

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
APRIL 20, 2017 MEETING**

The meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was held on April 20, 2017 at the Charlotte Harbor Conference & Event Center in Punta Gorda, Florida. Chair Burch called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Mayor Shaw then led an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Nichole Gwinnett conducted the roll call and noted that a quorum wasn't present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlotte County: Commissioner Ken Doherty, Commissioner Joe Tiseo, Councilwoman Lynne Matthews, Mr. Don McCormick

Collier County: Commissioner Bill McDaniel, Commissioner Penny Taylor,

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

Hendry County: Commissioner Julie Wilkins

Lee County: Commissioner Frank Mann, Councilman Jim Burch, Vice-Mayor Mick Denham, Councilman Greg DeWitt, Councilmember Jim Wilson

Sarasota County: Councilman Fred Fraize, Mayor Willie Shaw, Commissioner Debbie McDowell

Ex-Officio: None

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charlotte County: Ms. Suzanne Graham

Collier County: Councilman Reg Buxton, Mr. Bob Mulhere

Glades County: Commissioner Donald Strenth, Councilwoman Pat Lucas

Hendry County: Commissioner Karson Turner, Commissioner Mitchell Wills, Vice-Mayor Michael Atkinson, Mr. Mel Karau

Lee County: Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Councilman Forrest Banks, Councilwoman Anita Cereceda, Ms. Laura Holquist

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

Ex-Officio:

Mr. Phil Flood-SFWMD, Mr. Jon Iglehart-FDEP, Mr. Stephen Walls-FDOTMs. Tara Poulton-SWFWMD

**AGENDA ITEM #4
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #5
AGENDA**

There were no changes made to the April 20, 2017 agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM #6
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2017 MEETING**

As noted on the agenda the meeting minutes from the March 16, 2017 will be presented at the May meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #7
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Wuerstle gave the report. She announced the Affordable Workshop will be held immediately following the Council meeting. She also announced the Council's Auditors will be presenting the Council's FY15-16 Audit at the May meeting.

Ms. Wuerstle gave a brief update on the Promise Zone initiative. She announced staff is currently in the process of hiring their vista volunteers. Mr. Stoltzfus is conducting interviews and other communities are posting the job descriptions. She then called upon Mr. Stoltzfus to give an update on the Promise Zone.

Chair Burch referred to the \$15,000 that is owed to the SWFRPC from FRCA. Ms. Wuerstle explained that she has been working with the auditors on the issue and at this time the \$15,000 will be written off.

Mr. Stoltzfus gave an overview of the Promise Zone initiative. He said it was moving along smoothly. He announced there have been opportunities for representatives from the Promise Zone's Education Task Force to go to the US Department of Education. He explained the US Department of Education is one the federal agencies who is most involved with the Promise Zone initiative. He noted a representative from Hendry County Schools went to Austin, Texas and also a representative from Immokalee Foundation went to Baltimore, Maryland; where they were able to have direct contact with representatives from the US Department of Education. Both representatives had stated the trips were very beneficial.

Mr. Stoltzfus announced there were two successful task force meetings held and the next meeting is scheduled for May 3 at the Glades Regional Training Center. Also, Glades County has expressed an interest in expanding programs at the training center; so we are working with the

regional training center, iTech in Immokalee, Career Source of Southwest Florida, and also the SFWMD to develop equipment operator training at the regional training center for various projects with the SFWMD.

Mr. Stoltzfus announced that a USDA grant for the City of Clewiston had been submitted to relocate utilities and other infrastructure which would allow the construction of a new Hampton Inn.

Chair Burch thanked Ms. Wuerstle and Mr. Stoltzfus for their efforts with the Promise Zone Initiative.

Ms. Wuerstle announced the Council was still one person short of a quorum; however, Commissioner Wilkins was attempting to contact other Hendry County members to determine if they would be able to participate in order to pass the action items on the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM #7(a) FRCA Monthly Report

Ms. Wuerstle noted she had distributed a letter to President Trump from FRCA. She had told FRCA that she wanted to have the Council for their review the document and determine if they were interested in supporting this document. She explained she didn't expect any comments today from the Council; however, she would appreciate it if the members would review and send any comments to her. Comments from the Council indicated that they were not comfortable with supporting the letter at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #7(b) 2016 FRCA Overview Presentation

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item. She explained the PowerPoint was included within the agenda packet and that she is giving it to the Council; however, she would not be presenting it. She then went on to explain why she wouldn't be presenting the PowerPoint presentation. The structure of FRCA is two-fold; there is a Policy Board which is made up of three members from each RPC (2 elected officials and 1 governor appointee). Then the second is the Executive Director Advisory Council (EDAC) which consists of all of the executive directors from the RPCs. FRCA meets approximately eight times each year and they discuss issues within each region.

Ms. Wuerstle explained FRCA had held a workshop a couple of years ago where issues were discussed on improvements to FRCA that would really make the organization viable to all of the RPCs. FRCA completed a rebranding process. FRCA now sends out a monthly newsletter to everyone and they are taking steps to improve communication.

Mr. McCormick asked if the SWFRPC could invite the Policy Board Chair to give the presentation at one of the RPCs future meetings. Ms. Wuerstle replied that the Council has that option.

