

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
JUNE 18, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was held on June 18, 2009 at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council – 1st Floor Conference Room at 1926 Victoria Avenue in Fort Myers, Florida. Chairman Jim Humphrey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Paul Beck led an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Senior Administrative Staff Nichole Gwinnett conducted the roll call.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlotte County: Councilman Don McCormick, Commissioner Dick Loftus (for Commissioner Tricia Duffy), Mr. Alan LeBeau

Collier County: Commissioner Jim Coletta, Councilwoman Teresa Heitmann, Councilman Charles Kiester, Mr. Bob Mulhere (10:05 a.m.)

Glades County: Commissioner Paul Beck

Hendry County: Commissioner Karson Turner

Lee County: Mayor Mick Denham, Commissioner Tammy Hall, Mayor Jim Humphrey, Mayor Jim Burch, Councilman John Spear, Ms. Laura Holquist, Mr. Paul Pass

Sarasota County: Commissioner Jon Thaxton, Commissioner Carolyn Mason, Councilman Ernie Zavodnyik, Commissioner Tom Jones

Ex-Officio Members: Mr. Johnny Limbaugh – FDOT, Ms. Dianne Davies – SWFWMD, Ms. Tammie Nemecek – EDC of Collier County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charlotte County: Commissioner Robert Skidmore, Ms. Andrea Messina

Collier County: Commissioner Frank Halas

Glades County: Councilman Michael Brantley, Dr. Edward Elkowitz, Commissioner Kenneth “Butch” Jones

Hendry County: Commissioner Tristan Chapman, Mayor Paul Puletti, Mr. Melvin Karau, Mayor Mali Chamness

Lee County: Commissioner Ray Judah, Councilman Tom Babcock

Sarasota County: Mr. David Farley, Mr. George Mazzarantani

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

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Humphrey introduced the following new members: Mr. Paul Pass, Governor Appointee for Lee County and Mr. Bob Mulhere, Governor Appointee for Collier County. He also welcomed US Senator Nelson's Regional Director, Ms. Diana McGee and US Senator Mel Martinez's Regional Director, Mr. Chad McLeod.

AGENDA ITEM #1 AGENDA

Chairman Humphrey stated that he has a request from Mr. Dalton Moraes on behalf of the Southwest Florida Innovation Network to give a five minute presentation and will be added at the end of the agenda as Agenda Item #5(e) Regional Broadband Initiative.

Mr. LeBeau moved and Commissioner Turner seconded to add Agenda Item #5(e) Regional Broadband Initiative to the Council's June 18, 2009 Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #2 MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2009

Commissioner Turner moved and Councilman Zavodnyik seconded to approve the minutes of May 21, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3 CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Humphrey pulled Consent Agenda Item #3(b) Financial Statement for May 31, 2009 for discussion purposes.

Mr. LeBeau pulled Consent Agenda Item #3(d) Harborview DRI – Request for Extension for discussion purposes.

Commissioner Hall moved and Commissioner Loftus seconded to approve the balance of the consent agenda: Agenda Item #3(a) Intergovernmental Coordination and Review; Agenda Item #3(c) Florida Gulf Coast Technology & Research Park DRI – Request for Extension; Agenda Item #3(e) Alico Interchange Park DRI – Request for Extension; Agenda Item #3(f) Toll-Rattlesnake DRI – Request for Extension; Agenda Item #3(g) North Port Gardens DRI – Request for Extension; Agenda Item #3(h) Sandhill DRI – NOPC; Agenda Item #3(i) Victoria Estates DRI – NOPC; and Agenda Item #3(j) Hendry County Small Quantity Generator's (SQG's) Hazardous Waste Assessment, Notification, and Verification Program Agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3(b)
Financial Statement for May 31, 2009

Chairman Humphrey asked Ms. Janice Yell of staff to give a clarification of why the financial statement shows a loss of \$55,000; however, it looks like for the year-to-date it is okay.

Ms. Yell explained that it runs quarterly, the beginning of the quarter the Council receives the assessments, monthly it may show a negative but overall the Council is stable.

Mr. Heatherington asked Ms. Yell to explain what staff has done to project out financially. Ms. Yell explained that in particular staff looked at the DRIs which are coming in less than what was projected to see if staff continued to work 40 hours until the end of the fiscal year (September 30th) and it was decided to cut three employees back hours and did eliminate one position.

Mr. Heatherington explained that it was mainly due to the Council's DCA funding where there were four rescissions with the trust fund and in addition to the reduction of the amount of work there was a reduction to the amount of money that could be charged to that item.

Ms. Holquist asked about the next year's budget. Ms. Yell explained that the next year's budget had already been approved and it was "bare bones" and will be amended accordingly. Mr. Heatherington explained that the DCA contract could be amended and that there are also grants that staff is aggressively going after for replacement income.

Vice Chairman Denham asked what the full cost for revenue is for the year. Ms. Yell explained it is low because of the Lee County MPO and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP). Their budgets are multi-year and always appear very high. Vice Chairman Denham asked what the revenue forecast is for the year as compared to the budget. Ms. Yell explained that it will look a lot lower because of the MPO and CHNEP, but as far as hours the Council is on target.

Vice Chairman Denham moved and Councilman McCormick seconded to accept the Financial Statement for May 31, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3(d)
Harborview DRI - Request for Extension

Mr. LeBeau asked how long has the extensions been going on. Mr. Utley of staff explained that there was a 45 day extension which Mr. Heatherington approved on January 14, 2008.

Mr. LeBeau noted that the property had been pulled off the tax rolls and placed under as raising livestock, so where is it going. Does staff charge for these extensions? Mr. Utley explained that staff does charge for their time for working on agenda items and other things necessary to keep the project moving forward.

Mr. Heatherington explained that the two year extension is part of SB360. Mr. Utley noted that the original project was approved back in 1989 and once Benderson acquired the parcel they filed the application for substantial deviation to change it from commercial/industrial to more residential.

Commissioner Hall moved and Commissioner Tom Jones seconded to approve the request for extension. The motion carried with Mr. LeBeau abstaining.

AGENDA ITEM #4(a)

Lower West Coast Watersheds Implementation Committee – Vice Chairman Mick Denham

Vice Chairman Denham gave a verbal report.

Councilman McCormick stated that the City of Punta Gorda had recently signed a contract for engineering services for major stormwater mitigation and he asked if what the committee is proposing going to have any implications that the city should be aware of. Vice Chairman Denham referred back to the stormwater resolution that the Council approved which addressed on how the developers would conduct stormwater control on their sites during construction.

Councilwoman Heitmann moved and Mayor Burch seconded to authorize Vice Chairman Denham to represent the Council in appearing before the SFWMD's Governing Board and other agencies pertaining to and in support of the program. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #4(b)

Energy & Climate Committee – Mr. Ken Heatherington

Commissioner Thaxton who is the Chairman of the committee gave a brief report of the committee's activities as presented within the agenda packet.

Vice Chairman Denham stated that it was a very good meeting and he was in agreement with outcome of the committee's goals, mission and objective.

Commissioner Thaxton noted that there was also great participation from the private sector which helped the committee greatly.

Vice Chairman Denham stated that there are a series of meetings being held on Sanibel with various solar hot water heating contractors. There is a meeting scheduled for next week where the thought was that there would be a lot of local citizens attending which would represent various parts of the community to decide whether that was indeed the correct direction to go in.

Councilwoman Heitmann asked Vice Chairman Denham how he was moving forward with the small group. Vice Chairman Denham explained that there is the small group and also a representative from the community association, chamber of commerce, realtor group and groups that represent the citizens to discuss on whether we should move forward with the issue. We have also had discussions with local banks in regards to financing.

Mr. Heatherington explained that the committee's June meeting was cancelled and there has been some question on whether or not the committee will be meeting over July and August when the Council doesn't typically meet, he would be happy to entertain the committee during the months of June and July if they would like to meet again.

Commissioner Thaxton stated that he will be available during that time.

Vice Chairman Denham stated that he will also be available at that time.

Mr. Heatherington referred to the committee's goal which states "Reduce the Region's per capita carbon based energy consumption over the next five years" He explained that the difficulty that he had with that was that under the committee's additional projects, Item #8 is Measure the Region's Carbon Footprint as the City of Naples has done and Lee County is doing and has spent a great deal of money looking at the CHG and how to measure that reduction in carbon based gases. It is something that the committee is going to have to deal with as well and how it is going to come up with a metric measurement to measure it over the next five years and if we are going to rely on what local governments are doing with making an inventory of green house gases in the region.

Councilman McCormick stated that energy involves electricity in a lot of forms and the reason that the legislature blocked a feed-n-tariff mechanism that would allow people to produce energy as Babcock Ranch was to get paid for feeding their system. He suggested notifying the local legislative delegation to understand that this is a real inhibitor to people making major investment in alternate energy in reducing our carbon footprint.

Ms. Nemecek stated that it is a big issue in Sarasota County.

Mr. Heatherington stated that the Energy Bill, HB1219, has been discussed with members of the legislative delegation and members of the Florida Chamber. The Utilities and Energy Legislative Committee did not move an energy bill this past session. That is why, it is important to note that legislation is listed as one of the key objectives of the Energy and Climate Committee for next year's session.

AGENDA ITEM #5(a) **Legislative Wrap-up - Mr. Ken Heatherington**

Commissioner Coletta who is the Chairman of the Council's Legislative Committee gave a verbal report of the 2009 Session Overview which was written by Mr. Keith Arnold. He then referred the distributed handout entitled "Growth Bill Tramples on Local Government" which is a news article written by Commission Jon Thaxton.

Commissioner Thaxton explained that the reason that he wrote the article was that he was getting frustrated with the constant erosion of local home rule and the Florida Legislature. So he went ahead and took the risk of using SB360 as an example and SB360 is a risk because it could be argued that it actually provides more latitudes for local governments. But when the "wash is finally hung out to dry" SB360 really reduces local governments' home rule abilities in the long run. But more importantly, he felt certain that groups such as Hometown Democracy and anti-growth

movements were going to continue to latch onto these bad state growth management initiatives and say this is why we need to remove land use decisions from elected officials and put it into the hands of the voters. Last week Hometown Democracy published an article and the top feature was SB360, and they are going to get their signatures and it will be on the ballot. As the state continues at the behest of developers to take land use authority away from city commission chambers and county commission chambers and move it to Tallahassee, a hostile environment for public participation, you are going to see these citizen led initiatives be more and more successful.

Mayor Burch stated that the legislature this year, with the exception of Representative Aubuchon who feels did a good job, was a full frontal assault on local governments. One of his problems in SB360 is the flag carrier for the whole thing is that it provides latitude, but it also makes local governments pay and pay again for the latitude, so that is like a double edged sword. He then urged all the members that they need to contact their lobbyists and have them ready to lobby the legislature to undo what they have just done, because then otherwise the local governments will not be able to recover under the current legislation that was just passed.

Ms. Holquist gave an overview of a conference call organized with DCA's Secretary Tom Pelham regarding the affects of SB360 and it was discussed how it appears that it reduces Tallahassee's involvement. In the packet it states that Tallahassee is no longer going to oversee DRIs and proportionate fare share calculations for places in dense urban areas, but she does believe that local governments are going to have to take on those responsibilities.

Commissioner Thaxton explained that there is a difference between DCA and Florida Legislature. The Department of Community Affairs has functioned as well as it could to administer the growth policies since 1975 and then in 1985. It has been consistently the legislature that has undermined DCA with regards to growth management. The State has a State Comprehensive Plan that the legislature has done everything that they could over the last 20 years to inhibit its implementation; it is almost like the comprehensive plan doesn't exist.

Ms. Holquist stated that Mr. Pelham noted that one thing that the regulation does do is allow the RPCs to create the interlocal agreements and put in-place the transportation mechanisms which will give the Council more strength about making decisions on DRIs, because you could still have DRI review at the local level and assistance, but it would just have to be brought down to a regional level. One thing mentioned in the write-up from DCA that is true is that it is very confusing and how it is going to be implemented (SB360) and from the developers' side, also with Hometown Democracy so close, it is going to be quite disastrous for both sides.

