



Central Florida Regional Planning Council

August 14, 2019

CareerSource Heartland

5901 US Hwy 27 South, Suite 1 | Sebring, FL

9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Chairman 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
Commissioner Don Elwell, Highlands County
Donna Howerton, Highlands County Gubernatorial Appointee; Highlands County School Board
Commissioner Bryant Culpepper, Okeechobee County
City Commissioner Bob Jarriel, City of Okeechobee
Commissioner Rick Wilson, Polk County
City Commissioner Bill Read, City of Lakeland
Jeff Kincart, Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ben Dunn, Highlands County Development Services Director, Ex-officio
Elizabeth "Libby" Maxwell-Pigman, South Fla. Water Management District, Ex-officio
Jon Inglehart for Mary Yeargan, Department of Environmental Protection, Ex-officio

Members absent:

Jackie Tucker, DeSoto County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mayor John Shoop, City of Sebring
City Commissioner Morris West, City of Hanes City, Ridge League of Cities
City Commissioner Nathaniel Birdsong, City of Winter Haven
June Fisher, DeSoto County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Todd Miller, Hardee County Planning 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
Cindy Rodriguez, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Ex-officio

AGENDA ITEM #1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

AGENDA ITEM #2 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

A. June 12, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes

Chair Thompson asked if there were any changes to the June 12, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

There being none, Buddy Mansfield moved to approve the June 12, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. Keith Keene seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. June 2019 Financial Report

Pat Steed reviewed the Statement of Activities and Statement of Net Assets for the month ended June 30, 2019.

MOTION

Buddy Mansfield moved to accept the June 2019 Financial Report as presented. Don Elwell seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3 HIGHLANDS COUNTY ACTIVITIES REPORT

Highlands County Administrator Randy Vosburg, presented a summary of the County's major projects including: Hurricane Irma's ongoing recovery efforts and challenges; the status of the Sebring Parkway Phase II A-B and III; and Highlands County's efforts to bring their website into ADA compliance. Mr. Vosburg reported on economic development projects including the International Plastics Recycling Company which manufactures commercial garbage bags. He stated that a grant was received by the City of Avon Park to extend utilities north of the City. The newly located \$240 million Nucor Steel Florida facility in Frostproof is expected to create 250 new jobs for the area at an average annual wage of \$66,000 and would be served by these utility extensions. He reported that Avon Park was selected as one of only three communities to participate in Duke Energy's 2019 Site Readiness Program with a 120-acre parcel in north Avon Park. The Children's Advocacy Center received their re-accreditation and the Healthy Families Highlands program received a reaccreditation this year. Mr. Vosburg discussed Highlands County's homeless population and how their community has joined together to address the problem. He reported that the first phase of the Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District, which is an above ground treatment area that captures and treats runoff before it goes into

the system and eventually into Lake Okeechobee, is expected to be completed in the next couple weeks. He discussed the transition from a total volunteer firefighter program to a combination of volunteer and paid firefighters. Mr. Vosburg concluded with a review of the County's Budgetary issues.

Questions and discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #4 POST DISASTER RECOVERY UPDATE

Curtis Knowles, CFRPC staff, provided an update regarding Post Disaster Recovery efforts following Hurricane Irma in September, 2017 including current damage assessments and statistics, and identification of ongoing issues. He reported on the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 and its provisions as well as its intent to reduce the complexity of dealing with FEMA by acknowledging shared responsibility for disaster response and recovery. The EDA created an Economic Development Assistance Programs Grant, which allowed the CFRPC to apply based on Highlands and Polk Counties being listed as Tier II Counties most impacted by Hurricane Irma. The CFRPC was awarded this grant which funds his position. Since then, the EDA has provided a grant opportunity for the Regional Planning Councils to hire their own Regional Disaster Resilience Coordinator position. Mr. Knowles discussed the long-term recovery groups created for Highlands and Polk Counties after Hurricane Irma. He reviewed the funding programs and opportunities that were created to assist citizens, and highlighted the accomplishments made to date, along with foreseeable future needs.

Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #5 HEARTLAND 2060 SUMMITS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Pat Steed, Executive Director, stated that in 2007 the CFRPC came together with local governments, stakeholders, and property owners of the inland counties of the region to work together in an effort to guide future growth and build a resilient future for the region. An update to the Heartland 2060 Initiative is underway and she briefed the Council on plans for the two Heartland 2060 Summits that are scheduled. The first summit will be held on September 20, 2019 in Polk County at the Polk State College Center for Public Safety Campus in Winter Haven and the second summit is planned for November 13, 2019 in Highlands County at the Lake Placid Town Hall. CFRPC was awarded two Technical Assistance Grants from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to conduct community engagement and to update population and forecast the economy to the year 2060.

AGENDA ITEM #6 FY 19/20 COMMUNITY PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT AND COMPETITIVE FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

Pat Steed, Executive Director, provided an update regarding the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) FY19/20 Community Planning Technical Assistance Grants and Competitive Florida Partnership Awards in the region. Out of 95 grant applications submitted, DEO awarded 19 grants totaling approximately \$750,000 which is less than half the funds normally awarded in previous years. Seven of the 19 local governments receiving these grants are located in the Florida Panhandle due to impacts from Hurricane Michael. Ms. Steed reviewed the grants that were awarded within the CFRPC region, which included two Technical Assistance Grants. One was to CFRPC to conduct Phase II of the Heartland 2060 Update, and the second was to the City of Frostproof to study how best to expand the City's sewage treatment plant and effluent disposal capacity. The City of Ft. Meade and Okeechobee County were granted Competitive Florida Partnership grants and staff looks forward to working with these communities on their economic development activities.

AGENDA ITEM #7 ADOPT RESOLUTION 2019-8A

Ms. Steed presented Resolution 2019-8A which authorizes the Executive Director to sign and administer the Community Planning Technical Assistance grant that was just discussed.

MOTION

Rick Wilson moved to adopt Resolution 2019-8A authorizing the Executive Director to sign and administer the Community Planning Technical Assistance grant as presented. Bill Read seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #8 ADOPT RESOLUTION 2019-8B

Marybeth Soderstrom, CFRPC staff, stated that FDOT has awarded a new Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) for FTA 5311 funds to the CFRPC for DeSoto Arcadia Regional Transit (DART) operations associated with the provision of public transportation services in DeSoto County. The funds will be used by the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) to operate the DeSoto County DART system. The funds have previously been awarded to DeSoto County, however, they have opted to turn the administration of the program over to CFRPC. Resolution 2019-8B authorizes the Council to enter into this grant agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and to authorize the Executive Director to sign and administer the PTGA on modifications to that agreement.

MOTION

Rick Wilson moved to adopt Resolution 2019-8B authorizing the Council to enter into a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and to authorize the Executive Director to sign and administer the Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA). Bill Read seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Marybeth Soderstrom, CFRPC staff, briefed the Council on current activities of the Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO). The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is scheduled to meet on August 21, 2019 in Sebring and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is scheduled to meet on August 29 in Sebring. The HRTPO Board is scheduled to meet on September 18, 2019 in Sebring. Staff will be presenting the safety element of the Transportation Trends Report for 2019. The Board will also be discussing the Heartland 2060 update as it relates to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update for 2045. Staff will be looking at current population and employment projections and working with FDOT to develop a regional model, which will include new roadways that will be needed by 2045 and alternative modes of travel. Ms. Soderstrom also reminded the Board that the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) planning program is now under the purview of HRTPO, where the vehicle fleet and Federal grants are under CFRPC. Staff works jointly on both programs.

AGENDA ITEM #10 UPDATE ON MULTI-MODAL CORRIDORS OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE (M-CORES)

Pat Steed, HRTPO staff, stated that the Southwest-Central Florida Connector corridor is proposed to go through the Heartland, directly impacting all CFRPC Counties except Okeechobee. The Task Force for this corridor has been appointed by the FDOT Secretary with 45 members from State Agencies and Commissions, environmental groups, and officials from local governments across the Heartland. She presented a list of representatives from the CFRPC Region serving on the Southwest-Central Florida Connector Task Force. Those members included Secretary, L.K. Nandam who will represent FDOT District One and serve as Chair of the Task Force. The HRTPO appointed Hardee County Commissioner Colon Lambert; the Polk TPO appointed Winter Haven City Commissioner Nathaniel Birdsong; Commissioner Elton Langford was appointed from DeSoto County; Commissioner Mike Thompson was appointed from Hardee County; Commissioner Ron Handley was appointed from Highlands County; Commissioner Rick Wilson was appointed from Polk County and she, as Executive Director, was appointed by the Council to represent CFRPC. Three (3) of these appointments also serve on the CFRPC, along with the CFRPC Executive Director. The

official notification has been issued and the first meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at the Tampa Convention Center. There are six more meetings scheduled for the coming year.

Council Attorney Norman White discussed the Sunshine Law in detail. He presented Government in the Sunshine Requirements and the complexities of this Task Force Board deferring to DFOT legal counsel to guide the Task Force on these matters.

Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Chair Thompson stated that ten (10) performance evaluations were returned by Council members. The Executive Director received nothing less than "Excellent" ratings, with a couple of "not personally observed". He stated that the comments made by Council members on their evaluation forms were all extremely positive, and the evaluation forms were available for anyone who wanted to review them. Chair Thompson thanked Ms. Steed for her outstanding leadership as the Council's Executive Director.

Ms. Steed thanked the Council and stated that she felt blessed to have a wonderful Council and staff to work with.

AGENDA ITEM #12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. FRCA August Policy Board Meeting

Pat Steed presented the FRCA Monthly Activity Report for July 2018. She reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for August 15 and 16, 2019 in Orlando, FL in conjunction with the Florida League of Cities annual conference. The Policy Board Members are Jackie Tucker, Buddy Mansfield, Nathaniel Birdsong, and Neda Cobb, Alternate. She asked members to see her at the end of this meeting to review the FRCA Policy Board agenda, which is noticed on the Agenda.

Ms. Steed added that it is a privilege working with this group of Council members and current staff. Each year staff participates in the United Way Campaign and this year exceeded last year's record for contributions. 100% of staff participates in giving for the eighth year. She thanked Marybeth Soderstrom, CFRPC staff, for successfully leading the CFRPC 2019 United Way Campaign.

AGENDA ITEM #13 OTHER BUSINESS

Bryan Culpepper announced that August 13 was Okeechobee County's first Bovine Sale at the new Cattleman's Livestock facility on Hwy 68, and he invited members to stop by to tour the new facility. Also, Bass Pro is on scheduled with their new facility in Okeechobee.

He suggested that all members be given an opportunity to share information about their city or county at each meeting.

Libby Pigman, South Florida Water Management District, announced that a REDI Meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2019 in Okeechobee at the Williamson Center IRSC at 10:00 a.m. DEP is hosting a TNVL meeting for the B-Map in Highlands County, on August 28, 2019 at Bert Harris Ag-Center. DEP appropriated \$40 million for alternate water supply and water conservation projects. They have allowed a two-week period to apply for those projects, which is closing on August 16. She urged members to apply if they had a project to submit.

Jon Inglehart, Department of Environmental Protection, stated that he sits as a Gubernatorial Appointee on the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) as well as attends CFRPC on behalf of Mary Yeargan. He was excited to see the Heartland 2060 Initiative includes Glades and Hendry Counties. CFPPC and the HRTPO assumed the TD Program Planning from Glades and Hendry Counties last year from the SWFRPC. He stated that he enjoys attending the CFRPC meetings because it has such a good Board with a great staff and a lot of useful information is shared.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 9, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. in Okeechobee at the Okeechobee County Courthouse.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Thompson, Chairman
August 14, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes