

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
JANUARY 15, 2015 MEETING**

The meeting of the **Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council** was held on **January 15, 2015** at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council - 1st Floor Conference Room at 1926 Victoria Avenue in Fort Myers, Florida. Chairwoman Teresa Heitmann called the meeting to order at **9:03 AM** Chairwoman Teresa Heitmann and then led an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. SWFRPC Planner 1/Grants Coordinator, Nichole Gwinnett conducted the roll call.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlotte County: Commissioner Chris Constance as alt. for Commissioner Ken Doherty, Commissioner Tricia Duffy, Councilwoman Nancy Prafke, Mr. Don McCormick

Collier County: Councilwoman Teresa Heitmann, Commissioner Tim Nance, Mr. Bob Mulhere

Glades County: None

Hendry County: Commissioner Don Davis, Commissioner Daniel Akin, Mr. Melvin Karau

Lee County: Commissioner Frank Mann, Councilman Forrest Banks, Councilman Jim Burch, Vice Mayor Doug Congress

Sarasota County: Commissioner Charles Hines, Commissioner Carolyn Mason, Commissioner Rhonda DiFranco, Mayor Willie Shaw, Councilman Kit McKeon

Ex-Officio: Ms. Sara Catala for Ms. Carmen Monroy - FDOT, Mr. Jon Iglehart - FDEP, Mr. Phil Flood - SFWMD, Ms. Melissa Dickens - SWFWMD

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charlotte County: Ms. Suzanne Graham

Collier County: Commissioner Georgia Hiller, Mr. Alan Reynolds

Glades County: Commissioner Donna Storter-Long, Commissioner Paul Beck, Councilwoman Pat Lucas, Mr. Thomas Perry

Hendry County: Commissioner Karson Turner, Commissioner Sherida Ridgill

Lee County: Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Mayor Anita Cereceda, Ms. Laura Holquist

Sarasota County: Mr. Felipe Colón

Ex-Officio: None

Ms. Gwinnett announced that there wasn't a quorum present at the time that the roll call was done; however, within a few minutes later members had arrived and also participated in the WebEx.

**AGENDA ITEM #4
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #5
AGENDA**

The supplemental agenda was approved as presented.

**AGENDA ITEM #6
Election of 2015 Officers**

A motion was made by Commissioner Mann to accept the 2015 Slate of Officers, which included the following: Chair - Mr. Robert Mulhere, Vice-Chair - Mr. Don McCormick, Secretary - Councilman Forrest Banks, Treasurer - Mr. Thomas Perry. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Councilwoman Heitmann handed over the gavel to the new Chair, Mr. Robert Mulhere.

**AGENDA ITEM #7
Minutes of the November 20, 2014 Meeting**

Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2014 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #8
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the 2014 Roland Eastwood Planner of the Year Award to David Crawford.

Financial Statements will be discussed under Budget and Finance Committee.

The 2014 Audit has begun and should be done by the end of month and will be brought to the March meeting.

New CPA Firm hired to replace Wally Cordell. Introductions of Erica Harp from Hughes and Snell CPA firm.

Office Space contract with Krise Commercial Group sign will be going up soon.

Appointed Liaisons list of staff for each community is listed in packet. The staff will monitor agenda's, attend meetings and be that communities go to person.
Chair Mr. Robert Mulhere suggested sending out letter to the jurisdictions with members that are not attending meetings.
Ms. Wuerstle presented the grants we are currently working on.
Submitted Brownfields this is a six hundred thousand dollar grant. Will not hear anything for months. Submitted Promise Zone grant to help Hendry, Glades, and Immokalee.
Medical manufacturing Corridor is still in process of submittal.
Please remember we have 2.2 million out in grants pending.
Commissioner Mann asked to go back to letter chairman. Commissioner Mason clarification of members on the phone counted Chairman Mulhere on phone or in person counted..
Commissioner Mann asked that the letter came from Chairman Mulhere and not from Ms. Wuerstle.

**AGENDA ITEM #9(a)
Grant Activity Sheet**

This item was for information purposes only.

