

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 15, 2018 MEETING**

The meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was held on February 15, 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 9:03 AM. Commissioner Shaw then led an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Margaret Wuerstle conducted the roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Collier County: Commissioner Bill McDaniel

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

Hendry County: Commissioner Mitchell Wills, Mr. Mel Karau

Lee County: Commissioner Brian Hamman, Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Councilmember Jessica Cosden, Councilman Fred Burson, Vice-Mayor Mick Denham,

Sarasota County: Commissioner Charles Hines, Commissioner Willie Shaw, Councilmember Mitzie Fielder

Ex-Officio: Mr. Phil Flood-SFWMD, Mr. Jon Iglehart-FDEP

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charlotte County: Vice-Mayor Gary Wein, Ms. Suzanne Graham

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

Glades County: Councilwoman Pat Lucas,

Hendry County: Commissioner Emma Byrd, Commissioner Julie Wilkins, Vice-Mayor Michael Atkinson,

Lee County: Councilman Greg DeWitt, Councilwoman Anita Cereceda, Ms. Laura Holquist

Sarasota County: Commissioner Michael Moran, Mr. Felipe Colón

Ex-Officio: Ms. 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 February 15, 2017 agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM #6
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2017 MEETING**

A motion was made by Mr. McCormick to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Denham and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #7
REGIONAL IMPACT**

**AGENDA ITEMS #7(a)
Palmer Ranch Increment XXVI DO**

Mr. Dan Trescott presented the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shaw to approve the Palmer Ranch Increment XXVI DO as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Denham and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEMS #7(b)
Palmer Ranch Increment XXVII DO**

Mr. Trescott presented the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shaw to approve the Palmer Ranch Increment XXVII DO as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Denham and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEMS #7(c)
City Gate NOPC**

Mr. Trescott presented the item. Vice-Mayor Denham asked about traffic and stormwater impacts. Commissioner McDaniel added that there are significant traffic mitigation improvements being made in association with this NOPC. Mr. Trescott explained that the trip generation estimates for

the NOPC are less than the originally approved DRI. Mr. Flood added that the WMD has reviewed the project.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the City Gate NOPC as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hamman and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEMS #7(d)
Marco Shores/Fiddler's Creek NOPC**

Mr. Trescott presented the item. Vice-Mayor Denham asked how the wastewater treatment would be handled. The applicant answered that the development is covered by Collier County central water and sewer. The development also uses spray irrigation.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the Marco Shores/Fiddler's Creek NOPC as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hamman and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEMS #7(e)
Riverwood Master and Increments I and II NOPC**

Mr. Trescott presented the item. Commissioner Pendergrass asked if the development has already occurred. Mr. Trescott explained that the DRI is essentially built out except for a commercial area. Vice-Mayor Denham added that the issue in the past with this DRI was river contamination. Mr. Trescott explained that this is low density development and they have all their water permits.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hamman to approve the Riverwood Master and Increments I and II NOPC as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shaw and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #8
CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**AGENDA ITEM #9
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEMS #9(c)
Council Committee Appointments**

Ms. Wuerstle asked that the Council members review the council committee membership lists and let her know if they want to be added or removed from a committee.

AGENDA ITEMS #9(a)
Sanibel Affordable Housing Presentation

Vice-Mayor Denham introduced Mr. Richard Johnson and Ms. Melissa Rice from Sanibel's workforce housing program. Sanibel has been running a workforce housing program for 38 years, making it the longest running affordable housing program in the State.

Mr. Johnson and Ms. Rice proceeded to give their presentation. Chair Perry asked if there is waiting list to enter the program and if CHR (Community Housing and Resources) seeks out applicants. Ms. Rice explained that there are about 25 people on a waiting list right now and they accept new applications every day. They determine priority through a points system. The average time that someone lives in these properties is 5-6 years and people leave for a wide variety of reasons. There are residents who improve their economic circumstances enough that they no longer qualify for the program.

Commissioner McDaniel asked how support was garnered for the program from the residents of the community and neighboring communities. Vice-Mayor Denham explained that the relationship with CHR was lukewarm in the beginning and has grown substantially over the years. The Sanibel City Council is very proud of the program and they have buy-in from the business community. Mr. Johnson added that most of the land used by the program was donated by the City. Ms. Rice explained that transparency is important to gain the trust and support of the community. Vice-Mayor Denham stressed that the program requires a strong commitment from the community.

Councilwoman Fiedler asked for the program's annual budget. Ms. Rice responded that the budget is \$1.1 million. Councilman Burson asked what the income qualification were. Ms. Rice explained that they use the HUD guideline for Lee County, which is currently \$59,600 for a family of four. Commissioner Hamman stressed the importance of changing the negative perception of the young workforce. Mr. Johnson explained that they have made it a priority to educate people on the need for workforce housing to try to change those negative perceptions. They understand that there will always be a small group of people who will never support the program and they focus on the people in the middle, who just need more information on the program. Councilwoman Holly Smith from Sanibel added that they have zoning exemptions on density to benefit this program. They have 88 properties in the program and are looking to expand to 104.

AGENDA ITEMS #9(b)
ACT Human Trafficking Presentation

Ms. Wuerstle introduced Ms. Gina Malone, VISTA volunteer with ACT (Abuse Counseling and Treatment), to continue her presentation from last meeting. Ms. Malone gave the presentation.

Ms. Nightingale asked if ACT has been able to present in schools. Ms. Malone has received a lot of pushback from schools. ACT has only presented in schools that have reached out to them. Schoolboards have allowed for school staff to be trained by ACT. Ms. Malone has reached out the schoolboards.

