



Central Florida Regional Planning Council

April 14, 2021 | 9:30 a.m.

Winter Haven Fieldhouse & Conference Center, Room B,
210 Cypress Gardens Blvd., Winter Haven FL

Meeting Minutes

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

Norman White, Council Attorney, administered the Oath of Office to Okeechobee County Commissioner Kelly Owens, and to Hardee County Commissioner Judith George.

Roll was called with the following members present:

Chair, Commissioner Neda Cobb, City of Wauchula
Vice-Chair, Councilmember Keith Keene, City of Arcadia
Commissioner Kathleen Rapp, Highlands County
Jackie Tucker, DeSoto County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Judith George, Hardee County
Commissioner Kelly Owens, Okeechobee County
Commissioner Rick Wilson, Polk County
Commissioner Nathaniel Birdsong, City of Winter Haven
Commissioner Chad Mcleod, City of Lakeland
Commissioner Morris West, City of Hanes City, Ridge League of Cities
Leah Sauls, Highlands County Development Services Director, Ex-officio

Members absent:

Commissioner Charlie Lowrance, City of Sebring
Donna Howerton, Highlands County Gubernatorial Appointee; Highlands County School Board
Commissioner Bobby Keefe, City of Okeechobee
Jeff Kincart, Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee
June Fisher, DeSoto County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Todd Miller, Hardee County Planning 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
Mary Yeargan, Department of Environmental Protection, Ex-officio
Cindy Rodriguez, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Ex-officio

Announcements

Pat Steed, Executive Director, announced that the Council would be sending former Okeechobee County Commissioner Bryant Culpepper a Certification of Appreciation for the years he served on the Council. He resigned his position on the Commission in March.

Ms. Steed stated that long-time DeSoto County Commissioner and Central Florida Regional Planning Council member Buddy Mansfield passed away in February. He had served on the Council since 2008. He served as Chair of the Council for two years, Vice-Chair for two years, and on many of the Council's committees over the years.

Ms. Steed stated that DeSoto County Commissioner Terry Hill passed away in January. Commissioner Hill served as Chair of the Council's Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Local Coordinating Board (LCB).

Both Commissioners will be missed.

Winter Haven Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Birdsong welcomed the Council to Winter Haven and to the City's Advent Health Fieldhouse & Conference Center. The facility recently underwent extensive renovations of the existing structure, along with additions, making it a \$25 million recreational complex. It was funded not only by the City of Winter Haven, but also by Polk County and with Tourist Development tax. He added that the Fieldhouse is the training center of the Lakeland Magic and has been a venue for nationally televised events.

AGENDA ITEM #1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

AGENDA ITEM #2 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

A. December 9, 2020, Council Meeting Minutes

Chair Cobb asked if there were any changes to the December 9, 2020, Council Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

There being none, Rick Wilson moved to approve the Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. Morris West seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Financial Report

Pat Steed reviewed the Statement of Activities and Statement of Net Assets for the month ended March 31, 2021.

MOTION

Keith Keen moved to accept the March 2021 Financial Report as presented. Morris West seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3 WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Pat Steed provided an overview of CFRPC programs and activities, including the Heartland 2060 future visioning effort, Heartland Rides, and the Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO). She reported on the Council's funding, and the regional Return on Investment (ROI) for FY 2019-2020. Ms. Steed also reported on the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA), its Policy Board and its mission. Each member was given a 2019-2020 FRCA Annual Report containing information regarding all Regional Planning Councils in Florida.

AGENDA ITEM #4 UPDATE ON PROGRAMS

This item was postponed and will be presented at a later date.

AGENDA ITEM #5 FY 2021/22 COMPETITIVE FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP GRANT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT UPDATES

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Deputy Director, provided information regarding two anticipated funding announcements from the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for Competitive Florida Partnership Grants and Community Planning Technical Assistance Grants for FY 2021/22. These 12-month grants are expected to be awarded in July 2021. The Council is available to provide assistance to local governments in applying for and administering the grants. She added that these grants are cost reimbursable, and highlighted example projects that have been completed using these grant funds in previous years. The grants offer an opportunity to complete needed projects where no funding is available.

Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #6 ADOPT RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING APPLICATIONS FOR DEO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) GRANTS AND FOR COMPETITIVE FLORIDA GRANTS

A. Resolution 2021-4A

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury stated that Florida Legislature is expected to approve a bill requiring all local governments to adopt a Property Rights Element as part of Comprehensive Plans. That element will be the Property Rights Element. Resolution 2021-4A would authorize the Executive Director to apply for and administer a State of

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) FY 2021/22 Community Planning Technical Assistance grant to develop a model Comprehensive Plan Property Rights Element (SB496) to be utilized by local governments in the Heartland.

MOTION

Rick Wilson moved to adopt Resolution 2021-4A as presented. Morris West seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution 2021-4B

Ms. Codo-Salisbury stated that Resolution 2021-4B authorizes the Executive Director to apply for and administer a State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) FY 2021/22 Community Planning Technical Assistance grant that would assist communities in the Heartland.

