



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

August 7, 2018

2:00pm – 3:00pm

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 DISCUSSION ON THE RELEVANCY AND THE FUTURE OF THE SWFRPC

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.

Regional Planning Councils

2018 STATUTORY PROGRAMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Statute	REFERENCES
Chapter 129 Administrative Procedures Act	When an administrative law judge presides over a matter involving RPC, RPC shall reimburse administrative law judge's travel expenses (s. 120.65(9), F.S.).
Chapter 163 Intergovernmental Programs	May review and comment on adverse effects on regional resources or 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 under the Expedited State Review Process for adoption of a comprehensive plan amendment (s. 163.3184(3)(b), F.S.). Comments to local government by RPC must be limited to adverse effects and extra-jurisdictional impacts that would be inconsistent with the comprehensive plan of any affected local government within the region.
	May review a proposed plan or plan amendment under the State Coordinated Review Process and submit comments to the state land planning agency (s. 163.3184(4)(c), F.S.).
	Upon request of a local government, RPC shall conduct a scoping meeting, to identify relevant planning issues to be addressed and the data and resources available to assist in the preparation of a sector plan, followed by a written report of recommendations to the state land planning agency (s. 163.3245(2), F.S.).
Chapter 186	Shall act as regional data clearinghouses (s. 186.006(7), F.S.).

State and Regional Planning	Shall be designated as the primary organization to address problems and plan solutions that are of greater-than-local concern or scope and recognized by local governments as a means to provide input into state policy development (s. 186.502(3), F.S.).
	Shall be recognized as Florida's only multipurpose regional entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater-than-local issues; provide technical assistance to local governments; and, meet other needs of the communities in each region (s. 186.502(4), F.S.). However, RPC is prohibited from serving as permitting or regulatory entity. (s. 186.502(4), F. S.)
	Shall have power to provide technical assistance to local governments on growth management matters. (s. 186.505(20), F.S.)
	Shall have power to assist local governments with activities designed to promote and facilitate economic development (s. 186.502(24), F.S.).
	Shall meet statutory requirements regarding membership for a regional planning council (s. 186.504, F.S.)
	Shall have power to conduct business to run the organization (s. 186.505(1)-(9), (12)-(19), F.S.).
	Shall have power to provide advice to constituent local governments on regional, metropolitan, county, and municipal planning matters (s. 186.505(10), F.S.).
	Shall have power to cooperate with federal and state agencies in planning for emergency management (s. 186.505(11), F.S.).
	Shall have power to coordinate with other regional entities in preparing and assuring regular review of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, as determined by topics in the plan (s. 186.505(21), F.S.).

	Shall have power to coordinate land development and transportation policies that foster region-wide transportation systems (s. 186.505(22), F.S.).
	Shall have power to review plans of independent transportation authorities and metropolitan planning organizations to identify inconsistencies between those agencies' plans and applicable local government plans (s. 186.505(23), F.S.).
	Shall have power to provide consulting services to a private developer or landowner under certain circumstances (s. 186.505(25), F.S.).
	Shall prepare and adopt by rule a Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) to address significant regional resources and facilities, and contain goals and policies addressing affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, natural resources of regional significance, and regional transportation (ss. 186.507, 186.508, and 186.511, F.S.). SRPP shall be prepared at least every 5 years.
	Shall establish by rule a dispute resolution process to reconcile differences on planning and growth management issues between local governments, regional agencies, and private interests (s. 186.509, F.S.).
	Shall provide an annual report of activities to the state land planning agency and local governments and provide a joint report and recommendations to appropriate legislative committees (s. 186.513, F.S.).
	Statute provides protection for regional planning councils created pursuant to Chapter 163, F.S. (s. 186.515, F.S.).
	When using maps and geographic information, RPC must take into account that the accuracy and reliability of such maps and data may be limited to various factors (s. 186.803, F.S.).

