

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes

July 6, 2015

South Florida Regional Council met on this date at the South Florida Regional Council, 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, FL 33021. Chair Walters called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. and asked Councilmember Wallace to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Councilmember Patricia Asseff
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey
Councilmember Margaret Bates
Councilmember Mark Bogen (absent)
Councilmember Frank Caplan
Councilmember Daniella Levine Cava
Councilmember Tim Daubert
Councilmember Cary Goldberg (absent)
Councilmember Nelson Hernandez
Councilmember Martin Kiar (via phone)
Councilmember George Neugent (absent)
Councilmember David Rice (absent)
Councilmember Stacy Ritter (absent)
Councilmember Greg Ross
Councilmember Xavier Suarez (absent)
Councilmember Paul Wallace
Chair Sandra Walters
Councilmember Jimmy Weekley (via phone)

Mr. David Tolces, Legal Counsel was present.

The following Ex-Officio Members were present:

Ms. Aileen Boucle, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI
Ms. Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District

The following Ex-Officio Member was absent:

Ms. Jill Creech, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

II. Approval of Council Agenda

Council Agenda was amended to move Agenda Item V.A.1) and 2) Regional Convening to be presented after Agenda Item III.E. Regional Issues.

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

III. Action Items

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councilmember Asseff moved to approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

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

C. Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report

Councilmember Asseff moved to approve Agenda Item III.C, Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

D. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

- Broward County 15-6ESR
- Broward County 15-7ESR
- Town of Davie 15-2ESR
- City of Doral 15-2ESR
- City of Doral 15-3ESR
- City of Hialeah 15-1ESR
- City of Hialeah 15-2ESR
- City of Hialeah 15-3ER
- City of Hialeah 15-4ESR
- Islamorada, Village of Islands 15-2ACSC
- City of Miami 15-3ESR
- City of Oakland Park 15-2ESR
- City of Opa-Locka 15-1ESR
- City of West Park 15-1ESR

Councilmember Bailey moved to separate the Cities of Opa-Locka and West Park from the Consent Items due to a conflict of interest. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item III.D, Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews not including the Cities of Opa-Locka and West Park. Councilmember Bailey seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item III.D, Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews the Cities of Opa-Locka and West Park. Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

E. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews - None

V. Program Reports and Activities

A. Regional Convening - Topics

1) Everglades Restoration

Speaker: Thomas M. Teets, AICP, Division Director, Office of Everglades Policy & Coordination SFWMD

Ex-Officio Member Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) introduced Thomas Teets who has been with the SFWMD for 27 years. She stated that he is present to update the Council on the Everglades Restoration Progress.

Mr. Teets stated that he had worked with Mr. Murley for many years on some of these issues on a regional basis. In his PowerPoint, he updated the Council on Everglades Restoration Progress and explained in detail the history. He started his presentation with the Projects north of Lake Okeechobee with the Kissimmee River Restoration that was authorized in 1992 and explained the 25 year process. He talked about the concerns regarding the quality of, and amount of water flowing into Lake Okeechobee. He explained in detail the Lakeside Ranch Storm Treatment Area (STA).

Councilmember Cava inquired if the SFWMD was concerned about herbicides in the water system.

Mr. Teets stated that the waters are being tested for herbicides and there is no evidence of herbicides.

Mr. Teets explained in detail the St. Lucie Estuary, the C-44 Reservoir and Storm Treatment Areas, restoration strategies for various areas, the storage reservoirs, flow equalization basins, and the quality of water flowing into and out of the STA. He explained Lake Okeechobee's water quality, the levees, the walls and culvert replacements and the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir.

Chair Walters stated that the Jacksonville Corps of Engineers website contains information regarding their various projects and future projects. She suggested the Councilmembers visit their website.

Mr. Teets continued with his PowerPoint and explained the Picayune Strand Restoration Project, Broward County Water Preserve Areas and water seepage control. He explained the advantages between having water storage and/or a pumping station; the need for more storage and filtration areas. Mr. Teets described the Tamiami Trail Next Steps and the future projects; the C-111 West Spreader Canal that is helping to reduce seepage out of the Everglades National Park. He talked about the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, and the Central Everglades Planning Project future plans.

Councilmember Wallace stated that the progress of the Everglades Restoration should be made known to the public. Mr. Teets agreed and stated that progress is being made and a lot happening.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the funding challenges. Mr. Teets answered that it is progressing.

Councilmember Cava stated that one other issue is salt water intrusion. She stated that there is not enough discussion regarding the flow protecting our freshwater and thinks this issue should be made aware to the public.

