

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
JANUARY 17, 2019 MEETING**

The meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was held on January 17, 2019 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 Shaw then gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Margaret Wuerstle conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Charlotte County:** Commissioner Ken Doherty, Commissioner Joe Tiseo, Councilman Gary Wein, Mr. Don McCormick

**Collier County:** Commissioner Penny Taylor

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

**Hendry County:** Commissioner Emma Byrd, Commissioner Mitchell Wills, Commissioner Julie Wilkins, Mr. Mel Karau

**Lee County:** Commissioner Frank Mann

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

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**Charlotte County:** Ms. Suzanne Graham

**Collier County:** Commissioner Bill McDaniel, Councilman Reg Buxton

**Glades County:** None

**Hendry County:** Vice-Mayor Michael Atkinson

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

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

**Ex-Officio:** Mr. Wayne Gather, FDOT

**AGENDA ITEM #4  
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #5  
AGENDA**

There were no changes made to the January 17, 2019 agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM #6  
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2018 MEETINGS**

The minutes will be on the February 21, 2019 agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM #7  
REGIONAL IMPACT**

**AGENDA ITEM #7(a)  
Palmer Ranch Increment 29 Pre-App Checklist**

Mr. Dan Trescott presented the item.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Shaw to approve the Palmer Ranch Increment 29 Pre-App Checklist as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilkins and passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #8  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**AGENDA ITEM #8(a)  
Intergovernmental Coordination and Review**

Commissioner Mann requested a brief explanation of the item. Mr. C.J. Kammerer explained that the RPC is required to review various grant requests in the region by State Statute. The six items on this month's agenda are FDOT and DEO-CDBG grant requests. All six projects were found regionally significant and consistent with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mann to approve the IC&R projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shaw and passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #9  
PRESENTATIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9(a)  
South Florida Water Management District**

Mr. Flood gave a presentation on the projects and activities of the SFWMD. He stated that the Legislature was kind last year, they are guaranteed a minimum of \$200 million a year for Everglades restoration projects. The C-43 reservoir in Hendry County received a Lion's share of the funding. SWFMD will be awarding a construction contract for well over \$600 million to build a dam at the end of the month. The Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule will be revised. The schedule dictates when the US Army Corps of Engineers releases water from the Lake.

Chair Perry called the C-43 reservoir a victory for the region and pointed out that a lot of members of the SWFRPC board fought for it. Commissioner Mann joined Chair Perry in complementation Mr. Flood on an outstanding presentation. He was also pleased to see the "green stance" of our new Governor. The Governor wants to add a water quality component to the C-43 reservoir.

Councilman Wein asked if these projects will be enough to solve these problems or if this is just the first step. He also asked if the oil deposits are above or below the deep-water injection areas. Mr. Flood answered that the Everglades Restoration Plan will address 80% of Lake discharges. Mr. Flood and Mr. Beaver explained that the oil deposits are above the injection areas.

Commissioner Storter-Long asked for more information on the nitrogen component of C-43. Mr. Flood gave a further explanation. A copy of the presentation will be sent out after the Council meeting.

Mr. McCormick pointed out that the Caloosahatchee River is still greatly impacted by the Caloosahatchee Watershed. Not all the pollution is coming in from the Lake. Mr. Flood agreed and provided data to support that. FDEP is working on those issues.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(b)  
Nominating Committee**

Members made it known that they had to drop off the call soon. The Council moved to voting items before a quorum was lost. Commissioner Wills reported that the Nominating Committee decided to suggest retaining the current Executive Board.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Wills to accept Nominating Committee's suggestion to retain the current Executive Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mann and passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)  
November 2018 Financials**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the November 2018 financials. The Council is currently in a \$71,000 hole. However, this is typical for the cyclical nature of the Council's revenues and the Council is doing better than it was at this time last year. The budget is on schedule. Monthly costs have been cut from roughly \$80,000 a month last year to roughly \$30,000 a month.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Storter-Long to accept the November 2018 financials as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCormick and passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #9(b)  
Master Wetland Mitigation Strategy**

Mr. Jim Beever gave a presentation on an improved model watershed scale master wetland mitigation strategy for restoration, protection and public projects for local governments project he completed last month for Lee County. This project was fully funded by EPA and it couples local government public works projects with mitigation planning, so the mitigation can be done ahead of time. This saves the local community money, as the process would be more complex later. This project was done in a way that is replicable for other communities. The projects from the previous mitigation plan the RPC did for Lee County created an estimated mitigation value of \$23 million.

Mr. Beever also pointed out that the SWFRPC participated in all the projects Mr. Flood mentioned in his presentation that were in SWFL. Mr. Flood confirmed that statement.

Mr. McCormick asked what this kind of study would cost. Mr. Beever responded that it would take around \$40,000-50,000. He would be happy to help other communities with this type of work.

**AGENDA ITEM #9(c)  
Disaster Recovery Coordinator Update**

Mr. Sean McCabe gave a presentation on recovery work, housing repair programs, and building resilience. He provided a list of volunteer organizations active in the region and highlighted the work of the Red Cross. The funds that have been allocated to this work is running out, so many of these organizations will be winding down soon. He also gave an overview of the CDBG funding.

Mr. McCabe confirmed information on reimburse for Mr. McCormick.

Councilman Wein added that Punta Gorda still hasn't received their first payment from FEMA. Punta Gorda has yet to recover commercially from Hurricane Charley in 2004.

Chair Perry still has not been able to have his roof repaired.

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

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

Ms. Wuerstle explained that a meeting has been scheduled for March 18 at 2pm at the RPC office to refocus the initiative. However, the government shutdown may affect the ability of federal partners to attend.

The VISTA program is still open and the new application has been submitted.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(d)  
FRCA Update**

Chair Perry, Councilman Wein, and Vice-Mayor Atkinson attended the FRCA meeting. There was a presentation by the TBRPC on the economic effects of red tide. There has been an appropriations request by FRCA to fund disaster evacuation planning for each RPC. This is work the RPCs have done in the past. FRCA's priorities closely resemble the Florida League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties. There was discussion of an appropriation request for activities mandated by State Statute. The Board appears to be taking a more direct approach in providing direction to staff. Chair Perry asked that everyone read FRCA's annual report, which was distributed at the meeting. It shows comparisons between the Councils and program areas that other RPCs are working in. Councilman Wein pointed out that SWFL is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest geographic region but has the smallest staff. He thanked Ms. Wuerstle and the staff.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(e)  
EDA Agricultural Sustainability Grant**

The RPC received a grant from EDA to create branding for SWFL agriculture products for small to mid-sized growers. FGCU has been awarded a contract to help expansion into new markets and Priority Marketing received the marketing contract. There has been a lot of interest from the small growers. UF/IFAS is the main partner on the grant.

**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**

Chair Perry informed everyone that the Executive Committee met before this meeting but does not have a report.

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

No report was given at this time.

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

Commissioner Shaw is excited to take on the opioid epidemic with the VISTA team. This issue effects crime, the economy, and family structure. There is still a lot of denial with this issue. The VISTA's are working to create a regional task force on this issue. There are many organizations in the regions that are ready to work together with the RPC.

Mr. Michael Bennett and Ms. Tia Herman, the RPC's opioid VISTA members, gave an update on their progress. Ms. Katelyn Kubasik introduced herself as the new VISTA supervisor at the RPC.

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

Ms. Wuerstle announced that Commissioner McDaniel has agreed to chair the Committee and they will meet after the March Council meeting.

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

Chair Perry announced that there will be a discussion on Council relevancy at the February meeting. Presentations are being prepared and he encourages everyone to attend in person.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(f)**  
**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 stated that the Fort Myers FDEP office issued 6,300 permits last year. About half of those qualified for State Programmatic Federal Permits. They are holding a forum in February to help people work through this process.

Mr. Flood reminded everyone that we are in the dry season.

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

No comments were made at this time.

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

Commissioner Storter-Long echoed Mr. Flood's comment on the dry season and water conservation.

Commissioner Wilkins announced that the Cabbage Festival is next month.

Councilman Wein clarified that the TBRPC red tied presentation was on economic effects and not scientific causes. He has the presentation on the City of Punta Gorda website.

Mr. McCormick saw the Governor present on his priorities, which include water quality.

**AGENDA ITEM #17  
ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be on February 21, 2019. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

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Commissioner Donna Storter-Long, Secretary

**The meeting was duly advertised in the January 3, 2019 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 45, Number 02.**