



Central Florida Regional Planning Council

May 13, 2015

Hardee County Commission Chambers

412 West Orange Street

Wauchula, FL 33873

9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Chairman Buddy Mansfield called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Norman White led the Council in prayer. The Council Pledged Allegiance to the Flag. Roll was called and the following members were present.

CFRPC Chairman Commissioner Buddy Mansfield, DeSoto County
Jackie Tucker, DeSoto County gubernatorial appointee
Commissioner Mike Thompson, Hardee County
City Councilwoman Neda Cobb, City of Wauchula
Mayor John Shoop, City of Sebring
Commissioner Bryant Culpepper, Okeechobee County
City Commissioner Pat Huff, City of Bartow and Ridge League of Cities
Todd Miller, Hardee County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Elizabeth "Libby" Maxwell, South Florida Water Management District, Ex-officio
Jim Golden, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Ex-officio

Members absent:

CFRPC Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Edie Yates, City of Lakeland
City Councilman Joe Fink, City of Arcadia
Commissioner Don Elwell, Highlands County
City Commissioner, Mike O'Connor, City of Okeechobee
Commissioner Melony Bell, Polk County
City Commissioner, J.P. Powell, City of Winter Haven
Bill Royce, Okeechobee County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Tom Deardorff, Polk County Director of Growth Management, Ex-officio
Jennifer Stults, Florida Department of Transportation, Ex-officio (Represented by Jeff Deimer)
Gina Reynolds, Florida's Heartland Regional Economic Development Initiative, Ex-officio
Mary Yeargan, Department of Environmental Protection, Ex-officio

Announcements

Pat Steed thanked Hardee County for hosting this meeting.



AGENDA ITEM #1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Mansfield opened the public comment period. The public comment period closed with no comments.

Pat Steed, Executive Director, stated that Sebring Mayor John Shoop is expected to attend the meeting. She offered to proceed with an Agenda Item that did not require Council action until his arrival.

AGENDA ITEM #8 UPDATE ON LOCAL PLANNING SERVICES

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Planning and Administrative Director, distributed a Summary of the Council's Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Items. Some of the services the Council provides include but are not limited to day-to-day planning, assistance with large projects, and GIS mapping such as Future Land Use and Zoning map updates. She also briefed the Council regarding the upcoming June 17, 2015 grant deadline for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant and for the Competitive Florida Partnership grant. Discussion followed.

Oath of Office

Norman White, Council Attorney, administered the Oath of Office to new Council Member Sebring Mayor John Shoop.

AGENDA ITEM #2 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

A. April 8, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Mansfield asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the April 8, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

There being none, Jackie Tucker moved to approve the April 8, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. Pat Huff seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. April 2015 Financial Report

Kristen Labbe, Finance Director, reviewed the Statement of Activities and Statement of Net Assets for the month ended April 2015. Discussion followed.

MOTION

Pat Huff moved to approve the April 2015 Financial Report as presented. Jackie Tucker seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3 CERTIFICATION OF TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (TD) LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB) MEMBERSHIP FOR HARDEE HIGHLANDS AND OKEECHOBEE COUNTIES

Marcia Staszko, Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Director, stated that the TD Commission requires recertification by the Council when changes occur in the LCB membership. A list of the current LCB members was distributed.

MOTION

Pat Huff moved to certify the TD LCB membership as presented. Jackie Tucker seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #4 JOINT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY STOPGAP STATE TRANSIT FUNDING FOR THE SEBRING-AVON PARK URBANIZED AREA

Marcia Staszko referred to Resolution number 2015-5A and stated that it authorizes the CFRPC to enter into a Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to provide State discretionary transit funds to the Council to be used as an emergency stopgap funding measure to help maintain public transportation services in the urbanized area of Highlands County.

MOTION

Jackie Tucker moved to adopt Resolution number 2015-5A as presented. Bryant Culpepper seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #5 RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC) FOR HARDEE, HIGHLANDS AND OKEECHOBEE COUNTIES

Marcia Staszko stated that staff had completed a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for selecting and recommending a Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Hardee, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties. She described the organizational structure of the Transportation Disadvantaged program, and she distributed the RFP process schedule, which had been followed and was the same as previously presented to the Council. She stated that every five years, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council conducts an RFP process for a Transportation Disadvantaged CTC for the three county service area. Ms. Staszko stated that a Selection Committee of qualified professionals was appointed to review, rate and rank the proposals. Three proposals were received. After review by the Selection Committee, they were ranked as follows: MV Transportation, Inc. was ranked as number one; Transdev Transportation, Inc. was ranked as number two; and Good Wheels, Inc. was ranked as number three. As a result of the ranking by the Selection Committee, Ms. Staszko presented Resolution Number 2015-5B recommending MV

Transportation to the Transportation Disadvantaged Commission as the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for the three county service area of Hardee, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties, for the next five year contract period. The recommendation of the Council will be forwarded to the TD Commission for final decision.

Opportunity for Public Comment

David Mullin, Director of Operations of Transdev Transportation, Inc. Intelliride Division, stated that he had reviewed MV Transportation's proposal and felt that some of it was misleading and false. Mr. Mullins stated that MV Transportation's partial brokerage service would have a negative effect on the local carriers that are currently providing the transportation service. Mr. Mullins asked the Council to reject Resolution Number 2015-5B, and to select Transdev Transportation, Inc. to recommend as the continuing CTC to the TD Commission.

Ms. Cora Hudson spoke in favor of keeping Transdev Transportation, Inc. as the CTC for the service area, stating that the current system is providing good service.

Ms. Alice Johnson, also speaking for Mr. Ken Johnson, stated that she and her husband are users of the TD service and stated they had no complaints. The current system is efficient and on time.

Mr. Dwaine Hayes, owner and operator of Hayes Medical Transport, expressed concern regarding the recommended CTC being a partial brokerage, and the survivability of the individual local carriers.

Ms. Ingra Gardener, Executive Director of NuHope Elder Care Services, who provides meals to the elderly, questioned MV Transportation's ability, as a partial broker, and asked the Council to do the same.

Mr. Robert Layne, transportation provider under the CTC, stated that a partial brokerage system would cause his employees to most likely be laid-off. Since MV Transportation is not local, they would have to bring vehicles in from outside. He felt that this change will hurt the local economy, at least in the short term. Mr. Layne expressed concern regarding the clients being transported to their life-sustaining services.

Mr. Edward Griffin, Vice President of Business Development for MV Transportation, Inc., introduced Mr. Alex Laudi, founder and owner of MV Transportation, Inc. Mr. Griffin reviewed his credentials, which included over 26 years working with the Transportation Disadvantaged program, including serving as TD Commissioner and staff to the TD Commission. Mr. Griffin summarized MV Transportation's qualifications.

MOTION

Pat Huff moved to adopt Resolution Number 2015-5B recommending MV Transportation, Inc. to the TD Commission as the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinator (CTC) for the Multi-County Service Area of Hardee, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties for the next five year contract period. Jackie Tucker seconded.

Under discussion, Bryant Culpepper expressed concern regarding the new Transdev Manager not having been given an ample amount of time since taking over that position, to implement the changes in technology to the providers.

Ms. Steed stated that the Selection Committee reviewed the three proposals that were submitted. The three proposals were ranked based on the information they provided which addressed the criteria. That issue would not have been considered in the ranking of the proposals.

Mike Thompson asked if staff had data as to why they were ranked in that order.

Ms. Steed stated that the ranking criteria were specific. The three member Selection Committee reviewed each of the three proposals individually and their tally sheets were combined. All three of the committee members had ranked MV Transportation in the highest category. Transdev received the second highest total points, and Good Wheels, Inc. received the third highest points.

John Shoop asked if the companies were vetted and were their references checked. He expressed concern that a well written proposal could be ranked higher than one that was written poorly.

Ms. Staszko stated that all three were valid companies and their references were checked. The three companies were given opportunities to make oral presentations to the committee as part of the selection process.

Neda Cobb asked Mr. Edward Griffin if he would like to respond to Mr. Mullins suggestion that their proposal was misleading and false.

Mr. Edward Griffin stated that the trip scheduling software used by MV Transportation is Trapeze and it is the most respected transportation management software company in the industry and is used throughout the nation. He added that with any transition, there are concerns. Mr. Griffin added that MV Transportation has a great support staff and a model for implementation, and they expect the transition to run smoothly.

Pat Huff asked about the mention of taking Highlands County out of the TD program.

Chairman Mansfield asked Mr. Edward Griffin to respond.

Mr. Griffin stated that for this situation, approximately 60 percent of the TD clients are in Highlands County. Therefore, MV Transportation is proposing to operate the service from a base in Highlands County and subcontract with local operators to supplement in Highlands, Okeechobee and Hardee Counties. He stated that is the model they are proposing based on a partial brokerage.

Pat Huff stated that he is impartial since his county was not in this service area. He added however, that he is familiar with staff and with members of the Selection Committee. He added that he felt comfortable that they went through the process and procedures correctly. Mr. Huff stated that he felt staff and the Selection Committee arrived at the correct conclusion and recommendation, and he supports the Resolution as presented.

Chairman Buddy Mansfield reiterated that this RFP process and guidelines used for the selection and recommendation of a CTC, is put in place by the TD Commission at the State level, and is used

throughout the state. He stated that he felt comfortable with the process, but was concerned about the local service providers possibly being hurt the most by this change.

With no further discussion, Chairman Mansfield called for the vote.

A roll call vote was taken.

DeSoto County Commissioner Buddy Mansfield –	No
DeSoto County Gubernatorial Appointee Jackie Tucker –	Yes
Hardee County Commissioner Mike Thompson –	No
Wauchula City Councilwoman Neda Cobb –	Yes
Sebring Mayor John Shoop –	Yes
Okeechobee County Commissioner Bryant Culpepper –	No
Bartow City Commissioner Pat Huff –	Yes

Motion carried four to three.

Pat Huff stated that he hoped MV Transportation, if appointed by the TD Commission, would contract with the local providers and subcontractors, to help alleviate the Council's concerns.

The Council took a ten minute recess.

AGENDA ITEM#6 FORMATION OF HEARTLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (HRTPO)

Pat Steed stated that the Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) officially formed at its first meeting held on April 29, 2015, in Sebring. Member Counties of the HRTPO are DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee. It also includes the City of Avon Park and the City of Sebring. Ms. Steed presented a PowerPoint summarizing the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the HRTPO. She stated that two actions were taken by the HRTPO at their meeting that require action by the Council.

- A. Ms. Steed stated that the HRTPO approved a Staff Services Agreement with the Central Florida Regional Planning Council. This Agreement would authorize the CFRPC to provide Administrative and Technical Assistance to the HRTPO and to manage the Grant funds which will pay for Tasks in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Discussion followed.

MOTION

Mike Thompson moved to approve entering into a Staff Services Agreement with the Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) and authorizing the Chairman to execute the Agreement. Jackie Tucker seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Ms. Steed stated that the HRTPO approved a resolution to enter into a Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) for Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (ICAR) and Public Transportation Coordination. These are functions for which Florida Regional Planning Councils

are typically responsible. The parties to the agreement are the HRTPO, FDOT, Sebring Airport Authority, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and the CFRPC. Discussion followed.

MOTION

Pat Huff moved to adopt Resolution 2015-5C as presented. Mike Thompson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #7 LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
CONTRACT FOR FY 2015-16**

Pat Steed stated that this is a reoccurring, standard contract with the State to support the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEPC) District 7 program for FY 2015-16, to begin July 1, 2015. The LEPC is made up of first responders from cities and counties, and also from private businesses in the region. The CFRPC provides staff support to the LEPC.

MOTION

Jackie Tucker moved to approve the LEPC Contract for FY 2015-16 as presented, and authorize chairman's signature. Bryant Culpepper seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #9 PRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET PREPARATION
PROCESS**

Pat Steed stated that staff is in the process of preparing next year's Council budget. The budget is scheduled for adoption at the June Council meeting.

Kristen Labbe, Finance Director, presented a PowerPoint on the details of the Council's budget making process. She included information on the Council's revenue sources and major expenses.

Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #10 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

Pat Steed distributed a summary of major Senate and House Bills approved by the 2015 Legislature. She briefed the Council on recent activities affecting Regional Planning Councils. There will now be ten regional planning councils in Florida instead of eleven. The Counties which were in the Withlacoochee RPC will be absorbed by the three surrounding regional planning councils. CFRPC will not be affected by these boundary changes. She also said that new DRIs will not be processed by RPCs but by a simplified state process.

AGENDA ITEM #11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Update

Pat Steed reported that Sheri Coven position as FRCA's Intergovernmental Affairs Director was currently vacant. Ms. Coven was excellent in that position and the search for her replacement is underway. Meanwhile, several Regional Planning Council Executive Directors are assisting FRCA to ensure nothing goes unattended until the position is filled.

B. Programs Update

Ms. Steed reported that staff had been busy finalizing all deliverables for four communities that were awarded FY 14-15 Community Planning Technical Assistance Grants from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

C. Other Activities

Pat Steed announced that she would be going to Washington DC the next week. The CFRPC was invited by the International Economic Development Council and the National Association of Development Organizations to present information regarding Resilience Planning in the CFRPC and Heartland region with over 30 national agencies at the convening.

AGENDA ITEM #12 OTHER BUSINESS

Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2015 at the Council office at 10:30 a.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2015, in Highlands County at the Sebring Airport at 9:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Commissioner Buddy Mansfield, Chairman
May 13, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes