Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Agenda
February 12, 2014
Hardee County Commission Chambers
412 West Orange Street
Wauchula, FL 33873
9:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman W. Patrick Huff

- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Swear in New Member
- Roll Call
- Announcements – Heart of Florida (HOF) Awards to CFRPC

AGENDA ITEM #1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

AGENDA ITEM #2 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

A. December 11, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes
B. January 2014 Financial Report

- Action Recommended: Approval
- Exhibit #2: A. Minutes – *Pg 1*
  B. Financial Report – *will be distributed at the meeting.*

AGENDA ITEM #3 GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE PRESENTATION BY NORMAN WHITE, COUNCIL ATTORNEY

Norman White will discuss Government in the Sunshine rules and regulations that govern Council Members and their communications.

- Action Recommended: Information Only
- Exhibit #3: Sunshine Law Rules and Regulations Information Sheet – *Pg 8*

AGENDA ITEM #4 REPORT ON FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION (FRCA) RETREAT AND SURVEY RESULTS

The Executive Director will report on the FRCA Retreat held in January in Tallahassee. Members in attendance were Vice Chairman Clayton Williams and Jackie Tucker.

- Action Recommended: Information Only
- Exhibit #4: CFRPC Member's Survey Results – *Pg 11*

AGENDA ITEM #5 RECOGNITION OF CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL'S (CFRPC) 40TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2014 the CFRPC will mark its 40th Anniversary. The Board will discuss how this milestone may be acknowledged.

- Action Recommended: Information Only
- Exhibit: None

AGENDA ITEM #6 APPOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2014

Chairman Pat Huff will appoint members to serve on the Council's Executive Committee.

- Action Recommended: Approve Executive Committee
- Exhibit: None

AGENDA ITEM #7 CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING PROGRAM SUBMISSION

The Government Finance Officers Associations Certificate Program promotes the preparation of high quality financial reports to promote better transparency to citizens and other stakeholders. This award is a positive factor in decision making for grantors, credit rating agencies, and other interested parties.

- Action Recommended: Approval to Apply for Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting
- Exhibit: None

AGENDA ITEM #8 HEARTLAND 2060 STATUS REPORT

Staff will update the Council on current Heartland 2060 work, and completion of the HUD grant activities.

- Action Recommended: Information Only
- Exhibit: None

AGENDA ITEM #9 DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT (DRI) UPDATE

Council will be updated on the status of current Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) and anticipated activities for 2014.

- Action Recommended: Information Only
- Exhibit #9: DRI Status Report – *will be distributed at the meeting.*

AGENDA ITEM #10 STATUS OF SEBRING-AVON PARK-HIGHLANDS URBANIZED AREA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) FORMATION

Staff will discuss status of CFRPC's transit grants related to the status of the Sebring-Avon Park-Highlands Urbanized Area Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) formation.

- Action Recommended: Information Only
- Exhibit: None

AGENDA ITEM #11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director will report on current work activities.

A. Brownfields Grant Activities
B. Legislative Activities

- Action Recommended: Information Only
- Exhibit: None

AGENDA ITEM #12 OTHER BUSINESS

A. Set date, time, and location for next meeting.
B. Other Business

ADJOURN

Please be advised that if you desire to appeal any decisions made as a result of the above hearing or meeting, you will need a record of the proceedings and in some cases a verbatim record is required. You must make your own arrangements to produce this record (Florida Statute 286.0105). If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Patricia M. Steed, Executive Director, 555 East Church Street, Bartow, FL 863-534-7130 x 130 within two working days of receipt of this notification. If you are hearing or vision impaired, call 1-800-955-8771.

Central Florida Regional Planning Council

December 11, 2013

Bartow Public Library
2nd Floor Conference Room
2150 South Broadway Avenue
Bartow, FL 33830
9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Chairman Pat Huff called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Norman White led the Council in prayer. The Council Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

Norman White, Council Attorney, administered the Oath of Office to James Powell Morgan, new Council member representing the City of Winter Haven.

Roll was called and the following members were present.

CFRPC Chairman, City Commissioner Pat Huff, Ridge League of Cities, City of Bartow
CFRPC Vice-Chairman, Councilman Clayton Williams, City of Okeechobee
Commissioner Buddy Mansfield, DeSoto County
Jackie Tucker, DeSoto County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Ray Domer, Okeechobee County
Elvie Posey, Okeechobee County Gubernatorial Appointee
City Councilwoman Neda Cobb, Wauchula
Chet Huddleston, Hardee County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Don Elwell, Highlands County
Commissioner Melony Bell, Polk County
City Commissioner Edie Yates, Lakeland
City Commissioner JP Powell, Winter Haven
Tom Deardorff, Polk County Director of Growth Management, Ex-officio
Kevin Denny, Hardee County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Jennifer Stults, Florida Department of Transportation, Ex-officio
Gary Ritter, South Florida Water Management District, Ex-officio
Jim Golden, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Ex-officio

Members absent:

City Councilman Robert Heine, Arcadia
Commissioner Sue Birge, Hardee County
City Councilman Bud Whitlock, Sebring
Andy Tuck, Highlands County School Board Member and Gubernatorial Appointee
Dr. Marshall Goodman, Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee
Tom Cookingham, DeSoto County Planning Director, Ex-officio

Mark Hill, Highlands County Development Services Director, Ex-officio
Bill Royce, Okeechobee County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Gina Reynolds, Florida's Heartland Regional Economic Development Initiative, Ex-officio

Announcements

Pat Steed, Executive Director, asked staff and all others present to introduce themselves to the Council.

Ms. Steed announced that the Council staff had prepared homemade Christmas baked goods for the Council to enjoy.

AGENDA ITEM #1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Huff opened and closed the public comment period with no comments.

AGENDA ITEM #2 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

A. November 13, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Huff asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the November 13, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

There being none, Clayton Williams moved to approve the November 13, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. Edie Yates seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. November 2013 Council Financial Report

Pat Steed, Executive Director, reviewed the Statement of Net Assets and Statement of Activities for the month ended November, 2013. Discussion followed.

MOTION

Clayton Williams moved to approve the November, 2013 Financial Report as presented. Buddy Mansfield seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) AND FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE TENTATIVE FIVE YEAR WORK PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING

Opening the public hearing at approximately 9:55 a.m., Jennifer Stults, Intermodal Systems Development Manager, FDOT District One, conducted a public hearing addressing FDOT's Tentative Five Year Work Program for FY 2014/15 – 2018/19, followed by a public comment period. This public hearing included a video presentation and was conducted pursuant to Section 339.135(4)(c), F.S. The public was invited to review the FDOT and Turnpike District's Tentative Five Year Work Program and to provide comments. No public comment was received during the public hearing. The public hearing closed at approximately 10:25 a.m. FDOT staff was available prior to and immediately following the presentation for questions, informal discussion and public assistance.

AGENDA ITEM #4 SEBRING-AVON PARK-HIGHLANDS COUNTY URBANIZED AREA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) FORMATION

Pat Steed reported on a number of transportation grants that have relationships to the Sebring-Avon Park-Highlands County Urbanized Area. However, she did not have any updated information to report on the status of a new TPO.

Jennifer Stults, Intermodal Systems Development Manager, FDOT District One, reported that FDOT had held three workshops with various affected entities, and will schedule another workshop in 2014.

AGENDA ITEM #5 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) SECTION 5310 CAPITAL GRANT PUBLIC HEARING

Marcia Staszko, Transportation Disadvantaged Program Director, stated that the Council is required to hold a public hearing if requested. This public hearing was appropriately advertised and no requests were received.

AGENDA ITEM #6 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) SECTION 5311 MOBILITY MANAGEMENT PUBLIC HEARING

Marcia Staszko, Transportation Disadvantaged Program Director, stated that the Council is required to hold a public hearing if requested. This public hearing was appropriately advertised and no requests were received.

AGENDA ITEM #7 TRANSPORTATION GRANTS FOR FY 2014-15

Pat Steed, Executive Director, distributed a chart showing the complexities of the Council's Transportation Disadvantaged and public transportation programs' grant funding. With the designation of an Urbanized Area in Highlands County, a portion of that county is no longer eligible for the funding the Council has previously received. Therefore, the Council has been working with FDOT to keep their transportation services in place while in this transition period. Ms. Steed

thanked FDOT for working with the Council in finding some stop-gap funding to carry services through part of 2014.

Ms. Steed reviewed the chart and described each transportation program and its funding status and funding source.

Showing a PowerPoint presentation, Marcia Staszko, Transportation Disadvantaged Program Director, explained the Council's role in the statewide Transportation Disadvantaged Program. She also showed current TD Program statistics and the role the Council plays in the three county area of Hardee, Highlands and Okeechobee. Ms. Staszko presented grant applications and asked the Council to adopt resolutions associated with each of these grants.

A. Resolution Number 2013-12A, FTA 5310 Capital

MOTION

J.P. Powell moved to adopt Resolution Number 2013-12A as presented. Don Elwell seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution Number 2013-12B, FTA 5310 Operating

MOTION

Jackie Tucker moved to adopt Resolution Number 2013-12B as presented. Melony Bell seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution Number 2013-12C, FTA 5311 Operating

MOTION

Don Elwell moved to adopt Resolution Number 2013-12C as presented. Buddy Mansfield seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution Number 2013-12D, FTA 5307

MOTION

J.P. Powell moved to adopt Resolution Number 2013-12D as presented. Buddy Mansfield seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Resolution Number 2013-12E, FTA 5311 Capital

Sherry Carver, Mobility Coordinator for the Heartland Rural Mobility Plan, provided a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the objective of the Heartland Rural Mobility Plan, and discussed its two pilot projects, which are underway. She stated that her role is to work toward implementation of the Heartland Rural Mobility Plan, which is a strategic plan with the goal of providing modes of transportation within the region's rural communities, and providing connectivity to more urban areas. Discussion followed.

Marcia Staszko, Transportation Disadvantaged Program Director, reported that the Transportation Disadvantaged Commission did authorize a one year extension to the current TD Coordinator until the current transportation issues are resolved.

Ms. Carver asked the Council to adopt Resolution 2013-12E, which supports the Heartland Rural Mobility Plan capital funds grant.

MOTION

Don Elwell moved to adopt Resolution Number 2013-12E as presented. Edie Yates seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #8 UPDATE ON STATE FUTURE COORIDORS INITIATIVE

Jennifer Stults, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and John Kaliski, Cambridge Systematics, presented an update on the Future Corridors Initiative for the Central Florida area. They discussed system traffic conditions as well as the relationship between transportation and the economy. They also discussed what FDOT is doing to address these trends, including three potential corridors affecting the Central Florida and Heartland areas. Also covered were the strategic intermodal system (SIS), freight mobility and trade plan, and the trade and logistics study partnership between the Florida Chamber Foundation and FDOT. Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #9 ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2014

Nominating Committee Chairperson, Edie Yates, stated that the Nominating Committee met at 9:00 a.m., on this day, before the Council meeting began, to consider candidates for offices of the Council for 2014. The Committee nominated Pat Huff to continue as Chairman for another year, and Clayton Williams to continue to serve as Vice-Chairman.

MOTION

There being no other nominations, J.P. Powell moved to elect the slate of officers for 2014 as nominated. Jackie Tucker seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #10 AUTHORIZE SIGNATORIES FOR CHECKING AND MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

Chairman Huff stated that the Council is requested to designate three signatories for checking and money market accounts with Citizens Bank, which are Pat Steed, Executive Director, Chairman Pat Huff and Vice-Chairman Clayton Williams.

MOTION

Jackie Tucker moved to designate the three signatories as recommended. Edie Yates seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #11 APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION (FRCA) POLICY BOARD

Chairman Pat Huff reappointed Jackie Tucker, Buddy Mansfield and himself to serve on the FRCA Policy Board for 2014.

Chairman Huff asked Vice-Chairman Clayton Williams and a volunteer to attend a FRCA Policy Board Retreat, along with the FRCA Policy Board members. The retreat is scheduled for January 9, 2014 in Tallahassee.

MOTION

Don Elwell moved to reappoint Jackie Tucker, Buddy Mansfield and Pat Huff to serve on the FRCA Policy Board for 2014. Edie Yates seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #12 APPOINT MEMBERS TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman Pat Huff reappointed Edie Yates, Ray Domer, Andy Tuck and himself to serve as the Council's Finance Committee for 2014.

MOTION

Jackie Tucker moved to reappoint Edie Yates, Ray Domer, Andy Tuck and Pat Huff to serve as the Council's Finance Committee for 2014. Edie Yates seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pat Steed reported on current work activities. She stated that a joint meeting of the House Agriculture and Natural Recourses Subcommittee and State Affairs Committee was held to study the issues related to the environmental status of the Indian River Lagoon, St. Lucy River,

Caloosahatchee River and Estuary and Lake Okeechobee related to water releases and water policy. Also, the Florida Water and Land Legacy Amendment Political Committee has been seeking signatures to put an amendment on the ballot in 2014, and has 90 percent of the signatures required. The amendment is to direct one-third of the state documentary stamp tax revenue to conservation spending. Ms. Steed stated that she works closely with other organizations such as the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida League of Cities, the Small County Coalition, and the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association, to track various legislative issues and funding.

AGENDA ITEM #14 OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting was scheduled for February 12, 2014, in Wauchula at the Hardee County Board of County Commission Chambers at 9:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Patrick Huff, Chairman
December 11, 2013, Council Meeting Minutes

A "Sunshine" Reminder for Members of the Regional Planning Councils

by Norman White, General Counsel
to the Central Florida Regional Planning Council

So you have been asked to serve on a regional planning council in Florida? It cannot be that hard, can it? Certainly a job with no pay will have absolutely no pitfalls or unmarked hazards...right?

As the General Counsel for the Central Florida Regional Planning Council since 1992, I can assure you that there is a particular unmarked hazard in your roadway. It is called The Sunshine Law. The purpose of this article is to acquaint new members (and give a reminder to seasoned members) about this law and its implications. After all, violators of this law may have to pay court fines or even do time in the county jail (which is a terrible way of learning about jail overcrowding). So, read on with interest.

First, it is important to note that a regional planning council is, by design, a very eclectic group. The membership is divided into two categories: elected officials and gubernatorial appointees. It is possible (and very likely) to have a farmer from a rural area sitting next to a corporation president from a large city. A council mix could include a retired school principal appointed by the governor and a county commissioner who sells real estate. The diverse group usually only comes together at council meetings. This circumstance causes the first concern. It is natural for these members to get acquainted over coffee before the meeting. Sometimes, the conversation may turn to the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) hearing on the agenda. This is where the Sunshine Law throws a curve ball at you. Such conversations, though innocently started, are against the law.

The Sunshine Law is a nickname given to Florida Statute 286. This chapter is only about two pages in length. However, its impact extends into that coffee conversation and many other seemingly innocent areas of a council member's life. The law essentially addresses three separate subjects: (1) meetings between council members; (2) notice of the meetings; (3) minutes of the meetings. As a council member you can rest assured that your staff has procedures in place to comply with (2) and (3) above. Those areas are not where you can get in trouble. It is (1) that needs to be your focus (and thus the focus of this article).

You see, (2) and (3) provide the "sunshine" into a conversation. That is, when your staff properly publishes reasonable notice of a meeting and takes accurate minutes of the meeting, you can converse about any subject on your mind at the meeting without fear of running afoul of this law. It is when you have the conversation outside the "sunshine" that your General Counsel will wince. Over the years, I have seen some situations that, at first glance, appear innocent, but are actually violations of the law. Below are some examples. After each example is a suggested solution to avoid the problem.

EXAMPLE 1

The council has an upcoming DRI hearing. To become better educated on the development area, the applicant (or your staff) arrange for a bus tour to the proposed development site. Two council members are seated beside each other on the bus and the conversation is drifting toward the development.

SOLUTION: The bus trip needs to be the subject of a reasonable notice and accurate minutes. Your staff can handle that. When done properly, members of the press know about the trip and usually tag along (sometimes in the seat beside you). All conversations about the potential development should be said loud enough so the person taking the minutes (usually in the front of the bus) can hear you and take your comments down.

EXAMPLE 2
A meeting has been properly noticed and the secretary is taking minutes. During a break in the meeting, you and another council member find yourselves in the bathroom or the coffee room with each other. The conversation starts to drift.
SOLUTION: Don't discuss the pending council business at all. Remember this: even if a member of the press is in the room with you, the conversation is not in the "sunshine" and is unlawful. It is only when the minutes are being taken that things are rolling along as they should.

EXAMPLE 3
You are having a conversation with a member of the staff (your Executive Director, for example). You ask the staff member how another council member feels about a certain pending issue (like a staff pay raise or a DRI hearing).
SOLUTION: Don't ask. Using a staff member (or any other person) to have conversations with another council member is unlawful. It is just like the other council member was in the room. Also, you are putting the staff member in a very awkward position. Because the staffer works for you, he wants to make you happy and answer your questions. However, this is one of the only times that the staffer can be charged with a violation of the Sunshine Law and the possible criminal conviction would not look good on his resume when he is looking for another job.

EXAMPLE 4
You and another council member are email friends and you converse that way, rather than around the water cooler at the meetings.
SOLUTION: Don't do that either. Courts have held that email conversations are just like water cooler conversations.

EXAMPLE 5
You are sitting at a council meeting at your usual place. During the course of the meeting, the council member next to you leans over and whispers a comment about something unrelated to the agenda item being discussed. You whisper back and a conversation ensues.
SOLUTION: Though this is not a violation of the Sunshine Law, you will never convince the people in the back of the room of that, especially if they are on the losing end of your vote. So, it is always wiser to refrain from such conversations during a meeting. It will be one less time you will need to defend yourself. Keep in mind that such conversations, to be in the sunshine, must be heard by the person taking minutes. So actually discussing agenda items under such circumstances is an absolute no-no.

Well, the above five examples may have some of you scared. If so, you are overreacting to this article. There is so much you can talk about that is not covered by the Sunshine Law. The weather, ball game scores, church gossip, restaurant reviews are all subjects you can discuss

at any time with any other council member. You can even talk about votes that the council has already taken on items not coming back up for another vote. These conversations can take place in each other's homes or around the water cooler or in the car on the way to a meeting and you have no problem. It is only when you are talking about a matter that could be the subject of future council action that the "sunshine" needs to be in the room.

It has been my observation that council members do not want nor intend to violate this law. Problems usually occur when the hazard is unmarked and the conversation takes an unexpected turn. Your sensitivity to the constraints discussed here will go a long way toward giving you piece of mind.

The author received his Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Florida in 1972 and has been practicing law in Florida since. His knowledge and expertise in the Sunshine Law came from serving as a city attorney for 15 years and serving as the General Counsel to the Central Florida Regional Planning Council since 1992.

docs/Council/CouncilBusiness/NormanWhitesPaperonSunshineLaw

CFRPC Members' Survey Results

The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) conducted a Strategic Assessment Survey in November, 2013, prior to the FRCA Retreat which was held on January 9th and 10th, 2014. There were a total of 236 responses to the online survey. Twenty-eight (28) had comments specific to CFRPC which are attached for your information.

The results of the Retreat and Survey will be discussed at the Council Meeting.

Date Submitted	1. With which of the following are you affiliated?	2. If applicable, are you a board member of the council you identified in question #1?	3. If applicable, are you or have you ever been a Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board member?	4. When you hear the name of the council you identified in question #1, what comes to mind?	5. When you hear the words Florida's Regional Planning Councils or their state association, the Florida Regional Councils Association, what comes to mind?	6. From your perspective, what does your RPC, the RPCs/FRCA do well?	7. From your perspective, what do you wish your RPC, the RPCs/FRCA, would do better?	8. How does your RPC or the RPCs support the mission, goals, and objectives of your entity (organization)?	9. What steps would you offer to improve the role and support that the RPC plays in your region on behalf of the region's local governments and its citizens?	10. What steps would you offer to improve the role of RPCs/FRCA to help address statewide opportunities, challenges, and issues?
12/10/13	Apalachee Regional Planning Council; Central Florida Regional Planning Council; East Central Florida Regional Planning Council; North Central Florida Regional Planning Council; Northeast Florida Regional Council; South Florida Regional Planning Council; Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council; Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council; Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council; West Florida Regional Planning Council; Withlachoochee Regional Planning Council; Florida Regional Councils Association	No	No	Focus on regional environmental and economic development issues.	Corrdination of regional issues.					

Date Submitted	1. With which of the following are you affiliated?	2. If applicable, are you a board member of the council you identified in question #1?	3. If applicable, are you or have you ever been a Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board member?	4. When you hear the name of the council you identified in question #1, what comes to mind?	5. When you hear the words Florida's Regional Planning Councils or their state association, the Florida Regional Councils Association, what comes to mind?	6. From your perspective, what does your RPC, the RPCs/FRCA do well?	7. From your perspective, what do you wish your RPC, the RPCs/FRCA, would do better?	8. How does your RPC or the RPCs support the mission, goals, and objectives of your entity (organization)?	9. What steps would you offer to improve the role and support that the RPC plays in your region on behalf of the region's local governments and its citizens?	10. What steps would you offer to improve the role of RPCs/FRCA to help address statewide opportunities, challenges, and issues?
12/5/13	Apalachee Regional Planning Council; Central Florida Regional Planning Council; East Central Florida Regional Planning Council; North Central Florida Regional Planning Council; Northeast Florida Regional Council; South Florida Regional Planning Council; Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council; Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council; Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council; West Florida Regional Planning Council; Withlachoochee Regional Planning Council; Florida Regional Councils Association	No	No	Land use planning organization. Agency focused on sustainable development, encouraging interconnected neighborhoods while preserving open space, ensuring growth does not burden schools sytems, protecting water resources, providing for greater housing and transportation choices.	Professional association that advocates for RPC issues, provides education opportunities for members and serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas.	Good source of information about comprehensive plan elements, land use and environmental impacts for economic development projects.	Be certain practices are current. Planning has evolved yet the practices, procedures and methods of some RPC's have not. Could adopt more innovative approaches. Also should consider providing a greater level of technical assistance to cities, counties and developers.	By providing information to assess economic development needs and issues; identifying projects to improve the regional economy; assitance in learning environmental impacts, land use, transportation and intergovernmental issues related to business attraction and expansion.	Continue efforts to make sure the organization is not stuck in the past, is relevant to today's needs, developing innovative strategies, and working collaboratively with partners.	

Date Submitted	1. With which of the following are you affiliated?	2. If applicable, are you a board member of the council you identified in question #1?	3. If applicable, are you or have you ever been a Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board member?	4. When you hear the name of the council you identified in question #1, what comes to mind?	5. When you hear the words Florida's Regional Planning Councils or their state association, the Florida Regional Councils Association, what comes to mind?	6. From your perspective, what does your RPC, the RPCs/FRCA do well?	7. From your perspective, what do you wish your RPC, the RPCs/FRCA, would do better?	8. How does your RPC or the RPCs support the mission, goals, and objectives of your entity (organization)?	9. What steps would you offer to improve the role and support that the RPC plays in your region on behalf of the region's local governments and its citizens?	10. What steps would you offer to improve the role of RPCs/FRCA to help address statewide opportunities, challenges, and issues?
11/8/13	Apalachee Regional Planning Council; North Central Florida Regional Planning Council; Northeast Florida Regional Council; West Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	A sub-state, regional planning organization that represents the interest and concerns of local governments and which membership is composed of local government representations.... a council of local governments for the region, whose primary purpose is the help address intergovernmental coordination issues and concerns.	The same as answer to number 4. above, but also an organization that needs to be strengthen by having more resources and funding avenues and more support from the State.	1. Technical assistance 2. Intergovernmental Coordination and mediation 3. Economic Development	They could all do a better job and provide better services to the local governments if the State would support them and fund them adequately.	By providing technical assistance and intergovernmental coordination and networking opportunities.	Get the State to provide adequate and appropriate resources for the Councils to achieve their Statutory responsibility.	Same as number 9.
12/12/13	Apalachee Regional Planning Council; West Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	Environmental and support reviews for local rural communities.	Technical Assistance	Provide technical support for local rural communities	Assist small disadvantaged communities put together funding applications	coordinating meetings with potential customers	Education	Same as above - educate the RPCs about federal programs that assist rural communities
12/9/13	Apalachee Regional Planning Council; West Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	CEDS	CEDS, infrastructure planning					
12/17/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	good planning and helpful assistance	that I like the concept of long term regional planning	have an holistic overview of where a region has or should plan to go	have more staff to turn project a little quicker	they are an excellent compliment		i would not ask them to worry too much about statewide issues - there are other entities that can handle that . they need to stay very focused on the work within their region
12/11/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	Regional planning; coordination of regional issues; DRI review; uncertainty regarding all of the RPC's current functions and responsibilities.	A group representing all the state RPC organizations.	Coordinate regional planning issues; watchdog ofr regional issues that must be communicated to County and municipal governments.	Let local governments better know and understand what type of assistance they can provide. Become a better known presences to the general public.	Our municipality participates at regional meetings.	Organization needs to become more of an advocate of local governments than have the apperance of being a watchdog.	Better educate the public about the importance of regional planning.

Date Submitted	1. With which of the following are you affiliated?	2. If applicable, are you a board member of the council you identified in question #1?	3. If applicable, are you or have you ever been a Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board member?	4. When you hear the name of the council you identified in question #1, what comes to mind?	5. When you hear the words Florida's Regional Planning Councils or their state association, the Florida Regional Councils Association, what comes to mind?	6. From your perspective, what does your RPC, the RPCs/FRCA do well?	7. From your perspective, what do you wish your RPC, the RPCs/FRCA, would do better?	8. How does your RPC or the RPCs support the mission, goals, and objectives of your entity (organization)?	9. What steps would you offer to improve the role and support that the RPC plays in your region on behalf of the region's local governments and its citizens?	10. What steps would you offer to improve the role of RPCs/FRCA to help address statewide opportunities, challenges, and issues?
12/11/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Yes	Yes	DRI's Fla Dept of Community Affairs Regional Planning Heartland 2060	Ron Books State lobbying State budget, or lack of unfunded mandates the power of a statewide group	Serve local county government and municipalities well DRI's in the good old days a regional view of growth and transportation Transportation Disadvantaged management Disaster Planning	Get a stable source of funding(from the state?)	a great source of planning help for municipalities	Provide guidance and support to a newly formed MPO in the region	Convince the state to better utilize RPCs to help address statewide opportunities, challenges and issues, and provide funding.
12/10/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Yes	No	Very supportive of Public Safety iniatives in the Central Florida area and investmates made throughout the years on a regional basis. ECRPC Most likely leads the state in this action and efforts.	Not real familiar with with the state associations efforts	Brings a regional consensus on issues that effect the region as a whole.	Push for state wide consensus on Public Safety issues such Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Hazardous Materials response and our state wide emergency response plan (SERP). These state teams have been previously well funded through Homeland Security Grants however, the funding is dwindling and we are in jeopordy of losing these teams if not funded on a local level and should be evaluated for funding assistance from the State of Florida.	Our RPC contnues to support our regional public safety iniatives.	Better communicating the efforts of public safety issues on a regional level back to local officials to determine any potential negative or positive effects on our communities.	prepare a quick snapshot of either electronically and/or paperwork of important issues that effect the region as a whole and possibly need attention by our leaders. Lobby efforts for issues at a federal level when needed by law enforcement, fire/rescue and emergency manangement for public safety regionally.
12/10/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Yes	Yes	what a great organization						
12/10/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Yes	Yes	I think of our entire region and and how terrific we are and what a great Executive Director and her staff that we have. We are a dedicated Council and I am very proud.	I have been on the FRPC now for four years. What comes to my mind is what a informative Council it is with great leadership.	Our Regional Council helps all the Counties in our Regional with the different task they are asked and they do it so good. Pat Steed, our Executive Director, is very assertive and very knowledgeable, with great leadership. Pat, along with here staff, does a very professional job, giving back all they can to help our		They carry out our mission 100 percent and accomplish all the goals put in front of them. I have been on the Council for 11 years and I know the difference of poor leadership that we had previous. They do their job.	I have no suggestions. They get better all the time.	I guess I am not a great help with suggestions. I like being on both Councils to be able to let the people of my county and Regional and also people around the state know what is happening.

Date Submitted	1. With which of the following are you affiliated?	2. If applicable, are you a board member of the council you identified in question #1?	3. If applicable, are you or have you ever been a Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board member?	4. When you hear the name of the council you identified in question #1, what comes to mind?	5. When you hear the words Florida's Regional Planning Councils or their state association, the Florida Regional Councils Association, what comes to mind?	6. From your perspective, what does your RPC, the RPCs/FRCA do well?	7. From your perspective, what do you wish your RPC, the RPCs/FRCA, would do better?	8. How does your RPC or the RPCs support the mission, goals, and objectives of your entity (organization)?	9. What steps would you offer to improve the role and support that the RPC plays in your region on behalf of the region's local governments and its citizens?	10. What steps would you offer to improve the role of RPCs/FRCA to help address statewide opportunities, challenges, and issues?
12/9/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	Planning at a broader level for our area but more specifically planning advisory services for our small rural community	Honestly not familiar with the state association of the RPC, but I would imagine it is just that an association for all the RPCs to come together with ideas and issues to help each other in their respective roles.	The RPC has to constantly stay above the "weeds" to guide the region in planning for our growth but at the same time, has the staff and knowledge to get down in the "weeds" to help the smaller communities make sound decisions on very specific projects and issues in their day-to-day affairs.	In order for any plan to have value it has to be acted upon. It would be beneficial if the RPC could identify specific ways that the local communities could help implement the goals and objectives of the regional plans. Sometimes it is hard for the local communities to 1) dedicate enough time to review the regional plans to 2) come up with ways that they can help move towards the ultimate goal.	Our community relies upon the RPC for their planning advisory services. Wanting to grow our community wisely and effectively is supported by the implementation of our Comprehensive Plan and the enforcement of our land development codes. The RPC helps us in reviewing each document regularly and also guides staff in interpretation of either if need be.	Can't necessarily think of any, although I really don't think that the average citizen even knows what the RPCs are. Local governments and their staff probably understand, but I don't think they get much support from "citizens" simply b/c they are unaware.	I think the RPC does a fairly good job address statewide issues.
12/6/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	Very helpful staff. Accurate and professional assistance.	Differing levels of service and assistance. Some focus on regulatory matters more than assisting local governments.	Interact with the local governments in resolving issues or finding solutions to difficult land use matters.	They appear to do most things very well in my judgement.	By helping us address difficult land use planning issues.		
11/30/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Yes	Yes	A privilege to be part of a Council that has a mission for the region and strives to achieve those goals the council feels beneficial to our citizens we represent.	Our region & state working together.	Coordinate various facets of the councils mission and come together for the benefits of all councils in Florida.	Share our successes in the councils and our failed projects, policies, etc. for learning tools around our state. Bring together our ideas & ideals for benefit to all councils.	I would hope this would happen when we come together in our state or regional meetings.	Communication with our local county government to keep them informed of our mission and to assure they realize the facets of our RPC'S and how we play a role in their county & local government. With changing faces on county government I think that many serve without knowing the role RPC plays.	Communication on each of our members part to local government officials

