Two or more members of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program may be in attendance and may discuss matters that could come before the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, respectively, for consideration.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling (239) 338-2550; if you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice/(800) 955-8771 TDD.

May 15, 2014
9:00am – 11:30am

Mission Statement:
To work together across neighboring communities to consistently protect and improve the unique and relatively unspoiled character of the physical, economic and social worlds we share...for the benefit of our future generations.
Two or more members of the Peace River Basin Management Advisory Committee and Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program may be in attendance and may discuss matters that could come before the Peace River Basin Management Advisory Committee and Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, respectively, for consideration.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling (239) 338-2550; if you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice/(800) 955-8771 TDD.

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<th>13</th>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>COUNCIL ATTORNEY’S COMMENTS</td>
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<td>COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS</td>
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<td>17</td>
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NEXT SWFRPC MEETING DATE: June 19, 2014

NOTES:

The Council’s Legislative Affairs Committee is scheduled to meet prior to the Council meeting at 8:00 AM.

The Council’s Budget & Finance Committee is scheduled to meet prior to the Council meeting at 8:30 AM.

The Council’s Member Orientation will be held immediately following the Council meeting.
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

CHAIR.......... Councilwoman Teresa Heitmann
VICE CHAIR........ Mr. Robert “Bob” Mulhere
SECRETARY........ Mr. Don McCormick
TREASURER........ Councilman Forrest Banks

CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Commissioner Tricia Duffy, Charlotte Co BCC
Commissioner Chris Constance, Charlotte Co BCC
Councilwoman Nancy Prafke, City of Punta Gorda
Ms. Suzanne Graham, Governor Appointee
Mr. Donald McCormick, Governor Appointee

COLLIER COUNTY
Commissioner Tim Nance, Collier Co BCC
Commissioner Georgia Hiller, Collier Co BCC
Councilwoman Teresa Heitmann, City of Naples
(City of Marco Island Vacancy)
Mr. Robert “Bob” Mulhere, Governor Appointee
Mr. Alan D. Reynolds, Governor Appointee

GLADES COUNTY
Commissioner Donna Storter-Long, Glades Co BCC
Commissioner Russell Echols, Glades Co BCC
Councilwoman Pat Lucas, City of Moore Haven
Mr. Thomas C. Perry, Governor Appointee

HENDRY COUNTY
Commissioner Karson Turner, Hendry Co BCC
Commissioner Don Davis, Hendry Co BCC
Mayor Phillip Roland, City of Clewiston
Commissioner Daniel Akin, City of LaBelle
Mr. Mel Karau, Governor Appointee

LEE COUNTY
Commissioner Frank Mann, Lee Co BCC
Commissioner Brian Hamman, Lee Co BCC
Councilman Jim Burch, City of Cape Coral
Vice Mayor Doug Congress, City of Sanibel
Councilman Forrest Banks, City of Fort Myers
Mayor Anita Cereceda, Town of Fort Myers Beach
(City of Bonita Springs Vacancy)
Ms. Laura Holquist, Governor Appointee
(Gubernatorial Appointee Vacancy)

SARASOTA COUNTY
Commissioner Carolyn Mason, Sarasota Co BCC
Commissioner Charles Hines, Sarasota Co BCC
Vice-Mayor Rhonda DiFranco, City of North Port
Councilman Kit McKeon, City of Venice
Vice-Mayor Willie Shaw, City of Sarasota
(Gubernatorial Appointee Vacancy)
Mr. Felipe Colón, Governor Appointee

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
Phil Flood, SFWMD
Jon Iglehart, FDEP
Melissa Dickens, SWFWMD
Carmen Monroy, FDOT

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL STAFF
MARGARET WUERSTLE.......... EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SEAN McCABE........ LEGAL COUNSEL

James Beever
Lisa Beever
David Crawford
Liz Donley
Nancy Doyle
John L. Gibbons
Nichole Gwinnett
Rebekah Harp
Maran Hilgendorf
Judy Ott
Jennifer Pellechio
Timothy Walker

Updated 4/1/14
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
(SWFRPC) ACRONYMS

ABM - Agency for Bay Management - Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management

ADA - Application for Development Approval

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act

AMDA - Application for Master Development Approval

BEBR - Bureau of Economic Business and Research at the University of Florida

BLID - Binding Letter of DRI Status

BLIM - Binding Letter of Modification to a DRI with Vested Rights

BLIVR - Binding Letter of Vested Rights Status

BPCC - Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinating Committee

CAC - Citizens Advisory Committee

CAO - City/County Administrator Officers

CDBG - Community Development Block Grant

CDC - Certified Development Corporation (a.k.a. RDC)

CEDS - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (a.k.a. OEDP)

CHNEP - Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

CTC - Community Transportation Coordinator

CTD - Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

CUTR - Center for Urban Transportation Research

DEO - Department of Economic Opportunity

DEP - Department of Environmental Protection

DO - Development Order

DOPA - Designated Official Planning Agency (i.e. MPO, RPC, County, etc.)
EDA - Economic Development Administration
EDC - Economic Development Coalition
EDD - Economic Development District
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
FAC - Florida Association of Counties
FACTS - Florida Association of CTCs
FAR - Florida Administrative Register (formerly Florida Administrative Weekly)
FCTS - Florida Coordinated Transportation System
FDC&F - Florida Department of Children and Families (a.k.a. HRS)
FDEA - Florida Department of Elder Affairs
FDLES - Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security
FDOT - Florida Department of Transportation
FHREDI - Florida Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative
FIAM – Fiscal Impact Analysis Model
FLC - Florida League of Cities
FQD - Florida Quality Development
FRCA - Florida Regional Planning Councils Association
FTA - Florida Transit Association
IC&R - Intergovernmental Coordination and Review
IFAS - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida
JLCB - Joint Local Coordinating Boards of Glades & Hendry Counties
JPA - Joint Participation Agreement
JSA - Joint Service Area of Glades & Hendry Counties
LCB - Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged
LEPC - Local Emergency Planning Committee
MOA - Memorandum of Agreement
MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization
MPOAC - Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council
MPOCAC - Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee
MPOTAC - Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee
NARC - National Association of Regional Councils
NOPC - Notice of Proposed Change
OEDP - Overall Economic Development Program
PDA - Preliminary Development Agreement
REMI – Regional Economic Modeling Incorporated
RFB - Request for Bids
RFP - Request for Proposals
RPC - Regional Planning Council
SHIP - State Housing Initiatives Partnership
SRPP – Strategic Regional Policy Plan
TAC - Technical Advisory Committee
TDC - Transportation Disadvantaged Commission (a.k.a. CTD)
TDPN - Transportation Disadvantaged Planners Network
TDSP - Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plans
USDA - US Department of Agriculture
WMD - Water Management District (SFWMD and SWFWMD)
Regional Planning Council  
Functions and Programs  

March 4, 2011

- **Economic Development Districts:** Regional planning councils are designated as Economic Development Districts by the U. S. Economic Development Administration. From January 2003 to August 2010, the U. S. Economic Development Administration invested $66 million in 60 projects in the State of Florida to create/retain 13,700 jobs and leverage $1 billion in private capital investment. Regional planning councils provide technical support to businesses and economic developers to promote regional job creation strategies.

- **Emergency Preparedness and Statewide Regional Evacuation:** Regional planning councils have special expertise in emergency planning and were the first in the nation to prepare a Statewide Regional Evacuation Study using a uniform report format and transportation evacuation modeling program. Regional planning councils have been preparing regional evacuation plans since 1981. Products in addition to evacuation studies include Post Disaster Redevelopment Plans, Hazard Mitigation Plans, Continuity of Operations Plans and Business Disaster Planning Kits.

- **Local Emergency Planning:** Local Emergency Planning Committees are staffed by regional planning councils and provide a direct relationship between the State and local businesses. Regional planning councils provide thousands of hours of training to local first responders annually. Local businesses have developed a trusted working relationship with regional planning council staff.

- **Homeland Security:** Regional planning council staff is a source of low cost, high quality planning and training experts that support counties and State agencies when developing a training course or exercise. Regional planning councils provide cost effective training to first responders, both public and private, in the areas of Hazardous Materials, Hazardous Waste, Incident Command, Disaster Response, Pre- and Post-Disaster Planning, Continuity of Operations and Governance. Several regional planning councils house Regional Domestic Security Task Force planners.

- **Multipurpose Regional Organizations:** Regional planning councils are Florida’s only multipurpose regional entities that plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions on multi-jurisdictional issues, support regional economic development and provide assistance to local governments.

- **Problem Solving Forum:** Issues of major importance are often the subject of regional planning council-sponsored workshops. Regional planning councils have convened regional summits and workshops on issues such as workforce housing, response to hurricanes, visioning and job creation.

- **Implementation of Community Planning:** Regional planning councils develop and maintain Strategic Regional Policy Plans to guide growth and development focusing on economic development, emergency preparedness, transportation, affordable housing and resources of regional significance. In addition, regional planning councils provide coordination and review of various programs such as Local Government Comprehensive Plans, Developments of Regional Impact and Power Plant Ten-year Siting Plans. Regional planning council reviewers have the local knowledge to conduct reviews efficiently and provide State agencies reliable local insight.
• **Local Government Assistance:** Regional planning councils are also a significant source of cost effective, high quality planning experts for communities, providing technical assistance in areas such as: grant writing, mapping, community planning, plan review, procurement, dispute resolution, economic development, marketing, statistical analysis, and information technology. Several regional planning councils provide staff for transportation planning organizations, natural resource planning and emergency preparedness planning.

• **Return on Investment:** Every dollar invested by the State through annual appropriation in regional planning councils generates 11 dollars in local, federal and private direct investment to meet regional needs.

• **Quality Communities Generate Economic Development:** Businesses and individuals choose locations based on the quality of life they offer. Regional planning councils help regions compete nationally and globally for investment and skilled personnel.

• **Multidisciplinary Viewpoint:** Regional planning councils provide a comprehensive, multidisciplinary view of issues and a forum to address regional issues cooperatively. Potential impacts on the community from development activities are vetted to achieve win-win solutions as council members represent business, government and citizen interests.

• **Coordinators and Conveners:** Regional planning councils provide a forum for regional collaboration to solve problems and reduce costly inter-jurisdictional disputes.

• **Federal Consistency Review:** Regional planning councils provide required Federal Consistency Review, ensuring access to hundreds of millions of federal infrastructure and economic development investment dollars annually.

• **Economies of Scale:** Regional planning councils provide a cost-effective source of technical assistance to local governments, small businesses and non-profits.

• **Regional Approach:** Cost savings are realized in transportation, land use and infrastructure when addressed regionally. A regional approach promotes vibrant economies while reducing unproductive competition among local communities.

• **Sustainable Communities:** Federal funding is targeted to regions that can demonstrate they have a strong framework for regional cooperation.

• **Economic Data and Analysis:** Regional planning councils are equipped with state of the art econometric software and have the ability to provide objective economic analysis on policy and investment decisions.

• **Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generators:** The Small Quantity Generator program ensures the proper handling and disposal of hazardous waste generated at the county level. Often smaller counties cannot afford to maintain a program without imposing large fees on local businesses. Many counties have lowered or eliminated fees, because regional planning council programs realize economies of scale, provide businesses a local contact regarding compliance questions and assistance and provide training and information regarding management of hazardous waste.

• **Regional Visioning and Strategic Planning:** Regional planning councils are conveners of regional visions that link economic development, infrastructure, environment, land use and transportation into long term investment plans. Strategic planning for communities and organizations defines actions critical to successful change and resource investments.

• **Geographic Information Systems and Data Clearinghouse:** Regional planning councils are leaders in geographic information systems mapping and data support systems. Many local governments rely on regional planning councils for these services.
Agenda

Invocation

Item
Agenda

Item

Pledge of Allegiance  2
Roll Call
Public Comments
Agenda

Item

Minutes
Director’s Report
Mission Statement:
To work together across neighboring communities to consistently protect and improve the unique and relatively unspoiled character of the physical, economic and social worlds we share...for the benefit of our future generations.

1. Internal Issues
   a. Budget
      i. Budget Update
         a) Adoption of the 2014-2015 Budget and Workplan
            • The July meeting has been cancelled
            • The August 21st meeting has been cancelled and moved to August 14th
      ii. Grants:
         a) DEO grant application process is now open for grants up to $25,000.
         c) Federal Promise Zone application under development.
         b) Staff submitted a TIGER planning grant for the coordination of the regional transit system.

2. External Issues
   b. The Executive Director met with the following to establish partnerships and discuss issues of mutual concerns:
      Mary Ann Tipton: Punta Gorda Visual Arts Center; United Way Allocations Committee; CREW Land and Water Trust; Hendry County Bionitrogen Project Ribbon Cutting; Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau; Charlotte County Tourism Development Council and the Arts and Humanities Council of Charlotte County; Amy Schlar- Naples Arts Alliance.

3. Goals and Priorities for Second Quarter 2013 (January - April)
   a. Research the Health Insurance and benefits package (completed for 2013-2014 budget)
   b. Employee Evaluations and Expectations (in progress)
   c. Implementation of Workplan:
      • 24 pending grants; 6 grants under development; 5 grants approved totaling $137,500; 2 contracts totaling $53,000.
      • Grants Submitted: Manufacturing Grant, NEA Arts and Culture Grant, Economic Development Planning Grant, Brownfields Grant, IMCP designation, 2 Farms to School grants, TIGER Transportation Planning Grant.
      • DEO Business Plan grant deliverables completed; Hendry Co. Educational Task Force Strategy grant completed.
• Orientation for new RPC members (To be held in May 15, 2014)
• Improved Financial Reporting: New software for time keeping and project management to be rolled out in June.
MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: April 2014

OUTREACH

- Continued to discuss partnership opportunities with Gail Stafford, Compliance Administrator at the Florida Energy Office, specific to a U.S. Economic Development Administration grant application.
- Distributed a press release pertaining to FRCA’s unveiling of its new economic scorecard website to its partners and worked with Enterprise Florida to send the same press release on FRCA’s behalf to the economic development organization in Florida.
- Researched and chose a social marketing vendor for FRCA’s quarterly newsletter subscription service.
- Developed an outline for the 2013-14 FRCA Annual Report using the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Six Pillars as an organizing framework and distributed it to the RPC Executive Directors for further input.
- Provided assistance to the National Association of Development Organizations with regard to its research on business continuity planning; Safe Routes to School National Partnership on a survey distribution; Florida Local Government Coalition’s Innovation Committee on its resource development tasks; and, Enterprise Florida as it pertained to linking up the hosts of its economic development organization partner training sessions with the appropriate RPC.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, attended meetings of the Local Emergency Planning Committees, State Emergency Response Commission, Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, and, Rural Economic Development Initiative; and participated in Enterprise Florida’s monthly conference call for its economic development partners.
- Issued letters in support of funding applications submitted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council and Tampa Bay and Southwest Florida RPCs.
- Prepared and submitted to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity FRCA’s 2013-14 third quarter report demonstrating implementation of the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development.
- Distributed funding announcements from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and U.S. Small Business Administration.
LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

• Issued two Legislative Highlights reports and four bill tracking reports.
• Continued to analyze bills on the FRCA’s bill tracking report; monitored the final 2014 legislative committee meetings; and monitored actions taken by the Florida Senate and House of Representatives.

ADMINISTRATIVE

• Updated the FRCA website to include announcements and links pertaining to the new economic scorecard website and release of the Florida Energy Resiliency Report.
• Updated and distributed the FRCA Strategic Assessment Retreat short term action plan demonstrating progress on the recommendations pertaining to the creation of Gubernatorial Advisory Committees and improving communication among the councils and between the councils, their stakeholders, and the press.
• Prepared the March FRCA meeting summaries; participated in the April FRCA meetings; and, handled all necessary meeting logistics.
• Continued to prepare for the June FRCA meetings, which will be held in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference.
RETREAT OUTCOMES/RECOMMENDATIONS
SHORT TERM ACTION PLAN
As of April 30, 2014
Most recent activities are noted below in red text.

Gubernatorial Advisory Committees
Following the retreat, some regional planning councils began moving forward on their own to create Gubernatorial Advisory Committees or consortiums of key members on their councils or within their regions, to meet with the Governor for the purpose of advocating for regional planning council funding by demonstrating the value of financially supporting regional planning councils at the state level to further the Governor’s priorities. After discussing this approach with Ron Book, Executive Director, and FRCA President Patty Asseff, it was determined that this approach was viable and wouldn’t preclude the creation of a FRCA Gubernatorial Advisory Committee, which will come together in conjunction with the next Policy Board meeting in August 2014.

Actions to Date:
- **FRCA:** Successfully secured a $2.5 million appropriation for regional planning councils in the 2014-15 proposed budget; issued Legislative/Executive Talking Points for use by RPC members when meeting with a legislator, the Governor, or staff to advocate for RPC funding.
- **ARPC:** A Gubernatorial Appointee has offered to take the lead and gather a list of other Governor Scott appointees to RPCs to determine their interest in meeting with the Governor.
- **NEFRC:** All board members have been provided with FRCA’s Legislative Talking Points and are using them with they meet with members of the Legislature and representatives of the Administration. UPDATE: A NEFRC Gubernatorial Appointee will be meeting with the Governor on another matter but will address the issue of RPC funding.
- **SFRPC:** Staff is working with individual board members to determine their ability and willingness to communicate their support to the Executive Office of the Governor.
- **TCRPC:** A Gubernatorial Advisory Committee was formed and met one time, but as of yet, has not taken any action to meet with the Governor; however, individual committee members may contact the Governor to discuss RPC funding.
- **WFRPC:** Two elected members are planning to seek a meeting with the Governor to discuss several issues, including RPC funding.

Communications Strategy
To move forward with a FRCA communication plan or program, the following activities were recommended:
- Creation of an orientation package for all newly elected officials within each region;
- Sharing of best practices through a quarterly FRCA newsletter;
• Sharing of individual council accomplishments within the region through a council electronic newsletter;
• Issuance of press releases/public service announcements; and,
• Strengthening relationships with the Florida Association of Counties and Florida League of Cities by having a presence in the exhibit hall at each of its annual conferences.

Actions to Date:
• **FRCA:**
  - Chose a social marketing vendor, Vertical Response, to host FRCA’s quarterly newsletter subscription;
  - Issued a press release unveiling FRCA’s economic scorecard website utilizing the Six Pillars metrics and worked with Enterprise Florida to further distribute the press release to the economic development organizations in the state;
  - Provided each of the RPC Executive Directors with an electronic copy of the FRCA Annual Report; FRCA Brochure; Economic Modeling hand-out; Return on Investment Document; Economic Development Districts and Economic Development Organizations document; and narrative regarding the role of RPCs in economic development, for use in their respective orientation packages; and,
  - Secured a booth in the Exhibit Hall at the Florida Association of Counties annual conference; and, will secure space in the Florida League of Cities’ resource room at its annual conference.
• **ARPC:** The council issued its own press release within the region pertaining to FRCA’s economic scorecard website.
• **CFRPC:** The council is looking at modifying or supplementing its annual report, which is used as the base orientation document with its board, with additional materials. The council is also working on a design for an e-newsletter but hasn’t determined how often it will be issued.
• **ECFRPC:** The Council is working on a brief marketing hand-out/brochure. It currently produces a newsletter associated with the Central Florida GIS Program only.
• **NEFRC:** The NEFRC is creating a newly elected officials academy, which will be a one day session to present regional issues; those who do not attend will receive copies of the materials and have the ability access them on-line. The Council will continue issuing its quarterly electronic newsletter and has plans to expand its current pool of recipients.
• **SFRPC:** The SFRPC provides an orientation package to new council members only at the current time and has updated the package to include the FRCA materials. The Council is planning to continue sending out updates pertaining to the Seven50 project.
• **SWFRPC:** The SWFRPC is continuing its orientation program, with the next one scheduled in May; the Executive Director also meets individually with newly elected officials and city and county managers.
• **TBRPC:** The council issued its own press release within the region pertaining to FRCA’s economic scorecard website.
• **TCRPC:** The TCRPC created an orientation package, which was given to its council members at it February board meeting. The council also issued its own press release within the region pertaining to FRCA’s economic scorecard website.
• **WFRPC:** The WFRPC is designing an orientation packet around its 50th Anniversary and will include the FRCA items described above. The WFRPC currently issues an electronic newsletter that may evolve into email blasts issued on a more regular basis.
Agenda

Item

Grant Activity Sheet
(Information Only)

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<th>#</th>
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<th>Project Name</th>
<th>App Due Date</th>
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| 1  | Contract | Yes | LeeTran | Jennifer Pellechio | VA Transportation Planning Study | 10/1/2012 | 7/2012 | 3/19/13 | $1,300,000.00 | $50,000.00 | 5/31/13 | 5/31/14 | 1. Create a Technical Stakeholder Committee  
2. Identify barriers and develop a proposed plan of action to address barriers establishing a regional profile. The study will provide a regional profile, which will map existing services, networks and resources  
3. Non-Traditional Outreach Component  
4. Develop a Planning Study for the six county region that presents regional profile; identifies barriers, gaps and needs; and proposes potential solutions. |
| 2  | Contract | Yes | Collier County | Jim Beever | Ecosystem Services Valuation of Conservation Collier Lands | 2/11/14 | 2/11/14 | 2/20/14 | 2/20/14 | $3,000.00 | $3,000.00 | 3/3/14 | 5/5/14 | Products of the study will include;  
1) Updated valuations of the ecosystem services provided by existing conservation lands in the Conservation Collier program.  
2) A documentation and quantification of the ecosystem services provided by each habitat type, including the source for valuations and what kind of services are included in the values. |
| 3  | Contract | Yes | City of Bonita Springs | Jim Beever | Spring Creek Watershed and Restoration Study | 1-7-14 | 1-7-14 | 1-15-14 | Pending | $50,000.00 | $50,000.00 | Pending | Pending | First Deliverable: the Spring Creek Restoration and Vulnerability Assessment  
Second Deliverable: The Spring Creek Restoration Plan |
| 4  | Grant | Yes | Visit Florida | Jennifer Pellechio | Our Creative Economy: Southwest Florida Regional Strategy for Public Art | 2/22/2013 | 2/22/2013 | 5/17/2013 | $10,000.00 | $5,000.00 | 7/1/2013 | 5/31/2014 | Logo & meeting results |
| 5  | Grant | Yes | NARC | Liz Donley | Use of Trees and Woody Shrubs in Green Infrastructure Stormwater Treatment | 2/28/14 | 2/26/14 | 4/21/14 | $46,072.00 | $3,912.00 | $3,912.00 | Forum, powerpoint, scope fo work for follow-on project, new partnerships |
| 6  | Contract | Yes | DOE (Department of Energy) | Rebekah Harp | Solar Ready II | 3/22/2013 | 7/18/2013 | $140,000.00 | $90,000.00 | 7/1/2013 | 1/1/2016 | Recruit local governments to review and adopt BMPs. Host stakeholder meetings and/or training programs, providing technical assistance to local governments as needed, and tracking any policy adoptions and local government feedback. |

