

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

April 24, 2017

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met on this date at its corporate office at 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, FL 33021. Chair Daubert called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Councilmember Patricia Asseff
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey (absent)
Councilmember Bruno Barreiro
Councilmember Margaret Bates
Councilmember Esteban Bovo (absent)
Councilmember Frank Caplan
Councilmember Daniella Levine Cava (absent)
Chair Tim Daubert
Councilmember Beam Furr
Councilmember Steve Geller (via phone)
Councilmember Cary Goldberg (absent)
Councilmember Nelson Hernandez (absent)
Councilmember George Neugent (absent)
Councilmember David Rice (absent)
Councilmember Greg Ross
Councilmember Michael Udine (via phone)
Councilmember Sandra Walters
Councilmember Jimmy Weekley

Isabel Cosio Carballo, Executive Director, and David Tolces, Legal Counsel, were present. Doug Smith, Chair, and Michael Busha, Executive Director of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) were present.

The following Ex-Officio Members were present:

Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District
Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI
Jennifer Smith, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The following Ex-Officio Member was not present:

The Honorable Roberto Martell, representing the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity / Mayor of the Town of Medley

This Meeting was convened as an Executive Committee Meeting due to lack of a quorum.

II. Approval of Council Agenda

The Agenda carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Daubert welcomed Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's Chair Doug Smith, and Executive Director Michael Busha.

TCRPC Chair Smith thanked the Council for the invitation to attend. He stated that Ms. Walczak had given this presentation to the TCRPC a few months ago, and thought that it was a topic that would be of interest to the SFRPC. He gave a brief detail on the Florida Reef Tract (FRT) along the Treasure Coast to Key Biscayne. Florida has the only continental coral reef in the United States.

III. Presentation

"The Florida Reef Tract" - Joanna C. Walczak, Southeast Regional Administrator, Florida Coastal Office, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)

Ms. Walczak stated that she is part of the Water Resource Management Division of FDEP which works in the areas of Everglades Restoration and Coastal Management. The Florida Reef Tract is located from the Dry Tortugas to Stuart in Martin County. Everglades Restoration is important to the offshore coral reef resources. Ms. Walczak explained the basic details of coral living conditions: light, consistent salt and pH levels, ability to be resilient, etc., and what occurs when their immune systems weaken. There are many factors that weaken their immune systems including, but not limited to, poor water flow connection or water quality, acidity in the water, the frequency and severity of thermal events, coastal construction, coastal pollution, invasive species, fishing, and other human impacts. Disease outbreaks usually consist of only a single disease affecting one or a few species of coral. The current outbreak is particularly concerning because trained surveyors, through in-water observations, report multiple diseases affecting a wide range of stony coral, octocoral, and sponge species across a large portion of the northern Florida Reef Tract. Observations of disease were reported near Key Biscayne in mid-2014. A year later, it spread through Miami-Dade County into Broward County and slowly made its way south through Biscayne National Park. This year, the outbreak extended north of Jupiter and was confirmed in the Upper Keys. The quick spread northward but slow spread southward is consistent with prevailing Gulf Stream currents indicating a possible waterborne disease. It is still unknown what caused the initial disease outbreak. These events are quickly destroying the coral reefs.

The Florida Reef Tract is essential to tourism, recreation, and fishing which is the basis for Florida's economy and lifestyle. Ms. Walczak informed the Council on how the declining coral and increase in algae have affected associated businesses. The Florida Reef Tract is the first line of defense for shorelines offering protection from tropical storms and erosion. There are multiple management entities across the Florida Reef Tract that are working collectively to save the coral reef. The State of Florida's Coral Reef Conservation Program is focused solely on the reefs north of Biscayne National Park in Miami-Dade County to St. Lucie Inlet, Martin County. This Program is a direct result of the establishment of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, which brings together federal and jurisdictional coral reef entities across the nation. The Task Force has elevated coral reef conservation as a national priority. At the jurisdictional level, we need to protect Southeast Florida's reefs for the benefit of the Nation. The Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative, primarily funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, along with the Coral Reef Conservation Program, are working together to develop and support the implementation of an effective strategy to preserve and protect Southeast Florida's coral reefs and associated reef resources. This work emphasizes the balance between resource use and protection, in cooperation with all entities involved. Ms. Walczak explained in detail the establishment of long-term monitoring, monitoring results, the "Local Action Strategy" implementation, and the possibility

of reseedling/transplanting the coral population. Our Florida Reefs Community Planning Process (OFR) was explained in detail: the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) management recommendations, inception, community outreach, meetings, etc. The SEFCRI and the OFR Working Groups consist of local, state, and federal agency representatives, the fishing and diving communities, academia, non-profit groups, private industry, and citizens at large from the four counties that helped craft the draft recommendations.

The Southeast Florida Coastal Ocean Task Force (COTF) was established in 2012 through enabling resolutions of the Boards of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin Counties. The Task Force was charged with providing recommendations for coastal ocean resources and conservation priorities and strategies. The Task Force is made up of elected officials and stakeholder representatives including Councilmembers Furr and Caplan, and TCRPC Chair Smith. The Task Force's comprehensive recommendations includes a recommendation for water quality monitoring. Long term management of the coral reef ecosystem, based on best available science and stakeholder involvement, is needed to keep the coral reefs as part of Florida and its economy. There are challenging decisions on water quality, coastal construction, fishing impacts, etc. that need to be considered. She requested that the Council consider looking at the various stakeholders' recommendations and how the SFRPC can help implement these recommendations.

TCRPC Chair Smith stated there is a funding request in the Legislature this year. Part of the funding would be for long-term water monitoring along the Florida Reef Tract. The second part is for funding the various entities for research. Representative Jacobs and Senator Farmer have introduced legislation proposing the creation of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area. He then explained the reasoning for the line item budget for future funding requests.

Councilmember Walters mentioned the Rescue a Reef Program, founded by Stephanie Shopmeyer and Dalton Hesley. The Program is through the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS). She explained the project, citizens' participation, and the Program's results. Public awareness and involvement is very important. Amendment 1 has a component for funding beach restoration. Councilmember Walters would love to see a steady funding source to support continuous monitoring of the coral reef on a long-term basis. Having long-term monitoring and citizens' involvement are important recommendations.

Councilmember Asseff questioned the water quality on the Florida Coast and beach renourishment. Councilmember Ross suggested this is an issue the Council should address. Councilmember Ross motioned to have a resolution in support to save the coral reef in any and all work associated there to. Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion.

Councilmember Furr suggested the resolution be made specific to the House Bill Representative Jacobs is presenting, and the Senate Bill presented by Senator Farmer. Councilmember Ross stated this should be represented in the resolution. The Bills refer to the water quality monitoring and the coordination of disease responses including additional sampling. He suggested the Council look at the overall recommendations to support the work of DEP and other entities involved.

Ms. Cosio Carballo stated the Bills are Senate Bill 1624 presented by Senator Farmer and House Bill 1143 (Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area) presented by Representative

Jacobs. Line item 1620 in SB 2500, General Appropriations Act, currently includes \$1 million for the Coral Reef Disease Water Quality Monitoring program. Ms. Cosio Carballo suggested a communications letter be sent. Councilmember Furr agreed the SFRPC should be a part of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Protection Area (the BOX).

Councilmember Caplan commented that the educational aspect of the Southeast Florida Coastal Ocean Task Force was super but it did not get out to the world. He inquired about a summary that could be shared with local constituents so they can benefit from this education. Councilmember Furr informed the Council on the various counties that have supported/passed these recommendations and the extensive work that was accomplished.

Ms. Walczak announced a Save the Date: August 7-11, 2017, for U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting at the Marriot Harbor Beach in Fort Lauderdale to discuss coral reef issues on a national level.

Councilmember Asseff suggested Senator Negrón be contacted regarding these issues. Senator Negrón was helpful to the City of Hollywood for the beach renourishment appropriation and feels his support would be beneficial.

TCRPC Chair Smith summarized the meetings, discussions, events, cooperation of entities, and being able to educate more people on this topic. The two important funding issues that need support are the long-term water quality research and the ability to join the agencies in sharing their information/research in understanding what can be done as immediately as possible. If the funding and the legislation passes this year, then next year other important issues can be brought forward. He thanked the Council and Ms. Walczak for their time.

Chair Daubert reiterated there is an amended motion from Councilmember Ross, the motion was seconded by Councilmember Asseff that was approved, there was discussion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

TCRPC Chair Smith raised that the ability to use offshore sand from foreign countries for beach renourishment is being discussed at the federal level and that this issue is important to South Florida. Councilmember Barreiro inquired if the RPCs have been involved in beach renourishment and what is happening in the Senate or Federal level on foreign sources of sand. TCRPC Chair Smith stated the Florida Association of Counties has elevated this issue at the National Association of Counties (NACO). Florida had great representation in January when it had language to support the offshore sand sourcing component that was introduced. TCRPC has moved in that direction as well. This is relative to the beach program of Southeast Florida. We all share the same discussion. Sand and a good beach program is needed for the economy to be successful. He encourages the TCRPC and the SFPRC to create a list of shared issues to work on together.

IV. Action Items

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting
Minutes from March 10, 2017

Councilmember Walters moved to approve the previous minutes. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Minutes from March 27, 2017

Councilmember Ross moved to approve the previous minutes. Councilmember Weekley seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

Rene Gonzalez, Financial Director, explained the Comparative Balance Sheet ending January 31, 2017. He explained the comparison between December 2016 and January 2017, and the cash position of the Council. He explained in detail the income statement: Revenue and Expense Report. He suggested increasing the Fund Balance to provide the necessary cash flow during the year. He suggested requesting a “fair share” from cities to provide an additional source of funding. This should be done quickly since the cities are currently having budget discussions. Chair Daubert stated that raising the County Fees should be seriously considered.

Councilmember Walters would like a list of the Federal, State, and Local funded projects, as well as, the Professional Consultants.

Councilmember Asseff moved to approve Agenda Item IV.B, Financial Report, Councilmember Walters seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

C. Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report

Councilmember Walters moved to approve Agenda Item IV.C. Intergovernmental Coordination. Councilmember Bates seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

D. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

Proposed

- Broward County 17-3ESR
- Islamorada, Village of Islands 17-3ACSC
- Town of Medley 17-1ER
- Village of Palmetto Bay 17-1ESR
- City of Pembroke Pines 17-1ESR
- City of Pembroke Pines 17-2ESR
- City of Pembroke Pines 17-3ESR
- City of Plantation 17-2ESR

Adopted

- City of Miami Beach 16-2ESR

Public Comment - none

Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.D, Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews, Proposed and Adopted, Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

E. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews – none

V. **Discussion Items**

A. Executive Director’s Report

Ms. Cosio Carballo asked the Councilmembers to review the Draft Agenda for the Council's Strategic Planning Retreat, set tentatively for June 8-9, 2017. The reason for this retreat is to have a conversation about the Council and its strategic direction. She would like to have confirmation today on the attendance. Most the Councilmembers present and on the phone, are available. Ms. Cosio Carballo went into the daily details of the retreat and requested ideas or comments from the Councilmembers.

Ms. Cosio Carballo would like to draft a letter to the South Florida Legislative Delegation on pending issues that are important to the Council such as funding for affordable housing and indemnity legislation for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. She detailed the funding information on the Sadowsky Trust Fund, Governor's Budget, and the House and Senate Budgets.

Ms. Cosio Carballo explained in detail the backup articles on the American Dream Miami that are part of the Councilmembers' packets. Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that it has been difficult this year to find a sponsor for the quorum by phone legislation. Ms. Cosio Carballo will be in discussion with Legal Counsel for guidance for next year.

B. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Tolces stated he has nothing to report and is happy to be attending today's meeting.

C. Ex Officio Reports

Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District reminded everyone that this is the dry season and the District is encouraging local governments to encourage their constituents to adhere to the two day a week watering. The second Thursday of the month is the Governing Board Meeting; decisions will be made on water restrictions at this meeting.

Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI informed the Councilmembers of the Miami-Dade County Planning / Transit Session on April 25, 2017 in Miami-Dade County. On April 26, 2017, a meeting will be held in Monroe County to discuss the 5-year Work Program, other planning projects, and identifying the issues for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties accordingly. There will be decisions made on whether to include other transit agencies on certain projects. Those attending will be representatives from other agencies and municipalities. Chair Daubert requested information on these meetings. Mr. Huynh stated he will send all meeting information to all the Councilmembers. Mr. Huynh stated the Draft Complete Streets Handbook will be out and will send the link to the Councilmembers.

Jennifer Smith, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection announced that the FDEP will be having their second Open House for the Southeast District on June 21, 2017. There will be training sessions, presentations and instructions on their on-line tools and document management system, and booths representing their programs. Representatives from Tallahassee will be sharing information on grant funding, the State Revolving Fund and similar funding information. Ms. Smith invited the Councilmembers to attend and will send the Save the Date information to them. Their location is at the SFWMD.

VI. Program Reports and Activities

- A. Revolving Loan Fund Reports
 - 1) SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report
- B. Development of Regional Impact Status Review Report - information only

VII. Announcements and Attachments

- A. Attendance Form, Correspondence, and Articles
- B. Upcoming Meetings
 - 1) May 22, 2017, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC Offices, Hollywood)
 - 2) June 26, 2017, 10:30 a.m. (TBD)
 - 3) July 24, 2017, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC Offices, Hollywood)

VIII. Councilmember Comments

Councilmember Furr stated that there was a meeting regarding the airport, the Master Plan Update, the location of a Brightline Station at the airport, the location of the people mover and the cost of rail going over or under the New River.

There was discussion on tentatively moving the Monroe County Council Meeting from May to June because the Session in Tallahassee may not be over by the end of May. Ms. Cosio Carballo suggested Senator Flores and Representative Raschein revisit the Council Meeting in Monroe County.

IX. Public Comments – none

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct minutes for the April 24, 2017 meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 22nd day of May, 2017.

Daniella Levine Cava, Secretary

Date