In Attendance:

**County Representatives:**
Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County
Commissioner David Moore, Marion County
Commissioner Emily Bonilla, Orange County
Commissioner Mayra Uribe, Orange County
Commissioner Peggy Choudhry, Osceola County
Commissioner Brandon Arrington, Osceola County
Commissioner Lee Constantine, Seminole County
Commissioner Amy Lockhart, Seminole County
Volusia Chair Ed Kelley, Volusia County
Council Member Billie Wheeler, Volusia County

**Municipal Representatives:**
Council Member Rocky Randels, Space Coast League of Cities (City of Cape Canaveral)
Council Member Dina Sweatt, Lake County League of Cities (City of Groveland)
Commissioner Jim Fisher, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Kissimmee)
Commissioner Chris Cloudman, Volusia League of Cities (City of DeLand)

**Gubernatorial Appointees:**
Mr. Jose A. Rivas, Orange County
Chair John Lesman, Seminole County

**Ex-Officio Members:**
Ms. Jean Parlow, Florida Department of Transportation (Alternate: Tina Williamson)
Ms. Susan Davis, St. Johns River Water Management District
Mr. William Graf, South Florida Water Management District

**Other Attendees:**
Mr. Ken Weyrauch, Marion County Growth Services
Mr. Juan Cantillo, Marion County Growth Services
Professor James Bacchus, University of Central Florida
Ms. Angela Corona, UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition
Ms. Michele Janiszewski, Lake County
Mr. Kevin Danko, Peach Key
Mr. Jeff Shoobridge, City of Groveland

**Members not in Attendance:**
Commissioner Bryan Lober, Brevard County
Commissioner Curt Smith, Brevard County
Commissioner Wendy Breeden, Lake County
Commissioner Jeff Gold, Marion County
I. **Call to Order and General Business**

- Chair Lesman called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.
- Ms. Parker called the roll and announced a quorum was present.
- Council Member Randels led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Chair Lesman introduced new Council Members to the Board:
  
  Commissioner Peggy Choudhry, Osceola County  
  Commissioner Brandon Arrington Osceola County  
  Commissioner Bryon Lober, Brevard County  
  Commissioner Curt Smith, Brevard County  
  Commissioner Mayra Uribe, Orange County  
  Commissioner Julian Green, Municipal Representative, City of Wildwood

II. **Consent Agenda**

- January 2019 Council Meeting Minutes
- December 2018 and January 2019 Financial Reports

As there were no objections to the two items on the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Fisher made a motion to approve. Council Member Dina Sweatt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion to approve the Minutes and the Financial Reports passed unanimously.

III. **Public Comments/Announcements**

There were no public comments at this time.
IV. **Presentation: 2019 Hazardous Material Symposium** – Ms. Michelle Cechowski, Emergency Preparedness Manager, ECFRPC

Ms. Michelle Cechowski, Emergency Preparedness Manager for ECFRPC, gave a presentation on the 7th Annual Florida Hazardous Materials Training Symposium held in January in Daytona Beach and the Volusia County Fire Rescue Training Facility. Statistics included 594 registrants compared to 428 last year. They came from several states besides Florida and as far away as Argentina. There were 57 training sessions conducted over 3-1/2 days including classroom, hands-on training and a HazMat Team Competition with 12 teams competing. The speaker at the Opening Ceremony was Colonel Danny Mc Knight.

V. **Presentation: The Role of UCF in Supporting the ECF Regional Resilience Collaborative** – Professor James Bacchus, Global Economic and Environmental Opportunity (GEEO) Director, University of Central Florida

UCF’s Center for Global Economic and Environmental Opportunity has committed to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council as an academic partner to its development of the East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative. Professor James Bacchus, Director of GEEO, noted participation in the collaborative is one of GEEO’s top priorities and will act as a conduit to the many academic resources in the resilience pillar areas of health + equity, built infrastructure + natural environment, and economic resilience.

VI. **Presentation: Marion County Update: 175 Years Young – Where Horses, Nature and People Meet** – Mr. Ken Weyrauch, Senior Planner and Mr. Juan Castillo, Planner II, Marion County

Mr. Ken Weyrauch and Mr. Juan Castillo discussed the history of Marion County leading up to the current statistics which now incorporates 1,663 square miles and a population of 357,133. Marion County is considered the horse capital of the world with 1,200 horse farms including 600 thoroughbred farms that have produced 45 national champions. The equine industry has made a significant impact on their economy creating approximately 19,000 full and part-time jobs. They also discussed their bio-diversity and ecological features including springs, forest, regional trails, Florida Scrub Jays habitats, and the Cross Florida Barge Canal.

VII. **2019 National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Conference Report** – Commissioner Lee Constantine

As the NARC-appointed Board of Directors At Large member, Commissioner Lee Constantine attended the Conference in Washington DC. He gave a brief summary of his schedule which included the General Session - What to Expect in 116th Congress; and breakout sessions on Transportation, Census, Broadband, Economic and Community Development. Commissioner Constantine also Chairs the Environmental Committee where they discussed water and wastewater management for the region and how aging water infrastructure has become an issue.

