



Central Florida Regional Planning Council Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2019 | 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

**Hardee County Courthouse Annex, Commission Chambers
412 West Orange Street | Wauchula, FL 33873**

Meeting Minutes

Chair Mike Thompson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Norman White offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll was called with the following members present:

Chairman, Commissioner Mike Thompson, Hardee County
Vice Chair, City Commissioner Neda Cobb, City of Wauchula
Commissioner Buddy Mansfield, DeSoto County
City Councilmember Keith Keene, City of Arcadia
Jackie Tucker, DeSoto County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mayor John Shoop, City of Sebring
Donna Howerton, Highlands County Gubernatorial Appointee; Highlands County
School Board
Commissioner Bryant Culpepper, Okeechobee County
City Commissioner Bob Jerriel, City of Okeechobee
Commissioner Rick Wilson, Polk County
City Commissioner Nathaniel Birdsong, City of Winter Haven
City Commissioner Bill Read, City of Lakeland
City Commissioner Morris West, City of Hanes City, Ridge League of Cities
Kelly Boatwright, Department of Environmental Protection, Ex-officio
Cindy Rodriguez, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Ex-officio

Members absent:

Commissioner Don Elwell, Highlands County
Jeff Kincart, Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee
Earl Hahn, DeSoto County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Todd Miller, Hardee County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Ben Dunn, Highlands County Development Services Director, Ex-officio
Bill Royce, Okeechobee County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Tom Deardorff, Polk County Director of Growth Management, Ex-officio
Deborah Chesna, Florida Department of Transportation, Ex-officio
Elizabeth "Libby" Maxwell-Pigman, South Fla. Water Management District, Ex-officio

Announcements

Pat Steed thanked Hardee County Commission and Staff for hosting the Council meeting and for the refreshments they provided.

AGENDA ITEM #1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

AGENDA ITEM #2 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

A. February 13, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes

Chair Thompson asked if there were any changes to the February 13, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

There being no changes, Keith Keen moved to approve the Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. Buddy Mansfield seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. March 2019 Financial Report

Pat Steed reviewed the Statement of Activities and Statement of Net Assets for the month ended March 31, 2019.

MOTION

Buddy Mansfield moved to accept the March 2019 Financial Report as presented. Bryant Culpepper seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3 HARDEE COUNTY ACTIVITIES REPORT

Chair Thompson introduced Lex Albritton, Hardee County Administrator.

Lex Albritton, Hardee County Administrator, reported that Hardee County's budget for this year is approximately \$400,000 more than last year's budget. Hardee County is slowly recovering from the recession. Building permits have increased from last year, although the lack of housing remains a major issue. He reported on a housing project that previously was a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) that is currently being developed. The Town of Zolfo Springs has acquired a commercial development with a new Circle-K. Hardee County's Road and Bridge Department continues to replace their aging, single laned, wooden bridges a few at a time. The Road and Bridge Department attempts to pave

and resurface 15 to 25 miles of roadways each year if possible. Mr. Albritton reported that the Hardee County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) closed on a new business in their Commerce Park that manufactures bullets and hobby rockets. Also, Floracam, one of the major businesses in the Commerce Park, is expanding its operation into an adjacent building. He reported on the technologically advanced Hardee-Fresh operation, where leafy green vegetables are grown hydroponically. The operation produces several truckloads of vegetables each day. The IDA has been pursuing the production of hemp and its derivatives for several years since it is now considered a commodity. It can be used as building material and as a textile. Mr. Albritton reported that the Ona Phosphate facility was permitted recently and Hardee County is in the process of permitting the South Ft. Meade mine extension. Hardee County had \$3.5 million in damages from Hurricane Irma and continues to work to obtain reimbursement funds from FEMA.

Chair Thompson added that the Hardee County IDA is working on an experimental agricultural project in coordination with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) and South Florida State College to produce several unique and innovative crops.

Questions and discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #4 ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Pat Steed, Executive Director, stated that the CFRPC serves as the Economic Development District (EDD) which is designated by the US Department of Economic Development Administration (EDA) to provide technical assistance to our District's local governments, administer awarded projects, and identify regional funding opportunities for local governments within the region. She provided a comprehensive overview of the economic conditions and forecasts for the State of Florida, including Florida's current population growth rate, average annual wage by county, current employment conditions and Florida's housing market statistics.

Shannon McPherson, Program Director, stated that as part of the duties of the EDD, the CFRPC develops and maintains the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is a five-year strategy for the region. She presented information on the economic performance measures that are tracked on an ongoing basis and updated annually for the region. Ms. McPherson presented a variety of demographic and economic statistics for the counties in the region.

Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #5 ADOPT RESOLUTION 2019-4A

Shannon McPherson presented Resolution 2019-4A supporting a statewide revolving loan program funded by the US Economic Development Administration and administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to assist eligible businesses affected by Hurricane Irma and future disasters. The local match will be provided by the state.

