

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
November 30, 2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

The meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council Executive Board was held on November 30, 2020 virtually via GoToMeeting. Ms. Margaret Wuerstle explained that a quorum was not achieved for the SWFRPC Council Meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2020; because there are five members of the Executive Committee and two of the slots are vacant and are not counted for, there is only two members needed to vote and approve agenda items. Vice-Chair Mr. Don McCormick called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Don McCormick, Vice-Chair
Mr. Thomas Perry, Governor Appointee
Councilman Fred Burson, Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Margaret Wuerstle, Executive Director of the SWFRPC
Ms. Rebekah Harp
Ms. Katelyn Kubasik
Ms. Katie LaBarr
Mr. Jim Paulmann
Mr. Christopher Posey
Mr. Daniel Trescott
Ms. Erica Woods

**AGENDA ITEM #2
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 MEETING**

A motion was made by Mr. Tommy Perry to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2020 meeting. This motion was seconded by Vice-Chair McCormick and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #3
FINANCIALS**

**AGENDA ITEM #3(a)
AUGUST 2020 FINANCIALS**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the August financials show that the RPC is in the hole \$207,000. At the end of last year, it was predicted that the year would end around a little over \$200,000 in the hole. These August financials hold true to that.

A motion was made by Mr. Don McCormick to approve the August 2020 financials. This motion was seconded by Mr. Tommy Perry and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #3(b)
SEPTEMBER 2020 FINANCIALS**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the September financials shows that the gap from August was closed a little bit, and the year ended slightly better than expected with a hole of \$174,000. Mr. Tommy Perry added that it was known that the year would end in deficit and it did, but it is not sustainable into the future.

A motion was made by Mr. Don McCormick to approve the September 2020 financials. This motion was seconded by Mr. Tommy Perry and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #3(c)
BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Ms. Wuerstle stated that the budget amendments for last fiscal year require approval, this amendment cleans up the budget for the audit, zeroing everything out. The \$174,000 that the RPC is in the hole will come out of reserves. Ms. Wuerstle explained that RPC went into the budget year with a hole of \$259,000 and were able to close that hole with grants and contracts by \$85,000. The biggest hit to the budget was Collier County opting out of paying their dues without a 12-month notice.

A motion was made by Mr. Tommy Perry to approve the Budget Amendments. This motion was seconded by Mr. Don McCormick and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #5
CONSENT AGENDA**

**AGENDA ITEM #5(b)
BABCOCK RANCH COMMUNITY INCREMENT II**

Mr. Jim Paulmann stated that this item is consistent with the three-party agreement between Charlotte County, Babcock Ranch and the SWFRPC as how to coordinate reviews of future increments and what has been established.

A motion was made by Mr. Don McCormick to accept the Babcock Ranch Community Increment II Report as presented. This motion was seconded by Councilman Fred Burson and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #6
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEM #6(a)
UPDATE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs)**

Ms. Wuerstle explained to everyone that every year the RPC is required to do an annual update on the CEDs that is funded through EDA. She went on to say that the strategy covers all 6 counties, working with the 6 pillars. A big change is that all 17 opportunity zones are now included and added to the report. The two working committee meetings this year have been virtual in addition to two COVID Disaster Recovery Workshops that the CEDs Working Committee and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) were also invited to, as it all deal with economic development and recovery. Ms. Wuerstle stated that all program areas have remained the same and the target projects have remained the same as well, the full report can be found in the meeting packet. Ms. Wuerstle highlighted that EDA and Federal support investments have invested \$2,031,466 in the region, State, and local investments total \$141,270,000 and Private investments total \$122,200,000 for a combined total of \$265,501,466 invested in the region. This does not include incentives, which make the total even higher. Ms. Wuerstle announced that \$675,000 has been awarded to the RPC in grants. \$400,000 in Disaster Recovery from COVID 19, \$175,000 for Clewiston Waterfront Master Plan and \$100,000 for Health Cities-Healthy Counties. On top of those grants there is still \$4,356,337 in pending grants.

Ms. Wuerstle touched on the SWFL Fresh project, funded by EDA after Hurricane Irma to look at how we can work with small growers in the region to ensure they are more resilient in the future. The growers identified the need for a marketing tool that shows they are from SWFL, EDA granted implementation, so a marketing firm was hired to develop the logo and tagline.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that EDA has awarded a 1-year extension on the Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant due to COVID-19 restrictions.

A motion was made by Mr. Tommy Perry to approve the Update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy submittal. This motion was seconded by Mr. Don McCormick and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #6(b)
FY20-21 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Ms. Wuerstle stated that the next meeting will be on January 21, 2021. A nominating committee is needed. Mr. McCormick would move into the Chair position, Councilman Burson would move into the Vice-Chair position, both members agreed to this change. Ms. Wuerstle went on to state that the appointment of a Secretary and Treasurer is also needed, emails should be sent to Ms. Wuerstle for nominations for the other positions. Mr. Tommy Perry agreed to stay another year in his position as well.

**AGENDA ITEM #7
NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**AGENDA ITEM #8
ADJOURN**

The next meeting of the SWFRPC will be on January 21, 2021. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Vice-Mayor Michael Atkinson, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the November 20, 2020 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 46, Number 227.