**SWRPC GRANT STATUS AS OF 5-5-14**

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<td>Grant</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Southwest Florida Community Foundation</td>
<td>Jennifer Pellechio</td>
<td>Guide &amp; Regional Asset Mapping of Public Arts</td>
<td>9/20/2013</td>
<td>11/19/13</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
<td>12/1/13</td>
<td>5/31/14</td>
<td>The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, in partnership with the Lee County Alliance for the Arts and the Lee County Tourism Development Council, proposes to identify, map and document existing public art and public art venues in Lee County. A Field Guide to the Public Art of Lee County will assist residents, visitors and tourists to find public art geographically and in temporal space (for regularly scheduled events) in electronic and print media. The deliverables from this project will be incorporated into the overall regional strategy.</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
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<td>Grant</td>
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<td>EPA</td>
<td>Jim Beever</td>
<td>A Unified Conservation Easement Mapping and Database for the State of Florida</td>
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<td>6/3/2013</td>
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<td>Grant</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>CTD</td>
<td>Nichole Gwinnett</td>
<td>FY2013-14 Planning Grant for Glades-Hendry Service Area</td>
<td>5/21/2013</td>
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<td>$38,637.00</td>
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<td>Grant</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Mosaic</td>
<td>Judy Ott</td>
<td>Coral Creek Restoration: Monitoring Juvenile Fish Habitat</td>
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<td>Vision and Implementation Plan</td>
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<td>Mission, Goals &amp; Objectives, Draft Plan, Final Plan</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Contract</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Jim Beever</td>
<td>Estero Bay ABM</td>
<td>10/1/2013</td>
<td>10/1/2013</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>City of Bonita Springs approved to provide $4,000 to the SWFRPC for the ABM FY2013/14 of which $1,000 would go to</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>County - Glades</td>
<td>John Gibbons</td>
<td>SQG Glades</td>
<td>5/17/2011</td>
<td>5/16/2015</td>
<td>$3,900.00</td>
<td>$3,900.00</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>EDO</td>
<td>Jennifer Pellechio</td>
<td>Regional Economic Development Initiative – Business Outreach</td>
<td>12/17/2013</td>
<td>12/17/13</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
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<td>Grant</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Jim Beever</td>
<td>WQFAM</td>
<td>10/1/2011</td>
<td>10/1/2011</td>
<td>$160,000.00</td>
<td>$160,000.00</td>
<td>Workshop materials, assessment sheets, grants</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>To Be Submitted</td>
<td>FDEP</td>
<td>Liz Donley</td>
<td>WET PLAN</td>
<td>5/23/14</td>
<td>5/23/14</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>The purpose is to identify, map and document existing public art and public art venues in Charlotte County. A Field Guide to the Public Art of Charlotte County will assist residents, visitors and tourists to find public art geographically and in temporal space (for regularly scheduled events) in electronic and print media.</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Grant</td>
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<td>Charlotte Community Foundation</td>
<td>Margaret Wuerstle</td>
<td>Our Creative Economy: A Regional Strategy for Enhancing Public Arts and Cultural Venues – Asset Mapping in Charlotte County</td>
<td>7/1/2014</td>
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<td>$20,000.00</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>Jennifer Pellechio</td>
<td>The Zoning Mapping Project</td>
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<td>Grant</td>
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<td>EDO</td>
<td>Nichole Gwinnett</td>
<td>Hendry County Mini Farm Tour Plan</td>
<td>6-6-14</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>To Be Submitted</td>
<td>NOAA</td>
<td>Judy Ott</td>
<td>Oyster Habitat Restoration along Charlotte Harbor East Shore: Enhancing Essential Fish Habitat</td>
<td>09/30/2014</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>$220,000.00</td>
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<td>Draft and final reports, quarterly progress reports, possible presentations, and restored oyster habitat</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Grant</td>
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<td>Multiple Agencies</td>
<td>Liz Donley</td>
<td>Neighborhood Lakes and Ponds</td>
<td>2/5/14</td>
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<td>$60,000.00</td>
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<td>Video presentations, workshops, micro-grants</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Grant Pending</td>
<td>Visit Florida</td>
<td>Margaret Wuerstle</td>
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<td>Our Creative Economy: Southwest Florida Regional Strategy for Public Art</td>
<td>2/18/14</td>
<td>2/18/14</td>
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<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Grant Pending</td>
<td>PNC Foundation</td>
<td>Margaret Wuerstle</td>
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<td>Our Creative Economy: A Regional Strategy for Enhancing Public Arts and Cultural Venues</td>
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<td>1/14/14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A field guide to the public art of Charlotte County.</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Grant Pending</td>
<td>Presbyterian Committee</td>
<td>Margaret Wuerstle</td>
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<td>A Nutritional Oasis for Marginalized Individuals</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Grant Pending</td>
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<td>Jim Beever</td>
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<td>Identifying Future Saltwater Wetland Loss</td>
<td>4/4/14</td>
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<td>$256,759.00</td>
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<td>Report, transect information, presentations, articles</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Grant Pending</td>
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<td>Jennifer Pellechio</td>
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<td>Advanced Manufacturing in West Central Florida Advanced Manufacturing in West Central Florida An Ecosystem Analysis Supporting Regional Development</td>
<td>12/28/2013</td>
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<td>$210,000.00</td>
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<td>Regional website, branding strategy, brochures, analysis</td>
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<td>Grant Pending</td>
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<td>Jim Beever</td>
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<td>A Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptation Manual for Cities and Counties on the Gulf of Mexico</td>
<td>4/11/14</td>
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<td>$138,255.00</td>
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<td>How-to manual with protocols that are easily implemented.</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Grant Pending</td>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>Margaret Wuerstle</td>
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<td>Mobile Market: A Nutritional Oasis for Food Markets of SWFL</td>
<td>3/31/14</td>
<td>3/31/14</td>
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<td>$599,549.00</td>
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<td>10/1/14</td>
<td>9/30/17</td>
<td>Education Plan</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Grant Pending</td>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>Nichole Gwinnnett</td>
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<td>Opportunity Buy Program Coordinator</td>
<td>4/30/14</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$195,979.00</td>
<td>$99,848.00</td>
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<td>A part-time employee will be assigned to develop and coordinate this program over a two year period. After the program is implemented and stable, it will be turned over to the school districts for their continued usage.</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Grant Pending</td>
<td>Elizabeth Dole Foundation</td>
<td>Margaret Wuerstle</td>
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<td>Homeless Veterans Camp</td>
<td>10/15/13</td>
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<td>$150,000.00</td>
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<td>Maps of camp locations and documentation of number of homeless veterans</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Grant Pending</td>
<td>NOAA</td>
<td>Jim Beever</td>
<td></td>
<td>The effects of sea level rise on Total Ecosystem Services Value (TEV) in Southwest Florida</td>
<td>11/14/13</td>
<td>11/13/13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$208,245.74</td>
<td>$200,245.74</td>
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<td>TEV valuation of southwest Florida in existing and future climate change scenarios</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Grant Pending</td>
<td>SeaWorld &amp; Bus Gardens</td>
<td>Liz Donley</td>
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<td>Monofilament Cleanup</td>
<td>1/1/14</td>
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<td>$17,091.00</td>
<td>$1,647.00</td>
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<td>Needs assessment, monofilament clean-up</td>
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<td>Type</td>
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<td>Funding Agency</td>
<td>Project Mgr.</td>
<td>Project Name</td>
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<td>Date Submitted</td>
<td>Date Awarded/Denied</td>
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<td>Start Date</td>
<td>End Date</td>
<td>Deliverables</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Grant</td>
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<td>EPA</td>
<td>John Gibbons</td>
<td>Southwest Florida Environmental Justice Empowerment Center</td>
<td>2/18/14</td>
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<td>$120,000.00</td>
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<td>35</td>
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<td>EPA</td>
<td>John Gibbons</td>
<td>Environmental Job Training for dislocated workers and veterans with employable job skills</td>
<td>2/13/14</td>
<td>2/13/14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$200,000.00</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Grant</td>
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<td>National Endowment for the Arts</td>
<td>Margaret Wuerstle</td>
<td>Our Creative Economy - A Regional Strategy for Southwest Florida's Public Art and Cultural Venues</td>
<td>1/13/14</td>
<td>1/13/14</td>
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<td>$400,000.00</td>
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<td>37</td>
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<td>Jennifer Pellechio</td>
<td>FY14 Brownfields Assessment Grant</td>
<td>1/22/14</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>NOAA</td>
<td>General Partner</td>
<td>&quot;Resilient Coastal Communities&quot; and its National Height Modernization Program (NHMP)</td>
<td>6/21/13</td>
<td>6/21/2013</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
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<td>Meetings, workshops, data, new geospatial models</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>Rebekah Harp</td>
<td>The Smart Process Food Hub</td>
<td>4/30/14</td>
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<td>$139,457.00</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>Grant</td>
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<td>FEMA</td>
<td>John Gibbons</td>
<td>Strengthening Resilience Across Whole Communities of Practice: A Regionally-based Virtual Training Approach</td>
<td>8/16/13</td>
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<td>$64,000.00</td>
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<td>National LEPC Training and Exercise Program</td>
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<td>Jennifer Pellechio</td>
<td>SWFRPC, TBRPC, SFRPC Medical Corridor Initiative</td>
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<td>4/14/14</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>FDEP</td>
<td>Jim Beever</td>
<td>Resilient and Consistent Coastal Elements for Florida’s Gulf Coast (RESTORE)</td>
<td>1/7/13</td>
<td>1/7/2013</td>
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<td>$500,000.00</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>Grant</td>
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<td>USDOT</td>
<td>Margaret Wuerstle</td>
<td>Public/Private Regional Transportation Connectivity Plan</td>
<td>4/28/14</td>
<td>4/25/14</td>
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<td>$1,378,476.00</td>
<td>$1,148,476.00</td>
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<td>Public/Private Regional Transportation Connectivity Plan</td>
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<td>44</td>
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<td>FDEP</td>
<td>Margaret Wuerstle</td>
<td>Implement agriculture BMP in the Caloosahatchee Watershed</td>
<td>4/12/2013</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,000,000.00</td>
<td>$3,000,000.00</td>
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<td>Grants to growers to implement BMP. Anticipated to assist 20 growers/year for six years or 120 growers</td>
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<td>45</td>
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<td>FDEP</td>
<td>Jim Beever</td>
<td>Environmental Services Provided by the Gulf of Mexico</td>
<td>1/7/13</td>
<td>1/7/2013</td>
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Agenda

Item

Consent Agenda
CONSENT AGENDA SUMMARY

Agenda Item #9(a) – Intergovernmental Coordination and Review

There was one clearinghouse item reviewed during the month of April. Staff found the project to be “Regionally Significant and Consistent” with the SWFRPC’s Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP).

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- Approve the administrative action on the Clearinghouse Review items.

Agenda Item #9(b) – Financial Statement for April 30, 2014

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Financial Statement for April 30, 2014 will be presented at the June 19 meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- None at this time.

Agenda Item #9(c) – Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee’s Simulated Chemical Disaster

The purpose of this exercise is to provide participants (both private and public sectors) with an opportunity to evaluate current response concepts, plans, and capabilities for response to chemicals and other events in Glades County and the region. The exercise will focus on the key local emergency responder coordination, critical decisions, and the integration of Local, Regional and State assets necessary to save lives and protect the public health following a chemical and terrorist incident.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- None at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve consent agenda as presented.

5/2014
Agenda

Item

9a

Intergovernmental

Coordination & Review

9a

9a
Project Review and Coordination Regional Clearinghouse Review

The attached report summarizes the project notifications received from various governmental and non-governmental agencies seeking federal assistance or permits for the period beginning April 1, 2014 and ending April 30, 2014.

The staff of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council reviews various proposals, Notifications of Intent, Preapplications, permit applications, and Environmental Impact Statements for compliance with regional goals, objectives, and policies of the Regional Comprehensive Policy Plan. The staff reviews such items in accordance with the Florida Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Process (Chapter 29I-5, F.A.C.) and adopted regional clearinghouse procedures.

Council staff reviews projects under the following four designations:

- **Less Than Regionally Significant and Consistent** - no further review of the project can be expected from Council.

- **Less Than Regionally Significant and Inconsistent** - Council does not find the project to be of regional importance, but notes certain concerns as part of its continued monitoring for cumulative impacts within the noted goal areas.

- **Regionally Significant and Consistent** - Project is of regional importance and appears to be consistent with Regional goals, objectives and policies.

- **Regionally Significant and Inconsistent** - Project is of regional importance and appears not to be consistent with Regional goals, objectives, and policies. Council will oppose the project as submitted, but is willing to participate in any efforts to modify the project to mitigate the concerns.

The report includes the SWFRPC number, the applicant name, project description, location, funding or permitting agency, and the amount of federal funding, when applicable. It also includes the comments provided by staff to the applicant and to the FDEP-State Clearinghouse in Tallahassee.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval of the administrative action on Clearinghouse Review items.

5/2014
<table>
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<tr>
<th>SWFRPC #</th>
<th>Name1</th>
<th>Name2</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Funding Agent</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
<th>Council Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>Fred D. Fox, President</td>
<td>Fred Fox Enterprises, Inc.</td>
<td>Glades County</td>
<td>City of Moore Haven - 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Neighborhood Revitalization Application.</td>
<td>DEO - CDBG</td>
<td>$650,000.00</td>
<td>Regionally Significant and Consistent</td>
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### Review in Progress

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<tr>
<th>SWFRPC #</th>
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<th>Last Name</th>
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<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Funding Agent</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
<th>Council Comments</th>
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<td>2014-05</td>
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<td>Charlotte County</td>
<td>EPA - State Revolving Funds - Charlotte County Utilities - The East and West Spring Lake Wastewater Pilot Program.</td>
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<td>Review in Progress</td>
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<td>2014-17</td>
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<td>Lee County</td>
<td>FDEP JCP Application (#0200269-009-JC) for the Captiva and Sanibel Islands Renourishment Project in Lee County.</td>
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<td>Review in Progress</td>
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<td>2014-18</td>
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<td>Sarasota County</td>
<td>FDEP JCP Application #0240984-001-JC - South Siesta Key Beach Restoration Project - Phase 2 in Sarasota County.</td>
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<td>2014-19</td>
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<td>Sarasota County</td>
<td>Atkins North America, Inc. - Florida State Clearinghouse #FL20140423669C - Venice Municipal Airport Runway Protection Zone Improvement Project - Draft Focused Environmental Assessment.</td>
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Financial Statement for April 30, 2014
Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee’s Simulated Chemical Disaster

9c

9c
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL CHEMICAL SIMULATED DISASTER

The Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) will conduct a simulated chemical disaster June 11, 2014, in Glades County. Principal partners are the LEPC, Glades County Public Safety and Wedgworth’s Fertilizer, Incorporated. The disaster will incorporate a drill and table top exercise events.

BACKGROUND

On April 17, 2013, an ammonium nitrate explosion occurred at the West Fertilizer Company storage and distribution facility in West, Texas, eighteen miles north of Waco while emergency services personnel were responding to a fire at the facility. Fifteen people were killed; more than 160 injured and more than 150 buildings were damaged or destroyed. West Fertilizer Company has supplied chemicals to farmers since it was founded in 1962. It was reported that the plant was last inspected by Occupational Safety and Health Administration in 1985.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management requires a Local Emergency Planning Committee to develop and conduct an exercise every two years. During its February 2014 meeting, the Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee elected to join Glades County in conducting a chemical exercise. Additionally, Glades County will be conducting associated drills involving chemical exposure and decontamination of patients. The Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning will provide assistance to determine the capabilities of public/private responders and medical personnel to address a chemical incident at Wedgworth, Inc of Glades County.

EXERCISE SUMMARY

Operation Fertilizer TTX was designed primarily to demonstrate and discuss the capabilities of emergency response authorities and agencies to effectively respond to, mitigate, and recover from a Fertilizer Plant incident, a mass casualty event occurring at the Plant, and an Extreme Hazardous Substance (EHS). The intent is to facilitate a learning environment where response agencies and the private sector come together, face to face, to understand and talk through an integrated response involving specific emergency situations. Furthermore, our exercise design planning team wanted to facilitate discussion and interaction between the agencies and players of the selected emergency response authorities, healthcare systems, and public safety agencies to determine what each agency has available in their plans. Our tabletop exercise requires liaison and coordination with many mutual aid support agencies. Some agencies added other elements in support of their individual training programs or requirements beyond the tabletop scope. This exercise is being conducted in accordance with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) requirements.
Exercise Purpose

The purpose of this exercise is to provide participants (both private and public sectors) with an opportunity to evaluate current response concepts, plans, and capabilities for response to chemicals and other events in Glades County and the region. The exercise will focus on the key local emergency responder coordination, critical decisions, and the integration of Local, Regional and State assets necessary to save lives and protect the public health following a chemical and terrorist incident.

Scope

This TTX will focus on Glades County Public Safety and Wedgworth’s response to consequences of an airborne chemical release, worksite safety security and a terrorist incident. Processes and decision-making are more important minute details. Emphasis is on coordination, integration of capabilities, problem identification, and resolution.

The purpose of this exercise is to assess the effectiveness of current Continuity of Operations Plan capabilities in assisting decision makers during a response to a disaster, worksite safety terrorist incident and long term recovery.

- Incident Management
- Facility Recovery
- WMD/Hazardous Materials Response and Decontamination
- Emergency Public Information Warning

Exercise Objectives, Capabilities, and Activities

Capabilities-based planning allows for exercise planning teams to develop exercise objectives and observe exercise outcomes through a framework of specific action items that were derived from the Target Capabilities List (TCL). The capabilities listed below form the foundation for the organization of all objectives and observations in this exercise. Additionally, each capability is linked to several corresponding activities and tasks to provide additional detail.

Based upon the identified exercise objectives below, the exercise planning team has decided to demonstrate the following capabilities during this exercise:

- **Objective 1:** Evaluate the ability to implement department and division lines of succession and delegations of authority
- **Objective 2:** Identify changing roles and responsibilities as the community moves from response to short and long term recovery
Objective 3: Control the dissemination of Public Information. Communicate effectively with other agencies, utilities and the public through a communication and notification plan.

Scenario Summary

It is June 11, 2014, and the City of Moore Haven is currently emerged in an unprecedented heat wave with average temperatures above 90 degrees and oppressive humidity. Glades County is experiencing large tourist through traffic. Additionally, a bird watching event is being held along Lake Okeechobee during the morning hours of June 9-12, 2014.

On June 2, 2014, three employees of Wedgworth Farms, Incorporated were terminated by Risk Safety Manager Sherida Ridgdill for not following proper safety procedures. On the morning of June 11, 2014 at approximately 0900, one of the terminated employees confronts an employee at the plant he thought provided information which resulted in his dismissal. A fight ensues which draws the attention of the welding crew members: one a welder and one a fire watch person. The welder was cutting out a section of cat walk over an empty sulfur bin that still had trace amounts of product on the floor and the walls. The welder jumped up and left the cutting torch engaged and burning as he ran down the catwalk to get to the scene of the fight and the cutting torch falls into the bin below and a fire starts.

Administrators at the plant observed the confrontation which is now in the plant yard. Administrators join in the fight and begin chasing the ex-employee. The terminated employee attempts to escape the plant in his pick-up truck. A small cloud coming from the interior of the plant is also observed during the commotion.

At approximately 9:10 a.m., a two-engine freight train bound and pulling 12 cars, hauling everything from fiberboard to hazardous materials has entered the Wedgworth’s property and is proceeding at 5 miles per hour toward the unloading area. The train collides with a two-door truck driven by the former disgruntled employee trying to escape the plant. Employees and spectators hear the screech of the locomotive’s wheels as the emergency brakes are applied. They watch, as if in slow motion, as several cars of the train begin to derail and the truck is pushed down the tracks. Wedgworth’s Hazardous Materials Team is immediately activated and local authorities are notified. South Central Florida Express is contacted. South Central Florida Express informs Wedgworth’s that one of the tank cars has anhydrous ammonia onboard.

After the plant fire is under-control, another employee who was evacuated told a Wedgworth supervisor that he thought he observed the terminated disgruntled employee near the mobile fueling station at the front of the subject property; a search occurs and a suspicious package is found.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None. Update and information item only.
Agenda

Item 10

Regional Impact

10
Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan Amendment (DEO 14-5ER) EAR Amendments
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS
SARASOTA COUNTY

The Council staff has reviewed proposed evaluation and appraisal based amendments to the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan (DEO 14-5ER). These amendments were developed under the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act. A synopsis of the requirements of the Act and Council responsibilities is provided as Attachment I. Comments are provided in Attachment II. Site location maps can be reviewed in Attachment III.

Staff review of the proposed amendments was based on whether they were likely to be of regional concern. This was determined through assessment of the following factors:

1. Location--in or near a regional resource or regional activity center, such that it impacts the regional resource or facility; on or within one mile of a county boundary; generally applied to sites of five acres or more; size alone is not necessarily a determinant of regional significance;
2. Magnitude--equal to or greater than the threshold for a Development of Regional Impact of the same type (a DRI-related amendment is considered regionally significant); and
3. Character--of a unique type or use, a use of regional significance, or a change in the local comprehensive plan that could be applied throughout the local jurisdiction; updates, editorial revisions, etc. are not regionally significant.

A summary of the results of the review follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Amendment</th>
<th>Factors of Regional Significance</th>
<th>Consistent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEO 14-5ER (EAR Amendments)</td>
<td>Location: yes</td>
<td>Magnitude: yes</td>
</tr>
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</table>

RECOMMENDED ACTION:  Approve staff comments. Authorize staff to forward comments to the Department of Economic Opportunity and Sarasota County.

05/14
ATTACHMENT I

COMMUNITY PLANNING ACT

Local Government Comprehensive Plans

The Act requires each municipal and county government to prepare a comprehensive plan that must include at least the following nine elements:

1. Future Land Use Element;
2. Traffic Circulation Element;
   A local government with all or part of its jurisdiction within the urbanized area of a Metropolitan Planning Organization shall prepare and adopt a transportation element to replace the traffic circulation; mass transit; and ports, aviation, and related facilities elements. [9J-5.019(1), FAC]
3. General Sanitary Sewer, Solid Waste, Drainage, and Potable Water and Natural Groundwater Aquifer Recharge Element;
4. Conservation Element;
5. Recreation and Open Space Element;
6. Housing Element;
7. Coastal Management Element for coastal jurisdictions;
8. Intergovernmental Coordination Element; and

The local government may add optional elements (e.g., community design, redevelopment, safety, historical and scenic preservation, and economic).

All local governments in Southwest Florida have adopted revised plans:
- Charlotte County, Punta Gorda
- Collier County, Everglades City, Marco Island, Naples
- Glades County, Moore Haven
- Hendry County, Clewiston, LaBelle
- Lee County, Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel
- Sarasota County, Longboat Key, North Port, Sarasota, Venice

Page 1
Comprehensive Plan Amendments

A local government may amend its plan at any time during the calendar year. Six copies of the amendment are sent to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for review. A copy is also sent to the Regional Planning Council, the Water Management District, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The proposed amendments will be reviewed by DEO in two situations. In the first, there must be a written request to DEO. The request for review must be received within forty-five days after transmittal of the proposed amendment. Reviews can be requested by one of the following:

- the local government that transmits the amendment,
- the regional planning council, or
- an affected person.

In the second situation, DEO can decide to review the proposed amendment without a request. In that case, DEO must give notice within thirty days of transmittal.

Within five working days after deciding to conduct a review, DEO may forward copies to various reviewing agencies, including the Regional Planning Council.

Regional Planning Council Review

The Regional Planning Council must submit its comments in writing within thirty days of receipt of the proposed amendment from DEO. It must specify any objections and may make recommendations for changes. The review of the proposed amendment by the Regional Planning Council must be limited to "effects on regional resources or facilities identified in the Strategic Regional Policy plan and extra-jurisdictional impacts which would be inconsistent with the comprehensive plan of the affected local government.

After receipt of comments from the Regional Planning Council and other reviewing agencies, DEO has thirty days to conduct its own review and determine compliance with state law. Within that thirty-day period, DEO transmits its written comments to the local government.

NOTE: THE ABOVE IS A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE LAW. REFER TO THE STATUTE (CH. 163, FS) FOR DETAILS.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT:
Sarasota County

DATE AMENDMENT RECEIVED:
April 2, 2014

DATE AMENDMENT MAILED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND STATE:
Pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, Council review of proposed amendments to local
government Comprehensive Plans is limited to adverse effects on regional resources and
facilities identified in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan and extra-jurisdictional impacts that
would be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan of any affected local government within the
region. A written report containing the evaluation of these impacts, pursuant to Section
163.3184, Florida Statutes, is to be provided to the local government and the State land planning
agency within 30 calendar days of receipt of the amendment.
May 5, 2014

1. AMENDMENT NAME:

   Application Number: DEO 14-5ER
   Sarasota County Evaluation and Appraisal Based Comprehensive Plan Amendments

2. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT(S):
The County-initiated amendments in these changes are the results of Sarasota County’s
evaluation of their Comprehensive Plan. In 2011, the Florida Legislature adopted the
Community Planning Act which resulted in the most change to planning laws in Florida since
the 1985 Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation
Act, which had development in the State for decades. This change in the law still required all
local governments to adopt and implement a comprehensive plan, the requirements of the
new law gave more discretion to the local governmental entities.

As presented to and approved by the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners in February
and March of 2013, the County staff did notify the Department of Economic Opportunity that
the County would be amending their Comprehensive Plan to address some statutory
requirements and to perform a general “clean-up” of the Plan.
Under the new Community Planning Act the evaluation and appraisal review is no longer based on a checklist of specific requirements. There is no formal EAR process to adhere to anymore. Local governments are now only required to review their Comprehensive Plans to determine if changes in State requirements (statutory changes) necessitate any changes to the Comprehensive Plan. Local governments are “encouraged” to address any pertinent changing conditions in their community.

It is Sarasota County’s intent to pursue a more comprehensive update of the Comprehensive Plan, in the near future, outside of the Evaluation and Appraisal timing constrains that are noted below.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) developed a listing of “due dates” for local jurisdictions to submit Evaluation and Appraisal Notification Letter for communities with adopted Comprehensive Plans. In Sarasota County’s case, the Evaluation and Appraisal Notification Letter was due to the FDOE by April 1, 2013. Both the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners were apprised of the Evaluation and Appraisal Notification Letter as a discussion item at an advertised hearing in February and March 2013. The planning commission recommended and the Board of County Commissioners approved, transmitting the letter to FEEO informing them that the county would be amending the Comprehensive Plan. The signed Evaluation Notification Letter was received by FDEO on March 25, 2013. A letter in response from FDEO that advised the County staff that, pursuant to Section 163.3191(2), F.S., the County’s subsequent Evaluation and Appraisal based amendments must be submitted to the FDEO by April 1, 2014.

The County has submitted the following amendments for the State and regional reviews:

1. Statutory Requirements – A review of Comprehensive Plan statutory requirements (163.3177, F.S.) indicated that there were four (4) statutory requirements that had either not been addressed, or would be better addressed, in the County’s Comprehensive Plan. These items were:

   (a) The Future Land Use Chapter must address strategies to preserve recreational and commercial working water fronts;

   (b) The Future Land Use Chapter must address the compatibility of land uses adjacent to public airports;

   (c) The Transportation Chapter must be amended to address how impacts are mitigated based upon recent changes to Chapter 163, F.S.; and

   (d) The Future Land Use Chapter needs to address location/land use compatibility standards for electric distribution substations.

2. Chapter-by-Chapter Review – Based on the new State guidelines, each chapter in the Comprehensive Plan was reviewed by the appropriate County departments. The
County staff reviewed their respective chapters and asked to identify statutory changes that needed to be addressed and to identify any Goals, Objectives, and Policies in their areas of expertise that needed to be “cleaned up.” The staff review found that most of the changes that were identified were in fact “clean up” in nature, which is reflected in the subject review and proposed changes to the County’s Comprehensive Plan.

3. Mapping Changes – As part of the review, staff is proposing a Future Land Use Map amendment on a 4± acre parcel located on Little Sarasota Bay in Osprey. The subject site, “Bay Preserve at Osprey” is already operating as a public access environmental/cultural heritage preserve south of and adjacent to Historic Spanish Point. The property was originally purchased for preservation through a Florida Communities Trust (FCT) grant. One of the requirements of that FCT grant was that the local government Future Land Use Map designation for the property be amended to a designation that supports preservation. The Bay Preserve at Osprey currently has a “Moderate Density Residential” designation. The request is to change the designation from the existing designation to “Public Conservation/Preservation,” which will meet the requirement of the grant and more accurately reflect the actual use of the property at the present time.

The County staff also requested two additional map amendments to better convey the current land use situations in the County. First, Sarasota County and the City of Venice have a Joint Planning agreement (JPA) to address a variety of planning issues, including identifying potential annexation areas. Since the map was first included in the County’s Comprehensive Plan, there have been annexations and other map related issues that warranted an amendment to the map. Included as part of the proposed amendments is a revised Figure 9-5, “City of Venice Joint Planning Area,” which will bring the map to a level consistent with the actions that has been taken by the two jurisdictions.

Secondly, although most of the County staff Chapter reviewers kept their amendments to clean-up type of changes, Utilities/Public Works did believe that some of the data and maps in Chapter 4 (Watersheds) were too out of date and they have updated them as part of part of these map change requests. The maps were reviewed by the County’s Water Advisory Committee and the Stormwater Environmental Utility Advisory Committee for public input. The maps are part of the update to Chapter 4 of the Comprehensive Plan.

3. ADVERSE EFFECTS TO SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL RESOURCES AND FACILITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN:

The changes requested to the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan in these amendments include additional and changes to existing goals, objectives and policies that implement the County’s future. Council staff has reviewed the proposed changes due to statutory requirements and find that the changes to the Future Land Use Chapter that addresses strategies to preserve recreational and commercial working waterfro
uses adjacent to public airports, mitigation used for transportation impacts based upon recent changes to Chapter 163, F.S., and compatibility standards for electric distribution substations are all procedural changes that update the County’s Comprehensive Plan to bring it into conformance with statutory requirements. Council staff finds that the proposed changes will allow the plan to meet the subject regulatory requirements, will improve the resources and facilities of the County, and will provide more economically viable future of the County and region.

Council staff reviewed has also reviewed the suggested changes that were identified by the County staff in their respective Chapter reviews and finds that the proposed statutory changes are needed in order to address updates of the Chapter Goals, Objectives, and Policies in their areas of expertise and are indeed “cleaned up” actions that were needed to make the Comprehensive Plan more accurate and thereby improve the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan in the future and will lessen future impacts on the County’s resources and improve the existing and future County facilities.

With respect to the Mapping changes requested in these changes, Council staff agrees with the substantial review and findings of the County staff and the County Board of County Commissioners that the proposed land use changes for the Bay Preserve at Osprey are appropriate and will meet the grant requirements and more accurately identify the existing use of the land on the Future Land Use Map. This change will improve and add to the resources of the County and region.

Finally, with respect to the Sarasota County and the City of Venice have a Joint Planning agreement map changes, Council staff believes that the proposed changes will improve the accuracy of the Comprehensive Plan by updating the Future Land Use Map and the changes proposed to update the watershed areas of the County. Therefore, Council staff finds that the requested amendments will not produce significant adverse effects to regional resources or facilities that are identified in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Based on the information submitted, Council staff finds that the requested changes are regionally significant because they will affect regional resources and facilities, but Council staff finds that the proposed changes are consistent with the Goals, Strategies, and Actions found in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) because the changes improve the County’s Comprehensive Plan by making the Plan more accurate and better able to implement the Goals, Objectives, and Policies of the Plan that improve the future improvements to the region.

4. EXTRAJURISDICTIONAL IMPACTS INCONSISTENT WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THE REGION

As proposed, the subject amendments will impact adjacent jurisdiction within the region however, the changes will not negatively impact the Comprehensive Plans of these adjacent jurisdictions. Therefore, Council staff finds that the requested Comprehensive Plan amendments do not produce any significant extra-jurisdictional impacts that would be
inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan of any other affected local government within the region.

Request a copy of the adopted version of the amendment?  

X  Yes  ___  No
Maps

Sarasota County
DEO 14-5ER

Growth Management Plan
Comprehensive Plan Amendments
EXISTING FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION

Bay Preserve at Osprey

EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL BASED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT

Request by the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast

NOTE: This map cannot be correctly interpreted independent of the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan as adopted by Sarasota County Ordinance No. 99-18, as the same may be amended from time to time. The boundaries of land use designations, where they have been established, may be reviewed at Sarasota County Planning Services, 1560 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota, Florida.
Figure 9-5 "City of Venice Joint Planning Area"
Agenda

Item

10b

10b

Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan Amendment (DEO 14-6ESR) (CPA2014A)

10b
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS
SARASOTA COUNTY

The Council staff has reviewed proposed evaluation and appraisal based amendments to the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan (DEO 14-6ER; CPA No. 2014-A). These amendments were developed under the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act. A synopsis of the requirements of the Act and Council responsibilities is provided as Attachment I. Comments are provided in Attachment II. Site location maps can be reviewed in Attachment III.

Staff review of the proposed amendments was based on whether they were likely to be of regional concern. This was determined through assessment of the following factors:

1. Location--in or near a regional resource or regional activity center, such that it impacts the regional resource or facility; on or within one mile of a county boundary; generally applied to sites of five acres or more; size alone is not necessarily a determinant of regional significance;

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<td>Location: yes, Magnitude: no, Character: yes</td>
<td>(1) procedural; (2) regionally significant; and (3) consistent with SRPP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve staff comments. Authorize staff to forward comments to the Department of Economic Opportunity and Sarasota County.

05/14
Attachment I

COMMUNITY PLANNING ACT

Local Government Comprehensive Plans

The Act requires each municipal and county government to prepare a comprehensive plan that must include at least the following nine elements:

1. Future Land Use Element;
2. Traffic Circulation Element;
   A local government with all or part of its jurisdiction within the urbanized area of a Metropolitan Planning Organization shall prepare and adopt a transportation element to replace the traffic circulation; mass transit; and ports, aviation, and related facilities elements. [9J-5.019(1), FAC]
3. General Sanitary Sewer, Solid Waste, Drainage, and Potable Water and Natural Groundwater Aquifer Recharge Element;
4. Conservation Element;
5. Recreation and Open Space Element;
6. Housing Element;
7. Coastal Management Element for coastal jurisdictions;
8. Intergovernmental Coordination Element; and

The local government may add optional elements (e.g., community design, redevelopment, safety, historical and scenic preservation, and economic).

All local governments in Southwest Florida have adopted revised plans:
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Collier County, Everglades City, Marco Island, Naples
Glades County, Moore Haven
Hendry County, Clewiston, LaBelle
Lee County, Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel
Sarasota County, Longboat Key, North Port, Sarasota, Venice

Page 1
Attachment I

Comprehensive Plan Amendments

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- the local government that transmits the amendment,
- the regional planning council, or
- an affected person.

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Regional Planning Council Review

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After receipt of comments from the Regional Planning Council and other reviewing agencies, DEO has thirty days to conduct its own review and determine compliance with state law. Within that thirty-day period, DEO transmits its written comments to the local government.

NOTE: THE ABOVE IS A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE LAW. REFER TO THE STATUTE (CH. 163, FS) FOR DETAILS.
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW
FORM 01

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:
Sarasota County

DATE AMENDMENT RECEIVED:
April 14, 2014

DATE AMENDMENT MAILED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND STATE:
Pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, Council review of proposed amendments to local government Comprehensive Plans is limited to adverse effects on regional resources and facilities identified in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan and extra-jurisdictional impacts that would be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan of any affected local government within the region. A written report containing the evaluation of these impacts, pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, is to be provided to the local government and the State land planning agency within 30 calendar days of receipt of the amendment.
May 6, 2014

1. AMENDMENT NAME:

Application Number: DEO 14-6ESR

Sarasota County Major Employment Centers (MEC) Residential Uses Comprehensive Plan Amendments; CPA No. 2014-A

2. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT(S):

This requested amendment to the County’s Comprehensive Plan is intended to change the Future Land Use Element (FLUE) to support the development of existing Major Employment Centers (MEC) in the County with a mixture of uses including residential development that will serve the MECs. The proposed amendment is intended to be a “clean-up” item to correct potential Comprehensive Plan language inconsistencies and allow medium and high-density residential uses in all implementing zoning districts of the MECs. Presently, only Policy 3.1.3 allows such residential uses within the implementing planning districts.
Future land use policy 3.1.3 provides for Median and High Density residential development in MECs, "where such residential development may be approved as part of a Planned District (PD), provided that the residential use is part of a mixed use development."

The MECs description in the Comprehensive Plan provides the following intent for this land use designation: "The uses typically found in BEC include light industrial, manufacturing, warehousing and office uses, and combinations of these uses. Accessory and incidental commercial with MECs are limited as allowed in the implementing zoning districts. Limited amounts of residential development are also permitted to facilitate access between home and place of work. Residential development with MEC is encouraged to provide workforce housing."

The County is proposing to amend the Comprehensive Plan’s existing wording as follows to implement the intention of the current land use designation:

**FLU Policy 3.1.3.** (Page 9-66 and 9-67 in Comp Plan)

In addition to areas designated on the Future Land Use Map, Medium and High Density Residential development, as defined in Policy 3.1.1., shall be permitted uses in the following situations:

- within Commercial Centers provided that residential uses do not exceed twenty-five percent of the total Commercial Center acreage and that the location and use are consistent with the adopted Critical Area Planning Regulations. The acreage associated with multi-store mixed use building, where the first floor of the building is required to be used for commercial/office uses, shall not be counted as "residential acreage" for the purposes of this standard;
- within Commercial Corridors, provided that the plan meets the standards set forth in Policy 3.2.8;
- as a single or mixed use within Office/Multi-Family Residential designations, provided that the parcel is of sufficient size to enable a site design that provides adequate access and circulation, and buffering from adjacent uses;
- within Major Employment Centers where such limited residential development may be approved as part of a Planned District (PD), provided that the residential use is part of a mixed use development;
- within Developments of Regional Impact, where such residential development may be approved as part of a Planned District (PD), and where such residential development may be approved as part of a Planned Unit Development (PUD), in accordance with the Sarasota County Zoning Regulations; and
- within Future Land Use Map designated Town and Village Centers upon completion of the relevant Town and Village Center Plan.

The County staff also recommended that the following intent sections of the Comprehensive Plan be changed to clarify the intent of residential development with the MECs to be limited and accessory, and part of a mixed used development. County staff also recommended
adding “limited” to the light industrial, manufacturing, warehousing and office uses, and combinations of those uses found within the intent section of the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Major Employment Centers Description** (Page 9-28 in Comp Plan)
  The uses typically found in MEC include light industrial, manufacturing, warehousing and office uses, and combinations of these uses. Accessory and incidental commercial activities within MECs are limited as allowed in the implementing zoning districts. It is not the intent of the MEC designation to be predominantly commercial in nature. The commercial uses are encouraged to be limited to the sale of merchandise produced, manufactured, or distributed within the center, and the internal retail and service needs of employees. Many MECs were developed without the benefit of coordinated plans that allocated employment and incidental/accessory commercial uses. In November 2011, the Board of County Commissioners provided direction to encourage more flexible redevelopment and serve neighborhood scale commercial needs within ILW zoned properties that were existing as of January 1, 2012. Accordingly, ILW zoned properties within MECs are allowed to provide for a broader range of commercial uses up to a maximum freestanding size of 15,000 square feet per use. Free-standing retail commercial uses larger than 15,000 square feet may be allowed on such ILW zoned properties by Special Exception, provided that additional commercial square footage is incidental to the MEC within which it is located. Limited amounts of residential development, **provided it is part of a mixed-use development**, are also permitted to facilitate access between home and place of work. Residential development within a MEC is encouraged to provide workforce housing.

- **Major Employment Centers Description** (Page 9-42 in Comp Plan)
  **Major Employment Centers** – Major Employment Centers (MEC) are designated on the Future Land Use Map to provide locations for employment and economic development opportunities. The uses typically found in MEC include light industrial, manufacturing, warehousing, and offices uses, and combinations of those uses. Although accessory and incidental commercial uses are permitted, MEC areas are not intended to be commercial in nature or to substitute for commercial designations on the Future Land Use Map. Similarly, **residential development, which is permitted when part of a mixed-use development, is also intended to be accessory in nature.**
  Existing ILW zoned properties (as of January 1, 2012) are allowed a broader range of commercial uses up to a maximum free-standing size of 15,000 square feet per use. Free-standing retail commercial uses larger than 15,000 square feet may be allowed on such ILW zoned properties by Special Exception, provided that additional commercial square footage is incidental to the MEC within which it is located. Limited amounts of residential development are also permitted to facilitate access between home and work place.

- **Future Land Use Plan Description** continued (Page 9-46 in Comp Plan)
  Another tenet is to provide areas for light industrial, manufacturing, warehousing and office uses, and combinations of those uses, at locations which have direct access to
the regional highway system. Comparatively large areas have been delineated, and a wide variety of office and industrial uses are permitted to ensure viability. The business uses can be supported by accessory and incidental commercial activities primarily intended to service the internal retail and service needs of the employees, and some limited residential development, as part of a mixed-use development, is also permitted to facilitate access between home and work place.

3. ADVERSE EFFECTS TO SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL RESOURCES AND FACILITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN:

The proposed amendment would provide for limited residential development, when constructed as part of a mixed-use development. It would allow this residential development in all implementing zoning districts and not be limited to only implementing Planned Districts. The proposed changes would not require changes to the Zoning Code, but would allow for any future such zoning text amendments.

While the MEC Future Land Use designation is primarily intended for industrial, manufacturing, warehousing, and office uses, it does encourage and permit some residential uses that are related to support its activities and employees. The proposed changes to the MEC Future Land Use designation would not increase the density or intensity of the development beyond what is presently allowed. Therefore, there are no anticipated negative impacts on utilities, stormwater, or transportation systems.

Based on the information submitted by the County, Council staff finds that the requested changes are procedural since those changes are identified as “cleanup” of the existing definitions of descriptions of the MEC land use designation. The proposed amendments are regionally significant because they will affect regional resources and facilities, but because the changes will not increase the intensity or density of the subject MECs, Council staff finds that the proposed changes are consistent with the Goals, Strategies, and Actions found in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). The SRPP supports providing workforce housing near to the places of work for the employees in the MEC business establishments. Council staff finds that the changes improve the County’s Comprehensive Plan by making the Plan more accurate and better able to implement the Goals, Objectives, and Policies of the Plan. These changes improve the economic viability of the MEC business and the proposed changes are found to improve the future economic condition of the region.

4. EXTRAJURISDICTIONAL IMPACTS INCONSISTENT WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THE REGION

As proposed, the subject amendments will impact adjacent jurisdictions within the region via the transportation system impacts; however, the changes will not negatively impact the Comprehensive Plans of these adjacent jurisdictions because the intensities and densities of the subject MECs will not be increased. Therefore, Council staff finds that the requested Comprehensive Plan amendment does not produce any significant extra-jurisdictional impacts that would be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan of any other affected local government within the region.
Request a copy of the adopted version of the amendment?  X Yes  ___ No
Maps

Sarasota County
DEO 14-6ESR

Growth Management Plan
Comprehensive Plan Amendments
LCEC’s 2014 Electric Substation Planning Report
March 31, 2014

Margaret Wuerstle  
Executive Director  
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council  
1926 Victoria Avenue  
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Subject: 2014 Electric Substation Planning Report to Regional Planning Council

Dear Ms. Wuerstle:

In accordance with Florida Statute 186.0201, Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LCEC) is providing a report for the current plus five-year period (2014-2019) its current plans to either site new or expand existing substations within the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council. The report consists of a summary table and associated location maps.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (239) 656-2360.

Sincerely,

Clark Hawkins  
Manager, Design & Engineering  
Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
LCEC

Received  
APR - 2 2014  
SWFRPC
Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LCEC)

2014 Electric Substation Planning Report to Regional Planning Councils

Summary:

The attached table (and referenced maps) contains LCEC's current plan to site new or expand existing substations over the current and 5-year period 2014 thru 2019.

Background:

In June 2006, Senate Bill No. 980 was approved which requires electric utilities, on or before June 1 of every year, to notify regional planning council(s) of the utilities' current plans over a 5-year period to site electric substations within the local governments contained within each region. Included in this notification shall be an identification of whether each electric substation planned within a general area is a distribution or transmission electric substation, a listing of the proposed substations' site acreage needs and anticipated capacity, and maps showing general locations of the planned electric substations.

LCEC's service area is located in segments of Charlotte, Lee, Collier, and Hendry Counties. Communities served include: Cape Coral, North Fort Myers, Pine Island, Sanibel / Captiva Islands, Marco Island, Lehigh Acres, Immokalee, Everglades City, and Ochopee.

(end)
Table 1

LCEC Planned Substations for the Period 2014-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Location</th>
<th>Site Acquired</th>
<th>Substation</th>
<th>Substation Type</th>
<th>Approximate Site Acreage</th>
<th>Anticipated Capacity, MVA</th>
<th>In Service Date</th>
<th>Map Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Fort Myers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>North Trail</td>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immokalee</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Lake Trafford</td>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>7.13</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immokalee</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Immokalee West</td>
<td>Transmission</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marco</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Marco</td>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>100 (expansion)</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE Cape Coral</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Trafalgar</td>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(end)
LCEC - East System Planned Substations for the Period 2014-2019
LCEC - South System Planned Substations for the Period 2014-2019
April 22, 2014

Mr. Clark Hawkins
Manager, Design & Engineering
Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 3455
North Fort Myers, FL 33918-3455

RE: LCEC Five-Year Plan for Locations of Electrical Substations 2014-2019

Dear Mr. Hawkins:

The staff of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council reviews various proposals, notifications of intent, pre-applications, permit applications, and Environmental Impact Statements for compliance with the regional Goals, Strategies, and Actions, as determined by the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, July 4, 2002. The staff reviews such items in accordance with the Florida Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Process (Chapter 29I-5, F.A.C.).

These designations determine Council staff procedure in regards to the reviewed project. The four designations are:

- **Less Than Regionally Significant and Consistent** no further review of the project can be expected from Council.

- **Less Than Regionally Significant and Inconsistent** Council does not find the project of regional importance, but will note certain concerns as part of its continued monitoring for cumulative impact within the noted goal area.

- **Regionally Significant and Consistent** project is of regional importance, and appears to be consistent with Regional goals, objectives, and policies.

- **Regionally Significant and Inconsistent** project is of regional importance and does not appear to be consistent with Regional goals, objectives, and policies. Council will oppose the project as submitted, but is willing to participate in any efforts to modify the project to mitigate the concerns.
The above referenced document has been reviewed by this office. Based on the information contained in the submittal dated March 31, 2014 and on local knowledge, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council has the following comments about this planning report:

The Lee County Electric Cooperative is requesting approval of the utility’s current five-year plan for the siting of proposed electrical substations within southwest Florida. Based on the maps and tables presented, two (2) substation will be located in Lee County (North Fort Myers - North Trail and SE Cape Coral - Trafalgar) and three (3) substations will be located in Collier County (Immokalee - Lake Trafford, Immokalee - Immokalee West and Marco Island - Marco). The sites for these facilities vary in size from approximately 1.42 acres to 10 acres. The system improvements are proposed for the five year (2014-2019) planning period and include:

1) Lee County - North Fort Myers - North Trail Substation: This substation will be located on a 2.41-acre site, north of Kismet Parkway and west of I-75. The proposed facilities will provide an expansion of the existing distribution system and will have an anticipated capacity of 50 MVA. The improvement’s in service date is scheduled for 2014;

2) Collier County - Immokalee - Lake Trafford Substation: This substation will be located on a 7.13-acre site on SR 29. The proposed facilities will provide an expansion of the existing distribution system and will have an anticipated capacity of 50 MVA. The improvement’s in service date is 2017;

3) Collier County - Immokalee - Immokalee West Substation: This substation will be located on a 10.00-acre site on SR 29 in south Immokalee and will have an anticipated capacity of 400 MVA. The proposed facilities will provide an improvement to the existing transmission system. The improvement’s in service date is 2018;

4) Collier County - Marco Island - Marco Substation: This substation will be located on a 1.42-acre site on Collier Boulevard, east of Heathwood Dr. and will expand existing facilities to an anticipated capacity of 100 MVA. The proposed facilities will provide for system distribution improvements. The improvement’s in service date is scheduled for 2018; and

5) Lee County - SE Cape Coral - Trafalgar Substation: This substation will be located on a 2.41-acre site on Santa Barbara Blvd., south of SE 6th St. and will provide facilities with an anticipated capacity of 50 MVA. The improvement’s in service date is scheduled for 2018.

All the subject sites listed are currently owned by LCEC and when the improvements are added all of the proposed substations will enhance the distribution and transmission functions of the existing regional electrical grid.
Based on the information provided in the application, Council staff finds that these facilities are Regionally Significant and Consistent given that the requested actions will provide improvements to important electrical infrastructure in the region. The infrastructure development as described in the documentation will enhance the health, safety and welfare of the region’s population. In addition, the proposed improvements will not negatively impact any identified regional resources or facilities, and will not negatively impact any adjacent jurisdictions.

Council staff also finds that no further review of this plan will be necessary from Council unless unforeseen circumstances occur that change the overall requested improvements. Should you or any other party request this finding to be reconsidered or have any questions concerning staff review of this item, please contact David Crawford, Principal Planner at the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council.

Sincerely,

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

[Signature]

Margaret Wuerstle
Executive Director

MW/DEC
Agenda

Regional Issues
“Our Creative Economy” Presentation
• Charlotte
• Collier
• Glades
• Hendry
• Lee
• Sarasota
Promoting Our Public Arts & Cultural Venues As An Economic Driver

**Why**

**Lee County:** Non-profit arts and culture industry generated $68.3 million, yielding $9.4 million in government revenues and 2,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

**Collier County:** the arts have an estimated $125-$175 million impact on the economy with approximately 200 full time jobs provided by nonprofit arts organization and another 4,000 - 5,000 jobs through secondary spending related to the arts.

**Sarasota County:** the Arts Industry provides 4,579 jobs with $180 million in direct expenditure resulting in $7.6 million in local government revenues and $12.5 million in state government revenues.

**Charlotte County:** In 2007, the arts industry generated $21 million in total expenditures supporting 512 full time jobs resulting in $756,000 in local government revenues and $1.3 million in state government revenues.

**How**

• Partner with art organizations, governments, visitors’ bureaus, school boards, chambers of commerce

• Seek grant funding from Federal, State and Local sources and private foundations
Identify, map (GIS) and describe existing public arts and cultural venues assets

“SWOT” analysis; recommend strategies, and transfer data to, local governments

Website: Interactive via mobile device.
SIGNIFICANT PROJECT IMPACTS

Small businesses and art entrepreneurs

New visitors to the area, engender arts tourism in the region and will result in extended stays for returning visitors.

New art-friendly businesses setting up shop in the region including galleries, arts suppliers, loft space rentals, as well as arts and craft shops.

Students from K-Graduate School within the served communities will participate in:

- Art Trails field trips to learn about a wide range of arts features in cultural, historical and economic contexts
PARTNERS

Lee County Alliance for the Arts
The Greater LaBelle Chamber of Commerce
Sarasota County – Office of Business and Economic Development
Hendry County EDC/TDC
United Arts Council of Collier County
City of Fort Myers Public Art Program
Sarasota County TDC
Arts & Humanities Council of Charlotte County
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Lee County VCB
Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County
Charlotte County Tourism Development Council (TDC)
Collier County TDC
Glades County EDC
REVENUE SOURCES

Applied/Pending

– NEA - Our Town
– Community Foundations (1)
– Other Foundations (1)
– VISIT Florida (1)
– Others to be Submitted (2)

Awarded
LEE COUNTY EXAMPLES

Fort Myers

Fort Myers Beach

Bonita Springs

Cape Coral

Sanibel
• The workshops will explain the need to offer visitors a coordinated, easy-to-use method for identifying and finding local arts’ amenities and activities.

• Logo Contest
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sarasota County</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 8</td>
<td>4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lee County</td>
<td>Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers 33919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 9</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Hendry County</td>
<td>Beef O’Brady’s, 21 Lee Street, LaBelle Corner of Hwy 80 and Lee Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 23</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Glades County</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 28</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Charlotte County</td>
<td>Charlotte County Administration Building at 18500 Murdock Circle, Building B in Port Charlotte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 29</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Collier County</td>
<td>Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau - Conference Room 609-610 at 2800 N. Horseshoe Drive, Naples</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact:**
Nichole Gwinnett
ngwinnett@swfrpc.org | 239-338-2550 x232
http://www.swflregionalvision.com/creativeeconomy.html
A design competition between local artists
Design a proposed logo for the project which will be used to brand and market the project deliverables.
Process, 2014
- Contest Began: January
- Logo Deadline: February 19th
- Public workshops: February – April
LOGO VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Circle your choice on the ballot
- Make sure you sign your ballot
- Put your ballot in the bucket
LOGO COMPETITION

C

D

“Discover” theme with abstract telescope, palm leaf, ocean blue, artist palette shape at bottom

E

“Explore” theme with multicolored conquistador helmet (representing history also), ocean blue, artist palette shape

F

“Explore” theme with multicolored conquistador helmet (representing history also), ocean blue, artist palette shape

G

“SWFL” theme with palm tree, sun, ocean with the “L” as a paint brush painting the beach

H

“OUR CREATIVE ECONOMY”
CLOSING COMMENTS

Margaret Wuerstle  
**Executive Director**  
239.338.2550 ext. 222  
mwuerstle@swfrpc.org

Jennifer Pellechio  
Tim Walker  
Rebekah Harp  
Nichole Gwinnett  
Courtney Lallo

For more information please contact us at:  
socialmedia@swfrpc.org

Youtube.com  
SWFRPC  
twitter.com/  
SWFRPC  
facebook.com  
SWFRPC  
linkedin.com  
in/SWFRPC  
www. swfrpc.org
Agenda

Budget & Finance Committee

Item

Item

12a

12a

12a
Economic Development Committee
Agenda

Item

12c

12c

Energy & Climate Committee

12c

12c
Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management Committee
Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management

The regular meeting of the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management was held on April 14, 2014 in the SWFRPC 1st Floor Conference Room in Fort Myers, Florida. Minutes of the March and April meeting have not yet been adopted.

Ms. Jennifer Hecker with the Conservancy of South Florida presented information on Amendment 1 Florida “Water and Land Conservation Amendment”. The EBABM voted to endorse and support the Amendment 1 (Resolution Attached).

Dr. Win Everham presented on the Ecological State of the Florida Gulf Coast University Campus 1994 - 2014

The official theme for the Cela Tega 2015 was selected as "Resiliency and Sea Level Rise Adaptation in the Estero Bay Basin".

Further discussions followed on contacting under-represented entities for EBABM participation.

Next Meeting Time and Place, for EBABM is Monday, May 12, 2014 – 9:30 A.M, at the SWFRPC and for the IAS was Monday, April 28, 2014 – 1:30 P.M at FGCU.

**Recommended Action:** The Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management encourages support of the Amendment I Florida “Water and Land Conservation Amendment” by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council.
RESOLUTION 2014-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT, SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION; ENCOURAGING SUPPORT OF THE AMENDMENT BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

WHEREAS, the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management is a non-regulatory advisory committee to the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (Council); and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (Council) is, "to work together across neighboring communities to consistently protect and improve the unique and relatively unspoiled character of the physical, economic and social worlds we share for the benefit of our future generations"; and

WHEREAS, the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management has been directed to, "make comments and recommendations regarding the management of Estero Bay and its watershed"; and

WHEREAS, the principles of the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management state that, "Environmental protection and long-term quality of life will not suffer based on short-term economic impacts or political pressures"; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution states, "It shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty"; and

WHEREAS, protection of the quality and quantity of Florida's drinking water sources is a primary responsibility of our state; and

WHEREAS, Florida has a longstanding commitment to protection of outdoor recreation lands, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; working farms and ranches; historic and geologic sites; and

WHEREAS, with support from Florida’s Governors and Legislatures from 1990 through 2008, two state programs, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever, received approximately $300 million in state funding each year; and

WHEREAS, the Estero Bay Watershed contains many treasured natural resources of significant environmental importance that contribute greatly to the quality of life enjoyed by our citizens; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the Estero Bay watershed that action be taken in order to protect for future generations the natural resources of the Estero Bay watershed by continuing to acquire, improve and manage environmentally significant lands; and,

WHEREAS, the acquisition of these environmentally significant lands will provide opportunities for both existing residents and future generations to enjoy wild and scenic areas and will provide opportunities for resource-based recreation and educational uses as well as opportunities to maintain good surface water quality by using appropriate lands for their natural stormwater cleansing abilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Estero Bay watershed, has benefited directly from state land conservation, management, and restoration programs funded through Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever by receiving grants, from the Florida Communities Trust, the Water Management Districts, and the Florida Forever program; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, state funding of Florida Forever has been significantly reduced; and
WHEREAS, acquisition, management, restoration of natural systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands requires a sustainable, dedicated source of state funding; and

WHEREAS, documentary stamp tax revenues have historically been used to provide state funding for conservation and recreation in Florida; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of individual volunteers and conservation and civic organizations from across the state worked to make the "Water and Land Conservation Amendment" amendment no. 1 on the November 2014 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Florida "Water and Land Conservation Amendment" ballot title and summary read as follows:

TITLE: Water and Land Conservation- Dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands

SUMMARY: Funds the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands including wetlands and forests; fish and wildlife habitat; lands protecting water resources and drinking water sources, including the Everglades, and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; beaches and shores; outdoor recreational lands; working farms and ranches; and historic or geologic sites, by dedicating 33 percent of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents for 20 years.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ESTERO BAY AGENCY FOR BAY MANAGEMENT:

Section 1. The Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management supports the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment.

Section 2. The Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management encourages support of the Amendment by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and other organizations that seek to enhance the quality of life in the Estero Bay Watershed, throughout the State of Florida, by preserving and protecting conservation lands, recreational lands, working farms and ranches, historic or geologic sites, water resources and drinking water sources; and the water quality of rivers, lakes, streams, beaches and shores.

ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

Lisa B. Beever, PhD, AICP

EBABM Chair

cc: Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council members

Estero Bay ABM members
Executive Committee

12e

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12e
Agenda

Item

12f

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Legislative Affairs Committee

12f

12f
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Legislative Affairs Committee
Legislative Priorities & Bills of Interest – 2014 Legislative Session
Sean McCabe, Regional Counsel

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For additional legislative analysis, see the following web sites:
Florida Association of Counties (includes federal section), Florida League of Cities, Florida Chapter of the
American Planning Association
LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The 2014 Regular Session, which convened March 4, adjourned on May 2, 2014. The legislature passed 264 bills, which is 22 percent less than the 10-year average of 338 bills passed per year from 2004 to 2013.

The Budget: The legislature approved a record budget of almost $77.1 billion for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015, about 3.5 percent more than the budget for the current fiscal year. The proposed budget, which includes a half-billion tax cut package, was sent to Governor Rick Scott for approval.

ENVIRONMENT: Legislators set aside $170 million for projects intended to help the Indian River Lagoon and other water bodies dealing with discharges from Lake Okeechobee; the legislature also approved $30 million to protect Florida's springs and $25 million for beach restoration.

Environmental groups are disappointed with the amounts allocated for the purchase of conservation lands; they requested $100 million for the Florida Forever land-buying program, and budget negotiators agreed on $12.5 million for Florida Forever and $5 million for agricultural conservation easements. The $17.5 million for conservation lands overall is less than the $31 million provided last year for Florida Forever and agricultural conservation easements.

"In general the revenue situation is better this year," Janet Bowman, director of legislative policy and strategies for The Nature Conservancy. "So one would expect a kind of a growth" based on increased tax collections.

House Speaker Will Weatherford responded that the House spent a lot of money on water projects and the environment. "There is only so much money," he said. "We have significant problems all over the state."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Visit Florida, the state's tourism marketing arm, got an increase in funding from $63 million to $74 million. Gov. Rick Scott had asked for $100 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FGCU Innovation Hub (iHub):</th>
<th>$7 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cape Coral Reclaimed Water Transmission Main</td>
<td>$790,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caloosahatchee River Crossing Project:</td>
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GROWTH MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION OPPOSED BY COUNCIL

- SB 372: Developments of Regional Impact - FAILED
- HB 395: Growth Management/Private Property Rights - FAILED
- HB 703: Environmental Regulation - FAILED
- HB 7023: Economic Development – PASSED (in modified form)

BILLS OF STATEWIDE & REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Legislation Opposed By Council:

- SB 372: Developments of Regional Impact - FAILED
- HB 395: Growth Management/Private Property Rights - FAILED
- HB 703: Environmental Regulation - FAILED
- HB 7023: Economic Development – PASSED (in modified form)

PASSED:

- “Charlotte's Web” bill. A measure legalizing a strain of medical marijuana passed, and is expected to be signed into law by the governor. The legislation allows doctors to prescribe a liquid form of the "Charlotte's Web" marijuana strain to patients suffering from frequent seizures.
• The Florida Dream Act. This bill, supported by the governor, will grant in-state college tuition to all qualifying Florida students regardless of their immigration status, including foreign-born children of undocumented immigrants. The measure gives the tuition break to any student that has attended a Florida school for at least three years prior to graduation.

• SB 374, which eliminates a requirement that local referendums on development decisions involve five or more parcels. The bill was created to exclude Longboat Key from a ban on local growth management referendums imposed by the Legislature in 2011.

• G.I. Bill. HB 7015 is intended to make Florida the most military-friendly state in the country. It provides university tuition waivers for veterans, pays for military and guard base improvements, is expected to help increase employment opportunities for veterans, and allocates $1 million a year to sell the state to veterans. The legislation, expected to cost more than $30 million in its first year, includes in-state tuition breaks granted veterans that are expected to cost taxpayers $11.7 million in 2014-15 and $12.5 million for renovating National Guard armories around the state. An additional $7.5 million is set aside for the state’s Department of Environmental Protection to acquire 45 acres of buffer land needed near military bases around the state to prevent the encroachment of other industries. The proposal also requires Visit Florida to spend $1 million a year on marketing aimed at veterans, and allocate another $300,000 to a new nonprofit, Florida Is For Veterans. The nonprofit, to be housed within the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, would be used to encourage veterans to move to Florida, and promote the hiring of veterans. To assist families of active-duty service members, the bill also waives the requirement for spouses and dependents to get a Florida driver’s license if they either get a job or enroll in a public school.

• SB 450/HB 1191 expands “Do Not Call” list solicitation ban from phone calls to text messages and emails.

FAILED:

• Springs bill, SB 1576. The springs bill passed the Senate, but died in the House. Rep. Steve Crisafulli, incoming Speaker of the House, said that there was too much opposition to the bill for it to be brought up in the House. Crisafulli said he is committed to a comprehensive approach on water statewide over the next two years.

• Pension reform, Florida Retirement System (SB 1114/HB 7173). Speaker of the House Will Weatherford wanted to overhaul Florida's public pension program this session by changing it from a defined-benefit program to a 401(k)-style program. But teachers complained, and the Senate did not pass the legislation.

• Trauma centers. The legislature adjourned without resolving a dispute over trauma centers or creating a regulatory structure for telemedicine. Two bills (HB 7105 and HB 7113) would have established a one-year moratorium on the dispute regarding the distribution and location of trauma centers throughout the state, giving a state task force time to make recommendations; the bills also would have established a $15,000 cap on trauma center “response fees” charged by privately run health care centers to admit severely injured persons.

• Medicaid expansion. SB 710 and HB 869 would have used drawn-down federal funding to help poor Floridians purchase private insurance.

• Casino gambling proposals.
REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

There has been legislative activity at both the federal and state level concerning several of the items on Council’s 2014 Legislative Agenda:

I. FEDERAL PRIORITIES

A. WATER POLICY

1. WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT (WRDA)

Fully support the next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill, including authorization for the Caloosahatchee C-43 West Basin Reservoir Project, and appropriation of the necessary funds to implement the C-43 Reservoir Project. The reservoir will provide 170,000 acre-feet of storage within the Caloosahatchee basin and help address high and low flow issues.

Update: The House-Senate conference committee began work Nov. 20 on resolving the differences between the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (H.R. 3080) and the Senate’s version of the water resources legislation, S. 601. Congress last passed a WRDA bill six years ago; the process is supposed to take place every two years. Leaders from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Senate Environment and Public Works Committee have expressed optimism over the prospects of adopting a conference bill that can be sent to the President's desk for final passage; after five months of conference negotiations, an announcement on the Water Resources Development Act reauthorization is supposedly imminent.

2. CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT (CEPP)

Fast track the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) and get congressional support and funding for the project. The project will move approximately 210,000 acre-feet of water south of Lake Okeechobee and will reduce some of the damaging flows to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.

Update: The CEPP may miss the window for Congressional approval, which could delay it for years. The plan needs to be approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before it will qualify for funding (the Corps issues a Chief’s report, after which the report goes to the Army for approval, then to Congress, which approves Corps projects through the Water Resources Development Act.) A spokesperson for Sen. Bill Nelson said the Act should be out of conference by mid-May, which means that the CEPP may not be approved in time to be included in the Act for 2014, which means that it would likely be years before it received Congressional authorization, since authorization of the act comes occurs about every seven years. See Legislative News & Supplemental Materials section below for additional information.

3. THE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN (CERP)

The Federal Government needs to fund their share of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and implement the projects agreed to in the plan. A majority of the lands needed for the projects have been purchased by the State and need Federal funding to move forward with the projects.

Update: In March 2014, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, the two implementing agencies of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), released the 2014 Draft Everglades System Status Report, a comprehensive report evaluating monitoring data within the Everglades ecosystem; the document is available online.

4. HERBERT HOOVER DIKE REHABILITATION

Continue to keep pressure on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move as quickly as possible to rehabilitate the Herbert Hoover Dike. The project will protect the communities around Lake Okeechobee and

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1 Council’s 2014 Legislative Agenda was created the latter part of 2013 to present at local government legislative delegation meetings; it was intended to be a fluid rather than a static document, to be updated as the session progresses.
provide more freeboard and temporary storage in the lake to reduce peak flows to the estuaries. The President has requested $86 M for construction in FY 14 to continue repairs to the HHD.

**Update:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with the South Florida Water Management District, is conducting a Dam Safety Modification Study (DSMS). The Corps team is working to complete the draft DSMS report to support the public release of the NEPA document in August 2014 with final report approval in March 2015. [Link to the Corps' web page dedicated to the HHD.]

**B. BIGGERT-WATERS FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2012**

Support efforts to suspend implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 federal flood insurance rate hikes until an affordability study is completed, and to amend the time frame for premium adjustments to allow responsible changes that accomplish the objective of a solvent National Flood Insurance Program based on the findings of the study.

**Update:** Both the Senate and House adopted versions of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act. The bill went to the Senate for final approval/reconciliation, and was signed into law by the President.

**II. STATE PRIORITIES**

**A. WATER POLICY**

1. **Interim storage on C-43 West Reservoir site.**

   Project would significantly increase the amount of water that can be stored on the C-43 West Reservoir (Berry Groves) property until the full project is completed. It would require additional infrastructure including building berms and installing larger pumps to put more water on the site. This would be considered phase 1 of the larger C-43 West Reservoir CERP project and could be included in the state cost share for the federal project. Estimated cost of the interim storage project is $10 million. In addition, the 1,500 acres of land purchased as part of the Berry Groves acquisition should be used to construct a stormwater treatment area (STA) adjacent to the reservoir to treat water before it is discharged into the Caloosahatchee.

   **Update:** The budget proposed by the legislature states that funds in Specific Appropriations 1622A and 1627A shall be distributed to Everglades and other environmental initiatives in the amounts and purposes in the Select Committee on Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin (IRLLOB) final report dated November 8, 2013, including an increase of $3,000,000 for the Caloosahatchee River C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir; this brings the total allocated for the C-43 reservoir project in the proposed budget to $18 million.

   The legislature approved the funding to ensure that Florida is ready when Congress authorizes this important watershed storage project in WRDA. The IRLLOB committee also recommends that Florida should include the C-43 reservoir project in Florida’s Long-Range Financial Outlook to reduce any delay in funding the project once it is authorized and receives federal funding; Florida’s share of the project cost is estimated at $289 million.

2. **LAKE HICPOCHEE RESTORATION PROJECT.**

   Funds needed to complete planning and construction on north and south sides of Lake Hicpochee to increase storage and treatment. Estimated cost for planning and construction is $20-30 million. Project will result in increased water storage and treatment within the Caloosahatchee basin.

3. **INCREASE DISTRIBUTED STORAGE IN KISSIMMEE, LAKE OKEECHOBEE, AND CALOOSAHATCHEE BASINS.**

   Additional funds are needed for the state to partner with large land owners in the Kissimme, Lake Okeechobee and Caloosahatchee basins to store more water on the land so that it is not discharged to Lake Okeechobee or to the Caloosahatchee River. No cost estimate available, but new partners could be brought on as funds become available.
4. **SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED PLAN (SWFCWP).**

   Support funding for projects furthering the goals and objectives of the SWFCWP.

**B. SOUTHWEST FLORIDA RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER (SWFREC)**

   **Support the continuation of the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center (SWFREC) in Immokalee** as part of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station system, and the continued operation of the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Extension Service offices in each of the six counties in southwest Florida.

   **Update:** This effort was not successful this session.

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**LEGISLATIVE NEWS & SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

**Senator Negron Announces Full Funding of Lagoon Recommendations**

President Office — Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2014

CONTACT: Katie Betta, (850) 487-5210,
Britton Alexander, (850) 487-5184

Budget to include more than $231 million, exceeds Select Committee Recommendations

Tallahassee — State Senator Joe Negron (R-Stuart), chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Select Committee on Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin, today announced at the conclusion of budget negotiations between the House and Senate, lawmakers have agreed to fund a comprehensive list of the Select Committee’s short and long-term recommendations to improve the environmental and economic health of the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River systems and the Indian River Lagoon.

“I am grateful to my colleagues in the Senate and the House for not only meeting, but exceeding the level of funding originally outlined in our Senate Select Committee Report,” said Senator Negron. “The problems caused by ongoing releases from Lake Okeechobee are a plague on the environment, our economy, and the health of our friends and neighbors, and I am pleased that the Senate and House came together to lay the groundwork for a resolution.”

“This critical funding will enable our communities – including those to the North, South, and West of the lake, to address short-term water management initiatives, while continuing to pursue long-term strategies,” continued Chair Negron. “Our work does not end today, and I encourage citizens to continue providing input as we work toward finding solutions to protect our communities.”

In addition to funding recommendations of the Senate Select Committee, lawmakers agreed to fund over $2 million for the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative as well as more than $2 million for the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon Issues Team. Additionally, the Florida Senate will commission a study by the University of Florida Water Institute to evaluate basin wide water management policies and activities and identify options for additional state, federal and local action to improve water management, including alternatives to discharges from Lake Okeechobee.