MOTION

Buddy Mansfield moved to adopt Resolution 2019-4A as presented. Keith Keen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #6 FY 19/20 COMMUNITY PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Deputy Director, presented a list of Community Planning Technical Assistance Grants and Competitive Florida Partnership Grants for FY 2018-19 for jurisdictions within the region, which are awarded through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Ms. Codo-Salisbury described how the grant funds will be used in each jurisdiction. She stated that staff anticipates the continuation of these grant opportunities for fiscal year 2019-20. These grants are offered to rural communities and the funds are to be used for economic development or planning related purposes. She added that no match is required for these grants.

AGENDA ITEM #7 ADOPT RESOLUTION 2019-4B

Jennifer Codo- Salisbury presented Resolution 2019-4B which authorizes the Executive Director to apply for a State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) FY 19/20 Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant to continue the efforts of Heartland 2060, including the transportation analysis.

MOTION

Bryant Culpepper moved to adopt Resolution 2019-4B as presented. Buddy Mansfield seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #8 HEARTLAND 2060 AND PROPOSED NEW CORRIDORS ACROSS CFRPC COUNTIES

Pat Steed, Executive Director, explained that Heartland 2060 is a regional visioning effort that began in 2007 as a result of the massive growth that was taking place in the region and the estimated future population. Studies were developed addressing such things as transportation and school system capacities, and water and land availability. A group of citizens, business and land owners, and government officials from all seven Heartland 2060 counties participated in and guided the process of determining the values of the Heartland and how its citizens would like to see the region grow. Ms. Steed also addressed potential new corridors in the region, and referred to SB 7068 which proposes two multi-modal corridors from Collier to Polk County that crosses the Heartland. She discussed the benefits and the issues with the proposed corridors and stated that with

each proposed corridor there will be a Regional Task Force that will guide the corridor study. She added that the process to get to construction of the new corridor will be unusually quick. The Heartland 2060 regional visioning effort will be updated to consider how the corridors will affect the natural resources and communities in the region.

AGENDA ITEM #9 UPDATE ON THE HEARTLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (HRTPO)

Marybeth Soderstrom, Engagement and Mobility Manager, stated that staff is staying abreast of the potential new corridors through the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC), who are keeping close track of the legislation. At the next HRTPO meeting, members will be updating the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which serves as a business plan and budget for the HRTPO. The HRTPO will also be reviewing the transportation project applications to the HRTPO staff for sufficiency review and ranking before submitting them to FDOT by July 2019 for consideration for programming. The draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2019/20 – 2023/24 will be presented for review by the HRTPO at their next meeting. This document includes all transportation projects and locations within the HRTPO region. The two Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Local Coordinating Boards (LCB) are scheduled to meet in April.

AGENDA ITEM #10 ADOPT RESOLUTION 2019-4C

Marybeth Soderstrom, Engagement and Mobility Manager, stated that FDOT has proposed a new Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) for Federal 5311 funds awarded to the CFRPC for mobility management activities focused on the continued implementation of the goals and objectives of the Heartland Rural Mobility Plan (HRMP). Resolution 2019-4C allows staff to access the funds.

MOTION

Bryant Culpepper moved to adopt Resolution 2019-4C as presented. Buddy Mansfield seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #11 AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE SENTINEL LANDSCAPE UPDATE

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Deputy Director, stated that in the summer of 2016, the Avon Park Air Force Range received the designation of Sentinel Landscape. The Sentinel Landscape program was created by the US Department of Agriculture, US Department of Defense, and US Department of Interior to benefit working lands, wildlife conservation and military readiness. She stated that staff will present a detailed presentation of the Sentinel Landscape project at the next Council meeting in June.

AGENDA ITEM #12 WEBSITES AND AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Deputy Director, provided an overview of the ADA compliance requirements for websites. She explained that the premise of ADA as it relates to websites is to make documents accessible to those with audio or visual impediments. She provided a website for members to obtain more information <https://www.ada.gov/websites2.htm>.

Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pat Steed, Executive Director, reported on current legislative activities, including the texting while driving bill, stating she felt it is likely to be approved. She highlighted the county impact fee bill and the CRA related bill, and stated that if the growth management bill passes, CFRPC staff will be available to assist local governments in updating their comprehensive plans. She reported on the status of the Regional Planning Councils' proposed legislation to update the Statewide Regional Evacuation Plans for all RPC regions. Ms. Steed reported that staff continues to work on a number of projects including Post Disaster Recovery for which a presentation will be made at a future Council meeting. The FRCA Monthly Report was distributed in the Council's Agenda Packet.

AGENDA ITEM #14 OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Thompson reported that the Hardee County Economic Development Authority (EDA) created a partnership in 2010 with Rapid Systems from Tampa to upgrade the county's broadband service. That technology is currently being upgraded to provide 5G, which is 100 megabytes of service to all parts of Hardee County.

Pat Steed stated that Broadband is a national topic of concern, particularly in rural areas. She has shared the Hardee County experience in providing countywide Broadband in a rural county with many other regions looking for Broadband solutions.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Steed introduced two new employees – Kyle Emanuel, the Council's new Communications Coordinator, and Brenda Torres, the new Community Planner.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 12, 2019 in Polk County at Warner University Board Room, Lake Wales, 9:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Mike Thompson, Chairman
April 10, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes