

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

May 22, 2017

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met on this date at its corporate office at 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, FL 33021. Acting-Chair Caplan called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said prior to the Southeast Florida Prosperity Institute Meeting.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Isabel Cosio Carballo, Executive Director, and Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, were present.

The following Ex-Officio Members were present:

Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District
Curlene Thomas for Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI

The following Ex-Officio Member was on the phone:

Jennifer Smith, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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

II. Approval of Council Agenda

Councilmember Ross moved to approve the Council Agenda. Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

III. Presentation

“Florida’s Water Challenge” - Frank. Bernardino, Florida Water Advocates

Acting-Chair Caplan introduced Frank Bernardino and updated the Council on his professional background.

Mr. Bernardino noted that Commissioner Adam Putnam, one of the most articulate state officers interested in the importance of water and the need to commit to water’s protection and sustainability, commissioned the Water 2070 Study with the cooperation of the University of Florida and 1000 Friends of Florida. By 2070, the state’s need for water will double and will be a significant challenge for Florida’s future. Implementing strategies related to land use management and water use and conservation will help reduce this projected need. Mr. Bernardino stated this is a recognized national crisis and shared various website information. In the last four to five years some states have taken significant steps to dedicate funding to assist local governments in addressing this challenge. The general emphasis, in Florida, has historically been the restoration of natural systems (rivers, everglades, lakes, springs and estuaries). The other priorities are the development of alternative water supplies to support sustainable economic growth, and, in the future, repairing or replacing aging infrastructure. Mr. Bernardino provided detail on the financial costs needed to satisfy Florida’s future water demands (drinking water, wastewater, maintenance programs, Numeric Nutrient Criteria Rule compliance, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and coastal infrastructure replacement). These numbers did not include sea level rise. He spoke about the sources of revenue that address water resources: Water Management Districts (WMD) Funding Assistance and State Appropriations. He explained in detail the changes that impacted the WMDs’ ability to achieve certain objectives. He clarified that the WMDs are collecting 50% less of the revenues than in previous years, and discussed the impact of the new Homestead Tax Exemption if approved by the voters, and the impact to the local cost share opportunities for local governments. Mr. Bernardino explained the Florida Water Protection and Sustainability Program enacted in 2005 (SB 444), the projects, and the impact the recession had on the Program. The State’s average investment in water infrastructure has been .04 of 1% of the State Budget. The PowerPoint included the FY 2017/18 Budget Highlights (Everglades Restoration, Northern Everglades Restoration, Everglades Funding in SB 10, Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern, and Water Projects), and the South Florida County and Municipal Water Projects. He reminded the Council that that the Governor has not acted on the Budget, so these numbers may change. Additional significant investments of the FY 2017-2018 Budget are the Osborne Reef Restoration, Petroleum Tanks Cleanup Program, Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan Programs, Local Parks and WMDs Minimum Flows and Levels support. The Office of Economic Demographics and Research (EDR) prepares an annual estimate of the State’s water infrastructure needs. An audit on the economic impact on the water infrastructure needs of the State will now be required. He suggested the RPCs be a conduit for the communities represented to verify the information given to the State is accurate. Collaboration with the Florida Association of Counties, League of Cities, and the RPCs would ensure that counties and cities help the local State legislative delegations understand their regional needs. In addition to understanding drinking and wastewater challenges, long term strategies will need to be developed on how to address the impacts associated with weather resiliency / sea level rise. Mr. Bernardino explained SB 10 relating to water resources and the main themes, acquisition of lands in Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), modification / termination of EAA leases, water storage south of Lake Okeechobee, funding for implementation of SB 10, revisiting component G of CERP (Option A and B), Project Implementation Report, mitigation

of impacts to employment, funding, etc. Other provisions of SB 10 are Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule, Water Storage Facility Revolving Loan, and Water Protection and Sustainability Program.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the SFWMD budget. Mr. Bernardino stated that most of WMDs' budget is tied to statutorily required programs. Their discretionary budget is small. Ex-Officio Member Laura Corry stated the funding amount is still being reviewed by the Governor. Councilmember Asseff inquired if there are any examples of cities (that are the regional water suppliers) privatizing their water departments. Mr. Bernardino stated that Florida Water Advocates has not done a study but is familiar with the issue. The choice to privatize is the local government's business decision. He explained the various models and examples, including buying and working the system to make it productive. There were inquiries and explanations on ocean outfall, C-51, Advanced Water Treatment, level of water treatment for the human health and safety issue, the various water providers in an area or one water authority that provides for many local governments, and the various models of Canada's privatization of their water sector (which has been successful). The decision to privatize or not would be model specific. Councilmember Cava inquired about the responses on the Antarctica ice sheet. Mr. Bernardino stated that for the first time, the Florida House of Representatives had a workshop on sea level rise and resiliency and the Florida Senate will have a workshop next year. The focus and attention will be toward the policy makers on the solutions. Mr. Bernardino thinks the state legislature will be doing more to help communities facing this challenge. Councilmember Barreiro explained that when Miami-Dade County consolidated their water systems the rates became lower. He feels the issue of desalinization should be considered, along with sea level rise and elevating infrastructure. Mr. Bernardino stated that because the cost of desalinization is immense, it is beyond the capacity of the local governments to fund this type of project. He stated there are professionals that would be happy to share their experiences with the Councilmembers and throughout the country. Ex-Officio Member Laura Corry invited everyone to attend the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) Meeting or via computer. Various water issues are discussed in detail. The 56 members of WRAC are appointed by the Governing Board. Past meetings can be viewed on their website. Acting-Chair Caplan thanked Mr. Bernardino for his presentation.

IV. Action Items

Councilmember Bailey recused himself from voting on the City of Miami Gardens 17-1 ESR and 17-2ESR amendments due to a conflict of interest.

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes from April 24, 2017

Councilmember Ross moved to approve the minutes from April 24, 2017. Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Minutes from May 15, 2017

Councilmember Asseff moved to approve the minutes from May 15, 2017. Councilmember Barreiro seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

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

C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

Proposed

- Broward County 17-4ESR
- City of Deerfield Beach 17-1ESR
- City of Miami Gardens 17-2ESR

Adopted

- Broward County 17-1ESR
- Town of Cutler Bay 16-2ESR
- City of Miami Gardens 17-1ESR
- City of Miramar 17-1ESR

Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.C, Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews, Proposed and Adopted, except the City of Miami Garden's amendments, Councilmember Walters seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Councilmember Walters moved to approve Agenda Item IV.C, Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews, Proposed and Adopted, for the City of Miami Garden's amendments, Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Public Comment – none

Mr. Goren, Legal Counsel, stated for the record that Councilmember Bailey recused himself from voting on the City of Miami Gardens amendments due to a conflict of interest.

D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews – none

V. **Discussion Items**

A. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Cosio Carballo noted there is a Florida League of Cities Summary as part of today's Agenda Package which includes the legislative review. The SFRPC retreat will be at the Council Office on June 8, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. The Treasure Coast and South Florida Regional Planning Councils are having a meeting June 12, 2017 regarding US Highway 27, and its potential to be utilized as a regional/statewide freight rail corridor, at the SFRPC Office. There is a Policy Board Meeting June 30, 2017 in West Palm Beach. Ms. Cosio Carballo shared information on the Council's finances and that Council staff has been working a 32-hour work week. The subject of increasing County dues was mentioned and decided this should be discussed at the retreat. There was an explanation on the issue of a physical quorum being required to conduct business and the continued pursuit of this legislation to achieve a quorum via phone/video conferencing. Ms. Cosio Carballo informed the Councilmembers about the office lease and the technical upgrade of the conference room (the conference room is a shared space). Juan Rojas is an independent contractor who has been hired to manage the Revolving Loan Program. Councilmember Cava suggested the seagrass die off in the Florida Bay as a topic for future discussion. Councilmember Walters stated that the marine sanctuary in the Keys has some of the most advanced information. It was suggested this topic be part of the June meeting in Key Largo.

B. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren reiterated about the June 8, 2017 workshop. There is no litigation to report.

C. Ex Officio Reports

Ms. Thomas, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI, stated that the draft document on Complete Streets Manual was distributed in April 2017. It was sent to the Councilmembers for comments. Comments can be done via survey on the website flcompletestreets.com by May 26, 2017.

Ms. Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District, requested the Councilmembers attend or watch the WRAC and/or the Governing Board Meetings. They are held on the second Thursday of the month.

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) June 26, 2017, 10:30 a.m. (TBD)

2) July 24, 2017, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC Offices, Hollywood)

3) September 25, 2017 a. m. (SFRPC Offices, Hollywood)

VIII. Councilmember Comments

Councilmember Bailey inquired about Angela Dawson's two loans and information on the negotiation. He also asked what type of school is Artz Excelsior. The school is a charter school.

Councilmember Cava suggested the SFRPC become coordinators for water jurisdiction / supply issues.

IX. Public Comments – none

X. Adjournment

Councilmember Ross moved to Adjourn. Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

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 May 22, 2017 meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 26th day of June, 2017.

Daniella Levine Cava, Secretary

Date