In Attendance:

**County Representatives:**
Commissioner Bryan Lober, Brevard County  
Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County  
Commissioner Emily Bonilla, Orange County  
Commissioner Mayra Uribe, Orange County  
Commissioner Lee Constantine, Seminole County  
Council Member Billie Wheeler, Volusia County  
Volusia Chair Ed Kelley, Volusia County

**Municipal Representatives:**
Council Member Dina Sweatt, Lake County League of Cities (City of Groveland)  
Mayor Dale McDonald, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Maitland)  
Commissioner Jim Fisher, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Kissimmee)  
Mayor David Mealor, Tri-County League of Cities (City of Lake Mary)

**Gubernatorial Appointees:**
Chair John Lesman, Seminole County

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

**Other Attendees:**
Mr. Ken Weyrauch, Marion County  
Mr. Dan Zhu, Marion County  
Mr. David Bottomley, Orange County citizen  
Mr. Rocky Randels, Space Coast League of Cities  
Ms. Barbara Howell, FDEP/Wekiva  
Mr. Michel Brennan, HDR  
Mr. Trip Farmer, DEO  
Mr. Nick Lepp, MetroPlan Orlando  
Mr. Ken Odom, Marion County  
Mr. Mike Radzik, City of Groveland  
Mr. Harold Barley  
Ms. Jasmine Blais, MetroPlan Orlando  
Mr. Tim McClendon, Lake County  
Ms. Courtney Barker, Satellite Beach  
Ms. Jennifer Stults, FDOT/Turnpike  
Ms. Alyssa Hernandez, DEO  
Ms. Shelley Lauten  
Ms. Helen Miller, FDACS

**Members not in Attendance:**
Commissioner Jeff Gold, Marion County  
Commissioner David Moore, Marion County  
Commissioner Curt Smith, Brevard County  
Commissioner Wendy Breeden, Lake County  
Commissioner Peggy Choudhry, Osceola County  
Commissioner Brandon Arrington, Osceola County
Commissioner Amy Lockhart, Seminole County
Commissioner Garry Breeden, Sumter County
Commissioner Don Burgess, Sumter County
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando
Councilman Brent Malever, City of Ocala
Commissioner Chris Cloudman, Volusia League of Cities (City of DeLand)
Commissioner Julian Green (City of Wildwood)
Mr. Jose A. Rivas, Orange County
Mr. Aaron Watkins, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Mr. William Graf, South Florida Water Management District
Ms. Laura Kelley, Central Florida Expressway Authority

ECFRPC Staff in Attendance:
Attorney Jerry Livingston
Ms. Tara McCue
Ms. Jenifer Rupert
Ms. Julie Bowes
Mr. Fred Milch
Ms. Michelle Cechowski
Mr. Hugh Harling, Jr.
Ms. Kim Wilson
Mr. PJ Smith
Mr. John Patterson
Ms. Pegge Parker
Mr. Mark Reali

I. Call to Order and General Business

- Chair Parks called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.
- Ms. Parker called the roll and announced a quorum was present.
- Council Member Wheeler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Consent Agenda

- November 2019 Council Meeting Minutes
- October and November 2019 Financial Reports
- Resolution #01-2020 – Mr. Rocky Randels: Chair Parks presented the Resolution for his decades of public service including many years of service to the ECFRPC.
- Proclamation – National Census Day: A Census Proclamation concerning the importance of the 2020 Census and the need for complete participation by all residents in the region.
- “How Did We Grow” Plan Adoption

As there were no objections to the five items on the Consent Agenda, Council Member Kelley made a motion to approve and Mayor McDonald seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion to approve the Minutes, the Financial Reports, Resolution #01-2020, Proclamation – National Census Day, and the How Did We Grow Plan Adoption passed unanimously.

III. Public Comments/Announcements

There were no public comments at this time.

IV. Discussion: “How Did We Grow” – Advancing the Survey/Utilizing the Findings

Chair Sean Parks and Ms. Shelley Lauten

Chair Parks discussed getting back to long-term planning. He spoke about the growth in the region, the How Shall We Grow (HSWG) process, and the importance of polling. At the top of the list was growth, issues associated with growth management, and water. He discussed his use of
the information from the HSWG report for his previous interactions and policy decisions. He explained How Did We Grow (HDWG) is the next step and this information can be used in these types of conversations and decisions. He then introduced Ms. Shelley Lauten.