**AGENDA ITEM #10
CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the consent agenda as presented; Councilwoman Heitmann seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #11
REGIONAL IMPACT**

Mr. Crawford gave a PowerPoint presentation on the following items. Explained the Comp Plan Review process the standard and expedited state review that was adopted in 2011.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(a)
Collier County Comprehensive Plan Amendment (DEO 14-5ESR)**

Mr. Crawford presented the item. Collier County mixed use south on 41 30 acre parcel undeveloped to urban mixed use has utilities both residential and commercial 150 units hotel, assist living economic impact will be positive of the county. Recommending to Council to find not regional significant and is not to DRI status and complaint to the Regional policies plan. Chair Mr. Mulhere abstained from the vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mann to approve as presented; Councilman McKeon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(b)
Hendry County Comprehensive Plan Amendment (DEO 15-1ESR)**

Mr. Crawford presented the item. City of LaBelle and is 2 parts first area is annex to the city on the south side from agricultural uses to industrial 650 acres and will help the economy of the city. Commissioner Constance asked about the impact on SR 29. Mr. Crawford explained it would never be a DRI process does not address industrial. Mr. Crawford asked for approval it does meet the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. The second one is within the city 126 acres for urban use not enough units to affect the region.

A motion was made by Commissioner Davis to approve as presented; Commissioner Nance seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

At this time Ms. Wuerstle introduced Maryann Devanas come on board to take over for Mr. Crawford when he retires next month.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(a)
Budget & Finance Committee**

Councilman McKeon gave the committee report. Reviewed the information with Nancy and Ms. Wuerstle. This stage of the year we are in very good shape. Review the chart there is a dip of 131 thousand dollars which take place in November and December every year which is normally 60 to 70 thousand dollar range due to Vacations and Holidays this year difference was due to uncontrollable illness. When staff is not working than no billable income. Ideally 25% income and 25% expense we are at 12.4% income and 20% expenses at this time. Also CHEP is no longer here and they always had deferred income. There will be a budget and finance committee meeting after audit is over for the audit team to go over with committee. Ms. Wuerstle explained the CHEP got paid in advance for their work where as the Planning Council Staff does work and then gets paid.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mann to approve the budget and finance agenda as presented; Mayor Shaw seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman McKeon announced a budget amendment to include a grant for 80 thousand. Chairman Mulhere asked how many DRI's ? David Crawford answered no new DRI's at this time all though NOPC's have been coming in.

A motion was made by Commissioner Constance to approve the budget and finance agenda as presented; Commissioner Nance seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(b)
Economic Development Committee**

Councilman Banks gave the committee report. FRCA meeting review redistricting was main topic Palm Beach County former state representative pushing for them to be put in different district. This would cause a statewide study. Planning Council boundaries are controlled by the Governor. Vice Chair Mr. McCormick reviewed Palm Beach Commissioner Meeting where a resident expert called it the cabinet responsibility would be amendment to the rules. Chair Mulhere state entities within the boundaries more consistent. Councilwoman Heitmann discussion at all about sending a letter to Governor for funding? Ms. Wuerstle this was discussed at the Executive Director's Meeting not going to the Governor for funding perusing Amendment 1 for funding also adding

EPO review funding. Subcommittee for the RPC. Florida Transportation Department Study does not show anything in Southwest Florida. Suggested to members to mention RPC's when meeting with legislators.

AGENDA ITEM #12(c)
Energy & Climate Committee

Mr. McCormick gave the committee report. One word report implication of building regulations and land use regulations. Councilman Burch referred to a newspaper article stating that Florida is not up to date with wind and solar power. FPL lobby hard to make sure solar did not get out there unless they were involved.

AGENDA ITEM #12(d)
Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management (EBABM) Committee

Mr. Beever gave the committee report. Agency meet and main order of business election of officers for 2015. Dr. Win Everham (FGCU) Chair, Patty Whitehead (Responsible growth management collision) Vice Chair and Wayne Daltry (Audubon of SWF) Secretary. Chair Mr. Mulhere Martha Simmons asked to be the RPC representative to serve on the ABM Jim believes she has been appointed to the ABM by the RPC. Mr. Beever explains nitrogen and phosphates impacts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mann to approve the officers for EBABM presented; Commissioner Constance seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Beever presented the 2015 work plan for EBABM. Cela Tega entitled "Sea Level rise adaption and resiliency planning in the Estero Bay watershed".

A motion was made by Commissioner Constance to approve the 2015 work plan for EBABM presented; Councilman McKeon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #12(e)
Executive Committee

Chair Mulhere no report at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #12(f)
Legislative Affairs Committee

Vice-Mayor Congress gave the committee report. Presented letter to Governor for consideration of funding the RPC's including the statutory requirements economic development and job creation. Delegations hearings are complete. Now time to monitor everything going on in Tallahassee.

AGENDA ITEM #12(g)
Quality of Life & Safety Committee

Mayor Shaw gave the committee report at this time. Thanked Sarasota County for presentation on medical marijuana. Councilman McKeon Manasota League of Cities no way to enforce the amendment on medical marijuana suggested creating a law in the process. Commissioner Hines explained effort on medical marijuana. Sarasota sent the head of planning and zoning to Denver for a week to work with police, fire, EMT and zoning departments about the pros and cons of medical marijuana has a great presentation. Councilwoman Heitmann thinks it is something we need to educate would benefit us as a region. Commissioner Constance talked about new petition for amendment better to go through legislation not a constitutional amendment. Board schedules presentation from Sarasota's Planning and Zoning Director for March meeting. Discussion about does this really involve the RPC outcome was yes because of zoning.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mann to add to the RPC's legislation priorities to include medical marijuana Commissioner Nance seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #12(h)
Regional Transportation Committee**

Ms. Wuerstle no report at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #13
NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Mulhere noted that there were two items for discussion under "New Business".

**AGENDA ITEM #13(b)
Southwest Florida's Visitors Center - I-75 Rest Area**

Commissioner Constance gave a PowerPoint presentation Southwest Florida Visitors Center in Port Charlotte at the rest area that will be closing in April. FDOT favors on site rest areas policy. 20 acres 5 acres must be used for water retentions. Tourist information for each entity of our Region Councilman Burch agrees RPC should be involved with this process. Form a committee includes Secretary Hathaway. Chair Mulhere long time lease or purchase? Commissioner Constance how to we get FDOT what they want and we get what we want. Who host the North Florida visitor centers? Visit Florida host the welcome centers. Commissioner Constance did not present for action this as informational. Introduced Laura Stinner tourist director s will send the presentation to the RPC. Councilwoman Heitmann applauded Commissioner Constance for his efforts. Commissioner Constance tourism is the lead to economic development

**AGENDA ITEM #13(a)
Caloosahatchee Watershed - Regional Water Management Issues White Paper**

Vice-Mayor Congress presented the item. Have RPC address the resolution with a presentation.

**AGENDA ITEM #14
STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS**

SFWMD - Mr. Flood announced Governor Board award the first construction contract for the C-43 reservoir.

FDOT - Ms. Catala passed out flyers on visioning regional workshops encouraging MPO elected officials to go Feb.2 in Sebring. Website will be set up for comments.

FDEP - Mr. Iglehart announced New Secretary of FDEP Jonathan Steverson. Purchase of 669 acres Charlotte Harbor Flat lands. 620 acres Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed.

SWFWMD - Ms. Dickens announced February 11 workshop for cooperative funding.

AGENDA ITEM #15

COUNCIL ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS

No report was given at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #16

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Vice Chair Mr. McCormick –Amendment 1 discussion at FRCA where is the funding is not clear where the 300 million coming from. Discussion from Tallahassee this is new money.

Vice Mayor Congress – Thanked Councilwoman Heitmann for her efforts as Chair and Welcomed Mr. Mulhere as new chair. Last official meeting thank you and look forward to working with you in the future.

Councilman Burch – Welcome Ms. Catala for FDOT.

Commissioner Hines – World Rowing Championships February 16-22 at Benderson Park in Bradenton this park is regional. International events are scheduled for the Olympic trials.

Councilman Banks – Encouraged members to attend the FDOT workshops there is no transportation map for Southwest Florida.

Councilwoman Heitmann – Is anyone designated as bicycle friendly? Vice Mayor Congress responded yes Sanibel is Silver Award. Councilwoman Heitmann does we water supplies needs in the future of region? Asked about ASR wells both Mr. Flood and Ms. Dickens explained WMD's updating their plans and do fund the ASR wells. Councilman Burch suggested Councilwoman speaks with Mr. Beever.

Chair Mr. Mulhere – Thanked Councilwoman Heitmann for being the chair for 2014.

Councilwoman Heitmann – Asked that we continue to make the RPC relevant and thanked Ms. Wuerstle for her leaderships

AGENDA ITEM #17

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Chair Mr. Mulhere to adjourn the meeting Commissioner Mann seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Councilman Forrest Banks, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the January 5, 2015 issue of the **FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER**, Volume 41, Number 02.

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