

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MARCH 20, 2014 MEETING**

The meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was held on February 20, 2014 at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council - 1st Floor Conference Room at 1926 Victoria Avenue in Fort Myers, Florida. Chair Teresa Heitmann called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Commissioner Mann then 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, Councilwoman Nancy Prafke, Mr. Don McCormick

Collier County: Commissioner Tim Nance, Commissioner Georgia Hiller, Mr. Bob Mulhere, Mr. Alan Reynolds, Councilwoman Teresa Heitmann

Glades County: Commissioner Donna Storter-Long

Hendry County: Commissioner Karson Turner, Commissioner Don Davis

Lee County: Commissioner Frank Mann, Councilman Forrest Banks, Councilman Jim Burch, Commissioner Brian Hamman, Vice Mayor Doug Congress, Ms. Laura Holquist

Sarasota County: Commissioner Charles Hines, Vice Mayor Willie Shaw, Councilman Kit McKeon

Ex-Officio Members: Mr. Phil Flood - SFWMD, Ms. Melissa Dickens - SWFWMD

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charlotte County: Ms. Suzanne Graham

Collier County: None

Glades County: Councilwoman Pat Lucas, Commissioner Russell Echols, Mr. Thomas Perry

Hendry County: Commissioner Daniel Akin, Mayor Phillip Roland, Mr. Melvin Karau

Lee County: Vice Mayor Joe Kosinski

Sarasota County: Commissioner Carolyn Mason, Commissioner Rhonda DiFranco, Mr. Felipe Colón

Ex-Officio Membership: Mr. Jon Iglehart – FDEP, Ms. Carmen Monroy – FDOT

Ms. Gwinnett announced that there was a quorum.

**AGENDA ITEM #4
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments made at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #5
AGENDA**

Commissioner Mann made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and the motion was seconded by Councilman Burch. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #6
Minutes of the February 20, 2014 Meeting**

Vice Mayor Congress moved to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2014 and the motion was seconded by Councilman Burch. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Wuerstle reviewed the item. She explained that the Council was awarded a grant from the SWFL Community Foundation to assess all of the public art and cultural venues throughout Lee County. The Council contracted Ms. Courtney Lallo to go out and map all of the public art and cultural venues; while she was doing so her daughter, Miss Oliva Lallo, joined her on some of those trips. She then introduced and thanked Miss Oliva Lallo for creating today's placemats that were before each councilmember.

FY 2012/13 Audit

Ms. Wuerstle announced that the SWFRPC's FY 2012/13 Audit is complete and Mr. Tuscan of Tuscan and Company will be presenting the audit later during the meeting. She noted that the audit was closed with a \$165,000 surplus. She explained that \$83,500, out of the \$165,000, had been previously approved as carry-over for the current budget; the remaining \$81,500 will be brought before the Council in the form of a budget amendment at the April meeting. She announced that there were no comments for this audit and all of the comments from last year had been resolved. She congratulated staff for their hard work in order to obtain a clean audit.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that staff had been working with Bank of America on the options of refinancing the building and stated that if the Council was to currently refinance, there would be a \$106,000 penalty. Staff went ahead and asked Bank of America for a proposal since the interest rates were currently low. When the proposal was received it was determined that it couldn't be considered due to several issues. Banks don't want to finance anything under \$2 million and they

also wanted to give only short terms. She said that both she and Ms. Doyle of staff will continue to work on the issue.

FGCU IHub

Ms. Wuerstle noted that the letter was included within the packet. She then requested that Commissioner Nance present the issue since he requested that it be placed on the agenda for the Council's discussion and consideration.

Commissioner Nance explained that the issue was funding for the IHub at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). He received the letter from FGCU President Bradshaw requesting support for legislative funding to move the IHub Research Building at FGCU forward. He said that since FGCU was like the "flag ship educational institution" within the region and it clearly benefits all of the municipalities within Southwest Florida by education, research and economic development; he felt that a resolution from the Council would be helpful to President Bradshaw.

Commissioner Hiller stated that she supported Commissioner Nance's comments. She noted that the Collier County Board of County Commissioners recently passed a resolution of the same effect.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nance to have the Council send a resolution in support of funding for the FGCU IHub Research Building; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Hiller.

Mr. Mulhere explained that funding was requested last year and was approved by the legislature, but vetoed by the Governor. It was his understanding that the Governor vetoed the funding because it wasn't demonstrated that there was wide-spread support for the project.

Ms. Holquist said that she agreed with Mr. Mulhere's comments and it was very important to send those resolutions/letters of support to the legislature.

Councilwoman Prafke noted that everyone on City of Punta Gorda's Council received the letter and they consulted with their economic development director and did issue a letter of support to President Bradshaw, but asking that since the city's statistics were being used to justify the project that the benefits of the IHub also be sent up to Punta Gorda because they also need the economic development benefits within their area as well. She said that the whole region needed to be included in the project.

Commissioner Mann explained how important the project was and what Lee County had done in support of the project. He said that he felt that the issue of the veto from last year has been dealt with.

Commissioner Constance asked for clarification on the reasoning behind the veto last year. Mr. Mulhere stated that there wasn't enough homework done to show the Governor wide-spread community support. Commissioner Constance said that it was his understanding that the Governor didn't believe that it was a regional effort. He then asked if the project tied into with the Alliance of

Southwest Florida or it was a separate issue. He also said that he agreed with Councilwoman Prafke's comments; however, he would also like to know what the guarantees would be.

Commissioner Davis called the question.

Ms. Holquist stated that she had seen a presentation on the IHub Research Building and it is a great project. It contains research for alternative energy. She said that she had the presentation and would be happy to share it with everyone. She then addressed Commissioner Constance's question on whether it had anything to do with the Alliance and the answer is that it doesn't.

The motion carried unanimously.

FRCA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Ms. Wuerstle distributed and presented the draft MOU. It was suggested that the Council draft an MOU outlining what the Council's expectations of FRCA was. She noted that the Council's Executive Committee had reviewed the MOU and made some changes and those changes have been incorporated. If the Council approves the MOU it will then be sent up to FRCA for their signature.

Vice Mayor Congress asked if it was a time sensitive issue. Ms. Wuerstle said no.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the Council does participate in FRCA and pays their FRCA dues on a quarterly basis.

A motion was made by Commissioner Constance to approve the MOU as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Mulhere.

Commissioner Constance stated that he felt that it was a "basic" document. He said time is of the essence because we need to make our voice heard and make FRCA understand that the Council is an active partner and player.

Mr. McCormick asked for input from Commissioner Turner on this issue. Commissioner Turner said that he believed that it was time to move forward.

Mr. Mulhere stated that we all have spent a considerable amount of time on the MOU and so has Ms. Wuerstle. He said that he still considers it a draft and expects that FRCA will want to make some comments and then the Council will have an opportunity to comment back based upon FRCA's response.

The motion carried unanimously.

DEO Technical Assistance Grants

Ms. Wuerstle announced that DEO's Technical Assistance grant cycle has opened with a maximum of \$25,000. The grants need to be submitted by a local government and the deadline for submittal is June 6, 2014. Staff is planning on submitting three grants for this year's cycle.

Mr. Mulhere asked Ms. Wuerstle if she knew how much funding is available through the process. Ms. Wuerstle said that she didn't know, but that they don't fund any single project above \$25,000 and they usually award under that amount.

IMCP Application

Ms. Wuerstle presented the item. She explained that the SWFRPC has partnered with both the Tampa Bay RPC and the South Florida RPC to submit the designation application. She noted that there are other designation applications being submitted by other RPCs. The I-4 Corridor is being submitted by the East Central RPC and also Treasurer Coast RPC is submitting one. EDA is only going to grant 12 designations. This is not a grant but if awarded the designation the communities will be given preferential status for grant funding.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Heitmann introduced Glades County Commissioner Donna Storter-Long as the Council's newest member. She also introduced Glades County Manager Paul Carlisle.

AGENDA ITEM #8(a) Grant Activity Sheet

No discussion; informational item only.

AGENDA ITEM #9 CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Constance made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Councilman Burch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #10 REGIONAL IMPACT

Mr. Crawford gave a PowerPoint presentation on the following items and also on Sector Plans.

Commissioner Turner referred to Mr. Crawford's presentation on Sector Plans and said that as it was relayed to him, a DRI or Application for Master Development Approval (AMDA) are more of a short-term vision of a project that is definitely going to come online and be built. As it relates to a sector plan in Hendry County, they have taken these steps because that is what is currently on the books. He didn't feel that they would be opposed to having a review conducted by the Council. He pointed out that he felt that it would be a completely different conversation if the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) was still in existence.

Mr. Crawford stated that he agreed with Commissioner Turner's comments.

AGENDA ITEM #10(a)
Lee County Comprehensive Plan Amendment (DEO 14-2ESR)

A motion was made by Commissioner Constance to approve staff recommendations. 1. Approve staff comments; and 2. Authorize staff to forward comments to the Department of Economic Opportunity and Lee County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burch; the motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #10(b)
City of Venice Comprehensive Plan Amendment (DEO 14-1ESR)

Commissioner Constance asked if Sarasota County approved the item. Mr. Crawford stated that Sarasota County did review it and believed that they didn't have any comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Constance to approve staff recommendations. 1. Approve staff comments; and 2. Authorize staff to forward comments to the Department of Economic Opportunity and the City of Venice. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mulhere; the motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #10(c)
Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan Amendment (DEO 14-1ESR)

Mr. Mulhere asked if the property was originally designated for a school, since the Charlotte County School District owned the property. Mr. Crawford stated that it was his understanding that the property was originally designated for a school, but then they decided not to build a school.

Commissioner Constance explained that the Charlotte County School District decided not to build a high school on the site; they decided to put it to a better use. He explained that one of the big issues on the site was traffic. The county told the school district that they would put in those traffic improvements.

A motion was made by Commissioner Constance to approve staff recommendations. 1. Approve staff comments; and 2. Authorize staff to forward comments to the Department of Economic Opportunity and Charlotte County. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Prafke; the motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #10(d)
Palmer Ranch DRI Increment IV - NOPC
&
AGENDA ITEM #10(e)
Palmer Ranch DRI MDO - NOPC

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Shaw to approve staff recommendations for both Agenda Items #10(d) and (e); seconded by Commissioner Hines.

Recommended Actions for Agenda Item #10(d) are as follows:

1. Notify Sarasota County, the Florida Department Economic Opportunity (DEO) and the applicant that SWFRPC staff recommends conditionally approval of the change and that Council staff finds that the request is not a substantial deviation and does not create any additional regional impacts not previously reviewed by the SWFRPC.
2. Request that Sarasota County provide SWFRPC staff with copies of any development order amendments related to the proposed changes not contained in the NOPC, as well as any additional information requested of the applicant by DEO or the county.

Recommended Actions for Agenda Item #10(e) is as follows:

1. Notify Sarasota County, the Florida Department Economic Opportunity (DEO) that the Council conditionally accepts the MDO amendment language; and that Council participation at the local public hearing is not necessary, unless requested by the county for technical assistance purposes.
2. Request that Sarasota County provide a copy of the proposed MDO amendment, and any related materials, to the Council in order to ensure that the amendment is consistent with the Notice of Proposed Change.

Councilman Burch stated that he felt that the projects were a perfect fit for the RPC because it is a big project, I-75 runs through it and also there are major arteries which can easily be impacted, which then affects neighboring counties.

Commissioner Constance asked if the proposed change was changing the number of units within the increment. Mr. Crawford explained that the project was approved for 11,500 units, but it is now being proposed to put residential units in that will come out of the overall number of 11,500 units. There are no additional impacts to the project.

Commissioner Constance asked about the proposed increase for the increment. Mr. Crawford explained that there wasn't an increase in the overall units. Increment IV is proposing 184 units by changing the uses from industrial and commercial to residential.

The motion carried with Mr. Reynolds abstaining.

AGENDA ITEM #11(a) FY 2012/13 Annual Audit

Mr. Jeff Tuscan of Tuscan and Company presented this item and distributed graphs.

Commissioner Constance referred to page 5 of the audit and asked why there was such a big expenditure noted in 2004. Mr. Tuscan explained that was when the Council purchased the building.

A motion was made by Commissioner Constance to approve the FY 2012/13 Annual Audit as presented; motion was seconded by Mr. Mulhere.

Vice Mayor Congress asked what the fair market value was for the building. Ms. Wuerstle explained that the building has not been assessed recently and that is one of the concerns. Mr. Tuscan explained that the building is listed in the audit on the cost, which is still the standard at the moment.

Commissioner Davis asked how much is owed on the building. Ms. Wuerstle said approximately \$1 million.

Mr. McCormick suggested amending the motion to congratulate staff for a job well done. Commissioner Constance accepted the proposed amendment to the motion.

The motion carried as amended.

AGENDA ITEM #12(a) Economic Development Initiative of Southwest Florida

Ms. Holquist gave an overview of the Alliance. She explained that there is a national medical conference being held in New York City and representatives from Southwest Florida will be in attendance. The cost of attending the conference is \$18,000 and the plan is for the economic development directors from the individual cities and counties be invited to attend. Lee County looks at it as it is only going to cost them \$7,500 to attend the conference, because if they went by themselves it would cost \$30,000. It is a huge investment for the area and money saved by participating as a team.

