

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
JUNE 20, 2019 MEETING**

The meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was held on June 20, 2019 at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council–1400 Colonial Boulevard, Suite #1 in Fort Myers, Florida. Chair Perry called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Commissioner Mann then gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Margaret Wuerstle conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

- Charlotte County:** Commissioner Joe Tiseo, Councilman Gary Wein, Mr. Don McCormick, Commissioner Ken Doherty
- Collier County:** None.
- Glades County:** Commissioner Donna Storter-Long, Mr. Thomas Perry, Commissioner Donald Strenth
- Hendry County:** Commissioner Julie Wilkins, Commissioner Mitchell Wills
- Lee County:** Commissioner Frank Mann, Councilman Fred Burson, Vice-Mayor Ray Murphy
- Sarasota County:** Commissioner Willie Shaw, Councilmember Mitzie Fielder
- Ex-Officio:** Mr. Dennis Ragosta– SWFWMD, Mr. Jon Iglehart–FDEP

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

- Charlotte County:** Ms. Suzanne Graham
- Collier County:** Councilman Reg Buxton, Commissioner Bill McDaniel, Commissioner Penny Taylor
- Glades County:** None.
- Hendry County:** Vice-Mayor Michael Atkinson, Commissioner Emma Byrd, Mr. Mel Karau
- Lee County:** Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Councilman Greg DeWitt

**Sarasota County:** Commissioner Charles Hines, Commissioner Michael Moran

**Ex-Officio:** Mr. Wayne Gaither, FDOT, Mr. Phil Flood–SFWMD

**AGENDA ITEM #4  
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**AGENDA ITEM #5  
AGENDA**

There were no changes made to the agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM #6  
MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2019 MEETING**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Storter-Long to approve the minutes as presented. This motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Ray Murphy and passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #7  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**AGENDA ITEM #7(a)  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND REVIEW**

Mr. Kammerer explained that the three IC&R items are grant requests from Lee County Transit to DOT. The requested funds are mostly for bus and van replacement and were found Regionally Significant and Consistent.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mann to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wein passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #8  
REGIONAL IMPACT**

**AGENDA ITEM #8(a)  
PALMER RANCH INCREMENT 29 ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Mr. Dan Trescott gave the presentation. Commissioner Mann asked for a summary of Palmer Ranch's restoration efforts and stressed the importance of attempting to rehabilitate farmland. Mr. Trescott and Mr. Paulmann explained that Palmer Ranch goes above and beyond when it comes to environmental requirements for development planning.

**A motion was made by Councilman Burson to accept the Palmer Ranch Increment 29 Assessment Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Murphy and passed unanimously.**

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

**AGENDA ITEM #9(a)  
AUDIT REPORT**

Mrs. Erica Harp, CPA Consultant for the SWFRPC presented the 2017-2018 Audit Report on behalf of Jeff Tuscan, from Tuscan and Company. Mrs. Harp began by directing the Council to look at the chart hand out, which summarizes the financial position of the SWFRPC. Mrs. Harp explained that the SWFRPC is roughly \$89,000 down in cash & cash equivalents. This amount is made up of unearned revenue and accounts receivables. Mrs. Harp continued that there is no debt which is good news. The other good news is that on page 3 & 4 of the chart hand out, the fund balance is at the highest it has ever been over the years, up by \$2,092 to \$854,470. This is due to Margaret's hard work to obtain grants to cover costs. However, Mrs. Harp explained that due to the restricted funding received from grant sources, the Council needs to find alternate unrestricted funding sources to cover overhead expenses. Mrs. Harp then directed the Council to look at page 2 of the financial statements to the auditor's opinion section. This fiscal year continues with an unmodified opinion. Mrs. Harp then directed the Council to look at the Emphasis of Matters section which explains the loss of assessment funding in the amount of \$350,000 of unrestricted revenue. This section explains that the Council believes it can replace this funding through various revenue, grants and reserves.

Commissioner Mann asked for the purpose and outcome of what he should be voting on. Chair Perry and Mr. McCormick explained that the SWFRPC has complied with all financial auditing standards and that we hope to make up the difference in lost revenue with grant funding.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mann to approve the audit report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wein and passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #9(b)  
FY19-20 WORKPLAN & BUDGET**

Ms. Wuerstle presented The SWFRPC's proposed budget and workplan for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Councilman Burson asked if Lee County was the only county to withdraw funding. Ms. Wuerstle stated that Charlotte and Sarasota Counties have withdrawn funding as well. Councilman Burson asked why that's the case. Ms. Wuerstle responded that the answer they've been given is "relevancy". The counties claim there is nothing the RPC can do that the counties can't do for themselves.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the \$259,386 Program Development hole in the budget is typical and staff will seek to fill it with grants. She pointed out that there would be no budget deficit if the RPC received its full assessments.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Wein to approve the FY19-20 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mann and motion passed by popular vote.**

There was discussion on the proposed changes to the membership in the workplan. The workplan proposes to go back to the original voting membership of two representatives from each county, one from a municipality from each county, and governor appointees. Several members had concerns about removing municipalities that are currently paying dues and participating in the Council. There were also questions about whether municipalities would be able to pay and participate if their county is a nonpaying member. Commissioner Doherty suggested that the best course of action is to keep the voting membership as it is until the Council regains the financial support from all its counties. The members present agreed to keep the RPC's voting membership the same as it has been for years.