Councilman Zavodnyik stated that with the potential of Governor Christ signing SB360 has huge consequences; he then asked who actually wrote SB360. Commissioner Thaxton replied that it probably came from Associated Industries of Florida.

Chairman Humphrey stated that from his perspective as Mayor of the City of Fort Myers, they have already started having issues associated with them just throwing in the language that they extend by two years in local development orders and permits and the definition of that.

Commissioner Coletta stated that there should be someone from the other side that can respond back to the Council and use the logic that they have of why they came up with the direction they did.

Mr. Heatherington reviewed the items contained within the agenda packet.

Chairman Humphrey stated that he agreed with Commissioner Coletta and would like to invite the local legislative delegation to the next Council meeting to discuss the issue.

Ms. Holquist noted that the way that she sees it going is elimination of DCA and also the DRI process, so we might want to think of the alternative.

Commissioner Thaxton stated that Ms. Holquist is correct and it all started with two or three goals in mind. Elimination of DCA, if you look at the history of SB360 and its evolution you will get a clear feeling of its intent, it is not about containing urban sprawl. It has nothing to do with giving local governments a better say, it just happens to be where they ended up this year. Remember, 4 or 5 years prior there was a move to totally get rid of RPCs and now there is talk about empowering the RPCs, so you have to question the intent of that also. He noted that what bothers him more than anything is the State's taking over of the mobility funding, doing away with impact fees and replacing impact fees with this mobility fund and funding roads out of documentary stamp tax money.

Mayor Burch stated that SB360 is simply a poorly written bill and he is assuming it was written in haste. He then said that he would like to see Commissioner Coletta's synopsis and that it is also a good idea to bring it back in September and also have all of the local jurisdictions take the packet back to their staff and figure out what is good about SB360 and bring it back to the September meeting.

Commissioner Hall stated that she would like to know how SB360 is going to affect the Council and its processes. She then stated to Mr. Heatherington that it would be helpful to know how SB360 is going affect the Council and its review process.

Vice Chairman Denham stated that he agrees with Commissioner Hall.

Commissioner Coletta stated that he would like to have an invitation sent out to the local legislative delegation inviting them to a Council meeting and at the end of the day he would hope that we would come up with some sort of stance that the Council would want to take in the upcoming legislative year.

Chairman Humphrey suggested that since Commissioner Coletta is the Chairman of the Council's Legislative Committee and Mr. Heatherington to arrange to have an item placed on the Council's September agenda to address the effects of SB360 on the Council and also invite the legislative delegation and perhaps allocate 45 minutes in the meeting for discussion.

Councilman Zavodnyik stated that he would like have a breakdown on the vote of SB360.

Commissioner Hall stated that she feels that before bringing the legislators before the Council the Council should layout a plan for change.

Commissioner Coletta suggested putting together a small working group to discuss the issue. The following members volunteered to participate on the working group:

- Commissioner Tammy Hall, Lee County BOCC
- Commissioner Jon Thaxton, Sarasota County BOCC
- Ms. Laura Holquist, Governor Appointee

Mr. Heatherington reviewed the other bills that passed the legislature.

Chairman Humphrey suggested inviting Mr. Keith Arnold to the Council's September meeting.

Commissioner Thaxton stated that it is very common to see the federal representatives at the Sarasota County BOCC meetings, US Senator Martinez, Buchanan, and Nelson virtually have someone at every place he goes, but he hardly sees any state representative at any place or meeting.

Commissioner Hall suggested that staff send out a request that either they or their staffs attend the September Council meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #5(b) Council Retreat 2009 - Mr. Ken Heatherington

Mr. Heatherington stated that since the Council doesn't typically meet in July and August, but in August staff usually holds the Council's annual Retreat which reviews the Council's Strategic Plan's goals and objectives for the upcoming year. He was originally looking at holding the 2009 Retreat at the Barron House, but he was just informed that as of July 1st it will not be available. He then asked the Council if they would like to hold an annual retreat in August and are there any suggestions for a location.

Councilman Kiester stated that he feels that the Council should await the results of the action that the Council had just taken in Agenda Item #5(a) in regards to SB360.

