In Attendance:

**County Representatives:**
Commissioner Jim Barfield, Brevard County
Commissioner Wendy Breeden, Lake County
Commissioner David Moore, Marion County
Commissioner Emily Bonilla, Orange County
Commissioner Bryan Nelson, Orange County
Commissioner Lee Constantine, Seminole County
Commissioner John Horan, Seminole County
Commissioner Garry Breeden, Sumter County
Councilmember Ed Kelley, Volusia County
Councilmember Billie Wheeler, Volusia 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)

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

**Ex-Officio Members:**
Ms. Susan Davis, St. Johns River Water Management District
Mr. William Graf, South Florida Water Management District
Ms. Laura Kelley, Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX)

**Other Attendees:**
Mr. Bradley Arnold, Sumter County
Mr. Kevin Smith, Marion County
Mr. Tim McClendon, Lake County Planning
Ms. Arlene Smith, Volusia County
Mr. David Bottomley, Sierra Club

**Members not in Attendance:**
Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County
Commissioner Rita Pritchett, Brevard County
Commissioner Jeff Gold, Marion County
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, Osceola County
Commissioner Viviana Janer, Osceola County
Commissioner Don Burgess, Sumter County
I. Call to Order and General Business

Commissioner Barfield called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Ms. Pegge Parker called the roll and announced a quorum was present. Commissioner Horan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Consent Agenda

As there were no objections to the above Consent Agenda items, Mayor Bruhn made a motion to approve all the items. 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: Sumter County Update – Public Safety Building Complex/Emergency Operations Center – Mr. Bradley Arnold, County Administrator

Mr. Arnold provided a presentation on Sumter County’s new Public Safety Building Complex and Emergency Operations Center. He gave a brief history of the Sumter County Sheriff’s office and its several temporary locations and the search for a permanent location. He discussed the funding and contracting mechanisms to complete the design/build of the new facility as well as the responsibilities of the stakeholder group relating to the development of the project/contract and how they focused on shared resources and flexibility. Mr. Arnold stressed the fact they all had to work together as part of the same team to provide services throughout the county. Operational benefits also included redundant resources like the 911 Dispatch Area. They borrowed $24 million for the project with about $2 million for the architectural fees. The Public Safety Complex was recognized by the American Public Works Association (APWA) as the 2017-2018 Project of the Year.

Commissioner Barfield stated Brevard County is going through the process for a new Emergency Operations Center and it’s the most activated EOC in the country. They are looking to bond against the communications service tax.
V. **Presentation: 2018 Hazardous Materials Symposium** – Mr. Mark Reali for Ms. Michelle Cechowski, Emergency Preparedness Manager

Mr. Reali gave a summary of the 6th Annual 2018 Hazmat Symposium held in January at The Plaza in Daytona Beach and the Volusia County Fire Rescue Training Facility. He reviewed the statistics of the symposium including total registrants of 428, which was a 26% increase from the year before, with attendees from several other states including New York, Vermont, North Dakota and even Germany. There were 56 training sessions: seven hands-on trainings and 49 classroom trainings. There was also a team competition with fourteen competing teams. The top three team winners were from St. Johns County Fire Rescue and Clay County Fire Rescue and Orange County Fire Rescue.

VI. **Hurricane Maria Update – Puerto Rico Evacuations** – Commissioner Emily Bonilla, Orange County

Commissioner Bonilla gave a brief history of what has happened in Puerto Rico and Central Florida since the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria with as many as 75,000 people moving to Central Florida from Puerto Rico. She has initiated a Puerto Rican Migration Task Force to coordinate with community organizations to identify the needs of these citizens and help implement solutions. The needs include better access to health resources, housing assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to get aid for food, and schools for their children. Orange County has partnered with Heart of Florida United Way to assist by providing resources like job referrals, health services, English as a second language assistance, and public school system registration. She explained that there is still much to do and they continue to look for partners such as Representative Darren Soto who is hosting a task force and Career Source Central Florida who will be hosting a job fair.