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11/27/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Yes	No	Performing regional planning for the region as a whole and assisting smaller municipalities with various planning projects.	Coordinating communication between and among the Regional planning councils.	Accessing grants and assistance for strategic planning initiatives for the State, the Regions and local governments.	Communicate what they do and accomplishments better to their constituents in the State.	We provide regional planning to our area and provide planning for small local governments who do not have appropriate planning expertise in various areas or specialties on staff.	Continue to look for grant opportunities that will enhance the level of planning that we do in our area.	Actively lobby for grants and funding for regional and local planning initiatives.
11/27/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	Very good working relationship. Always available to help.	Not really familar with any council other than CFRPC.	Keep us informed. Provide very qualified personnal to work with in our planning needs. Engage us when cirmcumstances come to them that they think we need to be aware of.	Nothing comes to mind.	Very well and proactively. Many years ago this was not so. I felt they were somewhat biased towards the Phosphate companies in reveiwing the DRIs. Around 10 years ago that changed along with the management and staff and they have been more attentive and responsive to the needs, objectives, and policies of the county and protecting the needs of our citizens. I depend greatly upon their staff's expertise and guidance in many areas.	I have had no areas where they have not promptly responded to our needs so nothing really to offer for improvement.	Nothing to offer.
11/25/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Yes	No	They are the Representive for our City, and we have used their Council for various items.	They are our guide to land development questions that require more skilled knowledge then we posess at a small City level.	They are the buffer for large D.R.I's. that require considering other Cities needs and wants..	We find the one that serves our County very well prepared to respond to all the many times we have sought their help.	Very Well, in the area of protecting us to areas we are unfamiliar or uncapeable to address.	They have responded in a very quick method to each of our Cities needs.	It seems that they are requried to perform many functions for the state of Florida, by Legislation and do not receive the necessary funding to perform the task in a timely manner. Our City has contracted them on many occasions to perform work on a time and expence basis, and been very happy with the results

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11/25/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	Working with communities with limited planning capacity.	Meeting peers and collaboration.			Partner in supporting student learning.		
11/25/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Yes	No	Regional Cooperation	Nothing comes to mind.	Communicate helpful information	Be more effective at the state level.	Frankly, I am not sure how the RPC supports my county	Be more pro-active in identifying what they do for our constituents.	More effective relationship with the legislature and Governor's office.
11/25/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	What comes to mind when I hear the name, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, is a council residing in Central Florida that meets as a group to plan for our future with nearby counties.	What comes to mind when I hear the name, Florida's Regional Planning Council, is a council that represents the entire state of Florida that plans for our future as a whole.	I attended my first meeting as a council member for the Central Florida Regional Planning Council in November 2013 and was impressed with the information that was shared by our RPC. She was informative and had a positive outlook for the council.	I was impressed with our RPC during my first meeting with the council.	She seems to be very involved with the council and has excellent support staff. Her positive outlook was encouraging to others.	Being a new member on the council, I am not be able to suggest new ideas to improve the role of RPC at this point. It appears that our RPC represents our council very well at this time.	Being a new member on the council, I am not able to suggest new ideas to improve the role of RPCs statewide at this point.
11/22/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	Big picture planning and coordination between jurisdictions.	Unfunded mandate	Bringing together key players for discussion of planning issues.		Key assistance with comprehensive planning	Fund it so that they don't have to spend time and energy on raising funds or conduct work that the private sector could do	Same answer as 9.

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11/19/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Assistance to rural communities for land use and transportation planning.	Statewide platform for shared issues such as funding and legislation.	Community engagement Obtaining grants Representing small cities and counties at regional or statewide meetings Perform work almost like a consultant for small cities and counties	CFRPC is well run and respected in the community. RPC's as a whole could help folks better understand their role as prescribed by statute as well as what they expand to cover depending on grants available, requests from member cities and counties, and other partners.	CFRPC is very helpful in organizing meetings with rural communities and being aware of the rural communities' issues in regional and statewide discussions.	CFRPC's role is currently appropriate - no improvements necessary. It would be helpful for all RPC's to help others understand their role.	RPC's had a significant role in Developments of Regional Impact, but do not necessarily seem to have that same role with Sector Plans. It would make sense for RPC's to address Sector Plans and coordinate these projects similarly to the Developments of Regional Impact plus any needed revisions to address the differences in scope and scale of Sector Plans. But overall, the DRI process worked well by engaging all relevant agencies and entities. Sector Plans could benefit from same coordination by one entity such as an RPC.
11/19/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	CEDS, Economic Development data collection, Federal Grants, long term planning-	CEDS	obtain federal grants for economic development studies, data collection, collection of community input	separate urban from rural initiatives- data presented is sometimes outdated- need to keep up with current information	provides data helpful to identify local needs for planning -	separate urban from rural data and needs-	
11/18/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Yes	No	Broad based future planning, although most people I have come in contact with are unsure what the council does or have never heard of it before.	State wide future planning	We have the best director in the world and a amazing staff. It always boggles my mind how well our council is able to handle so many projects successfully. This is a testament as to how great of a staff we have.	Market and publicize themselfa more. Make folks aware the RPC exist and what we do.	By lots of hard work and many hours of dedication. The experience and knowledge our council members and staff bring to the table is in matched!	Same as number 7. Inform the public of what the board does. Market the board better.	I would suggest acquiring staff with the experience that is needed to stay on top of these opportunities would be the best suggestion I could make.
11/19/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council; East Central Florida Regional Planning Council	No	No	competant planners	same as above	bigger picture planning; provide expertise to the rural counties	I think they can play an important role in looking at regional and cumulative issues; balancing growth and preservation; and providing a forum for developing by design	They have brought people together to better understand regional issues and opportunities.	They need for tools to help with implementing regional solutions.	

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12/12/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council; East Central Florida Regional Planning Council; South Florida Regional Planning Council; Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council; Treasure Coast Regional Planning	No	No	A regional council of governments intended to assist the local governments in their region and to carry out activities specified by the Florida Legislature and the local governments in the region.	A group of professionals that are responible to carry out activities specified by the Florida Legislature and the local governments in the region. The leaders in their region.	Coordinate the local governments in their region and speak for the region.	Be more aggressive about what they can do for their local governments. Think outside of the box.	reinvorces what we did and supports us.	Have the RPCs look at what other RPCs/COGs/regional agencies do in other parts of the country - look beyond what is required by the Florida Legislataure. Be more like a non-profit agency.	Demonstrate to the elected officials and agencies what the RPCs/FRCA can do - not just lobbying and publishing reports with pretty picutures. SHOW what can be done and is being done.
12/9/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council; North Central Florida Regional Planning Council; Florida Regional Councils Association	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Interlocal coordination and communication.	Coordination and communication.	Coordination and communication.	Additional meaningful interaction.	Coordination and communication.	Additional meaningful interaction.	Semi annual statwide coordination meetings with agency secretaries.
12/10/13	Central Florida Regional Planning Council; Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council; Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council	No	No	Agency that will assist local governments within the region and provide guidance with planning issues on a regional level.	Agency that will assist local governments within the region and provide guidance with planning issues on a regional level.	Tampa Bay does a great job on coordinating DRI reviews. Central Florida provides good technical assistance to communities letting them know about new planning requirements. They also prepare a number of the plan amendments for their communitie, have assisted in community visioning efforts and working on grants, and are invovled in many regional planning efforts.		They are the lead agency on DRI reviews. They perform reviews of comprehensive plan amendments.	Make clear to governments and agencies what the RPC's roll in the region is and what assistance you can provide.	RPC's should put themselves at the forefront in the promotion of regional planning and consideration of ideas and projects that could affect the region. They should come up with ideas for projects and studies for their regiona and promote their region.

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FY 2013-2014
For the Month Ended January 31, 2014

UNAUDITED

January = 33%

		ACCRUAL Oct 13 - Jan 14	ACTUAL Oct 13 - Jan 14	ADOPTED Budget	ACCRUAL % of Budget
	ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE				
	INCOME				
1	Use of Prior Year Surplus	$ -	$ -	$ 199,774	0%
2	Member Assessments	100,980	100,980	201,955	50%
3	Local Revenue	202,390	188,464	627,931	32%
4	State Revenue	57,029	15,537	128,334	44%
5	Federal Revenue	428,900	775,901	2,204,896	19%
6	TOTAL INCOME	789,299	1,080,883	3,362,890	23%
7	EXPENSE				
8	Salaries & Fringe Benefits	471,617	473,711	1,491,953	32%
9	Consultants	27,902	38,884	145,000	19%
10	Transportation for the Disadvantaged Trips	203,431	352,833	942,464	22%
11	BrownfieldsRLF - Pass Through	-	81,849	400,000	0%
12	HUD Sustainable Communities Subgrantee	32,206	-	-	0%
13	Accounting/Payroll Services	1,045	591	2,000	52%
14	Advertising	1,096	1,042	3,000	37%
15	Audit	13,900	13,900	20,350	68%
16	Auto Expense	4,945	4,595	14,000	35%
17	Building Security	72	109	450	16%
18	Dues & Fees	13,878	16,023	30,000	46%
19	Equipment Expense	8,538	8,848	24,000	36%
20	File Management	1,053	1,579	5,000	21%
21	Insurance	9,742	23,962	31,500	31%
22	Janitorial/Maintenance	3,127	3,127	11,000	28%
23	Legal Fees	9,240	11,550	27,720	33%
24	Meeting Expense	1,840	1,806	5,000	37%
25	Miscellaneous	697	697	1,000	70%
26	Office Supplies	4,384	4,065	15,000	29%
27	Postage & Delivery	195	169	5,000	4%
28	Printing	169	799	5,000	3%
29	Repair & Maintenance	2,624	2,799	5,000	52%
30	Technology Supplies	4,310	4,310	10,000	43%
31	Telephone	2,483	2,308	12,000	21%
32	Travel & Registration Fees	13,541	12,917	55,000	25%
33	Utilities	2,515	3,356	12,500	20%
34	Capital Outlay - Office & Technology	-	3,999	5,000	0%
35	Capital Outlay - TD Vehicles	-	-	83,953	0%
36	Capital Outlay - Building	-	-	-	0%
37	TOTAL EXPENSE	$ 834,549	$ 1,069,828	$ 3,362,890	25%
38					
39	INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSE	$ (45,250)	$ 11,054	$ -	

CASH ON HAND 1/31/2014	
Checking Account + Petty Cash	$ 499,967
Cash Held in Reserve:	
Money Market Account	$ 261,453
Local Govt Investment Pool	$ 8,625
Total Cash	$ 770,045

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
Janaury 31, 2014

	UNAUDITED	ACCRUAL
	ASSETS	
1	Cash	$ 499,863
2	Petty Cash	104
3	Accounts Receivable	332,485
4	Unbilled Costs	46,390
5	Prepaid Expenses	20,053
6	Fixed Assets	634,324
7	Funds Held in Reserve	270,078
8		
9	**TOTAL ASSETS**	**$ 1,803,296**
10		
11	**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**	
12		
13	Liabilities	
14	Accounts Payable	$ 123,260
15	Compensated Absences Liability	85,580
16	Deferred Revenue	68,005
17	Total Liabilities	276,845
18		
19	Fund Balance	1,526,451
20		
21	**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**	**$ 1,803,296**

Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Update
February 2014

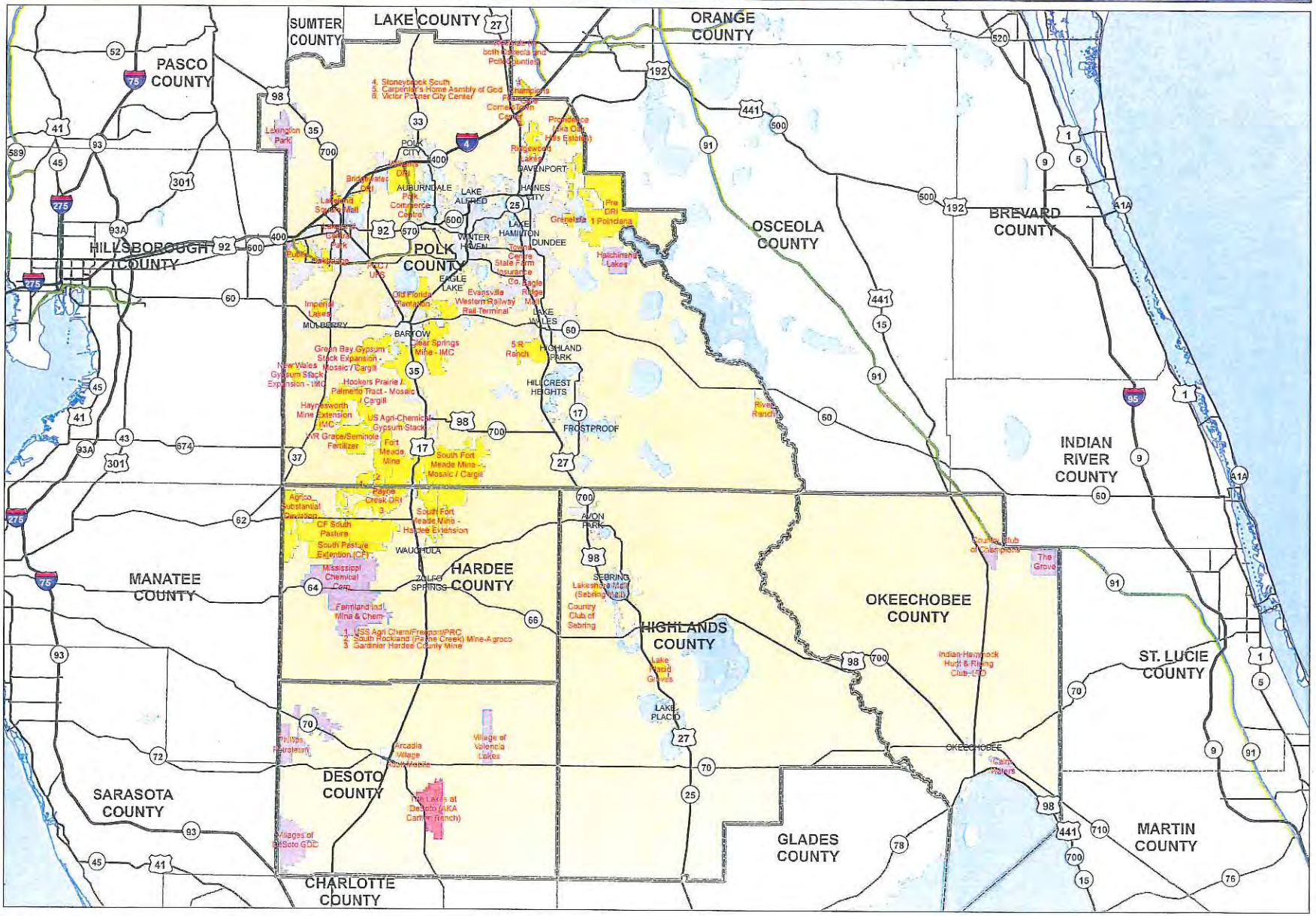
The table below summarizes the upcoming, active and recently withdrawn DRI Applications in the Central Florida Region.