MOTION

Morris West moved to adopt Resolution 2021-4B as presented. Keith Keen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution 2021-4C

Ms. Codo-Salisbury stated that Resolution 2021-4C authorizes the Executive Director to apply for and administer a State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) FY 2021/22 Competitive Florida Partnership Grant to assist a local government with an Economic Development Strategy and Disaster Resiliency Plan.

MOTION

Rick Wilson moved to adopt Resolution 2021-4C as presented. Morris West seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #7 HEARTLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (HRTPO) ACTIVITIES

Pat Steed, Executive Director, briefed the Council on activities of the six-county Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO). She announced that the required five-year update to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was adopted in March 2021. The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is in the process of being updated. The draft FY 2021/22 – 2025/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is currently being developed and includes federal, state and locally funded transportation projects in the region for the five-year period. She added that more detailed

information regarding the HRTPO activity may be obtained by going to:
www.heartlandregionaltpo.org.

AGENDA ITEM #8 RURAL PUBLIC TRANSIT GRANT PROGRAMS

Pat Steed, Executive Director, discussed the role of the Council in administering rural grants for DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties; the Council owns and manages a fleet of vehicles used in the Transportation Disadvantaged program; and the Council is responsible for the Mobility Management program for the Heartland region, including Glades and Hendry Counties.

Ms. Steed stated that FDOT has proposed three new Public Transit Grant Agreements (PTGAs) that require Council approval.

A. Resolution 2021-4D

Ms. Steed stated that Resolution 2021-4D authorizes the Executive Director to enter into and administer the PTGA for FTA Section 5311 Rural Transit Grant funds for DeSoto County to support their DeSoto Arcadia Rural Transit (DART) program.

MOTION

Kelly Owens moved to adopt Resolution 2021-4D as presented. Rick Wilson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution 2021-4E

Ms. Steed stated that Resolution 2021-4E authorizes the Executive Director to enter into and administer the PTGA for FTA Section 5311 Rural Transit Grant funds for DeSoto, Highlands, Hardee, and Okeechobee Counties, which supports the door-to-door transportation service.

MOTION

Chad McLeod moved to adopt Resolution 2021-4E as presented. Keith Keen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution 2021-4F

Ms. Steed stated that Resolution 2021-F authorizes the Executive Director to enter into and administer the PTGA for FTA Section 5311 Rural Transit Grant funds for Mobility Management activities.

MOTION

West Morris moved to adopt Resolution 2021-4F as presented. Rick Wilson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution 2021-4G

Ms. Steed stated that Resolution 2021-4G authorizes the Executive Director to apply for and administer the National Rural Transit Assistance Program (NRTAP) for Community Rides Grant Program funds. This is a new grant program that does not require matching funds. The funding will be used for help services within the region.

MOTION

Nathaniel Birdsong moved to adopt Resolution 2021-4G as presented. Jackie Tucker seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Update

Ms. Steed presented several pieces of legislation affecting the region that were passed and will be moving forward. She stated that the proposed legislation that would have dissolved Regional Planning Councils did not pass and will not be moving forward. There were seven Broadband bills filed that remained uncertain.

Kelly Owens stated that the Small County Coalition had been working diligently on the subject of affordable and reliable Broadband for the region. She stated she would share a letter that was sent to Senators with staff so for forwarding to Council members.

B. Federal Update

Ms. Steed provided information regarding the three Covid-19 Federal Relief Acts, the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2), the American Rescue Plan Act – EDA, and the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Earmarks Guidance.

C. Florida Regional Councils Association (FRAC) Update

Ms. Steed provided the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRAC) monthly activity report for March 2021. The next FRCA Policy Board is scheduled to meet in July in Tampa.

AGENDA ITEM #10 OTHER BUSINESS

Kathy Rapp stated she was interested in learning more about the fleet of vehicles the Council owns and manages for the Transportation Disadvantaged program.

Ms. Steed explained that the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) is a private-for-profit and as such is not eligible to receive the Federal operating or capital grants for rural public transit in the service area. To enhance services, the Council applies for and

receives the grant funds, then contracts with CTC for utilization within the coordinated system.

Chair Cobb, President of the Ridge League of Cities, announced that they conducted a meeting in early April in person with 12 members in attendance. Haines City is hosting the next dinner meeting where they hope to introduce the six Ridge Vo Tech Scholarship students selected to receive \$1,250 each from the Ridge League of Cities. She announced that Morris West is moving from treasurer to secretary of Ridge League of Cities for the coming year. The next Ridge League of Cities board meeting will be held in August in Orlando in conjunction with the Florida League of Cities conference, where two scholarships of \$1,000 will be given to attend the next Florida League of Cities conference.

Chair Cobb announced that Morris West is also running for the 2nd Vice-President position of the Florida League of Cities.

Morris West added that an in-person annual Ridge League of Cities conference is planned for August 2021 in Orlando, and two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded from the Ridge League of Cities.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June 9, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. in Highlands County at the Sebring Civic Center.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Neda Cobb, Chair
April 14, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes