

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE BOARD
JUNE 24, 2021, MEETING**

The meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council Executive Board was held on June 24, 2021, virtually via Zoom. Governor Appointee and Council Chair, Mr. Don McCormick called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilman Jaha Cummings
Mr. Don McCormick
Mr. Tommy Perry

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Councilman Fred Burson

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Margaret Wuerstle
Ms. Rebekah Harp
Mr. Daniel Trescott

**AGENDA ITEM #1
AGENDA**

For consideration of the presenter's time, agenda item #4 Updates, will be discussed first.

**AGENDA ITEM #4
UPDATES**

**AGENDA ITEM #4(a)
BABCOCK RANCH COMMUNITY MASTER TRANSPORTATION STUDY UPDATE NOTICE OF
PROPOSED CHANGE TO MASTER DEVELOPMENT ORDER**

Mr. Daniel Trescott explained this Babcock Ranch project is impacting both Lee and Charlotte Counties and gave a recap of the Master Development Plan that was previously approved. The Master Transportation Study Update is an analysis of a traffic study done in 2020 with traffic assessment at horizon year 2040 of upcoming transportation needs and planning of the area. Mr. Trescott presented a PowerPoint showing details of the projects and the projected changes to come. He stated that Babcock Ranch will continue its collaborative efforts with FDOT, Charlotte County and Lee County pipeline mitigation monies towards the improvements of SR 31.

Mr. Trescott went on to share the recommended actions of 1. Notifying Charlotte County and the applicant that the proposed changes to the MDO are acceptable to address regional impacts and 2. Request that Charlotte County provide SWFRPC staff with copies of the final MDO amendments related to the proposed changes.

Mr. Tommy Perry offered a motion to accept the proposed recommendations, Councilmember Cummings seconded the motion to accept these recommendations. The action was approved unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #4(b)
APPLICATION FOR INCREMENTAL DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL FOR BABCOCK RANCH
COMMUNITY INCREMENT II**

Mr. Trescott explained that this project has been very successful and comprehensive covering all issues on development and is in accordance with all federal and state agencies. Increment 2 contains over 4,000 acres and will include extensive open space and preserve and enhance critical environmental areas including extended contiguous wetland corridors that contribute to the natural beauty of the area and will positively improve quality of life for the residents. Increment 2 will include 4,434 single-family residential units; 2,023 multi-family units; and 1,275,000 square feet of non-residential development. Construction is anticipated to being in 2021 and buildout through 2033.

Mr. Don McCormick commented that State Road 31 is notorious for flooding and asked if these road improvements will help this issue. Mr. Trescott stated that this problem will be assessed by DOT including a drainage analysis and he is sure that this will improve the issue.

Mr. Tommy Perry offered a motion to approve the plan as presented, Councilmember Cummings seconded the motion to accept this plan. The action was approved unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #2
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2021, MEETING**

Mr. Tommy Perry offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2021, council meeting as presented. Councilmember Cummings seconded the motion to accept the minutes. The action was approved unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #3
FINANCIALS**

**AGENDA ITEM #3(a)
JANUARY-APRIL 2021 FINANCIALS**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the RPC started off the year with a financial deficit, as the year move forward the deficit was cut in half and the financial reserves were built back up. Therefore, the situation has gotten better, it was predicted that FY20-21 would end with \$22,000 in the reserves however the year will be ending better than that with the reserves in place.

Mr. McCormick commented on the great work of Ms. Wuerstle and the RPC staff to get the financials under control.

Councilmember Cummings offered a motion to approve the January-April 2021 financials. Mr. Tommy Perry seconded the motion for approval of the January- April 2021 financials. The action was approved unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #3(b)
AUDIT REPORT FY 2020-2021**

Ms. Wuerstle shared that the auditors had no findings and operations are running as they should. The only comment made by auditors is the same one mentioned the last several years, that without the revenue being brought in from the counties paying their assessments it is uncertain how long the SWFRPC will be able to continue. She then mentioned that last year the auditors predicted that the RPC would only make it through September 2021, however this year the audits say that the RPC will make it until September 2022 due to the amount of grants and funding brought in by RPC.

Mr. Tommy Perry offered a motion to approve the audit report. Councilmember Cummings seconded the motion for approval of the audit report. The action was approved unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #3(C)
PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2021-2022**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. She stated that the RPC was able to secure grants that will allow the RPC to move forward for another year. She also pointed out that this is the first budget in 10 years that the RPC does not have unsecured program development. This proposed budget is closed with secured grants and contracts, and it is anticipated that the RPC should be able to get through FY 2021-2022 with a little over \$45,000 and \$276,000 left in reserves. She went on to say that the RPC will continue to work very hard to find and secure additional grants and funding to help the counties, cities, and nonprofits in the region with their projects.

Mr. Tommy Perry asked how the RPC is working with the counties to determine what their needs are when applying for grants. Ms. Wuerstle responded that not all counties are working with the RPC, but with the CEDS committee all counties are reached out to, to see if they need assistance with priority projects. She went on to say that the RPC has worked on several

infrastructure projects with Clewiston and the RPC continually reaches out to a distribution list of over 700 whenever there is funding available.

Mr. Don McCormick asked if the RPC could send notice to the large distribution list that the support of the RPC efforts would be appreciated and if they could reach out to their county commissioners that they see value added to their department through the existence of the SWFRPC. Ms. Wuerstle stated that she will put a notice together and she will send it to Chair McCormick for approval before sending it to the distribution list.

Mr. Perry stated that he thinks it would be beneficial to meet in person with county officials to communicate the importance of the RPC and their efforts.

Mr. Tommy Perry made a motion to approve the proposed budget for FY 2021-2022. Councilmember Cummings seconded the motion to approve the proposed budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Perry asked who was still paying assessments to the RPC. Ms. Wuerstle stated that the City of Fort Myers, Glades County, The City of Bonita Springs, and The Town of Fort Myers Beach are all paying.

AGENDA ITEM #5 MEETING ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE DISCUSSION

Ms. Wuerstle explained that at the last council meeting it was recommended that a letter be sent to those who have not been attendance at the meetings requesting their presence, she asked Chair McCormick if he would like a letter sent or a phone call made to those members of the council. Mr. Tommy Perry stated that he believes a phone call would be much more productive in getting members in attendance. Chair McCormick agreed that a phone call would be best. Ms. Wuerstle stated that she would set this up. Mr. Tommy Perry suggested that Ms. Wuerstle responded her success with this back to those who were concerned at the last council meeting.

Mr. McCormick stated that he could not be in attendance at the July 15, 2021, Executive Board Meeting. Members decided to cancel the July 15th meeting and reschedule for August. Ms. Wuerstle stated that the September meeting of the SWFRPC will be in person, location TBD, and there will also be a speaker at this meeting.

Ms. Wuerstle brought to attention that the Secretary position is not filled and that suggestions to fill this position please be emailed to her.

Mr. Tommy Perry stated that the budget has been approved however this next year some time should be spent on seriously looking at what happens if the SWFRPC shuts down and what the scenarios are for what will happen when the RPC is not what it is today.

**AGENDA ITEM #6
NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**AGENDA ITEM #7
ADJOURN**

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on August 19, 2021. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Don McCormick, Chairman

The meeting was duly advertised in the June 18, 2021, issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 47, Number 118.