

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2018 MEETING**

The meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was held on September 20, 2018 at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council-1400 Colonial Boulevard, Suite #1 in Fort Myers, Florida. Chair Perry called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Commissioner Wills then gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Margaret Wuerstle conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum was not present at the time. A quorum was reached later in the meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Charlotte County:** Commissioner Ken Doherty, Commissioner Joe Tiseo,  
Vice-Mayor Gary Wein

**Collier County:** Commissioner Bill McDaniel,

**Glades County:** Commissioner Donna Storter-Long, Commissioner Donald Strenth,  
Mr. Thomas Perry

**Hendry County:** Commissioner Emma Byrd, Commissioner Mitchell Wills,  
Commissioner Julie Wilkins, Vice-Mayor Michael Atkinson,  
Mr. Mel Karau

**Lee County:** Councilman Greg DeWitt

**Sarasota County:** Commissioner Willie Shaw, Councilmember Mitzie Fielder

**Ex-Officio:** Mr. Phil Flood-SFWMD, Mr. Jon Iglehart-FDEP,  
Mr. Dennis Ragosta- SWFWMD, Mr. Wayne Gather, FDOT

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**Charlotte County:** Mr. Don McCormick, Ms. Suzanne Graham

**Collier County:** Commissioner Penny Taylor, Councilman Reg Buxton,  
Mr. Bob Mulhere

**Glades County:** Councilwoman Pat Lucas

**Hendry County:** None

**Lee County:** Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Commissioner Brian Hamman,  
Vice-Mayor Mick Denham, Councilman Fred Burson,  
Councilwoman Anita Cereceda

**Sarasota County:** Commissioner Charles Hines, Commissioner Michael Moran,  
Mr. Felipe Colón

**Ex-Officio:** None

**AGENDA ITEM #4  
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #5  
AGENDA**

There were no changes made to the September 20, 2018 agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM #9  
PRESENTATIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9(b)  
Southwest Florida Full-Scale HazMat Exercise**

The Council moved to non-voting items while trying to obtain a quorum. Ms. Wuerstle introduced a video on the Southwest Florida Full-Scale HazMat Exercise that took place in Charlotte County in June 2018. The exercise included response teams from Charlotte County, Sarasota County, and the City of Cape Coral. The training was paid for using the SWFRPC's HMEP (Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness) funds. Ms. Wuerstle announced that Mr. C.J. Kammerer has recently taken over the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) and HMEP programs.

Ms. Wuerstle then showed the RPC's annual report video for 2016-17. The video included reports on the RPC's mission and statutory requirements, the economic disaster recovery workshops the SWFRPC hosted along with EDA, the ecosystem services grant, the MLK Corridor in Fort Myers, the LEPC, the LaBelle marketing brochure, and the RPC's finances.

**AGENDA ITEM #9(a)  
Council Relevancy**

Chair Perry explained that the Relevancy Committee has been meeting and has made broad and large strides forward. He invited everyone on the Council to participate in the Committee. The Committee will meet again before the next Council meeting.

Commissioner Wilkins commented on the LaBelle brochure portion of the annual report video. She explained that she requested an interactive map portion added to the City's website.

Commissioner Doherty agreed that the Relevancy Committee has made significant progress in recent months. He asked if the Sarasota and Lee County Commissioners received the updated draft of the amended Interlocal Agreement(IA). Chair Perry confirmed that they did received the

amended IA. Commissioner Doherty stressed the importance of having a representative from those counties involved in this process and thanked Ms. Wuerstle for her work on the edits. He suggested adding a summary of the proposed voting membership.

**AGENDA ITEM #10  
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEM #10(d)  
Disaster Recovery Coordinator Update**

Ms. Wuerstle introduced Mr. Sean McCabe as the RPC's new Post Disaster Recovery Coordinator. Mr. McCabe gave a presentation on the work he has been doing. He will be working with the chambers of commerce to do business continuity training. The region's long-term recovery groups are working on housing repairs. Disaster supplemental funds are still available, and more funding sources are still waiting to be released. He identified several strategies outlined in various after-action plans.

Vice-Mayor Wein explained that he lost his home during Hurricane Charley in 2004. It took him two years to rebuild. He stressed that this is a long-term process and Punta Gorda still has not fully recovered from Hurricane Charley 14 years ago.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(c)  
Promise Zone Update**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the RPC's previous Promise Zone Coordinator, Mr. Aidan Bandy, has taken a job with Lee County. Ms. Wuerstle will take over the Promise Zone herself. New VISTA volunteers have been added to the team, one with the Harry Chapin Food Bank, one with the Panira Clinic in Collier County, one with Dress for Success, and two in ACT (Abuse Counseling and Treatment).

**At this point in the meeting the Council reached a quorum and moved to voting items.**

**AGENDA ITEM #6  
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 21, 2018 MEETINGS**

**A motion was made by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the June 21, 2018 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Wein and passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #7  
REGIONAL IMPACT**

**AGENDA ITEM #7(a)  
Palmer Ranch Increment 28 Staff Assessment**

Mr. Dan Trescott presented the item. He added that, after reviewing one more increment, Palmer Ranch will be completed after being approved in 1982. He also explained that the changes in the state statutes should not affect the master applications. The RPC has agreements in place and the

law states that those agreements will remain. He will be meeting with Babcock Ranch soon to see how they want to proceed.