Discussions continued about how to get the real numbers for each of the counties since it’s so difficult to collect the data. Agencies such as United Way have collected sign-in information at the airport but not everyone is signing in or coming in that way and it does not show if they will be permanent residents or just staying for a few weeks. Collecting good data is one of the biggest problems in preparing. Schools are another way to collect data but not everyone has school age children such as the elderly.

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

Ms. McCue presented an overview of the Projects and Activities report. A handout was provided with more specific information for each of these projects but Ms. McCue provided additional information on a few particular projects completed by the staff during January and February. **Cycles and Sprouts** – a two-year Aetna Foundation Grant focused on the Holden Heights area, educating the community, and especially the youth, in urban gardening and bike maintenance, giving them entrepreneurial skills as well as introducing healthy living and cultural changes. In February on Plant a Seed Day, students of Parramore Kidz Zone and AETNA staff and volunteers planted various vegetable seeds at Kaley Square for the urban garden. **SpaceCoast TPO Vulnerability Analysis** – assessed roadways and infrastructure in terms of sea level rise. The flooding not only impacts our evacuation routes but some of the facilities used to re-fuel response vehicles. Findings included that causeways were vulnerable to sea level rise especially when they are not fully elevated. Our findings were presented to the TPO Board and committees along with recommendations.
Commissioner Barfield acknowledged the Study the ECFRPC did for the SpaceCoast TPO regarding the six causeways that access the barrier islands for a 72-mile long county. The study was very timely due to all the flooding from Hurricane Irma and, when the Study is overlayed with the lagoon averaging 12”-18” higher than it normally does and then you add in the future projections, the causeways are projected to be very vulnerable. The impacts of the damages done to the road service is brought into perspective especially at the Port which is a critical location for bringing in fuel and the items we need fuel for, including Cruise ships.

Ms. McCue also discussed the Strategic Regional Policy Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Review (EAR) and how it was adopted in November 2011. By Statute, we are required to update the Plan at least once every five years. We are in the timeframe now that we need to assess the successes or failures of the Plan, address changes to the state Comprehensive Plan, and prepare and adopt any revisions, or updates to the Plan, as needed. It is an unfunded State mandate. Timing is optimal because of preliminary recent conversations with MetroPlan Orlando regarding How Shall We Grow and that it’s been ten years since it was completed. The Board needs to discuss how to move this forward in considering potential funding options due to no current State funding.

VIII. Executive Director’s Report

- ECFRPC New Hires: Mr. Harling introduced four new hires to the ECFRPC: Jenifer Rupert, Regional Disaster Resilience Coordinator, hired as part of a two-year grant to develop and implement the Economic Development Administration funded program focusing on Regional Economic Resiliency; Mark Reali, Emergency Preparedness Planner; Ms. Christi Bush, Financial Administrative Assistant; and, Matt Siebert, Planner 1.
- Lake County CDBG Update: Lake County has requested that we participate with a Request for Proposal (RFP) which is due March 28th. Mr. Harling will contact the County Manager to go through what that process would be and that ECFRPC would not become liable for that particular program.
- U.S. 27 Multi-modal Corridor Study: Mr. Harling discussed the map hand-out of US 27 and the recent FDOT meeting focusing on economic development, moving freight and emergency evacuation from South Florida to I-75 and the Turnpike. He will continue to work with FDOT and bring information back to the Council on that corridor.
- FRCA Update: Mr. Harling discussed the presentation he will be making to FDEP March 27th regarding the Volkswagen settlement on behalf of the schools boards and transit agencies for all our counties, with the exception of Sumter County transit. The amount of money projected for our region is $188 million which will go to reduce the environmental footprint damage which was caused by Volkswagen. We need to make sure the money comes through us and gets distributed equally throughout our region.
- Ribbon Cutting: Mr. Harling discussed the Dedication of Converging Trails Ceremony for the Florida East Central Regional Rail Trail, a multi-use trail in northern Brevard County. It was the culmination of a $10 million, ten year project. It was attended by many residents, bikers, walkers, businesses, and public officials.
- How Did we Grow and Strategic Policy Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Review (EAR): Discussed during the Planning Director’s Report.
IX. Chair’s Report