Commissioner Pendergrass, as a former law enforcement professional, detailed how trafficking has been a problem in the region for decades. Commissioner Wills added that the schools are much more willing to allow these discussions within the school if a student reaches out first.

Commissioner Hamman explained that a State law has been passed that allows human trafficking hotline signage to be posted in places where human trafficking may be occurring, but local governments need to pass it locally to take effect. It has been passed in Lee County. Ms. Malone added that these victims don't usually identify as human trafficking victims.

Ms. Wuerstle continued with the director's report. She had a conference call with EDA the previous day and EDA asked for two projects from SWFL for the disaster relief fund. This is not an application. The intent is for EDA to get an understanding of what priority projects each region has and what the cost of those projects will be. She asked that the Council send her whatever projects they may have before EDA's 5:00 pm deadline. Commissioner McDaniel asked how long Ms. Wuerstle knew about this. Ms. Wuerstle reiterated that she just found out the previous day. She added that only a 20% match is required for the disaster relief fund rather than EDA's usual 1:1 match or 50% of the total project cost.

**AGENDA ITEM #10
STAFF SUMMARIES**

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)
Grant Activity Sheet**

This item was for informational purposes only.

**AGENDA ITEM #11
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the November and December financials are strong. However, the RPC has over \$230,000 in receivables and some governments are behind on their assessments. Money has been taken out of the reserves to use as operating funds. Those funds will be replenished once the assessments are paid. Mr. McCormick and Commissioner Starter-Long asked that the Councilmembers stay up-to-date on their assessments.

Commissioner Pendergrass asked when the planning will begin for next year's budget. Mr. McCormick answered that it probably be June or July. Commissioner McDaniel brought up the need for the RPC to show its relevance. Chair Perry stated that he is working towards that. Commissioner Hamman agrees with Commissioner McDaniel and he would be happy to discuss Lee County's position with the Council. Chair Perry stated that he wants to have this conversation when they have gathered more information. Commissioner McDaniel asked that Chair Perry not take the relevancy discussion personally as past members have. He added that he sees that there has been an evolution coming along, staff is willing to adapt, and the leadership is in place.

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

Chair Perry explained the Executive Committee met this morning and discussed topics already discussed earlier in the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #11(f)
Legislative Affairs Committee

No report was given at this time.

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

Commissioner Shaw applauded the presentations given today.

AGENDA ITEM #11(h)
Regional Transportation Committee

No report was given at this time.

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 believes there has been a tremendous step forward in water quality last year, including the EAA Reservoir. This will result in a 20% reduction in outflow to the estuary. The C43 funding will move forward as well.

**AGENDA ITEM #12
NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business brought to the Council.

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

Mr. Flood announced that the timeframe has been moved forward on the reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee in Palm Beach County. Lake discharge to the Caloosahatchee River will be reduced by 30%. The legislature was very happy with the WMD's efforts. The final report will be given to the Corps of Engineers by the end of March.

Mr. Iglehart reminded everyone that FDEP holds workshops on the first Wednesday of every month. The March workshop is on tanks.

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

No comments were made at this time.

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

Chair Perry thanked Councilmember Fielder for attending her first meeting and Commissioner Hamman for attending his first meeting back after an absence from the Council.

Commissioner Doherty recommended that one of the next two Council meetings be largely devoted to discussing the future of the SWFRPC. Commissioner Hines agreed with Commissioner Doherty stated he and Commissioner Moran would attend that meeting in person.

Commissioner Pendergrass asked about a news article regarding two employees resigning from the SWFRPC. Chair Perry explained that two employees attended an annual HazMat Conference in Daytona Beach. Something happened, no one is sure exactly what, but everyone is safe. Both employees resigned, and both refuse to answer questions about what happened. It was called a personal safety matter for one employee. He is concerned for that employee and believes the best way to proceed is to respect that person's privacy. Chair Perry clarified that both employees chose to resign. One of the employees was already in the process of selling their house and moving out of State.

Commissioner McDaniel asked when the next Transportation Committee Meeting will occur. He also wants to know who the contact person is for the Promise Zone and would like a monthly update on the Promise Zone. He would like to see more being done on infrastructure. He also asked about the contract term of the executive director. Chair Perry stated that an evaluation form on the executive director's performance will be sent out. The Executive Committee will review to responses and come back to the Council with a recommendation next month.

Commissioner Pendergrass announced that the SWFL Regional County summit will be held at RSW next month.

Commissioner Hamman asked if the HazMat Conference was funded by taxpayer dollars. Chair Perry explained that the HazMat program is paid for by a State grant. Commissioner Hamman asked if any of that money was misappropriated. Chair Perry responded that there are no financial improprieties that they are aware of. Chair Perry added that the executive director has been very proactive throughout this process.

Councilmember Cosden asked why the committees seem to meet so infrequently. Mr. Perry responded that the committees meet whenever an issue arises that sparks their interest. Ms. Wuerstle added that committees could be added or removed as necessary and it's usually the committee chairman's responsibility to schedule meetings for that committee. Mr. Beever added that the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management is the exception. That committee meets every month provided they have a quorum.

Mr. McCormick stated that new blood is needed to represent the RPC on the CHNEP and requested that any interested Councilmember ask him about the program.

Commissioner Storter-Long stated that the Corp of Engineers made a presentation to Glades County that might be of interest to the Council. She also discussed funding of the SERT program with Senator Rubio. She challenged everyone to bring up the relevancy issue with their County or City and bring it back to the Council. She does not believe it needs to take up an entire meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #16 ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on March 15, 2018. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Commissioner Donna Storter-Long, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the February 1, 2018 issue of the **FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER**, Volume 44, Number 22.