DRI	Application	Application Area	Development Proposal	Status
DeSoto County				
Hardee County				
Payne Creek (fka Shadowlawn)	Application for Development Approval	1,204+/- acres	1,798 Single Family DUs 725 Space RV Park 120,000 sq. ft. - Commercial 20,000 sq. ft. – Office 30,000 sq. ft. – Office/Industrial	***Being Withdrawn.*** Applicant is pursuing Sub-DRI project.
Highlands County				
Okeechobee County				
Polk County				
Lakeland Central Park (Lakeland)	Upcoming Notice of Proposed Change	154+/- acres	Changes to phasing, development breakout and infrastructure improvements. Current approval: Industrial: 5,000,000 square feet Office: 650,000 square feet Retail: 225,000 square feet Hotel: 125 rooms Residential: 300 dwelling units	Anticipated Spring 2014 Application submittal.

DRI	Application	Application Area	Development Proposal	Status
Polk County				
Ridgewood Lakes	Upcoming Notice of Proposed Change	126.4+/- acres	A 126.4 acre addition to Phase 1 (Additional square feet and dwelling units have not yet been quantified.)	Anticipated February 14, 2014 submittal.
Ridgewood Lakes	Upcoming Substantial Deviation		Land Additions for Phase 2. Potential mitigation areas.	Anticipated Spring 2014 Application submittal.

ADA: Application for Development Approval / NOPC: Notice of Proposed Change

DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT - CENTRAL FLORIDA PLANNING REGION



CFRPC

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNIN
555 East Church Street, Bartow, FL 33
P.O. Box 2089, Bartow, FL 33831-2
(863) 534-7130 - SUNCOM 515-2
Fax (863) 534-7138 - Toll Free (800) 2
www.cfrpc.org

APRIL 2013

DISCLAIMER:
The information on this map should considered conceptual and subject This map is not a survey.

Data Sources:
Central Florida Regional Planning
Florida Department of Transportati
Florida Department of Community

Date: 4/2/2013
Document Path: D:\Projects\DRI_CFRPC\Maps2013\DRI.mxd

EXHIBIT # 10

Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Transportation Disadvantaged and Public Transportation Programs
for Hardee, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties

Program	2014 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Transportation Disadvantaged Trips (State)										
Public Transportation Trips (Federal)										
Section 5311 - Rural New Allocation Hardee & Okeechobee HIGHLANDS										
Section 5311 - Rural Old Allocation Hardee & Okeechobee Highlands*										
Section 5316 - JARC (Phase out) All Counties										
Section 5317 - New Freedom (Phase out) All Counties										
Section 5307 - Urbanized (New) Highlands County							?	?	?	?

* Reduction of approximately $5200 per month for Highlands County

February 2014 estimates

FRCA
FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION
Partnerships for the Future

Apalachee • Central Florida
East Central Florida • North Central Florida
Northeast Florida • South Florida • Southwest Florida
Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast • West Florida • Withlacoochee

104 West Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301-1713 • 850.224.3427

FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION

2014 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

January 9, 2014

Regional planning councils have been in existence in Florida since the early 1960s, created by the local governments they serve, to meet local government and regional needs, provide services, and collaborate on state and federal initiatives and programs. Florida Statutes recognize regional planning councils as "Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions on multi-jurisdictional issues, support regional economic development, and provide assistance to local governments."

The Florida Regional Councils Association, an alliance of Florida's 11 regional planning councils, serves to strengthen the consistency and quality of regional planning council programs to ensure economic prosperity and add value to local, regional, and state initiatives. To that end, the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board adopted the following priorities for the 2014 Legislative Session:

Talent Supply & Education

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** enhanced economic competitiveness, which must include an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) in public education and training programs that are aligned with existing and emerging job markets and industry clusters.

Innovation & Economic Development

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** full funding of regional planning councils to, at a minimum, leverage the role of regional planning councils as federally designated economic development districts; provide support to state and regional economic development initiatives and activities; provide assistance to local economic development organizations; and, cover the costs of statutory responsibilities.

Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** a continued state and regional role in helping local governments accommodate future growth while ensuring economic prosperity and preparing for and responding to emergencies and natural disasters.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** future transportation corridors, a diverse and competitive statewide multi-modal transportation network, and sustainable sources of transportation funding that are consistent with and support regional visions and further the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies of Florida's 11 federally designated Economic Development Districts.

Business Climate & Competitiveness

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** a strong, but fair, development impact mitigation process to address extra-jurisdictional impacts and impacts to regional resources and facilities.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** the unlimited ability of a regional planning council to provide planning and technical services for a fee, in furtherance of its mission.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** streamlining state regulatory review processes while ensuring regional and local interests are taken into consideration.

Civic & Governance Systems

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** the positions and policies of organizations that share a common membership with regional planning councils including the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Small County Coalition, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, and which are of mutual interest and concern.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** efforts to improve efficiency and collaboration among agencies tasked with multi-jurisdictional planning throughout the state.

Quality of Life & Quality Places

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** regional visioning as a means to guide the future of Florida, build public/private coalitions to implement key regional and statewide initiatives, and serve as the basis for strategic statewide planning and budgeting initiatives.

FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION
Partnerships for the Future

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS
January 2014

The year began with two back-to-back legislative committee weeks, starting on January 6, 2014. While many of the committees focused solely on proposed legislation, several were still in an information gathering mode. Among the presentations heard over these two weeks were as follows:

- Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development received a presentation on January 9, 2014, from the Florida Department of Transportation, which addressed the Department's role in multi-use trails, an overview of multi-use trails in Florida, the importance of investing in trails, and specifics on the Coast to Coast Connector. Upon completion, the Coast to Coast Connector will stretch from Volusia County on the east coast to Sarasota County on the west coast. The committee also received a presentation from Enterprise Florida on January 15, 2014, regarding the 2013 Annual Incentives Report, developed in conjunction with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). In a recent Enterprise Florida Legislative update, the following was noted: "Traditionally, this committee has been critical of Florida's economic development programs – but with the publication of more independent reviews, increasing transparency from the DEO Incentive Portal, and a positive return to the state, Senators have become more supportive of these efforts." The 2013 Annual Incentives Report will soon be posted to http://www.enterpriseflorida.com/newsroom/reports-resources/, and this link, http://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-strategic-business-development/economic-development-incentives-portal, will take you to the DEO Incentives Portal.

- Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee heard presentations on January 13, 2014, from the Office of Economic and Demographic Research and Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability on their respective evaluations of Florida's economic development and incentive programs, required by House Bill 7007 (2013). See the "Economy" policy note below for links to the published reports.

- Senate Community Affairs Committee heard from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation on January 8, 2014, regarding its new allocation system. In 2013, the Legislature provided the corporation with the ability to allocate rental funding through a competitive solicitation process, which resulted in a more flexible system compared to the previous Universal Application Cycle. Through a series of Requests for Applications, Florida Housing can now specifically allocate state and federal resources, which allows them to tailor each Request for Applications to the particular housing need of the intended residents.

