

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MARCH 21, 2013 MEETING**

The meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was held on March 21, 2013 at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room at 1926 Victoria Avenue in Fort Myers, Florida. Chair Karson Turner called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Commissioner Mann led an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrative Specialist II, Nichole Gwinnett conducted the roll call.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Charlotte County:** Commissioner Chris Constance, Commissioner Tricia Duffy, Vice Mayor Rachel Keesling

**Collier County:** Commissioner Tim Nance, Commissioner Tom Henning, Mr. Alan Reynolds, Mr. Bob Mulhere

**Glades County:** Commissioner Dennis Griffin, Commissioner Tim Stanley, Mr. Thomas Perry

**Hendry County:** Commissioner Karson Turner, Commissioner Don Davis, Mr. Melvin Karau

**Lee County:** Commissioner Frank Mann, Councilman Chris Chulakes-Leetz, Vice Mayor Doug Congress, Ms. Laura Holquist

**Sarasota County:** Commissioner Charles Hines, Commissioner Carolyn Mason, Commissioner Rhonda DiFranco for Commissioner Tom Jones, Councilman Kit McKeon, Mr. Felipe Colón

**Ex-Officio Members:** Mr. Phil Flood – SFWMD, Ms. Melissa Dickens – SWFWMD, Mr. Lawrence Massey, FDOT

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**Charlotte County:** None

**Collier County:** Councilwoman Teresa Heitmann

**Glades County:** Councilwoman Pat Lucas

**Hendry County:** Commissioner Daniel Akin

**Lee County:** Commissioner Tammy Hall, Councilman Forrest Banks, Councilman Joe Kosinski, Councilwoman Martha Simons

Sarasota County: Vice Mayor Willie Shaw

Ex-Officio Membership: Mr. Jon Iglehart - FDEP

## INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Turner requested that all new members introduce themselves.

- Commissioner Charles Hines, Sarasota County BCC
- Vice Mayor Doug Congress, City of Sanibel
- Commissioner Tim Stanley, Glades County BCC
- Mr. Lawrence Massey, Florida Department of Transportation
- Mayor Philip Roland, City of Clewiston
- Ms. Melissa Dickens, Southwest Florida Water Management District

## AGENDA ITEM #4 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Julia Davis, President of the Omnibus Innovations Group, Inc. said that she was speaking regarding Consent Agenda Item #9(c) Selection of a Community Transportation Coordinator for the Glades-Hendry Joint Service Area. She explained that there was a community transportation coordinator designated in every county within Florida, which was part of Florida's coordinated transportation system. It was a 30 year system that has produced results in the form of more trips for more people; it has produced cost effectiveness and safety for millions of people in Florida going to the doctor, bank or grocery store. It is composed of federal, state and local funding and all of the funding is combined by the coordinator and turned into trips. This whole system has been more difficult recently because of the continuing efforts to make Medicaid work. As some of you may know, there were efforts to implement Medicaid reform. When Medicaid reform is put into place next July, the transportation budget under Medicaid will go with it and the HMOs will receive the Medicaid funding. When that happens every coordinator within the State that is using Medicaid funds won't have that funding and it will reduce their funding by approximately 30%. So any coordinator that is appointed or in-place is going to have a harder time make coordination work. So your expectations for success of the coordinated system is going to be drastically different next July. There are efforts underway at this time by coordinators and friends of coordinators, including Florida Association of Counties and some MPOs to help bring awareness to the legislators and see if there is some way to put transportation back into the coordinated system so that the coordinated system will continue to thrive.

## AGENDA ITEM #5 AGENDA

Mr. Reynolds made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Commissioner Nance seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #6**  
**Minutes of the February 21, 2013 Meeting**

Commissioner Constance noted that on page 4, last paragraph under Agenda Item #10(a) the names were not correct, they should have been "Commissioner Sara Comander" and "Mayor George Neugent". Also, on page 5, second paragraph where he referred to "Charlotte County would be receiving between \$4-7 million, should have been \$4-700,000."

Commissioner Nance made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2013 Meeting as amended and Commissioner Constance seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #7**  
**DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item. She announced that a new member orientation would be held immediately following the March 21 SWFRPC board meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #7(a)**  
**Executive Director's Contract**

Councilman Leetz made a motion to approve the Executive Director's contract as presented and Commissioner Hines seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mann asked for an overview of the changes in the Executive Director's contract. Ms. Donley gave the overview. Commissioner Mann asked for clarification that the contract was reviewed by the Council's Executive Committee and then forwarded to the full Council for recommended approval. Ms. Donley stated that was correct.

Commissioner Constance stated that he was very pleased with Ms. Wuerstle's performance.

**AGENDA ITEM #8(a)**  
**Grant Activity Sheet**

The grant activity sheet was presented in the packet as an information item.

**AGENDA ITEM #8(b)**  
**Energy Assurance Plan**

Ms. Jennifer Pellechio presented the item.

Commissioner Constance asked what the "5 EPAs" stood for. Ms. Pellechio explained that EPA stand for Energy Planning Areas.

Discussion ensued on the zones.

## **AGENDA ITEM #9 CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Davis moved and Councilman Leetz seconded to recommend approval of the consent agenda: Agenda Item #9(a) Intergovernmental Coordination and Review; Agenda Item #9(b) Financial Statement for February 28, 2013; Agenda Item #9(c) Selection of a Community Transportation Coordinator for the Glades-Hendry Joint Service Area; Agenda Item #9(d) City of Cape Coral Comprehensive Plan Amendment (DEO 13-2ER); and Agenda Item #9(e) Coconut Point DRI - Development Order Review. The motion carried unanimously.

## **AGENDA ITEM #10(a) RESTORE Act - Commissioner Chris Constance**

Commissioner Constance announced that the next meeting was scheduled for April 5 and it coincided with Legislative Day in Tallahassee on April 4. He then gave an overview of the RESTORE Act.

Mr. McCormick stated that in 2010 when he transitioned off of the Council in November, the Council elected him as the Council's representative to the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program's Policy Committee. Last Thursday night he appeared before Florida's section of the RESTORE Council, which was headed up by professional staff of the Deputy Secretary of Commerce. There were four things that were sent out that were all environment and at some point they added a fifth item, which was economic development impact. In other words, if your project is coming through and is going to create jobs, they want to know about it. The CHNEP worked very hard and vetted 124 different projects from the three estuary programs (Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay and Charlotte Harbor). They provided the RESTORE Council with documentation for the 124 projects and the leader of the Council actually incorporated the NEPs into his PowerPoint presentation of what he was going to forward on. We have done great work through the NEPs and he thanked the SWFRPC for providing resources.

Mr. McCormick then noted that the governor's office was going to be involved in looking at the DEP summary comments that were coming out and accompanying this effort. He explained that it meant that the governor's office was going to be looking at the counties' stream of funding so we should try to get projects that involve jobs into both streams of funding because you might qualify. Let them remove the project.

Commissioner Constance explained that the other part of the puzzle was that with the RESTORE Act and the disbursement of funds was up to the Treasury Department. However, the Department has yet to publish the guidelines and the guidelines were due in December.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(a)1**  
**Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management (ABM)**

Mr. Beever presented the item.

Commissioner Mann asked if the members of the ABM are compensated. Mr. Beever explained that the members were volunteers.

Commissioner Mann made a motion to approve the EBABM representative for the Caloosahatchee Visioning Process and the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve Management Plan Update and Commissioner Constance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #12**  
**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was presented at this time.

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

FDOT - Mr. Massey announced that the urban office was busy seeing to the needs of the district and to the region. He then stated that they had advertised for the new director position.

SWFWMD - Ms. Dickens introduced herself as the new representative of the SWFWMD on the Council. She announced that the SWFWMD did have a full 13 member board and a survey was sent out to local governments for their strategic plan.

Chair Turner asked if there were any aides from the federal or state legislative delegation present. Ms. Tamara Holliday from Senator Benaquisto's office introduced herself.

**AGENDA ITEM #14**  
**COUNCIL ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS**

No comments were made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #15**  
**COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Councilman Leetz invited everyone to attend on March 25 the City of Cape Coral's fire sprinkler education program. This is a program that is being provided by Fire Safe State and National group. There were experts coming in from several areas throughout the United States to discuss single-family and duplex dwelling home fire sprinklers. It is going to be a very comprehensive two-hour presentation at the City Council Chambers at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 25. The educational portion will go on for two hours followed by a live demonstration at 3:00 p.m.

Vice Mayor Keesling asked if participants had to register. Councilman Leetz stated that no registration was necessary.

Chair Turner announced that the Annual Sugar Festival will be held on April 19-21 in the City of Clewiston. There would be a free concert and a really fun rodeo. It is the second best rodeo in the State of Florida.

Commissioner Henning asked Ms. Dickens who the new representative for the Southwest Florida was. Ms. Dickens explained that she was the new representative.

Commissioner Henning stated that at a few past meetings there was a discussion on the Caloosahatchee restoration funding. Mr. Flood stated that he would have been part of that discussion. Chair Turner stated that it was the C-43 project. He explained that he understood that it cleared Committee in the Senate and it is going to the House, but it still had a long way to go before any major funding would occur. Mr. Flood explained that the SFWMD was still in the same situation and was waiting for funding to come through and authorization from Congress in order to move forward with construction of the reservoir. The SFWMD had requested funding through the RESTORE program for a couple of different venues in hopes of obtaining funding.

Mr. Reynolds asked if there was a coordinated effort underway through FRCA to support the retention of the appropriation for RPCs and if talking points would be distributed. Ms. Wuerstle explained that FRCA had put together a set of talking points, which were distributed and they were quite extensive. The Council had created its own set of talking points and she would also distribute that list. FRCA had sent an email stating that the \$2.5 million for the RPCs was in the budget and there was a provision that it must be used to implement the five year economic development plan created by the State and for technical assistance to our constituents. She stated that FRCA's lobbyist had stated that if the funding was placed back into the budget it would not be vetoed by the governor.

Mr. Reynolds asked if there would be any merit to having a letter sent to the governor signed by the governor appointees of the RPCs. Ms. Wuerstle stated that she would prepare a letter.

Chair Turner gave a brief overview of how he would be addressing the legislature in maintaining funding for RPCs.

Commissioner Mann requested that staff include the names and titles of all members of the Council in the agenda packets.

Commissioner Constance announced that the Florida International Air Show was being held this weekend at the Charlotte County Airport.

Commissioner Hines announced that Sarasota County was currently under major construction for the Benderson Rowing Facility. He explained that it was a regional facility or even nationwide facility. There have only been two bids submitted, to have the Worldwide International Rowing Competition in Sarasota in 2017. The two bids are from Sarasota and Bulgaria, and if Sarasota was selected it would mean that there would be teams coming in from all around the world looking to

practice and stay in local communities. Sarasota has already been recognized as being the second best in the world.



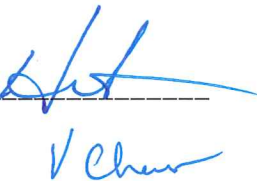
Ms. Donley announced that the Sarasota Rowing Invitational was being held this weekend.

Chair Turner announced that the New Member Orientation was being held immediately following the board meeting. He announced that the Seminole Tribe of Florida was holding their 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cattle Drive this weekend. He also explained that Hendry County was in another stage of discussions with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with regards to the Airglades International Airport.

Mayor Roland stated that if the runway is built, it would become to Southwest Florida what "Disney World was to Orlando". It may not be completed due to the bureaucratic FAA.

**AGENDA ITEM #16  
ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

    
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Commissioner Tom Jones, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the March 7, 2013 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE WEEKLY, Volume 39, Number 46.



**REQUEST FOR PLACEMENT ON AGENDA  
OF THE**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

**Name:**

*Julia B. Davis, AICP*

(Please Print)

**Organization (if any):**

*Omnibus Innovations Group Inc.*

**Address:**

*4637 Vincennes Blvd Suite 1  
Cape Coral FL 33904*

**Agenda Item Number:**

*9C*

**Amount of Time Requesting:**

*5 mins*

**Signature**

*Julia B. Davis*

**Date**

*3/21/13*



MARGARET -

I'm HERE DON MCGORMICK

SWFRPC REP TO CHNEP

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