Ms. Shelley discussed the HDWG report and the great data and information included and the history of Central Florida. She recognized Mr. Harry Barley, former Executive Director of MetroPlan Orlando, and his contributions. She then discussed the huge regional leadership opportunity to be led by the ECFRPC.

Ms. Lauten recommended a four-point roll out with a potential timeline of approximately one year to 18 months:

1. Sharing the story – How the story telling may be different across counties, but can include major themes we all want to tell. She recommended formation of a leadership council to help put this plan together.
2. Inviting feedback - Use of the survey, and getting feedback by county. This will set up points number 3 and 4.
3. What do you want to do with the feedback? This is what will drive the direction of the Leadership Council.
4. The role of the Leadership Council to lead.

Commissioner Uribe stated that in Orange County, you can have various unrelated issues as you drive down the road and asked how to share the story in a positive, productive way. Ms. Lauten explained that while we have regional story points, we will have to customize each story and this is why it’s a leadership issue.

Ms. Lauten stated that some of the information can be taken down to a district level and it’s the leadership that needs to set goals. Discussions continued on “no growth” and how to compromise on density and preservation. Ms. Lauten talked about items that were added to the new report such as housing and poverty level which weren’t covered the last time. The next steps would be to approve the overall direction and form as well as participate in the Leadership Council. Commissioner Parks explained how this process makes sense and this is the Council’s opportunity to step forward in leadership and share information from across the region. It will take time and commitment but it will be purposeful. In the beginning, the Leadership Council would meet once a month to set the frame work and process for the first three months and then figure out the roll out plan from there.

Mayor MacDonald, Commissioners Uribe, Parks and Bonilla, Council Member Wheeler and Sweatt volunteered for the Leadership Council. Mayor Meelor asked if, to be on the Council, you had to be a member of the RPC or can we select someone not on the RPC. Commissioner Parks stated that we would prefer from the RPC. Mayor Meelor stated that Mr. Jordan Smith, a planner with the City of Sanford and the newest member of the Lake Mary City Commission, could provide input for better decisions. Commissioner Parks stated that we will reach out to those RPC members not in attendance today and will continue to have future opportunities.

Commissioner Bonilla made a motion to form the Leadership Committee and Council Member Wheeler seconded it. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.
V. Presentation: Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT)

Ms. Alyssa Hernandez, Mitigation Manager, Office of Disaster Recovery, Department of Economic Opportunity

Ms. Hernandez provided an overview on the Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation funding. She discussed the process is underway, the action plan and types of eligible projects. She stated more information can be found at www.rebuildflorida.gov.

There were questions and discussions concerning levees and whether making these structures higher would make sense. Ms. Hernandez stated that it could but the requirement is to not move too far beyond the original footprint. It would be necessary to check with HUD but if it doesn’t change the footprint, and it helps towards the resiliency of a project, that would make it eligible. Ms. Hernandez explained that they are not in the phase where they are looking at specific projects; they are finishing their action plan which is available for comments. If there are specific questions on specific projects, they can talk it through but they are not at that point. Mayor MacDonald asked whether outdated water and sewer lines would be eligible and Ms. Hernandez answered that they would be eligible.

Commissioner Bonilla asked how likely it would be to get a waiver for a private utility, using hurricane damage as an example. Ms. Hernandez stated that HUD would require them to do a waiver. She explained that they are going through a waiver process now asking for the whole State of Florida to be eligible for funding which is outside of the original plan because the entire state was not affected by those named storms. The DEO put forth a waiver with evidence requested by HUD. HUD will then review and determine if the waiver is accepted. During the public comment period, if it’s really important, you should put it into the public comment and have it documented to ensure all the evidence is included. Commissioner Parks asked if land development code updates are eligible projects and Ms. Hernandez confirmed they are.

To learn more information about disaster recovery and the different programs that are available, please visit rebuildflorida.gov, click on the mitigation panel and it will give you all the information, webinars, and frequently asked questions, and access to the draft action plan and a public comment form to fill out and send in. Commissioner Lober thanked the DEO for the easy accessibility.

Commissioner Parks then invited Ms. Jenifer Rupert, ECFRPC, to update the RPC on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting.