Commissioner Constance asked why there is such a big difference in the cost if only one county attends versus having two counties attend. Ms. Holquist explained that it is because they are sharing a booth. Commissioner Constance said that he didn't understand where \$18,000 came from if one county attended the cost would be \$30,000, not \$18,000. Ms. Holquist explained that the \$18,000 is the cost of one booth and then an additional \$7,500 to attend. She said that the Alliance would be paying for the joint costs of the booth and incidentals. The only other thing that the EDOs would be responsible for is their own transportation arrangements, time and housing. It is an initial plan currently because all of the EDOs haven't had the time to weigh in. There are two more conferences and three site selector meetings.

Ms. Holquist explained that the Alliance was also funding the marketing of the website. The Alliance is still working on how it is going to be staffed; because once the website is running there will be a need for someone to maintain it and also there needs to be someone in charge to coordinate the conferences. The plan is to be very lean and have a very lean staff and not step on anyone's toes.

Councilman McKeon asked how the conferences were selected. Ms. Holquist explained that both the EDO director of Lee County and John Cox from Collier County had initially set up the marketing plan.

Vice Mayor Congress asked about the anticipated arrival date of the business plan. He said that he is getting confused because he is hearing that there isn't a business plan and it doesn't appear to be a budget for staff. He would like to know who is running the website, what the budget is going to be, etc. It almost seems to be the "cart before the horse". Ms. Holquist explained that an organization was formed last September and there is a board of directors. As of today, there is the board, the Marketing Advisory group and also the Investor Advisory Council. The Alliance has \$220,000 committed for the next three years which is being used for their budget. The Alliance has approved an \$80,000 marketing budget for outreach. There is also another \$50,000 allocated for the website and another \$50,000 for the maintenance and upkeep of the website. The Alliance is still in its fundraising efforts.

Commissioner Turner thanked Ms. Holquist for her leadership and wished that Hendry County was more involved in the effort.

Mr. Reynolds explained that the Alliance has essentially been a volunteer effort. Ms. Holquist has devoted her time, which amounts to a full-time effort over the last few years. Once a formal business plan is in-place the Alliance hopes to hire some actual paid staff. He then addressed Vice Mayor Congress's comments. He explained that when the conversations began and the MOU was created the decision was made to move forward and not wait on the development of a 3-5 year business plan for a very large economic development organization. It was essential that Southwest Florida start moving forward in order to get into the game, because Southwest Florida was essentially invisible to site selectors. The decision was made on what could get done quickly that would add value to the economic development efforts of the entire region and that was idea of the data repository and website.

Commissioner Constance asked if the Alliance is basically a private entity. Ms. Holquist that it was a private entity; however, there are some investors who are public. Commissioner Constance said that it seemed that the investors make up the board of directors. There are no representatives on the board from Glades, Hendry or Charlotte counties. He said that at a recent Regional Economic Development meeting, it was felt that if the entity was to be part of the Council it needed to include all six counties, because the Council represents all six counties and its municipalities. He said that he applauds the effort, but in his opinion it should be called the "Gulf Coast" economic initiative for both Lee and Collier Counties and be centered around FGCU. He said that Charlotte County is never going invest one dollar because they don't feel that it is going to represent Charlotte County. Also, the counties would be better served if you involve all six counties and have the EDO directors sit on the board and really "drive the train", because they are the ones who are fully in-touch and in-tuned with the six county commissions. Then those counties might be willing to contribute funding because they would have the proper representation.

Mr. Reynolds explained that the Council's involvement today is that the Alliance had secured a grant from DEO and the RPC was hired to prepare the business plan for a potential broader organization, so the Council is not involved with the Alliance. The Council's staff helped the Alliance pull together the knowledge from the EDOs to see if it made sense for a broader organization and if so, how would it be funded, how would the leadership would work, etc.

At this time, Councilman Banks asked the Chair if the Economic Development Committee report could be given because he felt that it would help some understand what has been discussed.

AGENDA ITEM #13(b)
Economic Development Committee

Councilman Banks stated that the committee had held two meetings where they reviewed the business plan, made recommendations and strategized on promoting support for the plan.

Council staff, members of the Alliance and the Economic Development Directors from the entire region has had three meetings. Committee members Councilman Burch, Commissioner Cook, Councilwoman Prafke, Mr. Perry, Commissioner Constance, Councilwoman Heitmann and himself attended those meetings, but not as a committee. The big issue is how Sarasota County was to be included in the business plan. While the committee has not voted on this, he believed the consensus would be that the plan should encourage the Alliance to make it a goal to reach out to Sarasota County for inclusion into the Alliance. He felt it was safe to say that conflicting comments from members of the Alliance have been stated on how they feel on that issue.

Councilman Banks said that he believed that most of the plan is now complete. The policies and procedures are left to be done and if the Alliance was encouraged to reach out to Sarasota County, he felt that the policies and procedures would become easier to accomplish. However, if Sarasota County is brought up to the “requirement” level then everything will get harder. Speaking for himself, he would suggest the less controversial approach because the Council doesn’t have much to say about how the Alliance operates.

He said that both the committee and the Alliance have come a long way and have made progress on several fronts. The Alliance has always thought support by the public sector is essential and today, the Alliance needs to better understand that support could include public involvement. The Alliance has a better feel for the opinions of the EDOs and they realize more the significance of the EDO group, but they have yet to endear themselves to all of the EDOs. The Alliance seems to realize working leads would be difficult and that they may be better suited for a regional marketing role. FGCU said their service area consists of the five southern counties, but they said they would cross boundaries in order to enhance partnerships and working relations. Most important, is that all of the EDOs within Southwest Florida know each other better and what each other’s priorities are. They have really worked hard to make the plan a reality and as we have learned, tomorrow may be a new day.

Both Ms. Wuerstle and Ms. Pellechio had done most of the work. They have taken the plan home with them on many nights and if putting this business plan together was easy, someone would have done it before. “If we can make the page big enough, we might be able to get everyone on it.”

Councilwoman Prafke thanked Councilman Banks for his report. She then explained that before she was an elected official, she was the CEO of a non-project organization called Team Punta Gorda which was established in 2004 after Hurricane Charley. It consisted of citizens, residents and business people. She then gave a background overview of Team Punta Gorda and its accomplishments.

Commissioner Hiller stated that she agreed with Charlotte County that all of the counties needed to be represented on the Alliance's board. She felt that really what the Alliance should have is a representative from both the government and private sector, because this is a public/private partnership. What would be ideal is if the Alliance had one commissioner and one business representative, selected by the represented county, on the board of the Alliance to do what was necessary in a collaborative fashion and promote and market the region because that is really the Alliance's goal. Then every individual county would have to attract businesses based on their individual merit and what they have to offer. She also said that she agreed with both Commissioner Constance's and Councilwoman Prafke's comments. She suggested Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Holquist take these comments back to the Alliance's board and consider a re-organization of the Alliance's membership in order to be fairly represented by all counties and both the public and private sectors.

Commissioner Hines stated that from Sarasota County's standpoint he is unsure on how you define a region and how to draw the circles, because if Sarasota County wasn't part of the SWFRPC, he doesn't believe that the Alliance would consider pulling Sarasota County in. He said that he was entirely in favor of what the Alliance was trying to do and its benefits. The bigger question is what the value to Sarasota County is and just because they are part of the SWFRPC do they need to also be part of the Alliance. Sarasota County has its own economic development corporation which is funded both privately and publicly. Publicly approximately \$1 million is put into the budget. Sarasota County is stuck in the middle between the northern portion and southern portion. Questions are being asked as the county's communities continue to grow and evolve and they feel tied to the different areas. He noted that nothing has been presented to the board of county commissioners from the Alliance at this point or to him as a representative of the Council stating what would be the county's benefit to join the Alliance. Until that is done he can't say yes or no to whether or not Sarasota County would want to be part of the Alliance.

Commissioner Hines said that he believed that if the funding didn't go through the RPC for the business plan that Sarasota County wouldn't be included in any of the discussions.

Councilman Burch said that when he was the mayor of Cape Coral in 2008-2009 and the world was burning around him, he was preaching regionalism because he knew regionalism was going to basically recover the economy and prosperity. He said that he really liked the concept and the efforts in which the Alliance has put into this project. However, the following issues needed to be resolved:

1. The make-up of the board, whether there is going to be representatives from the other counties on the board;
2. Whether or not Sarasota County would be part of the Alliance, and how strongly they are reached out to;
3. Whether or not this effort is a public/private effort; because what is being heard is that it is private, but it is publicly funded;
4. Is the business plan for the region of the RPC or was the intent to write a business plan for the Alliance.

Councilman Burch said that he agreed with both Commissioner Constance and Commissioner Hiller.

Councilman Banks said that the one of the biggest issue that needed to be addressed was whether or not they are a public or private entity; because the Alliance is going to need help in going before the county commissions to ask for funding. The other issue is how to address the issue with Sarasota County.

Commissioner Turner said that he is from both Hendry and Glades County and their activity level at the table with the Alliance was what we make of it. He explained that the Alliance had reached out to Hendry County. It is Hendry County's fault for not participating because their resources are spread so thin. He hopes that in the future both Hendry and Glades Counties will be able to participate.

