

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MAY 21, 2015 MEETING**

The meeting of the **Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council** was held on **May 21, 2015** at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council - 1st Floor Conference Room at 1926 Victoria Avenue in Fort Myers, Florida. Chair Mr. Robert Mulhere called the meeting to order at **9:03 AM**. Mayor Shaw then led an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrative Assistant, Jerilyn Walker conducted the roll call.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlotte County: Commissioner Ken Doherty, Councilwoman Nancy Prafke, Mr. Don McCormick, Commissioner Bill Truex

Collier County: Mr. Bob Mulhere, Mr. Alan Reynolds, Commissioner Penny Taylor, Councilwoman Teresa Heitmann.

Glades County: Mr. Thomas Perry

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

Lee County: Councilman Jim Burch, Councilman Mick Denham, Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Councilman Forrest Banks, Ms. Laura Holquist

Sarasota County: Commissioner Charles Hines, Commissioner Carolyn Mason, Mayor Willie Shaw, Councilman Kit McKeon, Commissioner Cheryl Cook

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charlotte County: Commissioner Tricia Duffy, Ms. Suzanne Graham

Collier County: Commissioner Tim Nance

Glades County: Councilwoman Pat Lucas, Commissioner Weston Pryor, Commissioner Tim Stanley

Hendry County: Commissioner Daniel Akin, Commissioner Sherida Ridgdill

Lee County: Mayor Anita Cereceda, Commissioner Frank Mann

Sarasota County: Mr. Felipe Colón

Ex-Officio:

Ms. Walker announced that there was a quorum.

**AGENDA ITEM #4
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments made at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #5

The agenda was approved as presented.

AGENDA ITEM #6

Minutes of the March 13, 2015 and April 16, 2015

Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2015 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Doherty. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Burch made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2015 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Mr. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Wuerstle discussed the June, July and August meetings. The Council agreed to change the June meeting to June 11, 2015 at 9:00 am, cancel the July 16th meeting and change the August 20th meeting to August 6, 2015.

Ms. Wuerstle requested that the Council form a Watershed Committee. Mr. Mulhere asked Vice Mayor Denham to chair the Watershed Committee. Councilman McKeon, Mr. Mulhere, Commissioner Cook, and Don McCormick also were appointed to the Watershed Committee.

Ms. Wuerstle presented two options for the building: 1) the proposal to refinance the building with fifth third for five years with another balloon payment due at the end of five years and 2) the sale of the building with a long term lease back. The purchase offer was for 1.2 million dollars. The Council discussed both options and decided to proceed with negotiations for sale of building.

However, they wanted the sale and the lease separated. The Council also wanted there to be communication with all six counties regarding the potential sale.

Ms. Wuerstle stated that the DEO grant process was opened and if anyone was interested to call Jennifer Pellechio or Ms. Wuerstle for assistance in preparation of the application.

Ms. Wuerstle presented a PowerPoint on the Promise Zone program and explained that the SWFRPC's application was a finalist but was not awarded the designation. However, as a finalist our application would be given attention from various agencies. Ms. Wuerstle announced the SWFRPC did get the Solar Ready Grant and then showed a video on Solar Ready. Ms. Pellechio explained which local governments in the region were participating in solar ready and asked the council members to please take the solar ready information back to their boards.

Vice Mayor Denham made a motion to proceed with negotiations for sale of building as presented and the motion was seconded by Mr. Reynolds. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #8
Grant Activity Sheet**

This item was for information purposes only.

**AGENDA ITEM #9
CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Turner to approve the consent agenda as presented; Commissioner Doherty seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #10
REGIONAL IMPACT**

Ms. Maryann Devanas presented PowerPoint presentations on the following items.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)
LCEC Five year plan for new & expanded substations 2015-2020**

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

**AGENDA ITEM #10(b)
City of North Port, CPAL-14-035, DEO15-1ESR**

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

AGENDA ITEM #10(c)
Tollgate NOPC

A motion was made by Mr. Reynolds to approve as presented; Councilwoman Heitmann seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #10(d)
Palmer Ranch, Increment 20, NOPC

Mr. Alan Reynolds abstained from the vote.

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

AGENDA ITEM #11(a)
Budget & Finance Committee

Councilman Kit McKeon announced we were up \$22,000 from the previous month and that staff was monitoring finances well. The goal for the rest of the fiscal year is not to use the reserves.

AGENDA ITEM #11(b)
Economic Development Committee

Councilman Banks announced that the Assistant City Manager met with Director of Southwest Florida Economic Alliance and had a very positive report. Ms. Holquist stated that the Regional Economic Summit had speakers from all six counties and that Eric Burgland, head of Southwest Economic Development Alliance spoke. Ms. Holquist asked to add Eric Burgland to agenda next month to speak.

AGENDA ITEM #11(c)
Energy & Climate Committee

Mr. McCormick asked for everyone to talk to staff about the Solar Ready project.

AGENDA ITEM #11(d)
Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management (EBABM) Committee

Mr. Beaver stated that the report was for informational purposes and that he had no presentation at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #11(e)
Executive Committee

Chair Mulhere announced the committee did not meet but would be meeting next month.

AGENDA ITEM #11(f)
Legislative Affairs Committee

Mr. Don McCormick announced that the committee was working on a white paper about the importance of the SWFRPC to the region and that the paper should be ready for the next meeting. Discussion ensued about the importance of the SWFRPC. It was the consensus of the Council that a workshop should be scheduled following the June meeting to discuss the value and future of the Regional Planning Council.

AGENDA ITEM #11(g)
Quality of Life & Safety Committee

Mayor Shaw stated that the committee did not meet and he had no report at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #11(h)
Regional Transportation Committee

Ms. Wuerstle stated that the committee did not meet and she had no report at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #12
NEW BUSINESS

New Business Mr. Mulhere announced no new business at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #13
STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS

SFWMD - Mr. Flood stated that he had no comments at this time.

FDOT - Ms. Catala stated that she had no comments at this time.

FDEP - Mr. Iglehart stated that he had no comments at this time.

SWFWMD - Tara Poulton stated that she had no comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #14
COUNCIL ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS

The attorney was not present at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #15
COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Councilman Banks announced a FDOT planning meeting to be held June 23 in Fort Myers and stated that it was important to be present at this meeting.

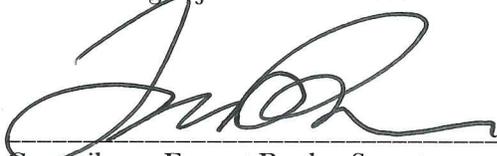
Mr. Reynolds announced that on June 4 the Florida Water Environment Federation would be hosting a dinner at the Fort Myers City Pier Building on Hendry Street to discuss New Orleans resilience from the Katrina storm surge. The event is open to the public.

Commissioner Karson discussed Lake Okeechobee levels and the release schedules. He stated that the current Coronal in Jacksonville has a 2yr term. Mr. Turner felt that in two years you can't find your way around Florida. He stated that would be doing more research and bring this issue back to the board.

**AGENDA ITEM #16
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 11:06a.m.



Councilman Forrest Banks, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the April 02, 2015 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 41, Number, 64.