- House Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee held a workshop on January 8, 2014, regarding draft proposed committee bills pertaining to economic development and emergency management. For more information on these proposals, see House Bill 7023 and proposed EDTS2 in the FRCA bill tracking summary.

- House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee heard from Space Florida on January 8, 2014, regarding expenditures associated with its current year

activities, as well as from Enterprise Florida on January 15, 2014, regarding its 2013 Annual Report, which is available at http://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/AR_2013.pdf. For more information on Space Florida, visit http://www.spaceflorida.gov/.

- House Transportation and Highway Safety Subcommittee received a presentation from the Florida Department of Transportation on January 9, 2014, pertaining to the Florida Freight Mobility and Trade Plan-Policy Element, similar to the presentation given to the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee. This Policy Element and related information are available through Florida's freight and logistics portal at http://www.freightmovesflorida.com/.

Additional details regarding the presentations discussed above are available in committee meetings packets, which can be found via http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/#com-list (for Senate Committees) or http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Committees/committees.aspx (for House Committees).

Legislative committee meetings resume on February 3, 2014 and will be held that week as well as the weeks of February 10 and 17. The Legislature will then take a one week break and return to Tallahassee on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, for the start of the 2014 Legislative Session.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Details on the Governor's budget are available at http://flitsyourmoney.com/. Highlights are provided below:

- $95 million in flexible funding for economic development programs such as the Quick Action Closing Fund and Qualified Target Industry tax refund;
- $3.8 billion for major road projects;
- $192 million for bridge infrastructure improvements;
- $139 million in seaport improvements;
- $10 million for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program;
- $30 million in new revenue for conservation land buying along with $40 million from the sale of nonconservation lands;
- $50 million for sewage treatment improvements in the Florida Keys;
- $25 million for beach renourishment; and,
- $125 million for petroleum tank cleanups.

POLICY NOTES

- **Economy:** According to *The Florida Current*, a report released by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research on January 1, 2014, shows mixed results for the state's economic incentive programs. The Qualified Target Industry program was the best performing incentive, returning $6.80 for every state dollar invested. Other programs, such as the Enterprise Zones program, lost state money. The report also questions the effectiveness of incentive programs, noting that academic studies are split on whether incentives influence businesses to move to a given area. A copy of the report is available at http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/special-research-projects/economic/EDR%20ROI.pdf. A related report by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability found that incentives are important, but are not the only factor in a business' decision to expand or locate in Florida, and that a majority of the recipients are existing, in-state businesses. That report is available at http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/Summary.aspx?reportNum=14-01.

- **Environment and Transportation:** The Florida Water and Land Legacy Amendment political committee received word that its constitutional amendment, which would require one-third of the state's Documentary Stamp revenue to be set aside for land conservation over 20 years, has qualified for placement on the 2014 ballot. At the last Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council's (MPOAC) Staff Directors and Governing Board meeting, the Florida Department of Transportation was asked to determine the possible impact of this amendment on transportation programs. In a February 4, 2014 email from Jim Wood, Director of the Office of Policy Planning, to Howard Glassman, Executive Director of the MPOAC, Mr. Wood wrote as follows:

  The amendment was analyzed by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference. If passed, the amendment would require that 33% of net revenues from documentary stamp taxes be deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for twenty years. The impact to the state was estimated to be $648 million in FY 2015-16, growing to $1.268 billion in FY 2034-35.

  Under current law, documentary stamp tax revenue is distributed into the General Revenue Fund and other trust funds such as the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF), the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, the State Housing Trust Fund, and others. If the amendment were to pass, future Legislatures would need to determine which programs receiving documentary stamp revenues would be reduced or held harmless. Thus, the impact to the STTF which receives revenue from documentary stamp taxes is unknown at this time.

  The transportation programs that currently receive funding from documentary stamp taxes are: the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP), New Starts Transit, the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), the Florida Rail Enterprise, and the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP).

- **Growth Management:** House Bill 703 is generating a great deal of concern. 1000 Friends of Florida has come out early in opposition, stating that this "*egregious power grab by the state legislature would undermine the power of each local government in Florida to enact and enforce critical local comprehensive plans, policies, and implementing regulations,*" adding that the bill does the following:

  - *Retroactively preempts local government authority to protect wetlands and springs and regulate stormwater runoff. It would, in effect, repeal comprehensive plan policies, implementing regulations and other land use controls related to these issues that have been adopted since 2003;*
  - *Retroactively preempts local government authority to require a supermajority vote on comprehensive plans and amendments, again impacting plans and amendments enacted from 2003 on; and,*
  - *Prevents any local government from rescinding a plan amendment where development has been approved on bona fide agricultural lands.*

  In addition, House Bill 7023, a wide-ranging economic development bill, would prohibit applying impact fees or transportation concurrency on new business developments of less than 6,000 square feet. A city or county commission could opt out of the requirement and this change to the law would expire after three years. Opposition is expected from 1000 Friends of Florida, the Florida League of Cities, and Florida Association of Counties, who opposed similar language last year. The Florida Chamber of Commerce has expressed support for the bill.

- **Springs:** On Thursday, January 9, 2014, Senator Simmons released a revised draft of his Springs Protection Bill after considering the many comments received from numerous stakeholder groups. Some of the key points in the bill are as follows:

  - Funds would be allocated from Documentary Stamp revenues, and placed into the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust fund for restoration and protection of Outstanding Florida Springs.
  - Membership of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) would be increased by one to include a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) representative with expertise in water quality.
  - The ARC would evaluate and rank projects eligible for springs funding, and develop rules for evaluating and ranking projects, and for pilot projects designed to test nutrient reduction technologies.
  - "Outstanding Florida Springs" would be defined to include all first magnitude springs as well as DeLeon, Peacock, Rock, Wekiwa and Gemini Springs.
  - By July 1, 2015, DEP would be required to delineate springs protection zones, and water management districts would be required to establish minimum flows and levels for each of these springs.
  - By 2017, DEP would be required to develop Basin Management Action Plans for each of the Outstanding Florida Springs, identifying load allocations for fertilizer, animal waste, septic tanks, wastewater treatment facilities, and stormwater.
  - Each local government located within a springs protection zone would be required to meet the minimum requirements of the Model Fertilizer Ordinance, including a requirement of 50% slow release nitrogen.
  - In Basin Management Action Plan areas, septic tanks must be connected to central sewer systems "where available" or otherwise upgraded to meet certain criteria by 2019 at no cost to property owners, and all agriculture producers must implement Best Management Practices within two years.
  - Local governments, water management districts, utilities, and agricultural producers must submit project proposals to the ARC for reimbursement up to 75%, with the exception of septic tank upgrades and connections, which are eligible for 100% funding.

Ongoing stakeholder meetings are expected. To obtain a copy of the revised draft, please contact Diane Suddes in Senator Simmons' office at suddes.diane@flsenate.gov.

LEGISLATIVE EVENTS

February 3-7, 2014:	Interim Committee Week
February 10-12, 2014:	Florida Chamber of Commerce Capitol Days
February 10-14, 2014:	Interim Committee Week
February 17-21, 2014:	Interim Committee Week
March 4, 2014:	Regular Session Convenes
March 27, 2014:	Florida Association of Counties Legislative Action Day
April 1-2, 2014:	Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Days
April 22, 2014:	Last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings
May 2, 2014:	Last day of regular session

BILL TRACKING REPORT

Due to the length of the bill tracking report, it will no longer be appended to this document but will travel as a separate attachment to the email transmitting this legislative update.