Chair Burch stated he felt that both the Southwest and South Florida RPCs have been anxiously awaiting for someone from FRCA to come give a presentation to them. He said if the Policy Board

Chair has offered to present at an RPC meeting, that we should allow the Chair to present to our Council. He said he would support having the Chair of the Policy Board give a presentation to the SWFRPC at one of its future meetings.

Ms. Wuerstle asked the Council if anyone didn't support it and there wasn't anyone who said they wouldn't support it. She then said she would make that contact.

**AGENDA ITEM #11
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #11(a)
Budget & Finance Committee**

Mayor Shaw gave his report.

Chair Burch thanked staff for all of their efforts.

Both Mayor Shaw and Chair Burch explained how everything is a collaborative effort.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(b)
Economic Development Committee**

No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(c)
Energy & Climate Committee**

No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(d)
Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management (EBABM) Committee**

No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(e)
Executive Committee**

No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(f)
Legislative Affairs Committee**

Mr. McCormick gave his report.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(g)
Quality of Life & Safety Committee**

Mayor Shaw gave his report. He announced he would like to have the Committee meet prior to the next RPC meeting. He explained there are numerous issues throughout the communities and now that there is the Promise Zone initiative, he felt close attention needed to be paid to those regional issues.

Chair Burch directed staff to set up a Quality of Life & Safety Committee meeting the morning of the May Council meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #11(h)
Regional Transportation Committee

Ms. Wuerstle gave an overview of the meeting with the MPO directors and FDOT District 1 Secretary on March 24, 2017. She said that FDOT had agreed to work with us and provide all of the layers needed to create a Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Walker of staff has been working with FDOT's GIS staff to gather the data and start putting the plan together. She explained staff will be bringing the Plan to the Council in stages/phases in order for the Council to provide their input and guidance.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that staff has also created another map that includes all of the DRIs throughout the region, along with all of the new comprehensive plan amendments. This will give a better picture of what changes are being made throughout the region.

Commissioner McDaniel asked if that information will be distributed among the various city and county planning and zoning staff. He noted it would more important for the individual planning and zoning staff of the cities and counties to be kept updated on those types of changes than the elected officials. Ms. Wuerstle stated staff would be distributing the information to the individual planning and zoning departments throughout the region; however, it is a time consuming process. As staff obtains more information for the map, then staff will be able to update it and distribute it to the planning and zoning departments within the cities and counties.

Ms. Gwinnett announced both Commissioner Strenth and Councilman DeWitt were calling in which would make the quorum.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that she had stated to the Council in January that she would see what could be done to improve the sound system at the Council's offices so that the Council members who call into the meetings would be able to hear better and follow along with the agenda items. She explained that staff has been working with various vendors and did receive three quotes. Staff has now been meeting with the vendors to see what can be done with the existing system. Unfortunately, it is not going to be an inexpensive fix. She stated that she would bring alternatives to the Council at the May meeting.

Councilman DeWitt joined the meeting via conference call at this time, which made a quorum.

Commissioner Wilkins stated for those members who participate by conference call it is very hard to get someone's attention when they want to make a comment or ask a question.

Chair Burch stated that it is up to the Chair and staff to acknowledge those members on the phone and ask them if they have anything they wish to say.

**AGENDA ITEM #8(a)
GRANT ACTIVITY SHEET**

This item was for information only.

**AGENDA ITEM #9
CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mr. Perry to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mann.

Commissioner Wilkins referred to Agenda Item 9(b) and asked if the amendment included river access. Commissioner Storter-Long stated there wasn't any river access included and she wasn't aware of any being proposed because the property doesn't have any canals leading to the river. She said Glades County had a question regarding the traffic study and it being conducted off-season. She also stated it is a dead end into Ortona. Commissioner Wilkins noted there are many issues within that section.

Vice-Mayor Denham noted it was very hard for the members to hear comments/questions being made on the phone and asked if there was a way to have a microphone in front of those members. Chair Burch agreed and asked the members to use a microphone when addressing an item.

The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #10
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)
Palmer Ranch Increment XXVI Pre-App Checklist**

Mr. Trescott presented the item.

A motion was made by Mayor Shaw to approve staff's recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perry and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(b)
Palmer Ranch Increment XXVII Pre-App Checklist**

Mr. Trescott presented the item.

A motion was made by Mayor Shaw to approve staff's recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perry and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(c)
Pine Air Lakes NOPC**

Mr. Trescott presented the item.

A motion was made by Mayor Shaw to approve staff's recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perry.

Commissioner Doherty noted there was a typo within the staff's recommendations where "DCA" should be "DEO".

Mr. McCormick asked for clarification on how much office space is being proposed for the project. Mr. Trescott explained the project is approved for a total of 29,000 square feet.

The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(i)
Interlocal Agreement/Future of the SWFRPC Committee**

No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(j)
Water Quality and Water Resources Management**

Vice-Mayor Denham presented the item.

**AGENDA ITEM #12
NEW BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM #13
STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS**

No reports were given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #14
COUNCIL LEGAL CONSULTANT'S COMMENTS**

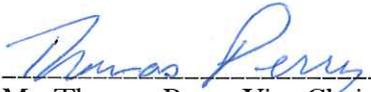
No report was given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #15
COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Perry thanked Charlotte County for hosting both the Council meeting and the Affordable Housing Workshop.

AGENDA ITEM #16
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.



Mr. Thomas Perry, Vice-Chair

The meeting was duly advertised in the April 6, 2017 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 43, Number 67.