Commissioner Coletta suggested holding the retreat immediately following the September meeting. Mr. Heatherington replied that it is a possibility, the Council meeting could be held in the meeting and then lunch could be held at the Snook Inn and also have the Retreat held there also.

Commissioner Coletta stated that he would not be available August 20th, he will be on vacation.

Ms. Holquist stated that she feels that the more times that the Council can get together and discuss the issues that the Council is currently facing is a good thing at this time and that she is very supportive of the retreat.

Mr. Mulhere stated that being a new member on the Council is would benefit him to be involved in the Council's Retreat.

Commissioner Hall suggested keeping the date as August 20th and then find a location.

Councilman McCormick suggested holding the retreat in Punta Gorda.

Commissioner Turner suggested holding the retreat at the Clewiston Inn.

Councilwoman Heitmann suggested going to Glades County and finding a location within Glades County and possibly taking a tour of the potential site for the Inland Port facility.

Commissioner Beck stated that it could be arranged and that there is a small conference facility at the North Lake Estates and there is also a nearby restaurant. He also noted that there is a local tour company that would be able to take the members out to the potential Inland Port sites.

AGENDA ITEM #5(c) Other Emerging Regional Issues

SR80 & US27 Letter

Mr. Heatherington reviewed the letter as presented in the agenda packet. He also noted that staff had a discussion regarding the federal stimulus funds with the Lee County MPO staff and it is outside of their “baily wick,” but looking at it as a regional type project and with the thought that SR80 may also look at some additional funding for the project to happen. Everyone agrees that the projects needs to happen but there is the problem with funding and there is the question on whether or not US Sugar will go through. The PD&E has already taken place the question is whether or not the construction dollars are available, regardless of the priorities. If the funds become available then the project can be moved up even further on the priority list.

Mr. Limbaugh stated that production readiness of SR80 is a concern for the TIGER funds and FDOT would have to be looking at a right-of-way phase because there is a need for right-of-way throughout the whole corridor.

Mr. Heatherington asked if it was part of the US Sugar deal. Mr. Limbaugh replied that only a portion of it was.

Commissioner Turner stated that he was very uncomfortable at the Big Cypress meeting because he viewed it as a day field trip for the members and he did not want to see the motion have any action taken at that time and he felt that he should have made a motion to table the original motion. As long as he can remember the widening of SR80 has been something that everyone has talked about in Hendry and Glades Counties, mostly within the Cities of Clewiston and LaBelle. He felt that at the meeting at Big Cypress there was a consensus in the room that the members wanted to support what we were asking of the Council; however, we thought it would’ve been better action to have a roundtable discussion with an agenda item, but that is not what happened it ended up with a 9-8 vote and both he and Mayor Puletti voted against it. The reason why he didn’t support the motion was because he obviously wants to see SR80 widened, but he doesn’t want any “rub” of any type what so ever.

Commissioner Turner asked Mr. Limbaugh what can be done to get the stakeholders at the table to see that the SR80 and US27 corridor, mainly the intersection that is nine miles outside of Clewiston moved forward. There is ½ million cubic yards of fill that that is less than of mile down the road that can be used for the project and funds that are ready to be pushed out the door. We are wanting to see action towards it, we have rearranged our federal list to make it the first priority and the four-laning (22 miles) of SR80 the second priority. He asked what needs to be done to get US Sugar at the table.

Mr. Limbaugh explained that FDOT has been working with the lobbyist(s) about getting those actions moved forward and talking with US Sugar and there is the concern about the ongoing purchase of the US Sugar property and how does FDOT get involved in the process without bogging it down. Commissioner Turner stated that he didn't accept that answer because he doesn't see how FDOT is going to stop the State of Florida from purchasing 72,000 acres which none is relevant. He doesn't feel that US Sugar would persuade any discussions about the intersection being improved, especially with the public outcry that they are receiving. This would be a flag ship for them to wave and say this is what we are doing to help everyone. The SFWMD has been a dream to work with as far as their relationship with Mayor Chamness and Commissioner McCarthy.