**A motion was made by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the Palmer Ranch Increment 28 Staff Assessment as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karau and passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #8  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Wein to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McDaniel and passed unanimously.**

Ms. Wuerstle added that the CEDS annual update shows almost \$100 million in investment in the region.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)  
Budget Amendments**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the budget amendments. The only change is that the budget now shows the value of all assets rather than just cash assets. This was a change recommended by the auditors. Chair Perry noted that the RPC ended the year with a positive net income.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Storter-Long to approve the budget amendment as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McDaniel and passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #10(b)  
May-July 2018 Financials**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the financials. The July financials showed an unaudited net income of \$21,000. She anticipated ending the year close to zero due to the unexpected expenses of the server crashes.

**A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Wein to approve the financials as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karau and passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #10(e)  
Biosolids Resolution**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that FRCA has asked all the RPCs to submit a resolution of support on the biosolids issue. Mr. Jim Beever explained the resolution asks to explore other uses for biosolids besides fertilizers and to take those other options as they become available. This resolution is consistent with a resolution signed by the Treasure Coast RPC.

Commissioner McDaniel asked if the resolution has been sent to the counties first. Ms. Wuerstle answered that the resolution was not distributed outside of the Council agenda list.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDaniel to table the resolution until it has been distributed to county/city staff for comment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilkins and passed.

Chair Perry stated that the resolution will be sent out to the counties and cities for comment and the item will be voted on at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Iglehart added that FDEP has just created a task force to look at this issue.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(c)  
Promise Zone Update**

Ms. Wuerstle continued the Promise Zone update. She introduced two new VISTA volunteers working at the RPC, Ms. Yvonne Hill and Mr. Michael Bennett. Mr. Bennett will be working on the opioid issue and Ms. Hill will be working on grants. She has just finished an application for the Fort Myers Enterprise Center for an accelerator project. Ms. Wuerstle added that the RPC has received a \$206,000 EDA grant for agricultural sustainability in the six-county region and a \$30,000 DEO grant for food safety plans for small growers in the Promise Zone.

**AGENDA ITEM #11  
STAFF SUMMARIES**

**AGENDA ITEM #11(a)  
Grant Activity Sheet**

This item was for informational purposes only.

**AGENDA ITEM #12  
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #12(a)  
Executive Committee**

No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(b)  
Promise Zone Steering Committee**

No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(c)  
Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management (EBABM) Committee**

Mr. Jim Beever gave the report. The EBABM met on September 13. They approved two letters of support. One for the Village of Estero's acquisition of property along the Estero River and one with recommendations to LeeTran for their mass transit coordination. They are also starting the new State of the Bay project, which is updated every five years.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(d)**  
**Quality of Life & Safety Committee**

Commissioner Shaw would like to meet with the Executive Committee to discuss the Quality of Life and Safety Committee forward.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(e)**  
**Regional Transportation Committee**

No report was given at this time. Mr. Tim Walker has retired, and Ms. Wuerstle is looking for ways to add to the Council's GIS capabilities.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(f)**  
**Council Relevancy & Restructuring Committee**

The Committee will meet again before the next Council Meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(g)**  
**Water Quality and Water Resources Management Committee**

No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #13**  
**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business brought to the Council.

**AGENDA ITEM #14**  
**STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Mr. Iglehart explained that DEP is doing a lot of sampling on the blue-green algae issue. They have authorized several trial projects. The problem is that the algae contains toxins that are released if the algae is killed. Five trials are currently underway in the region.

Vice-Mayor Wein asked if the carbon footprint is being considered for the ozone trials. Mr. Iglehart confirmed that they were. Vice-Mayor Wein also asked about open cell sponges. Mr. Iglehart spoke to Ms. Jennifer Hecker with the CHENP about that, but it has not been used at a larger scale yet.

Mr. Ragosta added that SWFWMD is working with FDEP and FWC on red tide to come up with solutions. Mote Marine Laboratory is also working on this issue. They are taking applications for their cooperative funding initiatives for FY 2020 through October 5.

Mr. Flood explained that the water levels in Lake Okeechobee are still higher than the Corp of Engineers would like to see, so they will continue with discharges. The SFWMD is trying to hold as much water north of the lake as they can. Staff is moving forward with a new emergency estuary

protection wells test project. This project would avoid damage to estuaries. The first wells will be built for the Caloosahatchee River and Kissimmee River. The C-43 reservoir is still moving forward and the EAA reservoir is awaiting Congress authorization.

Commissioner Tiseo asked why the Lake Okeechobee discharges are allowed if they are known to discharge toxic water. Chair Perry explained that the discharges are mad by the Corp of Engineers, who are not present at the meeting. Mr. Flood added that this debate is happening ate the State level and the Corp takes several factors into consideration before making discharges. Commissioner McDaniel explained that the Corp's primary consideration when making discharges is to avoid catastrophic levee failures that would lead to casualties. He added that funding is being made available to help fix these issues. Commissioner Tiseo asked if more funds should be set up to assist the communities impacted by these discharges.

Mr. McCabe added that the Village of Estero will be voting on the land acquisition tonight - September 20th.

**AGENDA ITEM #15  
COUNCIL LEGAL CONSULTANT'S COMMENTS**

No comments were made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #16  
COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

No comments were made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #17  
ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Commissioner McDaniel to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shaw and passed unanimously.**

The next meeting will be on October 18, 2018. The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

---

Commissioner Donna Storter-Long, Secretary

**The meeting was duly advertised in the September 5, 2018 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 44, Number 173.**