A full breakdown of funding initiatives agreed to by the House and Senate is attached. For more information on the Select Committee Report, please [click here.](#)

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Feds and State Officials Sign-Off on Completion of Everglades Restoration Projects

May 1, 2014 - WGCU

State and federal officials reached an agreement this week that signs off on the completion of two important Everglades Restoration projects.

Following a two-year stalemate, Florida water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers resolved some disagreements about funding and land.

This means two projects aimed at fixing water issues in the Everglades and in Lake Okeechobee can now be completed.

One of the two projects is restoration of the Kissimmee River. The project restores a 9,000-acre floodplain that will hold water now flowing into Lake Okeechobee.

Eric Draper with Audubon Florida said this will eventually stop a lot of the harmful water flows into estuaries east and west of the Lake.

“At some point we will have a huge amount of water that will be sitting in that floodplain rather than flushing into Lake Okeechobee and into the Caloosahatchee,” he said. “It’s a real win.”

Draper said this latest agreement will complete restoration of the last four miles of the river.

Officials also agreed to finish the C-111 project in South Miami Dade, which will increase water flow under a bridged portion of the Tamiami Trail in the Everglades.

Governor Rick Scott applauded the Army Corps, saying in a statement it’s a signal of the Corps’ “willingness to join Florida in making water restoration a priority.”

Just a week ago, state officials were upset with the Army Corps because the federal agency announced it was delaying its approval of the Central Everglades Planning Project, which is a more comprehensive effort to move water south.

CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT MAY MISS CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

May 1, 2014 - WGCU

The Central Everglades Planning Project, which will move water south from Lake Okeechobee, may miss the window for Congressional approval and possibly delay it for years.

Maj. Gen. John Peabody of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Tuesday.

He said the plan is expected to be formally approved by the Corps in about three months.

“We are very close... in about three months we can expect a Chief’s report,” he said.

From the Corps, the report goes to the Army for approval and then Congress.

Congress approves Corps projects through the Water Resources Development Act.

But, Congress is moving quickly to pass the act. A spokesperson for Sen. Bill Nelson said the act should be out of conference by mid-May. The senator plans to push to get to the bill to the floor shortly after.

This means the Central Everglades Planning Project may not be approved in time to be included in the act.

Eric Eikenberg is the CEO of the Everglades Foundation. He said if Congress does not approve the Central Everglades Planning Project, it could be years before it’s authorized. He said the authorization of the act comes every seven years.

“We are now threatened to wait another seven years to have a project that would take Lake Okeechobee water and move that water south,” he said.

Once the Corps review board votes on the project, a 30-day state and agency review begins.
Additional Corps briefing needed prior to release of Central Everglades final report

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District will be scheduling an additional briefing to seek approval to release the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) final report for state and agency review. It is anticipated that the report will be released no later than the end of June 2014.

The report was presented to Corps leadership yesterday at the Civil Works Review Board (CWRB) in Washington D.C., to discuss the recommended plan to restore the central Everglades. The CWRB is part of the Corps' internal process to facilitate the review of the recommended plan to ensure it complies with all applicable federal laws and policies. It serves as a corporate check to ensure the report is ready for state and agency review. The CWRB concluded that while the analysis and project plans are extremely well done, additional time is needed to finalize the document assessment prior to releasing the report for the final 30-day state and agency review.

"The efforts made to date on CEPP are monumental. In less than three years, this team has accomplished what has previously taken six to ten years to complete. This challenging feat has required us all to step outside of our comfort zones and standard timeline durations to deliver a final plan that will set the foundation for our future restoration efforts," said Col. Alan Dodd, Jacksonville District commander. "The one thing that cannot be rushed on the final report for this complex project is ensuring that it meets the Corps' required quality standard."

The Corps is scheduled to present the updated final report to the CWRB no later than the end of June 2014. Once approved, the report will be released for a 30-day state and agency review. After which, comments and responses will be incorporated and the Chief's Report will be finalized for signature. The signed Chief's Report will then be submitted to the administration for review. Based on this timeline, it is anticipated that the final Chief's Report will be submitted to Congress this summer.

"Completing this final report to restore a significant amount of the remaining Everglades ecosystem has been a challenging endeavor, requiring a collaborative and dedicated effort from federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations and the public," said Dodd. "The Corps is continuing to work collaboratively with our partners and stakeholders to complete this study and deliver a final Chief's Report for policy-makers' consideration."

The goal of the Central Everglades Planning Project is to capture water lost to tide and re-direct the water flow south to restore the central and southern Everglades ecosystem and Florida Bay.

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**FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 2014 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**

On behalf of its membership, FAC was successful in passing some priority bills and actively defeating or amending others to inoculate the counties from any harmful impacts. FAC thanks its county commissioners for their involvement and help during the Session and county intergovernmental affairs staff for their partnership in securing successful outcomes for our 67 counties.

Following are the highlights of FAC’s Session; our complete 2014 Session Report is available now please [click here](#).

**FAC Priorities Passed**

- Limited the collective and cumulative negative impact on local revenues as the comprehensive tax cut package was negotiated. While at the beginning of Session bills filed had a projected cumulative impact of up to $360M, the final tax package (HB 5601) resulted in a fiscal impact to counties of approximately $10M. The final bill excluded the Florida Association of Realtor's priority to reduce the sales tax on commercial leases; removed reductions to the Communications Services Tax and fixed an initial proposal for the PECO tax swap that reduced local revenues. FAC thanks House Speaker Will Weatherford, Appropriations Chairs Rep. Seth McKeel and Sen. Joe Negron and Finance and Tax Appropriations Chairs Rep. Rich Workman and Sen. Dorothy Hukill for their leadership in minimizing the loss of local revenues.

- Passed HB 979 to increase funding for homelessness programs. FAC thanks Sen. Jack Latvala and Rep. Kathleen Peters for their leadership, along with Palm Beach County and the coalition of stakeholders that worked on the legislation.

- Passed HB 7055 that seeks to reduce juvenile detention utilization through prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services. FAC thanks Rep. Ray Pilon and Sen. Rob Bradley for their leadership in passing this bill.

- Passed HB 175 to collect the E911 fee on prepaid wireless services. FAC thanks Rep. Greg Steube and Sen. Alan Hays for their leadership and the stakeholders that worked for the past two years on this legislation.

- Passed HB 697 to outlaw new synthetic drug formulas on the controlled substances schedule. FAC thanks Sen. Rob Bradley and Rep. Clay Ingram for their leadership in passing the bills.

- Included in the General Appropriations Act (HB 5001) funding in the amount of $88.5 million for water projects, $30 million for springs restoration, and $4 million for citrus disease research and breeding programs.

**Unfunded Mandates Defeated**

- Successfully protected counties from arbitrary and unnecessary spending on court facilities, which are required by Article V. FAC thanks Appropriations Chairs McKeel and Negron, along with Sen. Bradley and Rep. Charles McBurney for addressing the counties' concerns.

- Defeated what had become an onerous springs protection bill (SB 1576) with burdensome regulatory obligations and time constraints, without adequate funding. The majority of counties that would have been impacted by the bill are located in Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern. FAC thanks the House of Representatives for their support in protecting counties from this unfunded mandate.

- Defeated efforts that would have prevented medical examiners from charging fees for services, impacting county revenues and decision-making (HB 301/SB 584).

- Prevented unneeded mandates for more onerous public meeting notice requirements (SB 718/HB 985) and training in public records law for all employees (SB 1648/HB 1151).
Preemptions Defeated

- Removed language that would have preempted counties from regulating tobacco products and nicotine dispensing devices (SB 224). FAC thanks Rep. Bill Hager for offering the amendment to remove the preemption.
- Successfully amended environmental regulation legislation to remove multiple preemptions before defeating the bill (HB 703). FAC thanks Senators Latvala and Altman for their efforts in removing harmful provisions in the bill.
- Defeated a preemption that would have prevented counties from imposing additional or a more stringent code of ethics onto another political subdivision (SB 606).
- Defeated efforts by the Florida Retail Association to prevent counties from implementing existing ordinances that provide for accessibility and fueling assistance at gasoline stations (SB 1184/HB 185; SB 1272) and from implementing wage theft ordinances (SB926/HB957).
- Prevented prohibitions on local governments from using red light cameras (SB 144/HB 4009; HB 7005/SB 7012).
- Defeated efforts to expand exemptions for developments from the DRI review process (SB 372).
- Narrowed a preemption that would have prevented counties from regulating chauffeured limousines and limousine services (SB 1618/HB 1389).
- Defeated an effort to prohibit counties from imposing transportation concurrency and transportation impact fees for a period of three years.
- Defeated an effort that would have preempted and superseded a county ordinance that gives a preference to local contractors in a competitive bid for construction services.

FAC made every effort to pass beneficial legislation this year to address the county cost-share for juvenile detention. While the House passed HB 5305 to codify a 50-50 cost-share partnership, provide for counties to pay for prior year's costs and reimburse counties $140M over 20 years for overpayments made from 2008 to 2012, the Senate did not support the bill. FAC is now focusing on the Department of Juvenile Justice's upcoming rulemaking.

To read FAC's complete 2014 Session Report, FAC's analysis of the 2014 General Appropriations Act or to view FAC's 2014 Legislative Priorities, visit www.fl-counties.com.
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL 2014 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mission: to work together across neighboring communities to consistently protect and improve the unique and relatively unspoiled character of the physical, economic and social worlds we share for the benefit of our future generations.

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) is a multi-purpose regional entity created in 1973 pursuant to an interlocal agreement between Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota counties. The SWFRPC supports legislative actions consistent with its mission.

I. Federal Priorities

A. Water Policy

1. Fully support the next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill, including authorization for the Caloosahatchee C-43 West Basin Reservoir Project, and appropriation of the necessary funds to implement the C-43 Reservoir Project. (Reservoir will provide 170,000 acre-feet of storage within the Caloosahatchee basin and help address high and low flow issues.)

2. Fast track the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) and get congressional support and funding for the project. (The project will move approximately 210,000 acre-feet of water south of Lake Okeechobee and will reduce some of the damaging flows to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.)

3. The Federal Government needs to fund their share of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and implement the projects agreed to in the plan. (A majority of the lands needed for the projects have been purchased by the State and need Federal funding to move forward with the projects.)

4. Continue to keep pressure on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move as quickly as possible to rehabilitate the Herbert Hoover Dike. (The project will protect the communities around Lake Okeechobee and provide more freeboard and temporary storage in the lake to reduce peak flows to the estuaries.)

B. Support efforts to suspend implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 federal flood insurance rate hikes until an affordability study is completed, and to amend the time frame for premium adjustments to allow responsible changes that accomplish the objective of a solvent National Flood Insurance Program based on the findings of the study.3

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2 Two water resource bills were passed by Congress in 2013: H.R. 3080, Water Resources Reform & Development Act of 2013 (passed the House on 10/23/2013), and S. 601, Water Resources Development Act of 2013 (passed the Senate on 05/15/2013); bills now in conference.

3 Both the Senate and House versions of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, S. 1846 and H.R. 3370, have been passed. The most recent was the House version, which passed on 3/4/14; it will now go to the Senate for final approval, and then to the President for his signature.
II. State Priorities

A. Water Policy

1. **Interim storage on C-43 West Reservoir site** – Project would significantly increase the amount of water that can be stored on the C-43 West Reservoir (Berry Groves) property until the full project is completed. It would require additional infrastructure including building berms and installing larger pumps to put more water on the site. This would be considered phase I of the larger C-43 West Reservoir CERP project and could be included in the state cost share for the federal project. Estimated cost of the interim storage project is $10 million. In addition, the 1,500 acres of land purchased as part of the Berry Groves acquisition should be used to construct a stormwater treatment area (STA) adjacent to the reservoir to treat water before it is discharged into the Caloosahatchee.

2. **Lake Hicpochee Restoration Project** – Funds needed to complete planning and construction on north and south sides of Lake Hicpochee to increase storage and treatment. Estimated cost for planning and construction is $20-30 million. Project will result in increased water storage and treatment within the Caloosahatchee basin.

3. **Increase distributed storage in Kissimmee, Lake Okeechobee, and Caloosahatchee basins.** Additional funds are needed for the state to partner with large land owners in the Kissimmee, Lake Okeechobee and Caloosahatchee basins to store more water on the land so that it is not discharged to Lake Okeechobee or to the Caloosahatchee River. No cost estimate available, but new partners could be brought on as funds become available.

4. **Southwest Florida Comprehensive Watershed Plan (SWFCWP)** – Support funding for projects furthering the goals and objectives of the SWFCWP.

B. **Support the continuation of the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center (SWFREC) in Immokalee** as part of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station system, and the continued operation of the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Extension Service offices in each of the six counties in southwest Florida.

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4 The SWFCWP (originally the Southwest Florida Feasibility Study) was recommended in the 1999 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The SWFCWP study area covers approximately 4,300 square miles including all of Lee County, most of Collier and Hendry Counties, and portions of Charlotte, Glades, and Monroe Counties; the project boundary corresponds to that of the South Florida Water Management District Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Planning Area. The SWFCWP is a regional restoration plan that addresses water resources issues within all watersheds in southwest Florida. Issues addressed by the study include loss of natural ecosystems, fragmentation of natural areas, degradation of wildlife habitat, alteration of natural freshwater flows to wetlands and estuaries, and water quality degradation in surface waters. The Draft Final Plan is currently under review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
Agenda

Item 12g

Quality of Life & Safety Committee

12g
Agenda

Item

Regional Transportation Committee

12h