

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
JUNE 16, 2022, MEETING**

The in-person and zoom meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and Executive Board was held on June 16, 2022, at the South Florida Water Management District Office with a conference call option. Governor Appointee and Council Chair, Mr. Don McCormick called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. There was a quorum of the Executive Committee present.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Charlotte County:** Mr. Don McCormick – Chair, Commissioner Jaha Cummings

**Collier County:** *None*

**Glades County:** Mr. Tommy Perry - Governor Appointee, Chairman Tim Stanley

**Hendry County:** Commissioner Mitchell Wills (*Zoom*), Mr. Mel Karau (*Zoom*)

**Lee County:** Stacy Roland for Commissioner Frank Mann (*Zoom*), Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass (*Zoom*), Councilman Fred Burson

**Sarasota County:** *None*

**Ex-Officio Members:** Jon Iglehart FDEP, Phil Flood SFWMD

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ms. Margaret Wuerstle - Executive Director, SWFRPC

Ms. Rebekah Harp - SWFRPC

Ms. Tracy Whirls - SWFRPC

Mr. Jim Burch – SWFRPC (*Zoom*)

Ms. Asmaa Odeh – SWFRPC (*Zoom*)

Ms. Amelia Williams – SWFRPC (*Zoom*)

Ms. Charity Franks – SWFRPC (*Zoom*)

Mr. Daniel Trescott – Trescott Planning (*Zoom*)

Mr. Jim Paulman – Stantec (*Zoom*)

Ms. Katie LaBarr – Stantec (*Zoom*)

Ms. Brooke Dawson – Stantec (*Zoom*)

Ms. Denise Imbler - FRCA (*Zoom*)

**AGENDA ITEM #6(a)**  
**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 16, 2022, MEETING**

**Mr. Thomas Perry offered a motion to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting. Mr. Don McCormick seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting. The action was approved unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #7(a)**  
**FINANCIALS GOVERNMENT FUND ACTIVITY – PER AUDIT (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that this item was requested by Commissioner McDaniel, which is strictly for informational purposes.

**AGENDA ITEM #7(b)**  
**FEBRUARY AND MARCH FINANCIALS**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the financials are continuing with the up and down cycle of the invoicing pattern.

**Mr. Thomas Perry offered a motion to accept the February and March Financials. Councilman Jaha Cummings seconded the motion to accept the February and March Financials. The action was approved unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #7(c)**  
**FY2023 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the proposed budget shows a deficit of \$77,354 which reserves will cover. However, the budget year does not begin until October 1<sup>st</sup> and the SWFRPC has been successful in the past to cover the short fall. Ms. Wuerstle explained that the short fall is typical at this time of year and that in previous years she has seen it as high as \$400,000. Ms. Wuerstle ensured that the \$77,354 gap is not critical and she feels confident that the amount will be made up by the time the budget closes.

**Councilman Jaha Cummings offered a motion to accept the FY2023 Proposed Budget. Mr. Thomas Perry seconded the motion to accept the FY2023 Proposed Budget. The action was approved unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #8**  
**CONSENT**

**AGENDA ITEM #8(a)**  
**BABCOCK RANCH INCREMENT 3**

**AGENDA ITEM #8(b)**  
**PALMER RANCH INCREMENT 30**

Mr. Trescott explained that both items on consent are following the typical process of the preapplication checklist for the master applications.

Mr. Perry asked if this is the last increment of Palmer Ranch? Mr. Trescott responded that he believes this will be most likely the last full increment. Mr. Jim Paulman explained that there are a few inland parcels, but they have met all the mitigating actions that are included under the master order. Mr. Paulman explained that it is the last increment for Babcock Ranch.

**Mr. Thomas Perry offered a motion to accept the consent agenda. Councilman Jaha Cummings seconded the motion to accept the consent agenda. The action was approved unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #9(a)**  
**ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE DISCUSSION**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that Commissioner McDaniel could not attend due to Collier County's budget hearing. Ms. Wuerstle explained that she has received nothing more than what was previously reported, and Ms. Wuerstle will update the board when she receives any new information.

Mr. Don McCormick stated that he received an invitation to present at the Collier County board meeting June 28th. Mr. McCormick also explained that he had a conversation with Commissioner Pendergrass and that the invitation to speak during public comment period is available for Lee County as well.

**AGENDA ITEM #9(b)**  
**INLAND PORT UPDATE DISCUSSION**

Ms. Whirls explained that she attended a luncheon at the Workforce Development Board, Economic Development Ad hoc Committee and that there was discussion regarding the inland port projects. Ms. Whirls continued to explain that she has a meeting the next day regarding the inland port and they have a presentation, which she will share, and they want to do a regional rollout of the program with the potential of not only imports but also exports from the State of Florida. Also, FDOT is having their wrap ups from their statewide listening sessions. Ms. Whirls explained she has followed most of them and there has been a great deal of conversation regarding passenger rail from the East coast to Orlando and Tampa. At the Fort Myers session there was conversation regarding passenger rail for Southwest Florida. There is most likely going to be a shift in conversation to freight rail.

**AGENDA ITEM #10  
DIRECTORS REPORT**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that she had a request from Councilman Cummings to add to the agenda a presentation on the Punta Gorda City Marketplace Project.

The GEIS company presented the project to the board. The GEIS company has requested assistance from the SWFRPC to find funding for the stormwater drainage portion of the project. Margaret explained that she would be happy to look for funding, however she would need some additional information and that she would contact the commissioner as well as the developer to discuss in more detail.

Asmaa Odeh gave a presentation on the closeout of the Collier County Food Policy Council project.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the SWFRPC was also awarded a Food Insecurity grant from DEO that is finally getting off the ground. There was a slight delays in the project due to the finalization of the MOUs for UF. UF has completed their survey tool that will be distributed to the growers. The needs assessment will be completed by October 30th.

Ms. Wuerstle also explained that the CARES Act grant funding for the COVID resiliency guide is coming to a close a the end of June as well.

Ms. Wuerstle also updated the board on the award of a \$500,000 grant from EPA for the new Brownfields assessment in Glades County.

**AGENDA ITEM #11  
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No Committee Reports were given

**AGENDA ITEM #11(a)  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

There was no update given.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(b)  
QUALITY OF LIFE & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

There was no update given.

**AGENDA ITEM #12  
NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

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

Phil flood provided an update on the Governor's approved \$300m budget, \$6m designated for restoration projects and \$4m for Peace River water quality.

Jon Iglehart provided an update on Lee County stating that they are struggling with a 10-week septic delay. Also, Lee County drinking water program has 60 days left, then it will be transferred and taken over by the Tampa office.

**AGENDA ITEM #14  
COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Councilman Cummings provided an update on the historic house that will be moved and turned into a museum**

**AGENDA ITEM #15  
ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

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Don McCormick, Chairman

**The meeting was duly advertised in the June 8, 2022, issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 48, Number 111.**