- Commissioner Barfield discussed a recommendation brought up during the Executive Committee meeting to expand the number of Executive Board members from five to seven with four of the seven being County representatives. Commissioner Constantine stated that this makes sense since now our RPC has grown to eight counties, it is the largest RPC in geographical area, and the second largest in population. Expanding to seven members will give a wider representation of our region to the Executive Board. The Board would then be made up of: Chairman, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three At Large. Commissioner Horan made a motion directing Staff to prepare the necessary modifications to the Rule for presentation and approval by the full Council at the next meeting; Mayor Bruhn seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

X. Brief County Updates – County Representatives

- Lake County: Commissioner Wendy Breeden discussed the number of new students enrolled in Lake County coming from Puerto Rico as being between 260-290; April 6th will be the groundbreaking for the South Lake Regional Park which is located between the City of Clermont and the City Groveland; March 31st will be the CFX Ribbon Cutting of the next five miles of SR 46 in Mt. Dora of the Wekiva Parkway; Mr. Robert Chandler, the Director of Economic Development, renamed as Economic Prosperity, has taken another offer in The Villages so they are searching for a new Economic Prosperity Director.

- Marion County: Commissioner Moore discussed the ribbon cutting at the end of February for the Santos and Land Bridge Trailhead; the influx of Puerto Rican residents has created a great benefit to the housing market.

- Orange County: Commissioner Bonilla agreed that with the additional Puerto Rican population, there’s been a lot of new jobs coming into Central Florida and Orange County has been very helpful finding jobs for the new residents. Commissioner Nelson discussed the re-development and updating of Horizons West, originally built in 2004, and volunteered to do a presentation at one of the next Council meetings.

- Seminole County: Commissioner Horan discussed adopting new school impact fees. There’s been so much new growth, especially in apartment homes, they now need schools to be built for the first time since 2005. There’s been a cutback on Capital Improvement dollars for public schools so impact fees have been adjusted, aligning more with the surrounding counties. They now have 19 applications for vesting requirements for apartments. Mayor Mealer commended Seminole County on the vesting opportunity for these projects. There was a grand opening of the latest Central Florida Regional Hospital Emergency Room facility on International Parkway.

- Sumter County: No updates.

- Volusia County: Councilmember Ed Kelley stated the latest county statistics showing the unemployment rate is 4.3 percent with the highest number of persons employed since 1990 (when record keeping started); a roundtable of elected officials from all 16 jurisdictions came together to share ideas and adopted a Resolution asking the County to add a ½ cent infrastructure tax to the ballot in November; just completed a very successful Bike Week and Daytona 500; continuing to have discussions with the SunRail Commission on some issues with the agreement; Mr. Jim Judge, the Volusia County Emergency Operations Center Director, received the Presidential Award from the Red Cross for his participation
and follow up on his response to the two hurricanes; Hard Rock Hotel in Daytona Beach opened; discussions continue on the design/build of the Volusia County Emergency Operations Center.

- Brevard County: Commissioner Barfield discussed how they are in the process of divesting themselves of three golf courses. Since one of them is owned by the County, they are able to turn it over to the Home Owners Association by abandoning it and then it reverts to the HOA, and the HOA can create a CDD and lease it back, then there won’t be any tax implications for the homeowners; parking for cruise lines is becoming an issue, the current Ordinance is not designed for long term overnight parking so they are going through the process to fix the issue; hope to have a manned launch in space within the next 18 months.
- Osceola County: No updates.

XI. **Announcements/Public Comments**

No Public Comments

XII. **Next Meeting**: May 16, 2018

XIII. **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, Commissioner Barfield adjourned the meeting at 11:56 p.m.