Commissioner Mann asked about how items like DRI reviews would be voted on if the RPC moved to quarterly meetings. Chair Perry explained that the Executive Committee would be given the authority to approve monthly items. Chair Perry conceded that controversial DRI items would need to go to the full board, however there can be disagreement on what qualifies as controversial. Mr. Trescott explained that the DRI timetables are not so narrow that the developers could not work around a quarterly RPC meeting schedule. The number of DRI reviews being brought to the RPC is also dwindling. Commissioner Storter-Long pointed out that the RPC only comments in an advisory capacity and the lack of an RPC review would not hold up a DRI project.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Wilkins to approve the workplan as amended to exclude the proposed membership changes. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCormick and passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #9(c)  
FRCA REPORT**

This item was for informational purposes only.

**AGENDA ITEM #9(d)  
PROMISE ZONE UPDATE**

Ms. Wuerstle shared that the Rural Economic Development Innovation (REDI) application that was submitted last month for technical support to develop an actionable plan for the Promise Zone has been granted to the RPC. Ms. Wuerstle was asked to bring a five-person team to a

meeting in Las Vegas in July. She asked the representatives from the three Promise Zone counties if they wished to attend. Commissioner Wilkins said she would see if she is available.

**AGENDA ITEM #9(e)**  
**GRANT ACTIVITY SHEET (INFORMATION ONLY)**

This item was for informational purposes only. Currently, the RPC has about \$1.5 million out in pending grants.

**AGENDA ITEM #10**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chair Perry explained that the Committee met that morning to discuss the audit, budget, and workplan. FRCA executive director, Mr. Ron Book, was also on the call.

Mr. Wuerstle reported that the RPC's CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) Committee had a very productive meeting earlier this week, which was planned and ran by Mr. Kammerer. EDA's Florida State Representative, Mr. Greg Vaday was in attendance. Mr. Kammerer added that he hopes the conversations had between Mr. Vaday and our local EDOs will lead to federal grant funding to come to the region soon.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(b)**  
**ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. James Beever stated that the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management Committee did not meet in June because the speakers wanted to post pone until Autumn.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(c)**  
**QUALITY OF LIFE & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Shaw brought attention to the VISTA Volunteers, Michael Bennett and Tia Herman, and their supervisor Katelyn Kubasik. Commissioner Shaw is the Chair of the newly developed Southwest Florida Task Force on Overdose Prevention that the VISTAs and their supervisor have created. The first task force meeting was held on Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 2:00pm at the SWFRPC. Commissioner Shaw stated how great the turnout for the meeting was, with approximately 20 people attending in person and another 5-7 people who called in. Including the guests who couldn't attend that day but want to be part of the task force, there are 36 members in total. Commissioner Shaw boasted what an amazing job Katelyn Kubasik, Tianna Herman and Michael Bennett did hosting the meeting. The meeting included county officials and organizations from all six of the counties in the SWFL region. Commissioner Shaw went on to discuss that the task force designed its structure as a networking group that will not

only share information but will also have deliverables based on their objectives. There are already grants pending for the taskforce and Katelyn, Tianna and Michael are working on a needs assessment for future goals of the task force.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(d)  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

There were no updates on this agenda item.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(e)  
COUNCIL RELEVANCY & RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE**

There was no report given.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(f)  
WATER QUALITY & WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

There were no updates on this agenda item.

**AGENDA ITEM #11  
NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business brought to the Council.

**AGENDA ITEM #12  
STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Mr. Iglehart informed the Council of an upcoming meeting FDEP was conducting.

**AGENDA ITEM #13  
COUNCIL LEGAL CONSULTANT'S COMMENTS**

There were no comments at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM #14  
COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Doherty reported back on the State's Water Quality Committee. The meeting was very high level and they plan on digging deeper into water quality issues in subsequent meetings. He plans to bring up the biosolids issue during a future meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #15  
ADJOURN**

The next meeting will be on September 12, 2019. The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.



Commissioner Donna Storter-Long, Secretary

**The meeting was duly advertised in the June 5, 2019 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 45, Number 109.**