speechless. Mr. Iglehart asked about the effort to turn a Charlotte County rest stop into a regional visitor's center. Commissioner Doherty explained that for various legal reasons, it would be very difficult to turn that facility into a regional visitor's center and the project has been removed from Charlotte County's legislative priorities for now. Ms. Wuerstle offered to add this project to the Promise Zone project list.

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

No report was given at this time.

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

Councilman Fraize encouraged everyone to pray during this election season.

Vice-Mayor DiFranco and Commissioner Cook stated that this would be their last Council meeting. They have enjoyed their time on the Council and stressed the importance of the Council. Vice-Mayor DiFranco stated the importance and the difficulties of marketing the Council. Commissioner Cook explained that she will continue to champion the RPC in her new position as a radio host.

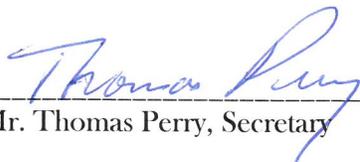
Commissioner Wilkins agreed with Councilman Fraize.

Councilman Banks expressed that Commissioner Cook will be missed on the Council.

Councilman Burch thanked Vice-Mayor DiFranco and Commissioner Cook for their dedication to the City of North Port and the RPC.

**AGENDA ITEM #16
ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 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.