Mr. McCormick asked if the Alliance's database included five or six counties. Mr. Reynolds explained that the database only includes the five counties, not including Sarasota, but it can be expanded. He then addressed the governance structure question regarding any future potential changes to the Alliance's board are on the table. As it stands today, the Alliance's board has made no decisions to say that they are not receptive and are looking forward to any recommendations that come out of the RPC, because that is why the process was begun in the first place. It is an evolutionary process.

Mr. McCormick stated that it seemed to him that this public entity, the Alliance, was putting money into the RPC through a grant, which is a benefit to the RPC. Mr. Reynolds explained that it was through a grant that was received from the Department of Economic Opportunity that is actually paying for the RPC staffs time on this process. Mr. McCormick said that he doesn't see any impediments, but does see the benefits.

Vice Mayor Congress asked when the anticipated date was for the launch of the business plan, because there has been a lot of interaction between the Alliance and the RPC. He said that he felt that if there was a business plan in-place that it would answer a lot of the questions being asked. Ms. Wuerstle explained that it is scheduled to be submitted to DEO by May 31.

Councilman Burch said that he was happy to hear from Mr. Reynolds stating that the Alliance had been considering the committee's recommendations.

Commissioner Constance asked who was managing the data on the website and who will have that oversight. He wanted to know if each of the five counties get to see it first to make sure that sites are there, make any needed changes and have control over that information? Mr. Reynolds said the answer is yes; currently the data depository is being put together and managed by FGCU. We have already gone through a process of pushing out the website to all of the economic development directors for their review and comment. He said that the Alliance also recognizes that certain counties, such as Hendry and Glades Counties, need opportunities for economic development and that it appeared they would not be using that search engine. There may not be sites that are fully entitled, plans, etc.; so the Alliance has discussed how they can have the website show other things than what comes out of the database.

Commissioner Constance asked if it was the Alliance's goal was to reach the same model as the Tampa Bay Partnership model. In his mind that should be the model that the Alliance should be striving for. Mr. Reynolds said that he personally feels that the Tampa Bay Partnership is a great model of what can happen when you start with a relatively modest agenda and then expand it to a very progressive and encompassing entity. The Tampa Bay Partnership does a lot of things that the Alliance doesn't current envision as being able to do. From the Alliance's point of view it was decided to start with very specific measurable modest goals. Ultimately, if Southwest Florida had the organizational structure and capacity of the Tampa Bay Partnership, it would be great. One of the questions for Sarasota County, since they are part of the Tampa Bay Partnership, would be if they would want to be part of two organizations, stay with the Tampa Bay Partnership or come over to the Alliance.

Chair Heitmann stated that both honesty and communication is what can build a great regional economic development plan. She appreciates the diligence and persistence by Ms. Holquist in bringing the economic development piece into a different vision. She said that she sees a lot more trust needs to be built along with partnerships if the Alliance is going to be the hub. She also thanked Councilman Banks for his efforts along with the members of the committee.

Councilman Banks noted that he received an invitation to attend the ground-breaking for the Cheney Bros. food distribution center in Charlotte County. He said that it is not only very important for Charlotte County, but it is also important to the region.

AGENDA ITEM #13(f) Quality of Life & Safety Committee

Vice Mayor Shaw reported that the committee met on March 10 and put together a safety survey to be sent out to all of the elected officials, administrators and managers and members of Council asking for their input. He explained that the purpose of the committee was to create possible programs that are innovative at looking at the underlying causes of crime within Southwest Florida. The purpose of the survey was to receive an idea of what are the top three issues throughout Southwest Florida.

Ms. Wuerstle noted that at the committee meeting a discussion was held on additional members for the committee. Vice Mayor Shaw announced the committee decided to ask the following individuals if they would be willing to serve on the committee. They were contacted and they all agreed to serve.

- Reverend Isreal Suarez, Nations Charities
- City of Fort Myers Councilman Johnny Streets
- Mr. John Gibbons, SWFRPC Staff (representing Lehigh Acres)

He then asked the Council to approve those individuals as members of the committee.

Chair Heitmann said that she would be both pleased and happy to confirm those appointments to the committee. She then noted that she would like to see members from the other jurisdictions be involved on the committee.

Vice Mayor Shaw noted that the committee currently has representatives from Lee and Sarasota, so its needs representatives from Charlotte, Collier, Glades and Hendry Counties.

Councilman Banks stated that he felt that the committee is very important and suggested obtaining representatives from both the City of Cape Coral and City of Naples to serve on the committee.

AGENDA ITEM #13(a)
Budget & Finance Committee

Councilman McKeon noted that the Budget & Finance Committee was scheduled to meet immediately following the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #13(c)
Energy & Climate Committee

Mr. McCormick announced that there is a Solar Ready II kick-off meeting scheduled for Friday, April 4, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the offices of the SWFRPC. He then gave the committee report.

Commissioner Constance asked what the Solar Ready II project was and also what was Solar Ready I. He asked if there was a plan outlining streamlined rules that was being distributed for everyone's review to see if they would work within their community or is the alternative were they asking us to reinvent the wheel. Mr. McCormick said that he felt that we were being asked to re-invent the wheel. He attended one webinar and a lot of it was devoted to fire code safety issues with solar panels.

Discussion ensued.

AGENDA ITEM #13(d)
Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management Committee

The summary and minutes were included in the agenda packet for information.

AGENDA ITEM #13(e)
Executive Committee

Chair Heitmann explained that at the committee meeting the annual renewal of the executive director's contract was discussed. Those members who participated gave the executive director very good reviews. She noted that if any member wanted to send comments regarding the contract to direct them to Ms. Gwinnett. Both the executive director's contract and evaluation will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #13(f)
Legislative Affairs Committee

Vice Mayor Congress gave the committee report. Mr. McCabe gave a status update on SB372, HB395, HB703 and HB7023.

Councilman Burch gave a brief update on the east-west corridor proposed legislation.

Mr. McCabe asked Commissioner Constance if he wanted to touch on the DRI bill (SB372). Commissioner Constance explained that the issue is that there are seven counties (Orange, Seminole, Palm Beach, Broward, Dade, Duval, Pinellas and Hillsborough) that can basically make decisions without going through the State. What the legislation will do is open it up to six more counties, which be an extension with the Pinellas-Hillsborough into Pasco, Manatee and then Sarasota, as well as Lee, Volusia and Escambia. The issue is it that it leaves out the other counties surrounding those counties. It is very obvious that both Charlotte and Collier Counties are going to be at a tremendous disadvantage.

Commissioner Constance said that he was very concerned because he doesn't understand the genesis of it. Charlotte County never asked for it, so who approached Senator Galvano with the proposal. If this passes then there are going to be many developers who would still have to go through the State's process, which is long, onerous and expensive. He said that his other concern is if there is a change of leadership in the Governor's office after November and the new governor is in favor of the former Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the DCA may be resurrected with a more onerous process. He said that he would like to see the RPC continue to be in opposition of the bill and asked that the member governments take it under advisement by taking the sample letter before their councils/commissions.

Councilman Burch stated that it would be helpful to the members to have the history behind the issue.

Vice Mayor Congress said that he had a comment on the policy and process of the committee and participation. He noted that the committee needs representation from each of the counties in order to have all the counties appropriately represented. Commissioner Constance said that he agreed with Vice Mayor Congress because it is a two-way street.

AGENDA ITEM #13(g)
Regional Transportation Committee

Chair Heitmann announced that the Committee's Chair, Commissioner Rhonda DiFranco, had to resign from the committee due to medical reasons. She then appointed Sarasota County Commissioner Charles Hines as the new chair of the committee.

AGENDA ITEM #14
NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #15
STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS

No agency reports were given at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #16
COUNCIL ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS**

Counsel McCabe stated that he had no report at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #17
COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Councilman Burch thanked the Legislative Affairs Committee and the Regional Economic Development Committee for their efforts.

Commissioner Constance announced that the Charlotte County International Air Show was scheduled for March 28-30. Also, the Charlotte County Symphony Orchestra was scheduled for March 23, but it is a sold out event. He noted that Charlotte County was in tight competition at the Charlotte County Sports Park for the best spring training facility on <http://www.10best.com>. They are slightly ahead of Goodyear Park in Arizona and are receiving the most votes in Florida. He encouraged everyone to vote for the Charlotte County Sports Park.

Councilwoman Prafke announced that on April 5 is the Peddle and Play in Paradise along with the Superboat races in Punta Gorda and then the block party will be held the following week.

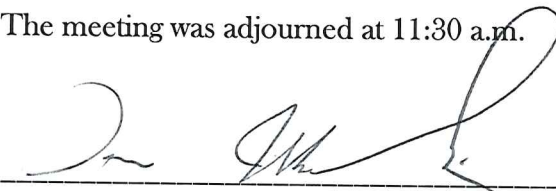
Vice Mayor Shaw thanked staff for their assistance in the first committee meeting of the Quality of Life and Safety Committee.

Commissioner Storter-Long thanked the Council for their warm welcome and she has a lot to learn. Glades County is a very small county, except for geography and its budget is much worse than Hendry County. She noted that she has a lot of frustration with economic development so she wouldn't be able to assist with the Economic Development Committee; however, she would like to volunteer to participate on the Legislative Affairs Committee.

Chair Heitmann appointed Commissioner Storter-Long to the Legislative Affairs Committee.

**AGENDA ITEM #18
ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



Mr. Don McCormick, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the March 6, 2014 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 40, Number 45.

FORM 8B MEMORANDUM OF VOTING CONFLICT FOR COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, AND OTHER LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICERS

LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME REYNOLDS - ALAN - DAVID		NAME OF BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY, OR COMMITTEE SWFRPC	
MAILING ADDRESS 3200 BAILEY LANE		THE BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY OR COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE IS A UNIT OF:	
CITY NAPLES	COUNTY COLLIER	<input type="checkbox"/> CITY <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER LOCAL AGENCY	
DATE ON WHICH VOTE OCCURRED		NAME OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION:	
		MY POSITION IS: <input type="checkbox"/> ELECTIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPOINTIVE	

WHO MUST FILE FORM 8B

This form is for use by any person serving at the county, city, or other local level of government on an appointed or elected board, council, commission, authority, or committee. It applies equally to members of advisory and non-advisory bodies who are presented with a voting conflict of interest under Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes.

Your responsibilities under the law when faced with voting on a measure in which you have a conflict of interest will vary greatly depending on whether you hold an elective or appointive position. For this reason, please pay close attention to the instructions on this form before completing the reverse side and filing the form.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 112.3143, FLORIDA STATUTES

A person holding elective or appointive county, municipal, or other local public office **MUST ABSTAIN** from voting on a measure which inures to his or her special private gain or loss. Each elected or appointed local officer also is prohibited from knowingly voting on a measure which inures to the special gain or loss of a principal (other than a government agency) by whom he or she is retained (including the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which he or she is retained); to the special private gain or loss of a relative; or to the special private gain or loss of a business associate. Commissioners of community redevelopment agencies under Sec. 163.356 or 163.357, F.S., and officers of independent special tax districts elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis are not prohibited from voting in that capacity.

For purposes of this law, a "relative" includes only the officer's father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law. A "business associate" means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with the officer as a partner, joint venturer, coowner of property, or corporate shareholder (where the shares of the corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange).

ELECTED OFFICERS:

In addition to abstaining from voting in the situations described above, you must disclose the conflict:

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN by publicly stating to the assembly the nature of your interest in the measure on which you are abstaining from voting; *and*

WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE VOTE OCCURS by completing and filing this form with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who should incorporate the form in the minutes.

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Although you must abstain from voting in the situations described above, you otherwise may participate in these matters. However, you must disclose the nature of the conflict before making any attempt to influence the decision, whether orally or in writing and whether made by you or at your direction.

IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH THE VOTE WILL BE TAKEN:

- You must complete and file this form (before making any attempt to influence the decision) with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who will incorporate the form in the minutes. (Continued on other side)

APPOINTED OFFICERS (continued)

- A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency.
- The form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

IF YOU MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION EXCEPT BY DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING:

- You must disclose orally the nature of your conflict in the measure before participating.
- You must complete the form and file it within 15 days after the vote occurs with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who must incorporate the form in the minutes. A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency, and the form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

I, ALAN D. REYNOLDS, hereby disclose that on MARCH 20, 20 14:

(a) A measure came or will come before my agency which (check one)

- ☐ inured to my special private gain or loss;
- ☐ inured to the special gain or loss of my business associate, _____;
- ☐ inured to the special gain or loss of my relative, _____;
- ☐ inured to the special gain or loss of _____, by
whom I am retained; or
- ☐ inured to the special gain or loss of _____, which
is the parent organization or subsidiary of a principal which has retained me.

(b) The measure before my agency and the nature of my conflicting interest in the measure is as follows:

(PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT)

3-19-14
Date Filed


Signature

NOTICE: UNDER PROVISIONS OF FLORIDA STATUTES §112.317, A FAILURE TO MAKE ANY REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR AND MAY BE PUNISHED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT, DEMOTION, REDUCTION IN SALARY, REPRIMAND, OR A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.

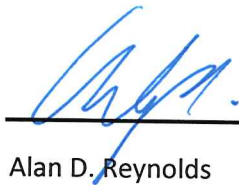
DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

I, Alan D. Reynolds, hereby disclose that on March 20, 2014, certain matters will come before the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, as Agenda Items 10d), and 10e).

The owner of the subject property and/or applicant is a client of Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., my employer, and Stantec is providing consulting services for the project.

As such, I will be abstaining from voting on and participating in any discussions relative to these matters.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Reynolds", is written over a horizontal line.

Alan D. Reynolds

A handwritten date in blue ink, "March 19, 2014", is written over a horizontal line.

Date