Mr. Limbaugh explained that FDOT has been working with the people who are conducting the surveys and the Department has already applied what is needed so it can be broken out into a single FDOT parcel as part of the overall deal. The proposed intersection improvements is a "T" interchange which is approximately \$29 million in round terms and it is not currently budgeted and with the \$120 million sweep of the FDOT Trust Fund it is not likely to happen any time soon. It is coming down to a money issue, the Department is very aware of the statistics of the crashes that have happened at that location and the Department has made some improvements to the intersection to address some of those issues, but some of it is driver error that can't be corrected. But there are plans in place and it is a high priority for the Department.

Mr. Pass stated that with the fires this spring and having I-75 closed, it exasperated the problem with SR80 and US27. He had an office in LaBelle on SR80 and the traffic increased significantly that it was worse than season traffic. The intersection of SR80 and US27 is a "train wreck" with the accidents that happen at that intersection. He agrees with Commissioner Turner that all of the stakeholders, including US Sugar, need to come to the table and make the proper improvements to that intersection. He also believes that Commissioner Tristan Chapman of Hendry County BOCC could make it happen sooner than later.

Chairman Humphrey asked what the next step is.

Mr. Limbaugh stated that FDOT had discussions with US Sugar previously, but recently it has only been go between to discuss the issue. FDOT is not really sure about the SFWMD purchase and how FDOT would obtain the property from SFWMD if it is not broke out in the beginning. It is a big issue and the Department is trying to work through it, but even if the right-of-way was donated it is going to come down to being \$29 million short of being constructed.

Mr. Heatherington stated that the letter was written as a priority from the Council and staff will work with FDOT and the local governments.

Chairman Humphrey stated that this issue needs to have some real close coordination because it would be a shame to complete the purchase without adequately addressing the right-of-way needs and having it all done together.

Mr. Pass noted that the project has been part of FDOT's SIS system for years and he feels that there is an opportunity to be proactive instead of reactive.

Chairman Humphrey suggested forming a committee to coordinate and work with the stakeholders and have some closer coordination on behalf of the Council.

Commissioner Turner volunteered.

Commissioner Hall moved and Mr. LeBeau seconded to appoint Commissioner Turner as the Council's representative to work closely with FDOT, SFWMD, US Sugar, and State of Florida to try to address the SR80 and US27 issues. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Humphrey asked Commissioner Turner to give the Council a status report in September.

Commissioner Turner stated that a statement was made that the FHREDI had the SR80 & US27 project as their third priority for transportation. He asked if the Council had such a list and if so, is there a ranking order. Mr. Heatherington replied no.

AGENDA ITEM #5(d)

County Administrators & City Managers Meeting Overview – Mr. Ken Heatherington

Mr. Heatherington stated that staff hosted a County Administrators and City Managers meeting on June 11th and it was a successful meeting. He noted that staff has been asked by Ms. Robin Singer to hold a quarterly Planning Directors meeting as well as County Administrators and City Managers meeting and according to Mr. Jim Ley of Sarasota County he would like to hold the next County Administrators and City Managers meeting in September.

AGENDA ITEM #5(e)

Regional Broadband Initiative

Mr. Dalton Moraes explained that he works for the Lee County BOCC in their Information Technology Department where he manages their network operations, but he is representing the Southwest Florida Innovation Network which is an initiative put together by the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce and is headed by Ms. Christine Ross. He then stated that he would like to give an overview of the Southwest Florida Innovation Network and its activities. The Network is focused on the regional collaboration for obtaining funds from the Broadband Stimulus Package. There is a \$7.2 billion package with \$4.7 billion provided by NTIA and \$2.5 billion managed by the USDA. The Network's goal is to identify projects and collaborative initiatives that can bring all of the regional projects together that will benefit by a broadband access to the internet.

Councilman Spear explained that he attended a meeting in March in Tallahassee with Ms. Ross and the bigger picture is that there is a bigger collaboration among all of the State's universities to develop a system of high speed internet and this looks like a great opportunity, especially with the current economic conditions. There is a huge amount of under utilized infrastructure out there waiting for assembly and connection.

Mr. Heatherington stated that irregardless of the success of obtaining stimulus funds, the regional collaboration of the IT network has been the biggest benefit.

Mr. Moraes explained that there is also a current collaboration between Lee County and Collier County School Board.

Mayor Burch asked if all of the local jurisdictions within the Southwest Region had been contacted. Mr. Moraes replied yes. Mayor Burch stated that the collaborative aspect and principle is good. The collaborative aspect of trying to obtain stimulus funds is a very smart way of doing it because it does take an effort in masses to achieve such an effort. Mr. Moraes explained that the way Ms. Ross has organized the effort is through several verticals to come together and have the projects brought together, because not only do you have \$7.2 billion available we also have to come up with at least 20 percent match, but grants can be used for the match and also current projects can be used.

AGENDA ITEM #6 PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #7 DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Heatherington announced that the May 21st Council meeting at the Big Cypress Indian Reservation was great success and he then noted that a collage was created with the pictures taken of that day and was on display in the room for everyone to see.

AGENDA ITEM #8 STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS

FDOT - Mr. Limbaugh stated that the Metro Parkway extension project that was originally estimated at \$60 million came in at \$29 million.

AGENDA ITEM #9 COUNCIL ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS

Counsel Donley stated that she had no comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #10
COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Beck congratulated Commissioner Tuner on becoming Chairman of the Council's newest committee for the SR80 and US27 issue. He believes that it takes about 15 years for a project because there is five years for a study, five years for engineering, and 5 years to build, so if it was started today, we are still 15 years out. Glades and Hendry Counties are Areas of Critical Economic Concern and then there is the US Sugar buyout that is affecting everything within the area, so he said that applauds Commissioner Turner's efforts on this project because it has been an issue within Glades County for years.

Councilman McCormick stated that he is having a lot of problems with Chinese drywall within the City of Punta Gorda. There is a major condo complex that is going under due to Chinese drywall and it turning into an \$18 million disaster.

Mayor Burch stated that the City of Cape Coral is dealing with the same issues and is also working US Senator Nelson's office; it is a much coagulated process.

Mr. Mulhere stated that he wanted it noted for the record that he wasn't present for the consent agenda when action was taken for Consent Agenda Item #3(f) Toll-Rattlesnake DRI - Request for Extension.

Mr. LeBeau stated that he would like to know where the Chinese drywall is being taken, because there are two types of landfills. The one that Charlotte County owns is lined which doesn't concern him, but the one that they are going to take the drywall to is not lined and he is concerned with the effects to the groundwater. He also noted that Lee County is bringing their Chinese drywall to Charlotte County for disposal. Mr. Heatherington stated that staff will contact Mr. Iglehart of FDEP and have him respond to that question.

Commissioner Beck noted that Glades County has a double-lined C&D landfill and it also has cheaper rates.

Councilwoman Heitmann stated that she needed help from the members because FDEP is requiring removal of stormwater drains to the beaches before renourishment begins of any beach. She asked if any other local jurisdiction had come across such a request.

Commissioner Thaxton stated that Sarasota County doesn't have any outfalls, but recommended contacting Mr. Bruce St. Denis of Longboat Key.

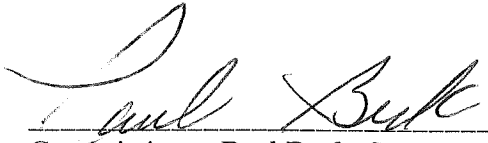
Councilman Zavodnyik stated that there seems to be tension between the rural and urban interests and he feels that if the Council can be supportive of the SR80 and US27 project it would benefit the rural areas.

Mr. Pass gave a brief overview of his background.

Councilman Spear congratulated Mr. Pass on his appointment.

AGENDA ITEM #11
ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.



Commissioner Paul Beck, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the June 12, 2009 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE WEEKLY, Volume 35, Number 23.

**REQUEST FOR PLACEMENT ON AGENDA
OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Name:

DALTON MORAES

(Please Print)

Organization (if any):

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA INNOVATION NETWORK

Address:

BOWTIE SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

29071 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DRIVE

Agenda Item Number:

5(c)

Amount of Time Requesting:

5 MINUTES


Signature

06/18/2009
Date