EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 10:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONER LEE CONSTANTINE PRESIDING

In Attendance:

**County Representatives:**
Commissioner Jim Barfield, Brevard County
Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County
Commissioner David Moore, Marion County
Commissioner Emily Bonilla, Orange County
Commissioner Bryan Nelson, Orange County
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, Osceola County
Commissioner Viviana Janer, Osceola County
Commissioner Lee Constantine, Seminole County
Commissioner John Horan, Seminole County
Commissioner Don Burgess, Sumter County

**Municipal Representatives:**
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando
Council Member Rocky Randels, Space Coast League of Cities (City of Cape Canaveral)
Councilmember Dina Sweatt, Lake County League of Cities (City of Groveland)
Mayor Gary Bruhn, Tri-County League of Cities (Town of Windermere)
Commissioner Jim Fisher, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Kissimmee)
Vice Mayor Leigh Matusick, Volusia County League of Cities (City of DeLand)

**Gubernatorial Appointees:**
Mr. John Lesman, Seminole County

**Ex-Officio Members:**
Ms. Jean Parlow, Florida Department of Transportation
Ms. Susan Davis, St. Johns River Water Management District

**Other Attendees:**
Mr. Robert Salonen, Florida Tech/CAMID
Mr. Tim McClendon, Lake County Planning
Ms. Arlene Smith, Volusia County
Ms. Laura DiGruttolo, Florida Fish and Wildlife
David Bottomley, One Life

**Members not in Attendance:**
Commissioner Kristine Isnardi, Brevard County
Commissioner Josh Blake, Lake County
Commissioner Jeff Gold, Marion County
Commissioner Garry Breeden, Sumter County
Councilmember Deborah Denys, Volusia County
Councilmember Billie Wheeler, Volusia County
Councilman Brent Malever, City of Ocala
I. Call to Order and General Business

Commissioner Constantine called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Ms. Pegge Parker called the roll and announced a quorum was present and Council Member Rocky Randels led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Consent Agenda

- July 2017 Council Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Constantine asked if there were any discussions, deletions or additions to the minutes. As there were no objections, Mayor Bruhn made a motion to approve the minutes and Vice Mayor Matusick seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.
- Financial Reports: Mr. Harling discussed the Financial Reports for June and July 2017 which includes the financial forecast for August 2017 and provided an overview of income and revenues. Commissioner Constantine discussed the reserves and the need in the past to pull from the reserves to balance the budget. At the end of this fiscal year, the budget appears to be balanced and there will be no need to pull from the reserves. Mr. Livingston asked about the current reserves balance and Ms. Hars stated it is approximately $600,000. Mr. Livingston described the past history of the reserves when Mr. Phil Laurien was Executive Director and that the reserves balance was $2,000,000. The reduction of the reserves over the years is due to the decrease of the per capita assessment on three occasions. Commissioner Constantine stated that even with the increase in the per capita assessment this year, the RPC’s per capita rate is still not what it was before the reductions and our RPC has the second lowest per capita rate compared to the other RPCs. He stated that the $600,000 in reserves is a reasonable balance based on our budget. Mayor Bruhn made a motion to approve the June/July Financial Reports and Commissioner Janer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion to approve passed unanimously.
- By Laws Update: Mr. Livingston discussed the simple amendments to the By Laws to remove “located in Comprehensive Planning District Six” and to add new member counties Marion and Sumter. Mr. Livingston recommended adopting the amended By Laws. Mr. John Lesman made a motion to approve the By Laws and Mayor Bruhn seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was passed. Commissioner Constantine welcomed Marion County to their first Council meeting.
III. Public Comments

- There were no public comments at this time.
- Commissioner Jim Barfield recognized Commissioner Constantine’s accomplishments as Chair over the past few years as did Council Member Randels who recognized his local efforts and leadership at the RPC. Commissioner Constantine thanked everyone and talked about the pleasure of working with each member of the Board. He also mentioned Mayor John Land and his enthusiasm and passion. He went on to say that it is his dream job to serve the people he grew up with and an honor to serve the people of Central Florida. The RPCs mean something and people have forgotten that and now we have made major changes to make them relevant again, both collectively and individually. He discussed moving to the current location as being essential to placing the RPC at the center of activity. He stated he was really proud to be a part of this organization and thanked everyone for the opportunity to be Chairman.
- Commissioner Janer announced the selection of Commissioner Constantine to attend the European Union Water Management Study Tour October 22-28, 2017 which includes visits to Belgium, the Netherlands and Finland. The tour will focus on a range of water management activities, such as water resource management, port management, water reclamation/purification, flood control and coast line protection.

IV. Presentation: Marion County – Mr. Mike Daniels, Director, Ocala & Marion County TPO

Mr. Mike Daniels discussed the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (ICAR) and Public Transportation Coordination Joint Participation Agreement (JPA). It is an Agreement between the Marion County TPO and public transportation agencies, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the RPC to ensure consistent process in review of transportation plans and projects, including LRTP by all agencies. The Agreement was presented at the Marion County TPO and Ocala meeting last night and will then be sent to FDOT for final approval when signed. Commissioner Constantine discussed the directive by the Executive Committee to Staff to reach out to city and county administrators to see how the RPC can assist. Commissioner David Moore made a motion to approve the ICAR and JPA and Commissioner Parks seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

V. Presentation: Economic Development Update – Mr. Luis Nieves-Ruiz, Economic Development Manager, ECFRPC

Mr. Luis Nieves-Ruiz provided a presentation about the Economic Development District, which focused on the efforts to overhaul the region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document. New changes include data trends discussion, focus on industries, and comparing the region to the nation. Mr. Nieves-Ruiz explained to the Council that they will be receiving a link via email by October 15th to the document to make their comments. He will then ask for Council’s approval of the transmittal and adoption of the plan at the next Council meeting, November 15th. Commissioner Horan asked about the coordination with the University of Central Florida (UCF) and the Economic Development Partnership (EDP). Mr. Nieves-Ruiz explained that UCF is part of the committee and he is waiting on the transition of the EDP to engage them. Commissioner Parks congratulated Mr. Nieves-Ruiz on a great presentation and asked questions concerning the EDD’s ranking (321 out of 384). Mr. Nieves-Ruiz explained that it is due to wages, which tend to be low, and are not going up. Commissioner Parks asked how Mr. Nieves-Ruiz is meeting with people and Mr. Nieves-Ruiz stated he wanted to meet with the Chambers of Commerce to see how we can move forward. Commissioner Parks said to let him know if he needs...
help. Commissioner Horan stated that they all work through other organizations. Affordable housing is an issue that is driving down the quality of life in Central Florida. Every county and city is working on it and he asked if affordable housing is addressed in the document. Mr. Nieves-Ruiz responded that there is a discussion of the housing pattern and costs. Commissioner Horan also discussed public transportation for working families.

VI. Presentation: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Success Story: Center for Advance Manufacturing and Innovative Design (CAMID) – Mr. Robert Salonen, Director, Global Business Development, Florida Institute of Technology

Mr. Salonen presented on a project that was funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) – Center for Advance Manufacturing and Innovation Design (CAMID). He discussed who they are, the EDA grant and the progress they are making with the advanced manufacturing efforts.

VII. Planning Director’s Report – Tara McCue, Director of Planning and Community Development

Ms. McCue presented an overview on newly awarded projects and congratulated Luis Nieves-Ruiz for being selected as the only Florida representative for the ULI Health Leaders Network and also congratulated Rick Stilp on his new position as the St. Cloud Fire Chief. A handout was provided with more specific information for each of these projects.

VIII. Executive Director’s Report

- Governor Scott Letter: Mr. Harling discussed the complimentary letter received from Governor Scott concerning the economic impact study on the Indian River Lagoon.
- FRCA Report: Discussed the SR 27 corridor project and the meeting with FDOT and the corridor will be studied. We have invited the TCRPC to come and present as they are the originators of the idea and there is support for this project and the economic opportunities it will bring to the corridor.
- Volkswagen Project Update: Mr. Harling discussed the Volkswagen funding, which will be administered by DEP. All the school districts in the region have been included and all the transit agencies, except for Sumter Transit who are happy with their current system. The funding may be available in about a year.
- Lake Sumter MPO: The Lake Sumter MPO is currently seeking a new Executive Director. They have requested the RPC submit a proposal to provide support to the agency for a two month period to assist with transition and completion of tasks. Commissioner Constantine discussed the importance of this support for our local governments and agencies when they have a concern and problem.
- Lake George and Pine Island Resort Fish Camp Muck Removal: Mr. Harling discussed the Lake George muck issue and the coordination with the Town of Pierson, St. Johns River Water Management District, and the County to implement a dredge program to address the issue and re-establish the viability of the lake and its economic contributions. Vice Mayor Matusick discussed the Town of Pierson’s population, which is less than 2,000, and the fern and fishing industry as being a big issue for the town. Mayor Bruhn asked if the muck could be recycled. Mr. Harling discussed the difficulty of finding places to put such a large amount of muck. Commissioner Constantine stated that the spreading of muck is a state-wide problem and the Department of Environmental Protection is trying to deal with it. Commissioner Horan asked who the coordinator is with Seminole County and Mr. Harling answered that there is no one appointed at this time. The Commissioner then asked to be
kept in the loop with the coordination and discussed the issue regarding Lake Jessup. Ms. Susan Davis, SJRWMD, discussed the Ready Cost Share program and the Town of Pierson is a ready community and they can submit a waiver. They are accepting applications now for this program.

IX. **Nominating Committee Recommendations** – Commissioner Jim Barfield

Commissioner Barfield presented the Committee's recommendations for the new Executive Committee:

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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Vice Mayor Leigh Matusick</td>
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<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Commissioner Jim Barfield</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Commissioner Garry Breeden</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Mr. John Lesman</td>
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<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Commissioner Lee Constantine</td>
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Mayor Bruhn made a motion to approve the recommendations for the new Executive Committee. Commissioner Sheehan seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

X. **Chair’s Report**

- 2018 Council Meeting Schedule – Commissioner Constantine discussed the scheduled meetings next year and noted the next Council meeting will be November 15th.
- DRI Update – Commissioner Constantine stated that during the Executive Committee Meeting they reviewed a report on outstanding DRIs that have dollars in a separate account. Two DRIs were closed out and we are still owed funds by some others.

XI. **Brief County Updates** – County Representatives

- There were no County announcements at this time.

XII. **Announcements/Public Comments**

- Mr. Harling announced that Ms. Lelia Hars, Finance Manager for the RPC, was celebrating her 31st anniversary with the RPC this month.

XIII. **Next Meeting:** November 15, 2017

XIV. **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, Commissioner Constantine adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.