VIII. **Planning Director's Report**

Mr. Hugh Harling presented the Planning Director's report on behalf of Ms. McCue. He provided an overview of the New, Pending and Completed Projects in the Projects and Activities Report for January and February. New projects included the EDA SR 405 Economic Impact Analyses for $45,000, Orange County Public Schools Exercise with Emergency Management for $125,000, the International Drive Economic Impact Analysis for $4,000 with REMI modeling, the City of Coca DEO Grant for $20,000 and the FDEP City of Rockledge Resilience Project for $55,000. The
pending projects are Seminole County Local Mitigation Strategy, SR 441 Brownfields Assessment Grant, the Volusia and Melbourne Resilience Grants and the City of Dunnellon Survey and the Lake George Economic and Environmental Study.

IX. **Executive Director’s Report**

- **FRCA Update** – During the last meeting they discussed budgeting and requested funding from the State for an update to the Statewide Evacuation Study. Evacuation is a major health, safety, and welfare situation. FRCA met with the State and decided to seek funding for the evacuation study and not allocate money for unfunded mandates.

- Commissioner Arrington asked if the hurricane study will look into routes and connectivity to routes. Mr. Harling replied that they will be and also the problems that occurred during this last hurricane season when the state reversed lanes on the turnpike and all the many vehicles that used the medians which caused more problems. They are evaluating everything that impeded evacuation routes and making sure they are solved for the future.

X. **Chair’s Report**

ECFRPC 2018 Annual Report – Staff did great job putting together the annual report, with description of projects and fiscal situation. Questions can be directed toward staff.

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

- **Brevard County** – No representatives present.

- **Lake County** – Commissioner Parks discussed the Kroger announcement stating they have selected the City of Groveland for their second 375,000 SF Customer Fulfillment Center facility to be located at US 27 and American Way; the initial investment will be approximately $125-$150 million which will create 400-500 jobs with an average wage of $52,000; the City of Groveland and Lake County offered an incentive package and ground breaking will be later this year. The facility is expected to be operational in 2021. Lake County is looking to enact a one-year moratorium on major development in Green Swamp; they are looking at development guidelines for subdivisions for transferring density to higher growth areas in the county; Commissioners voted 3-2 to hold public hearings in April on the proposed moratorium until May 1, 2020 on major proposals; Lake County has a new logo.

- **Marion County** – Commissioner Moore stated they are looking into truck-dedicated lanes and other improvements to I-75 to help reduce a growing number of crashes; discussions concerning the Coastal Connector may be returning, residents don’t want the Connector to run through “Horse Country” and feel there are less destructive ways for transportation in the county; Marion County has established an animal abuse registry, known as Molly’s Law, which requires convicted offenders of animal abuse crimes to be placed on the animal abuser registry and also the database allows citizens, pet sellers, and rescues to verify that they are not placing an animal with an animal abuser. This needs to be a state-wide law instead of county-by-county as animal abuse is a public safety issue.
• Orange County – Commissioner Bonilla discussed the current expansion at the Convention Center and, when completed, it will be the second largest center in the US (Chicago). She stated that the Mayor of Edgewood, Mayor Bradshaw, recently passed away. There is a current project going on to preserve Pine Castle and to beautify historic areas.

• Osceola County – Commissioner Arrington discussed the proposed special referendum election to vote on a sales-tax increase to raise money for roads and transit systems, as well as sidewalk gaps. 40% of sales tax is paid by people who do not live within the county but they will be helping to pay for the roads. The Community has an imbalanced tax base and they need to look at in-fill opportunities including more of a mixture of industrial property to retain jobs and consider significant increases in park impact fees for residential development. The Silver Spurs Rodeo will be coming through town. Commissioner Peggy Choudhry stated they received a $2 million Highway Beautification grant from FDOT for the upgrading of the landscape along the west side of I-192, the tourist corridor. Approval was given to buy a building for the Sheriff’s office which will make emergency services more efficient. They are doing a study for autonomous cars on I-192; The Emergency Resource Center in Osceola County is working to mitigate the homeless.

• Seminole County – Commissioner Constantine stated that the county had two all-day retreats with head staff as well as the full Commission to look at the long-term vision for the county and major projects. He then discussed the recent tragic event at Lake Mary High School regarding a student. Commissioner Lockhart stated discussions were started between the sheriff’s department, the school district, county emergency management and the faith-based community to discuss support and the need for additional guidance counselors. She also discussed the Goldsboro Food Initiative and how the Council was instrumental in the community. Commissioner Constantine replied that the Healthiest Counties list came out this week and Seminole County was voted 3rd healthiest county in the state.

• Sumter County – No representatives present.

• Volusia County – Volusia Chair Kelley and Council Member Billie Wheeler discussed issues including infrastructure needs that are affecting the whole county. They are working with the Secretary of Transportation and government regarding funding sources and possible matching opportunities. They also passed the animal abuse registry for Volusia County and agreed that it needs to be a state law. Council Member Wheeler was appointed by the President of Florida Association of Counties to be on the new Water Policy Committee to work with the Governor’s Water Initiatives.

XII. Next Meeting: May 15, 2019, 10:30 a.m.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Chair Lesman adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.