



Central Florida Regional Planning Council

February 12, 2020

DeSoto County Administration Building, Commission Board Room
201 East Oak Street | Arcadia | 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

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

New Member Oath of Office

Council attorney Norman White administered the oath of office to new members Chad McLeod from the City of Lakeland and Bobby Keefe from the city of Okeechobee.

Roll was called with the following members present:

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
Commissioner Bryant Culpepper, Okeechobee County
City Commissioner, Bobby Keefe, City of Okeechobee
Commissioner Rick Wilson, Polk County
City Commissioner Nathaniel Birdsong, City of Winter Haven
City Commissioner Chad McLeod, City of Lakeland
Jeff Kincart, Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee
June Fisher, DeSoto County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Jon Ingelhardt, Department of Environmental Protection, Ex-officio
Todd Miller, Hardee County Planning Director, Ex-officio

Members absent:

Vice-Chair, Commissioner Don Elwell, Highlands County
Commissioner Mike Thompson, Hardee County
City Commissioner Charlie Lowrance, City of Sebring
Donna Howerton, Highlands County Gubernatorial Appointee; Highlands Co School Board
City Commissioner Morris West, City of Hanes City, Ridge League of Cities
Ben Dunn, Highlands County Development Services Director, Ex-officio
Bill Royce, Okeechobee County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Chandra Frederick, 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
Cindy Rodriguez, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Ex-officio



Announcements:

Pat Steed, Executive Director, thanked DeSoto County Commissioner Buddy Mansfield and DeSoto County Gubernatorial Appointee Jackie Tucker for providing the donuts, juice and coffee for the meeting. She reminded members to stay after the meeting is adjourned for the annual group photo.

AGENDA ITEM #1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

AGENDA ITEM #2 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

A. December 11, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes

Chair Cobb asked if there were any changes to the December 11, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

There being none, Keith Keen moved to approve the December 11, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. Jackie Tucker seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. January 2020 Financial Report

Pat Steed reviewed the Statement of Activities and Statement of Net Assets for the month ended January 31, 2020.

MOTION

Rick Wilson moved to accept the January 2020 Financial Report as presented. Buddy Mansfield seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3 DESOTO COUNTY ACTIVITIES REPORT

Mandy Hines, DeSoto County Administrator, reported that Nuco Citrus processing facility is moving forward and is expected to be fully functional this year. DeSoto County recently amended their application to the Governor's Florida Job Growth Grant for the Nuco Citrus project, in partnership with South Florida State College and Nuco Citrus, for a Citrus Processing Certification program. DeSoto County is working with FERO and other counties in the region to develop a Strategic Economic Development Plan. Ms. Hines stated that in 2014 a Competitive Community Analysis was conducted by a Corporate Site Selector from which immediate action items were developed with the intent to improve the region's ability

to navigate the corporate site selection process by revealing the criteria a company is looking for in a location. The Analysis also developed an immediate marketing strategy that identifies, organizes and communicates the region's value proposition for capital investment, and to identify and develop a strategic initiative to solve critical impediments within the region to corporate site selection. The validated targeted industries for DeSoto County are agriculture and agri-business, life sciences and medical. DeSoto County is looking forward to using this knowledge to develop a useful plan that mirrors the regional plan. Ms. Hines reported on the Mosaic mining application status, saying that after DeSoto County denied the application in 2018 for rezoning, an alternative dispute resolution process took place. In April 2019 DeSoto County and Mosaic came to a settlement agreement. Ms. Hines reported on two significant road resurfacing projects in DeSoto County. They are CR 763 and CR 661, both of which are SCOP and SCRAP projects totaling \$9.5 million. She stated that DeSoto County has contracted with CFRPC to assist them in catching up the backlogged projects in their Development Department. Ms. Hines concluded by showing a short video that was prepared for and entered into HGTV's Hometown Takeover contest where HGTV is going to select a small town to renovate. She thanked the DeSoto County Commission and the Arcadia City Commission for their support for this application. The video can be found on their website.

Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #4 GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE PRESENTATION BY NORMAN WHITE, COUNCIL ATTORNEY

Norman White, Council Attorney, presented an overview of Florida's Government in the Sunshine laws, rules, and regulations which govern Council Members and their communications. He discussed proper use of social media to avoid a violation. Mr. White also mentioned Florida's Public Records law and what is required of Council members.

Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #5 RESOLUTION APPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT AGREEMENT (PTGA) WITH FDOT FOR 5310 FUNDS

Marybeth Soderstrom, Transportation Director, presented Resolution 2020-2A which authorizes the Council to enter into a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) for a Section 5310 grant from FDOT. This program provides funds for transportation for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities and will be used in the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program, by the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for services in DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties.

MOTION

Buddy Mansfield moved to adopt Resolution 2020-2A as presented. Jackie Tucker seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #6 AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE – APPLICATION FOR COMPATIBLE USE PLAN

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Deputy Director, stated that the Avon Park Air Force Range Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) was completed in 2010. The US Office of Economic Adjustment, Department of Defense, recommends updating the JLUS, which is now known as a Compatible Use Plan, since the Study is more than five years old. Resolution 2020-2B nominates the Avon Park Air Force Range for this update and authorizes the Executive Director to apply for a grant to develop the Compatible Use Plan.

MOTION

Bryant Culpepper moved to adopt Resolution 2020-2B as presented. Jackie Tucker seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #7 ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Pat Steed, Executive Director, discussed the services staff provides to municipalities within the Central Florida Region. At each Council meeting throughout the year a different program is discussed to keep the Council updated since projects change often. At this meeting, Ms. Steed provided an overview of economic conditions and forecasts for the State. Her presentation included information on the state's shifting of key economic variables and major economic drivers. She presented graphs showing how Florida's economy, employment and population is growing and provided information on the average annual wage by county, home ownership rates, and how Baby Boomers in Florida affect the economy.

Shannon McPherson, Program Director, presented data on the State of the Region. The CFRPC is designated by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) as the Economic Development District (EDD) for the Region. 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. Staff also provides grant writing and technical assistance, and economic analysis utilizing Regional Economic Modeling, Inc (REMI) software to local governments for economic development projects within the region. Ms. McPherson presented information on the economic performance measures that are tracked on an ongoing basis and are updated annually. She presented a variety of demographic and economic statistics for each county in the region.

Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #8 HEARTLAND 2060 UPDATE

Pat Steed, Executive Director, stated that the Heartland 2060 initiative is a visioning effort that began in 2007 by the seven counties of the Heartland to develop a plan for a resilient region. This data helped support the HRTPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and is in the process of being updated. A summit was held in September 2019 in Polk County and a second summit was held in Highlands County. Another summit is being planned for May 2020. Limited information can be found on the website. Contact staff for more information.

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

Marybeth Soderstrom, Transportation Director, updated the Council on current HRTPO activities of which the Council staffs. FDOT recently conducted its annual certification review with no new findings or corrective actions. Staff is continuing work on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that is due March 2021. Ms. Soderstrom stated that CFRPC took over the responsibility of the DeSoto Arcadia Rural Transit (DART) bus system and its grant funds in September 2019. DART is a circulator bus that runs in a loop within the City of Arcadia. After studying the bus system with partners and riders, staff was able to put together a schedule that added two stops at facilities that were not being served, and the bus repeats the loop every 60 minutes. The goal was to continue the service and make it as reliable as possible within the funding restraints. Also, new branding and a new wrap for the bus is being developed.

AGENDA ITEM #10 FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION (FRCA) JANUARY POLICY BOARD MEETING REPORT

Pat Steed, Executive Director, stated that the FRCA Policy Board meets twice each year. The last meeting was held in January 2020 in Tallahassee. The CFRPC Policy Board members attending were Commissioner Buddy Mansfield, Gubernatorial Appointee Jackie Tucker and Winter Haven City Commissioner Nathaniel Birdsong. She stated that traditionally the January meeting is the Annual Meeting and it includes an overview of activities that took place in the previous year. Ms. Steed shared that overview of activities with the Council and presented highlights of the FRCA Annual Report, which is developed by Council staff.

Jackie Tucker stated that the information presented by the Florida Chamber was of particular interest as it relates to the growth in Florida.

AGENDA ITEM #11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Activities

Pat Steed, Executive Director, reported that there was a line item to update the Statewide Hurricane Evacuation Plan in the Governor's budget that directly effects the Council. If funded, the Council will work with the Department of Emergency Management to update the Statewide Evacuation Plan.

B. Multi-Use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) Task Force Update

Ms. Steed stated that several Council members serve on this committee that covers the proposed South-Central Connector Corridor. An M-CORES meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2020 in Moore Haven. An M-CORES Task Force meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2020 and a Community Open House is scheduled for March 26, 2020 both in Sebring.

C. Current Local Government Projects

Ms. Steed presented a brief overview of a list of projects staff is currently working to complete for local governments, including Planning Advisory Services (PAS) agreements, GIS mapping, grant work, and comprehensive plan updates.

D. FRCA Monthly Report

Ms. Steed presented the FRCA Monthly Progress Report which provided information on current FRCA activities.

AGENDA ITEM #12 OTHER BUSINESS

Bobby Keefe thanked Ms. Steed and staff for their work on the City of Okeechobee's DEO Grants.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 8, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hardee County Commission Chambers in Wauchula.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wauchula City Commissioner Neda Cobb, Chair
February 12, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes