

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MARCH 17, 2022, MEETING**

The in-person meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council Executive Board was held on March 17, 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 board present.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Collier County: Commissioner Bill McDaniel, Commissioner Rick LoCastro (*Phone*),
Councilman Raymond Christman, City of Naples – *Phone*

Glades County: Mr. Tommy Perry - Governor Appointee (*Phone*), Chairman Tim Stanley
(*Phone*), Commissioner Donna Storter-Long (*Phone*)

Hendry County: Mr. Mel Karau - Governor Appointee

Lee County: Commissioner Frank Mann, Councilman Jesse Purdon, City of Bonita
Springs (*Phone*)

Sarasota County: Councilman Jim Boldt, City of Venice

Ex-Officio: Mr. Phil Flood, SFWMD, Mr. Jon Iglehart, FDEP

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Cheryl Cook
Ms. Margaret Wuerstle - Executive Director, SWFRPC
Ms. Rebekah Harp - SWFRPC
Ms. Tracy Whirls - SWFRPC
Mr. Jim Burch - SWFRPC
Ms. Asmaa Odeh - SWFRPC

AGENDA ITEM #6(a)
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2022, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Commissioner Bill McDaniel offered a motion to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2022, Executive Committee meeting as presented. Commissioner Frank Mann seconded the motion to accept the minutes. The action was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #7
FINANCIALS

AGENDA ITEM #7(a)
DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022 FINANCIALS

Ms. Wuerstle explained that December and January financials follow the typical financial pattern and that the anticipated net loss will be reduced during our quarterly billings and receivables.

Commissioner Bill McDaniel offered a motion to approve the December 2021 - January 2022 financials. Commissioner Frank Mann seconded the motion for approval of the December 2021 - January 2022 financials. The action was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #7(b)
AUDIT REPORT FY 2020 -2021

AGENDA ITEM #7(i)
AUDIT GRAPHS AND CHARTS

Mr. Jeff Tuscan presented the board with a copy of the full audit along with a copy of the graphs and charts. Mr. Tuscan explained that the Council did well with only an approximate \$10,000 loss for the year, which is comparatively better than previous years.

Commissioner Bill McDaniel offered a motion to approve the Audit Report for FY 2020 - 2021. Commissioner Frank Mann seconded the motion for approval of the Audit Report for FY 2020 - 2021. The action was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #8(a)
INLAND PORT, FREIGHT RAIL RESOLUTION DISCUSSION

Ms. Whirls explained that the purpose of this item is to provide the Councils with: 1) information related to prior planning efforts and current discussions about an alternative freight rail route using the U.S. Highway 27 corridor and beyond to link Miami and Orlando; and 2) an opportunity to execute a joint resolution urging Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to expedite the process for transforming U.S. Highway 27 into a new multimodal corridor, including a new freight rail line from Miami to Orlando and beyond. Ms. Whirls

continued to explain that the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils have also adopted this resolution and asked the board for their approval.

Commissioner Bill McDaniel offered a motion to adopt the Freight Rail Resolution. Commissioner Frank Mann seconded the motion to adopt Freight Rail Resolution. The action was adopted unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #8(b)
5 YEAR CEDS UPDATE DISCUSSION**

Ms. Tracy Whirls explained the process for the CEDS update and stated that the new document would come before the Council in July or August. The 2023-2027 CEDS is due to EDA by September 30, 2022.

**AGENDA ITEM #8(c)
ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Bill McDaniel expressed a need to reorganize the Regional Planning Council to provide value to the Counties. Commissioner McDaniel continued to explain that he has formed a regional transportation committee with the Sarasota MPO, Charlotte MPO and Lee MPO which should be done through the SWFRPC. Commissioner McDaniel asked Margaret how many transportation committee meetings has the SWFRPC had since he has been elected to the SWFRPC? Ms. Wuerstle replied, "none". Commissioner McDaniel expressed that this is the reason that a rebranding should be done to provide value and get the counties back to the table. The Commissioner continued to explain that the SWFRPC could offer a 50% reduction in the per capita cost to counties to get them back on board, which would provide revenue to the SWFRPC. Commissioner McDaniel noted that the auditor presented a continuing loss of revenue. He also explained that he and Margaret worked on putting together a revised Inter-local agreement and bylaws that he would like the Council to review for discussion at the next meeting. For this reason, Commissioner Bill McDaniel urged the board to move to monthly meetings.

Commissioner Bill McDaniel offered a motion to move to monthly meetings. Commissioner Frank Mann seconded the motion to move to monthly meetings. The action was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Bill McDaniel offered a motion to review the ILA and By-laws during the April meeting. Commissioner Frank Mann seconded the motion to review the ILA and By-laws during the April meeting. The action was adopted unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #9
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the FRCA annual report is available to review and has been handed out to those present. She went on to explain some of the grants that are being worked on by staff and partners.

AGENDA ITEM #9(a)
UPDATE ON CARES ACT – DISASTER RECOVERY & RESILIENCY GUIDE

Ms. Wuerstle explained that both Jim Burch and Tracy Whirls worked on the COVID Cares Act grant which will be ending in June. Ms. Wuerstle explained that the RPC is working with the Southwest Florida Enterprise Center to put together a training program for small business needs as well as implement the Disaster Recovery and Resiliency Guide.

Mr. Burch explained that the guide started with how to reach the small businesses, however during outreach to businesses and distributing surveys, it was determined that what was needed was this guide. In this guide, there are several different ways to stay strong and be somewhat structurally sound during events, such as a pandemic or a hurricane. Several options are proposed in the guide to help mitigate a lot of those problems. Mr. Burch continued to explain that the guide is roughly 60 pages of which half are worksheets and the other half is information to help in different areas of recovery.

AGENDA ITEM #9(b)
RESILIENCY STRATEGY FOR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Ms. Wuerstle introduced Ms. Asmaa Odeh with the SWFRPC as the Collier County Food Policy Coordinator.

Ms. Asmaa Odeh provided a presentation of the Collier County Food Policy Council. Ms. Odeh explained what the mission and vision as well as what Food Policy Council's do. She continued to explain that the Collier County BCC adopted a proclamation recognizing and supporting the SWFRPC's Food Policy Council to the Collier County communities. Ms. Odeh listed the current partner organizations and explained the best practices from other counties in Florida. Ms. Odeh ended with explaining the new grant award that the SWFRPC received through USDA, which will continue to support ongoing efforts withing the regional food system.

AGENDA ITEM #9(c)
MEETING LOCATION

Ms. Wuerstle originally stated that the next scheduled meeting would be Thursday, April 15th. However, it was later corrected to Thursday, April 21st. Ms. Wuerstle asked Mr. Flood if the Council could request the SFWMD meeting space for the April meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #9
COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committee Reports were given

**AGENDA ITEM #9(a)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

There was no update given.

**AGENDA ITEM #9(b)
QUALITY OF LIFE & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

There was no update given.

**AGENDA ITEM #10
NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**AGENDA ITEM #11
STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Mr. Flood announced that on Monday the Florida Legislature passed the 2022 state budget. It was enrolled the previous day and is ready to be sent to the Governor for his consideration. Mr. Flood said it is very positive and a great time for the environment.

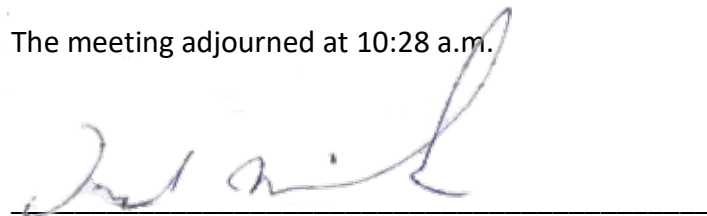
Mr. Iglehart explained that FDEP is continuing to move forward with applications. He explained that if there are any urgent issues to please reach out to him.

**AGENDA ITEM #12
COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

None.

**AGENDA ITEM #13
ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.



Don McCormick, Chairman

The meeting was duly advertised in the March 3, 2022, issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 48, Number 44.