	Shall submit to the Department of Financial Services an audit report and an annual financial report for the previous fiscal year in a format prescribed by the department (s. 218.32(1)(c), F.S.).
Chapter 260 Florida Greenways and Trails Council	A representative from RPCs appointed by Secretary of Environmental Protection shall serve on the Florida Greenways and Trails Council (s. 260.0142, F.S.). Membership rotates among the 7 RPCs.
Chapter 288 Commercial Development and Capital Improvements	<p>An appointed representative by FRCA shall serve on the Rural Economic Development Initiative and carry out all duties associated with that program and the economic development priorities associated with Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (s. 288.0656, F.S.).</p> <p>RPC shall participate in a pre-submission workshop concerning a military base reuse plan to help the host local government understand issues of concern and identify opportunities for better coordination of planning and review efforts with the analyses generated by the federal environmental impact statement process and the federal community base reuse plan (s. 288.975(8), F.S.).</p>
Chapter 339 Transportation Finance and Planning	Shall develop transportation goals and policies as part of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with the goals and policies of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Florida Transportation Plan (s. 339.155(4)(b), F.S.).
Chapter 380 Land and Water Management	<p>Shall serve on Resource Planning and Management Committees as designated by the Governor prior to an area being designated as an Area of Critical State Concern (s. 380.045(2), F.S.).</p> <p>Shall provide technical assistance to local governments in the preparation of land development regulations and local comprehensive plans in Areas of Critical State Concern (s. 380.05(7), F.S.).</p>
Chapter 403 Environmental Control	Shall serve on Ecosystem Management Advisory Teams if created by the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (s. 403.0752(6), F.S.).

	Shall perform local hazardous waste management assessments and provide technical expertise needed in developing the assessments, unless performed by the county itself (s. 403.7225(6), F.S.).
	Shall follow the local hazardous waste management assessment guidelines established by the Department of Environmental Protection to properly implement the assessments (s. 403.7226(1), F.S.).
	Shall designate one or more sites at which a regional hazardous waste storage or treatment facility could be constructed after areas are designated by a county to meet a demonstrated need (s. 403.723(2), F.S.).
	Shall participate in regional permit action teams for the purpose of expediting review of permit applications and local government comprehensive plans for certain economic development projects (s. 403.973(4), F.S.).
Chapter 420 Housing	One representative from RPCs shall serve on the Affordable Housing Study Commission, as appointed by Governor (s. 420.609, F.S.).
Chapter 1013 Educational Facilities	Shall review Campus Master Plans prior to adoption and provide comments to the University Board of Trustees (s. 1013.30(6), F.S.).

ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS	
Court Settlement Agreement	Establishes the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management (EBABM) and set up the SWFRPC as the entity managing and staffing it. There is no expiration date. It can only be modified by a Court with agreement of all parties to the agreement.
Federal to State FDEM	Manage the Local Emergency Planning Committee Program (LEPC) and Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) for emergency responders. RPC's manage all of Florida's LEPC and HMEP programs. Program funding is ongoing and indefinite.
Federal Promise Zone	10 year designation awarded in 2016 includes 13 VISTA Volunteers at 10 sites.
Federal EDA	In 1992 SWFRPC was designated a Federal Economic Development District (EDD) which requires a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Federal Economic Development Administration Funding. RPC's manage all Florida CEDS and EDDs. Program funding is ongoing and indefinite.
Federal EDA	Post Disaster Coordinator Position 2018 and 2019
Federal EPA	Brownfield Grant for assessment of sites October 2018 – October 2021. \$600,000 grant. Assessment Grant is Phase I on the brownfield process. The result is new development on otherwise unbuildable land.

Grant Funding Weighted by County Population

SWFRPC 2012-2018 Return on Investment Analysis (Without DRI Revenues)								
County	County Assessments	EDA Planning	LECP/HMEP	TD	Other Grants	Total Grants	Net Gain	ROI
Charlotte	332,078	76,739	78,913		516,333	671,985	339,907	102.4%
Collier	701,882	158,823	163,323		3,261,993	3,584,138	2,882,256	410.6%
Glades	26,934	5,815	5,979	60,985	87,031	159,810	132,876	493.3%
Hendry	80,233	17,353	17,845	182,004	605,403	822,605	742,371	925.3%
Lee	1,347,306	310,327	319,119	10,036	3,279,987	3,919,469	2,572,163	190.9%
Sarasota	722,063	180,944	186,071		699,109	1,066,124	344,061	47.6%
Total	3,210,496	750,000	771,250	253,025	8,449,856	10,224,130	7,013,635	218.5%

SWFRPC 2012-2018 Return on Investment Analysis (With DRI Revenues)									
County	County Assessments	EDA Planning	LECP/HMEP	TD	Other Grants	Total Grants	DRI Fees	Net Gain	ROI
Charlotte	332,078	76,739	78,913		516,333	671,985	79,347	419,254	126.3%
Collier	701,882	158,823	163,323		3,261,993	3,584,138	81,192	2,963,448	422.2%
Glades	26,934	5,815	5,979	60,985	87,031	159,810		132,876	493.3%
Hendry	80,233	17,353	17,845	182,004	605,403	822,605		742,371	925.3%
Lee	1,347,306	310,327	319,119	10,036	3,279,987	3,919,469	66,400	2,638,563	195.8%
Sarasota	722,063	180,944	186,071		699,109	1,066,124	592,425	936,486	129.7%
Total	3,210,496	750,000	771,250	253,025	8,449,856	10,224,130	819,365	7,833,000	244.0%



Ronald L. Book, P.A.
LAW OFFICES
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

February 17, 2015

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL

Dear Governor Rick Scott:

Thank you for meeting with Senator Simpson and me on February 3, 2015. In response to your questions, I put together these brief answers that will demonstrate why regional planning councils (RPCs) are not only the logical but the necessary and appropriate entity to carry out the functions described below.

What are RPCs and What do They do?

RPCs have existed throughout the Nation since the 1950s to meet local needs and administer certain federal programs. Today there are approximately 550 organizations similar to Florida's RPCs throughout the U.S.

Florida's RPCs are state sanctioned associations of local governments that are governed by Boards of Directors comprised of 2/3 local elected officials and 1/3 gubernatorial appointees.

RPCs perform the following primary functions:

- They serve as sub-state program/policy delivery entities for state and federal government, including:
 - serving as the state's Local Emergency Planning Committees;
 - administering the transportation disadvantaged program in rural areas of the state on behalf of the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged; and,
 - administering federal revolving loan funds, including those for Brownfields, that result in job creation.
- They provide technical assistance to their local governments, including:

REPLY TO:

- ☐ Harbour Centre - 18851 N.E. 29th Avenue, Suite 1010 - Aventura, Florida 33180 - Telephone (305) 935-1866 - Fax (305) 935-9737
- ☐ 104 West Jefferson Street - Tallahassee, Florida 32301 - (850) 224-3427

- regional economic impact analysis modeling to help local governments and economic development organizations made decisions regarding incentives for new or expanding economic development projects;
 - grant writing and administration to bring economic development and infrastructure funds to the state, such as the one written by the North Central Florida RPC that secured over \$4 million in infrastructure grants to help enable Klausner Lumber One locate on the Suwannee County Catalyst Site and one written by the Treasure Coast RPC that resulted in a \$364,000 grant to the City of Fellsmere to build critical roadway infrastructure for Florida Organic Aquaculture; and,
 - developing local mitigation strategies that must be in place to receive federal mitigation assistance program funds resulting from presidential disaster declarations.
- They are the “conveners of their regions” to address issues that are of greater-than-local concern, including:
 - the regional forums held by the RPCs in FY 2011-12 on behalf of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to gather suggested strategies and recommendations to support development of the *State Strategic Plan for Economic Development*; and,
 - the 90 public meetings and workshops with community leaders and elected officials conducted by the Treasure Coast RPC since 2012 to gather public input pertaining to All Aboard Florida.

Generally RPCs' program/policy functions fall into the following three major categories:

- Economic Development/Job Creation
- Emergency Preparedness Planning, Training & Exercise
- Land Development and Growth Related Activities

Additional RPC programs are typically dictated by local needs and priorities and include, but are not limited to, transportation, affordable housing, leadership development, and tourism development.

Why are RPCs Necessary and Non-Duplicative?

As noted earlier, with 550 similar regional organizations around the Nation, states/local governments have found RPCs to be important and necessary. RPCs provide a cost-effective and efficient mechanism for sub-state program delivery, which saves state

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resources. Working through the eleven RPCs is much more cost-effective than working directly with 67 counties and 410+ municipalities.

RPCs provide services not offered by any other organization in the state, such as providing economic modeling for local government incentives, resolution of disputes among units of government and serving as the state's Local Emergency Planning Committees. Resources are simply too slim to allow for any duplication of effort and our state and federal partners recognize this and make assignments in accordance with it.

With regard to the three program/policy functions mentioned above, the RPCs' responsibilities are unique and not performed elsewhere, as explained below:

1. Economic Development/Job Creation – each RPC is a designated Economic Development District by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This provides a means for providing technical assistance to our Economic Development Organizations/local governments and an avenue to access federal economic development funds. Over the past ten years RPCs' leveraged over \$600 million in private sector investment, creating nearly 5,000 jobs and retaining over 10,000 jobs with limited funding from the EDA.

While it is possible that another entity could seek an EDA designation were the RPCs to abdicate their role, the law requires that the applicant be a public organization formed through an inter-governmental agreement for the joint exercise of local government powers; a public organization established under State-enabling legislation for the creation of multi-jurisdictional area-wide planning organizations; or, a non-profit organization incorporated under the applicable non-profit status of the State in which it is incorporated. The EDA has a standing practice of designating RPCs as Economic Development Districts and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity would not be an allowable applicant under the law.

In addition, it would take several years to designate new entities due to the requirements in Title 13, Part 304, resulting in lost opportunities to bring in and administer EDA grants to support job creation in the state, such as the EDA grant recently awarded for Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute, which is being administered by the Apalachee RPC. There would also be the additional cost of time and resources that would have to be invested in training new staff and satisfying the requirements in the law, including the development of an EDA approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

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All eleven RPCs perform economic modelling services for their local governments, Economic Development Organizations and the private sector. This function is critical in determining the return on investment for providing local government incentives for job creating projects. The cost of owning these models would be prohibitive for many local governments. In addition, RPCs are often asked by Economic Development Organizations to launch and sustain regional initiatives such as "Innovate Northeast Florida" – a joint project between the Northeast Florida RPC and JAXUSA Partnership to catalyze job growth and talent development in the region.

2. Emergency Preparedness Planning, Training and Exercise – this area will be discussed below.
3. Land Development and Growth Related Activities – In accordance with the Community Planning Act, RPCs' review proposed local government comprehensive plan amendments for extra-jurisdictional impacts and impacts to identified resources and facilities of regional significance. This function is not duplicated elsewhere and provides a valuable service to the state and its local governments by encouraging cooperation and impact avoidance. RPCs are also an invaluable source of data and technical assistance to the state and local governments in accommodating growth and development.

What is the RPCs Role in Hurricane Preparedness?

RPCs play a major role in Disaster Preparedness, which includes hurricanes, dating back to the 1970s. Regional evacuation studies have historically been conducted by the RPCs under contract with and at the direction of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM). In 2007, all eleven RPCs conducted the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program, under the direction of DEM, and in 2010, produced eleven Regional Evacuation Studies using the same data sets, methodologies and state-of-the-art predictive modelling tools. This program placed Florida far ahead of the rest of the Nation in hurricane preparedness and was recognized by the American Planning Association in 2012 with its National Planning Excellence Award for Best Practices in Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning.

These evacuation studies provide the data and information necessary for County Emergency Management Departments (often with the help of their RPC) to develop operational evacuation plans.

Disasters, whether natural or man-made, are regional events by nature and it requires a regional perspective in preparing for them. RPCs are the logical partner to both DEM and the counties when preparing for these types of events. RPCs have the in-house

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expertise and understanding of their communities to fine tune approaches to prepare for, deal with and recover from disasters.

What is the RPCs Role in Hazardous Materials?

Following the passage of the Florida Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1988, the State decided to implement the federally required Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) at the regional level. DEM partnered with the RPCs to provide staff support to the LEPCS. As LEPCs, the RPCs provide the following three pronged approach to create state-of-the-art Hazardous Materials Plans:

- Public Outreach and Technical Assistance
- Hazards Analysis/HazMat Planning Projects
- Training/Exercises

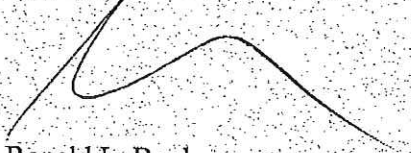
Florida is recognized as having the leading hazardous materials planning process in the Nation making disastrous outcomes, such as that experienced recently at the West Texas fertilizer plant, a far less likely possibility.

Florida's RPCs provide valuable, efficient and cost-effective functions to the State of Florida and the 477+ local governments they serve, saving both resources and personnel at the state and local level. By their nature, they are not duplicative as their partners, again at the local and state levels, do not and would not assign them duties that were being undertaken elsewhere. The work conducted by the RPCs is at an economy of scale that could not be achieved by any other organizations in the state.

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Please let me know what further questions you may have or additional information you may need. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald L. Book', written over a horizontal line.

Ronald L. Book
Executive Director
Florida Regional Councils Association

RLB:rpl

cc: Kim McDougal, Ph.D., Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Senator Wilton Simpson