Ms. Rupert provided an overview of the first TAC meeting. The Risk and Vulnerability group met for first time last week and determined in the initial conversation that we do have similar regional concerns on how do we currently approach mitigation. It was decided that there needs to be coordination through all the State departments and that this body should take action and send a letter recommending that interagency coordination (DEP, DOT, DEM) happen as DEO goes through the process of reviewing projects. Commissioner Parks asked if the letter would come from the RPC and Ms. Rupert confirmed that it should. Council Member Wheeler made a motion recommending the letter and Commissioner Lober seconded it. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.
VI. **Presentation: M-CORES Program Overview**

*Ms. Jenife Stults, Planning & Environmental Management Administrator, Florida Turnpike*

Ms. Stults presented the M-CORES program and its focus. She provided background information on the corridors, coordination efforts, goals and ways they are addressing and engaging various sectors.

Commissioner Constantine addressed concerns about small communities fearing the loss of downtowns. This is not like the Wekiva Commission because it was a Governor’s Executive Order, not a legislative mandate. Legislation came after the recommendations. To protect the environment was a “shall” and not “if” we can. It was required that properties were bought before the road was built and much more time has been spent on the Wekiva Parkway. We did 25 miles which will be complete in 2022, 18 years later. You’re talking about 250 miles in 10 years. It is not the same. It is frustrating and very different.

VII. **Planning Director’s Report**

- Ms. Tara McCue announced two Sea Grant awards the RPC will be receiving through our partnerships. Our partners in the projects are: Stetson University, Cape Canaveral, Volusia County and extend to Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

- Mr. PJ Smith presented LOTIS, a GIS based tool which allows users to look at transportation and land use data through a single lens. As part of LOTIS, a series of land use and transportation ArcGIS applications have been developed with the goal of improving bicycle and pedestrian mobility, transportation network safety, location-intelligence and livability in Metro Orlando, culminating in specialized tools that analyze transportation network safety deficiencies and land use opportunities.

Commissioner Parks requested a presentation on LOTIS to Lake County and commended PJ on his efforts. The Council requested a copy of the presentation.

VIII. **Executive Director’s Report**

- Mr. Harling discussed the potential licensing/trademarking of LOTIS. He requested direction from the RPC on how to do this. Mr. Livingston discussed the potential of copyrights and trademarking. Commissioner Lober made a motion to move forward with trademarking to the extent possible and was seconded by Council Member Wheeler. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

- Commissioner Bonilla asked whether this is a trademark/license or patent issue protection. Mr. Livingston discussed the difficulty in obtaining a patent.

- FRCA Update – Mr. Harling stated that an item highlighted during the FRCA meeting was how hemp can be a big money crop in Florida and we will be studying that further.

IX. **Chair’s Report**

- Commissioner Parks provided a recap of the FRCA Policy Board and stated that it was a great meeting with great data. The threat to RPCs seems to be alleviated this year and we continue to stress the importance of the RPCs across the state.
X. **Public Comments**

- Mr. Tony Matthews discussed the importance of the 2020 Census and all the Proclamations.

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

- Brevard County – Commissioner Lober is the new Chair of the BOCC. The Sea Ray Drive Bridge is closed since before Hurricane Irma due to scouring. They approved spending $5 million to construct a new bridge, using half the funding from the CRA. The project takes into account water quality and resilience, and they are working with FDOT to elevate SR 528. Crosswalks continue to be a hot button issue specifically the flashing yellow lights and ambiguity of yellow or red lights. He also discussed public records requests which have increased over 60% in the past three years.
- Lake County – Chair Parks stated they have just opened a regional boat launch facility on Lake Minneola. They are looking at a registry of bed and breakfast (Air BNB) in Lake County and will be using Palm Beach County as a model. Also, they are initiating a housing study on how much multifamily housing is needed in the county.
- Marion County – No representative present for update.
- Orange County – Nothing to report.
- Osceola County – No representative present for update.
- Seminole County – Commissioner Constantine discussed short-term vacation rentals in Seminole County just as Lake County. Discussions included the possibility of business occupation licenses, and putting the money in for deposits for affordable housing. Seminole County is the first county in the State to do this. The Scottish Highland games are this weekend in Winter Springs. The River Cross project was voted down 4-1 by the Commission.
- Sumter County – No representative present for update.
- Volusia County – Council Member Wheeler stated there is now a statewide census committee and she is the co-chair of the Census Committee in Volusia County. They are not sure yet how the state committee will affect funding at the local level and Tony Matthews will follow up. They are stressing the importance of getting the message of the Census out to everyone.

XII. **Next ECFRPC Council Meeting:** March 18, 2020

XIII. **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, Chair Parks adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.