

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 MEETING**

The meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was held on September 12, 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. Ms. Margaret Wuerstle conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum was not yet present. A quorum was reached later in the meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlotte County: Commissioner Ken Doherty, Commissioner Joe Tiseo, Mr. Don McCormick,

Collier County: Commissioner Bill McDaniel, Commissioner Penny Taylor

Glades County: Commissioner Donna Storter-Long, Commissioner Donald Strenth, Mr. Thomas Perry

Hendry County: Commissioner Julie Wilkins, Vice-Mayor Michael Atkinson

Lee County: Commissioner Frank Mann, Vice-Mayor Ray Murphy, Councilman Greg DeWitt

Sarasota County: Commissioner Willie Shaw, Councilmember Mitzie Fielder

Ex-Officio: Mr. Dennis Ragosta— SWFWMD, Mr. Jon Iglehart—FDEP

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charlotte County: Councilman Gary Wein, Ms. Suzanne Graham

Collier County: Councilman Reg Buxton

Glades County: None

Hendry County: Commissioner Mitchell Wills, Commissioner Emma Byrd, Mr. Mel Karau

Lee County: Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Councilman Fred Burson

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. Chair Perry decided to move to Item 9 until a quorum could be reached.

**AGENDA ITEM #9
PRESENTATIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9(a)
SWFL BROWNFIELDS & OPPORTUNITY ZONES**

Ms. Tracy Whirls, Executive Director of the Glades County Economic Development Council, gave a presentation on how the SWFRPC’s Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant has helped redevelopment efforts in the City of Moore Haven. Ms. Whirls gave history on several properties throughout Glades County that have undergone Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) through the grant program. She stated that this grant has helped the City of Moore Haven enter a \$250 million Opportunity Fund with a company in Tampa for redevelopment of the City’s waterfront.

The Council reached a quorum during the presentation and moved on to voting items.

**AGENDA ITEM #8
REGIONAL IMPACT**

**AGENDA ITEM #8(a)
PALMER RANCH INCREMENT 29 DEVELOPMENT ORDER REVIEW**

Mr. Dan Trescott gave a presentation on Palmer Ranch Increment 29 DO review. On June 20, 2019 the Council recommended conditional approval of the Palmer Ranch Increment 29 Application for Incremental Development Approval (AIDA). The recommended conditions are for issues related to water quality and stormwater, native habitats protection/vegetation and wildlife and land use. Staff review of the development orders finds that it is consistent with all regional issues and recommendations identified within the Council’s Official Recommendations.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Murphy to accept the Palmer Ranch Increment 29 DO Review as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shaw and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #6
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 2019 MEETING**

There were no corrections or additions made to the minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mann to approve the minutes as presented. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Shaw and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #7
CONSENT AGENDA**

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

There was no discussion on the IC&R item.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Murphy to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mann passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #10
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)
MAY – JULY 2019 FINANCIALS**

Ms. Wuerstle presented the May – July 2019 financials. She explained that the budget hole will appear larger than it actually is due to the cyclical nature of the RPC's grant billings. She expects to end the year with a roughly \$150,000 deficit in the FY 18-19 budget. The Council is looking at ways to close the budget, including finding grants and reducing office rental cost. The contract on the current office space is over next November and Ms. Wuerstle is looking to move to a smaller cheaper location or renegotiate with the current landlord for a reduced space and rate. Commissioner Tiseo recommended renegotiating with the current landlord. Commissioner McDaniel recommended holding off on making and decisions until decisions on the future of the RPC can be had. He asked when the Relevancy Committee will meet next. Ms. Wuerstle responded that the next Council meeting in November will be a workshop dedicated to the Council's next year of operations. Chair Perry asked the Council to remain on the topic of the financials.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the financials as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shaw and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #9(b)
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) & HURRICAN RESPONSE**

Cape Coral Fire Department Battalion Chief Matt Marshall serves as the Training Chair of the SWF LEPC. Chief Marshall informed the Council that the LEPC is managed and staffed by the RPC through annual FDEM contracts using DOT grant money. The LEPC pays for trainings for HazMat first responders and has conducted a \$24,000 HazMat Tech course for 32 attendees for the North Collier Fire Dept and a \$14,500 Tox Medic Course for 14 attendees for the Fort Myers Fire Dept over the past several months. A \$7,500 Natural Gas & Liquefied Petroleum Gas Course is underway this month for 25 attendees in Charlotte County. With the recent threat that Hurricane Dorian posed to the State, Chief Marshall gave an update on how the State has increased its HazMat capacity to natural disasters since Hurricane Michael.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(b)
2019-20 MEETING SCHEDULE**

This item was for informational purposes only.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(c)
MULTI-USE CORRIDORS OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE (M-CORES)**

Ms. Wuerstle gave an update on the initial M-CORES meeting that she participated in last month in Tampa. There will be a Southwest – Central FL Connector extending from Polk County to Collier County. The Task Force will not determine alignment, but will instead focus on issues like land use, environment, economic development, and emergency evacuation. The schedule is aggressive and even though almost all the public comments were against the Corridor, the State seems to not be considering a “no-build” option.

Commissioner McDaniel has been chosen to represent the RPC on the Task Force and he informed the Council that he will provide updates at future RPC meetings. Commissioner Doherty added that he has been chosen as the Charlotte County representative and Commissioner Pendergrass is the Lee County rep. He asked if the M-CORES Task Force members should be identified when the RPC notices a meeting. Commissioner Mann stated that this used to be the kind of issue that the RPC would be heavily involved in. The room agreed that this topic needs to be discussed by the Council as it progresses.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(d)
PROMISE ZONE UPDATE**

There was no update given.

AGENDA ITEM #10(f)
FRCA JULY 2019 REPORT

Chair Perry and Vice-Mayor Atkinson gave a brief update on the last FRCA meeting. Chair Perry explained that FRCA Executive Director Ron Book understands the situation the Council is in with it's nonpaying members and has offered to help the Council though this period. Vice-Mayor Murphy added that the FRCA meetings were helpful to him in his firth stint on the RPC board.

AGENDA ITEM #10(f)
GRANT ACTIVITY SHEET (INFORMATION ONLY)

This item was for informational purposes only.

AGENDA ITEM #11
COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM #11(a)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Perry explained that the Committee met that morning to discuss the financials, options for office space, and a lawsuit brought on by a former employee. There is currently a motion to dismiss being considered by the court.

AGENDA ITEM #11(b)
ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. James Beever stated that the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management Committee met earlier this week. The Council packet was put together the week before, so he was unable to have a report added to the packet.

AGENDA ITEM #11(c)
QUALITY OF LIFE & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Shaw praised the work that Ms. Katelyn Kubasik and the VISTA team has done in putting together the Southwest Florida Task Force on Overdose Prevention (STOP). The Task Force had a very productive meeting last month and will be holding another meeting in October. The RPC has been working to acquire grant funding on this issue. Commissioner Shaw explained the importance of prevention due to the high cost of overdose response and treatment.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(d)
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

The M-CORES discussion served as the Committee update.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(e)
COUNCIL RELEVANCY & RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE**

There was no report given.

**AGENDA ITEM #12
NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business brought to the Council.

**AGENDA ITEM #13
STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Mr. Iglehart gave an update on FDEP events and activities.

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

There were no comments.

**AGENDA ITEM #15
ADJOURN**

The next meeting will be on November 21, 2019. The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Commissioner Donna Storter-Long, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the September 3, 2019 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 45, Number 171.