In Attendance:

**County Representatives:**
Commissioner Jim Barfield, Brevard County
Commissioner Josh Blake, Lake County
Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County
Commissioner Emily Bonilla, Orange County
Commissioner Bryan Nelson, Orange County
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, Osceola County
Commissioner Lee Constantine, Seminole County
Commissioner John Horan, Seminole County

**Municipal Representatives:**
Council Member Rocky Randels, Space Coast League of Cities (City of Cape Canaveral)
Mayor Dina Sweatt, Lake County League of Cities (City of Groveland)
Mayor Gary Bruhn, Tri-County League of Cities (Town of Windermere)
Mayor David Mealor, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Lake Mary)
Vice Mayor Leigh Matusick, Volusia County League of Cities (City of DeLand)

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

**Ex-Officio Members:**
Ms. Susan Davis, St. Johns River Water Management District

**Other Attendees:**
Ms. Abbey Kipper, Orange County
Mr. Tim McClendon, Lake County Planning
Mr. David Bottomley, Sierra Club

**Members not in Attendance:**
Commissioner Rita Pritchett, Brevard County
Commissioner David Moore, Marion County
Commissioner Jeff Gold, Marion County
Commissioner Viviana Janer, Osceola County
Commissioner Garry Breeden, Sumter County
Commissioner Don Burgess, Sumter County
Councilmember Deborah Denys, Volusia County
Councilmember Billie Wheeler, Volusia County
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando
Councilman Brent Malever, City of Ocala
Commissioner Jim Fisher, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Kissimmee)
I. Call to Order and General Business

Vice Mayor Matusick called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Ms. Tara McCue called the roll and announced a quorum was present. Commissioner Horan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Consent Agenda

- Vice Mayor Matusick stated that all items on the Consent Agenda will be approved as a whole but individual items can be pulled for discussion.
  - November 2017 Council Meeting Minutes;
  - October and November 2017 Financial Reports;
  - Authorization for the Chair to Sign Lake County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Memorandum of Understanding;
- As there were no objections to the above Consent Agenda items, Mayor Bruhn made a motion to approve all the items. Vice Mayor Sweatt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

III. Public Comments/Announcements

There were no public comments at this time.

IV. Presentation: European Union Water-Management Conference – Commissioner Lee Constantine

Commissioner Constantine provided a presentation on the European Union Water-Management Study Tour which took place in Belgium, Netherlands, Finland and Germany. He and 11 others were invited to learn and exchange ideas about European Union policies and techniques regarding flooding, wastewater management, potable water and renewable energy.

Discussion occurred on the wastewater treatment process shown and the idea of planning to the 10,000 year flood. Discussion was how they chose to protect their economic engine to the greatest extent. The city is 30 feet below sea level so they need to be prepared to stop any flood they may see. Each person in the Netherlands pays a water tax to pay for that infrastructure. Councilmember Randels stated they seemed to treat rising water as an asset or a friend and opportunity which is much different than our thinking. At the conclusion of his presentation, Commissioner Constantine said he can provide contacts to help answer any other questions or provide additional information.
V. **Presentation: Lake County: Economic Tourism Efforts** – Commissioner Sean Parks

Commissioner Parks discussed the Lake County slogan, Real Florida, Real Close. He spoke of access and assets in Lake County, as well as new transportation improvements, and industry growth. The county has numerous nationally recognized training facilities for a variety of sports and is also looking at future growth in the healthcare industry (the Health Science Academy) and manufacturing (The Center for Advanced Manufacturing). Expected population growth and economic trends were also discussed.

Commissioner Barfield asked if there has been an increase in demand for hotel rooms. Commissioner Parks discussed how there has been an increase in demand but many are continuing to stay in Seminole and Orange counties because they have most of the hotels but Lake County is in the process of recruiting hotels. Commissioner Horan explained that Seminole County is also pushing tourism with their sports complex and that there was a 50% occupancy rate in 2010 but at the end of 2017, the occupancy rate had increased to 78%. There has also been an increase in overnight rates with three hotel projects in the works. Commissioner Barfield talked about the advantage of additional hotels and hotel development and the increased capability of bringing in more events. Discussions continued on the benefits of hotel development and the downside of low paying jobs. Vice Mayor Matusick thanked Lake County for all their help with bringing in Bike Florida tours and regular cycling events.

VI. **Planning Director’s Report** – Tara McCue, Director of Planning and Community Development, ECFRPC

- Ms. McCue presented an overview on the Projects and Activities report. A handout was provided with more specific information for each of these projects. Ms. McCue provided a report on a few main project activities completed by the staff during November and December.

VII. **Executive Director’s Report**

- Volkswagen Settlement Update/Florida Electric School Bus Workshop Update: The State of Florida should get approximately $166 million from the Volkswagen grant and based on population, the ECF region should get approximately 3.2 million. ECFRPC attended a presentation on electric school buses explaining how costly they are. We are working with eight school systems and five transit authorities including LYNX which wants to be 100% electric in downtown. We are also working with FPL and other electric companies to set up a system for recharging the new systems.
- US 27 Multi-modal Corridor Study: FDOT made a presentation at the last FRCA meeting on the US 27 Corridor Study. The study will go from the South Florida RPC to Treasure Coast RPC and to our RPC. Vice Mayor Matusick stated they are looking at interregional connectivity, emergency evacuations and response and safety, freight mobility and economic development, as a whole, and make sure it all works together. They are doing extensive data collection and analysis on various reports and studies. FDOT will be coordinating with MPOs, RPCs, and jurisdictions to create a whole master plan and make the area more efficient. Vice Mayor Matusick has the contact information for anyone interested in more information.
- Lake George Update: Lake George – Met with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) to address the economic damage
caused by the muck pile up. Working to get funding from SJWMD and FEMA to dredge the property and make it accessible for the industries located in the area.

- Council Meetings: Mr. Harling explained that the RPC is trying to make the time of the Council meetings more convenient for the Council members. The Executive meeting has been changed to 9:30 a.m., followed by the Council meeting at 10:30 a.m. Vice Mayor Matusick asked whether traffic was any better with the new time change and explained that there are consistently 13-14 Council members missing at every meeting with some counties not having any representation. She discussed that the Governor has still only made two appointments out of all the counties so any kind of influence to get them appointed would be a big benefit to the Council. The House Bill 0611 for Regional Planning Agencies to establish quorum by phone/conference call/electronics might help but not sure where the legislation is going to go with that. Mr. Harling explained that the Executive Committee asked him to address parking and he explained that the surface parking lot across the street on Amelia Avenue has been taken over by the FDOT I-4 contractors. He will check with Ace Café next door to see if they can provide parking every other month. We will also work with FDOT to see if we can recover some of the surface parking lot and will update Council before the next meeting. Commissioner Constantine stated that we had anticipated that we would have the parking lot for our meetings. Also, there were discussions on providing some sort of teleconference for calling in but it would not count as attendance and asked Staff to follow up on the possibility of setting up a teleconference call. Mayor Bruhn asked if it was the same individuals not attending each meeting and have we reached out to them. Mr. Harling responded that he will follow up with phone calls.

- Commissioner Grieb asked about the possibility of compressing the Council meeting to 1.5 hours which may help with acquiring the Ace Café parking. She suggested compressing the Executive Director’s report and just showing relevance in other areas like Emergency Management. Vice Mayor Matusick stated she was concerned with shortening the meeting and, therefore, its content too much for those that still have a long drive. She went on to say that when we first talked about coming here, SunRail was a big driver for this location but it’s not perfect and not available to everyone. Commissioner Constantine agreed that he would like to see the meeting end at noon. Vice Mayor Matusick asked if everyone was in agreement for 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and everyone agreed. She asked Mr. Harling that if there was any change in parking options, to let the Council know and provide a map. Commissioner Horan asked if the Council wanted to endorse the access to meeting Bill 0611 and Mr. Livingston replied that acquiring a quorum has not been the issue because only 1/3 of the Council is needed for a quorum. Mayor Mealor stated that if there is no Senate companion, then the Bill will not move forward. Staff will look into whether there is a companion Senate Bill. He also stated that this may not be the Bill where the Council should use their voice and Commissioner Horan agreed that since there is no issue for a quorum, and if there’s no companion Senate Bill, there is no sense in wasting the Council’s momentum on this. Side note - Staff to look at the capability of this even happening.

VIII. Chair’s Report

- Commissioner Constantine stated that during the FRCA January Policy Board Meeting, they received a copy of the draft of the FRCA 2016-2017 Annual Report. In this report, our RPC is listed as the second oldest by days, the second largest in population with the second smallest budget, and the largest in square miles. Vice Mayor Matusick stated everyone would get a hard copy as soon as the report is final and during the FRCA
meeting, each RPC gave a brief presentation and ours was on the Volkswagen grant. NARC provided a federal presentation by Florida Chamber Foundation looking at Florida 2030 trends. Vice Mayor Matusick stated that she would give all the presentations to Staff for them to forward and the Council can discuss any of them at the next meeting.

- Vice Mayor Matusick discussed the Bike Florida Spring Tour 2018, March 17-23, from Edgewater to Titusville. She discussed the importance of the economic impact these trails have on our region.
- To date, four counties have paid their assessment dues and four have not. If you have questions, please talk to Ms. Lelia Hars or Ms. Tara McCue.
- Vice Mayor Matusick discussed the reserves budget and re-stated that the RPC should not be going into reserves for FY2017/2018 based on the current budget information and also the hard work the Executive Director, Commissioner Constantine and the Staff has been doing to make this happen. The redline for the reserves is $600,000. The budget should be 1/3 dues with the rest in grants and contracts.

IX. **Brief County Updates** – County Representatives

- Brevard County: The World Pro Surf Conference starts tomorrow which is its first time in Florida with top surfers from all over the world and with the largest purse ever for women; the launch of the largest rocket ever, Space X Super Heavy, is scheduled for the end of the month; there’s been a lot of trail links and completions.
- Seminole County: Several events scheduled for January at the Sports Complex including an Elite Clubs National League soccer event for men and women; the Annual Scottish Highland Games, setting record numbers this year with 72 clans, is scheduled the second week in January; work continues on the Community Service Initiative relating to homelessness.
- Lake County: There’s a three-day festival, February 23-25, in Eustis celebrating George Washington’s birthday; State Representative Don Hahnfeldt, who has served as a member of the Lake County Legislative Delegation, passed away over the weekend; Groveland will be having a Battle of the Chiefs January 20th, a full day full of Firefighters vs. the Police in competition against each other.
- Marion County: Absent, no updates.
- Osceola County: The First Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Eastern Open of the year is coming up at Lake Toho; the Osceola County Fair is held the 2nd week of February; the RAM National Circuit Finals Rodeo is scheduled April 5-8 at Silver Spurs Arena and if you want to be on the VIP list, email Commissioner Grieb to be her guest.
- Orange County: Completed the UCF Area Pedestrian Safety Study; conducting the Pine Hills Road Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Study.
- Sumter County: Absent, no updates.
- Volusia County: Hard Rock Hotel on the beach to open soon along with many other beachfront properties in development; the development surge continues along LPGA Boulevard including Buc-ee’s, a Texas mega convenience/gas station with 50,000 square feet and 130 gas pumps, starting site work with construction following soon after around July, this is the first to break ground in Florida and it’s about the size of Publix, it will be a Destination for travelers with themed areas and cuisines and not a truck stop as trucks will not be allowed except to make deliveries; Jimmy Buffets Latitudes had over 300 people standing in line all night trying to be first to buy a house lot in Latitudes; the 11th Annual
Taste of DeLand is scheduled for January 20th; the Doggie Parade, which is expecting 30,000 people, is scheduled for January 27th.

X. Announcement/Public Comments

Mr. Luis Nieves-Ruiz, ECFRPC, passed out flyers for the 2018 Central Florida Food System Tour, February 2nd, sponsored by Good Food Central Florida and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension Seminole County. The Tour includes stops at Long and Scott’s Farm, Edible Education Experience, Fleet Farming, and East End Market.

XI. Next Meeting: March 21, 2018

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Vice Mayor Matusick adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.