2) Amendment 1

Speaker: Eric Draper, Executive Director, Audubon Florida

Chair Walters introduced Eric Draper and stated that they had met while she was serving on the Acquisition and Restoration Council, the Board that oversees the Florida Forever Project. She commended Mr. Draper for seeing the big picture and shares the concept that it's "the people and the environment" not "or the environment".

Mr. Draper congratulated Chair Walters on her business' success and her dedication to the Florida Forever Project. He also spoke well of the SFWMD for their Everglades effort and that it deserves more credit.

Mr. Draper stated that he is heavily involved with the Everglades issues. He explained there are Audubon offices, staff and scientists located at all corners of South Florida including the Everglades. He explained the various studies the scientists are working on such as saline levels, fresh water, Lake Okeechobee, habitats, and sanctuaries in the Everglades and other South Florida related issues.

Ex-Officio, Laura Corry stated that once the flow equalization basins are finished in the reservoirs it will hold back more water than before and the progress of those operations will be noticed. She explained "an acre foot of water" and "flow equalization basin" for the Councilmembers.

Mr. Draper stated that in November 2014, 75% - 4.2 million votes - of Floridians voted yes on Amendment 1 for land acquisition and explained funding for the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. He explained the 2010 legislative support for conservation spending and how state regulations effected environmental spending in Florida. He mentioned the SFWMD budget cut of one third which created problems. He explained the documentary stamp tax process. He stated that there was muted opposition from the Florida Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Draper explained the environmental groups funding proposal for Amendment 1 and the legislature's funding decision on the budget. He commented on the springs' issues: Indian River Lagoon; the US Sugar purchase; finishing the Florida Forever Program Projects; and the Water Bill, which was supposed to be a comprehensive look at the Florida Water Policy. He stated this was the background of the Legislative Session. He informed the Council in detail the final budget spending and mentioned that \$100 million from Amendment 1 was shifted over to existing agency operations. He stated that the Water Policy Bill was not passed; there is no funding for the moving water south at the SFWMD. He informed the Council that there could be legal challenges on the Appropriations Bill and on the implementation of legislation decisions concerning Amendment 1.

Mr. Draper talked about the SFWMD and how the millage rate cutback has affected their reserve funding even though the SFWMD must maintain their responsibilities. He stated that all the local governments rely on the SFWMD regarding canals, flood protection and water supply issues.

Mr. Draper explained how the Florida Forever Program historically provided money to help the water management district with water projects, state parks, forests and wildlife management areas. He stated that there should be discussions regarding parks with local governments and Regional Councils who used to have a role in helping to provide open space and parks. He is appealing to the Councilmembers as representatives of various agencies and local governments to be aware of this concern next year. There was discussion on local parks, beaches, maintenance

responsibilities and the local governments' knowledge of funding through the legislation. The Chair thanked Mr. Draper for his time and travel from Tallahassee.

Discussion opened to the public in which Nancy Lee, 20448 NE 34th Court, Aventura, Florida stated that she voted for Amendment 1 and thought the funding would be for environmental land purchase and realized that it was not. She did not feel that local parks were as important.

F. FY 2015-16 Membership Fees

Councilmember Asseff moved to approve Agenda Item III.F, FY 2015-16 Membership Fees. Councilmember Bates seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

G. FY 2014-15 Budget Amendment

Ed McGann of Council staff explained the budget differences. He highlighted the Nonrecurring Professional Services and miscellaneous expenses.

Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item III.G, FY 2014-15 Budget Amendment. Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Councilmember Cava is concerned about the pre-spending on a budget when funds may not be available with the anticipation of grants coming in. She stated that a four day work week is not sustainable or advisable in which to operate and it is a great hardship for staff.

Chair Walters explained the budget analysis and the decisions based on the projections. She stated that Council staff has exceeded those expectations routinely.

Mr. Murley stated the decision of a four day work week versus letting employees go was made as a group decision and that staff has cut back considerably on expenses. He agreed that this affects Council staff with great difficulty.

Councilmember Asseff informed the Councilmembers that she had been on the Board for 13 years and during that time there have been many cutbacks. She commented that the Council staff is great, have not had significant raises in years, are dedicated and will work the fifth day if requested.

H. FY 2015-16 Draft Operating Budget

Mr. Murley explained the Draft Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year starting October 1, 2015. He stated that it depicts the challenge of not having the State appropriation, cutting expenses and trying to raise revenues. He stated that with the State appropriation it would have given staff a five day work week with a 5% raise.

Councilmember Cava inquired if the Council has a fund raising committee. Mr. Murley stated that there is not a specific committee. He stated that the Executive Committee has been utilized along with the Councilmembers on specific programs. Mr. Murley informed the Council that Councilmember Asseff has participated by bringing in funding for the Clean Cities Program. It was decided to continue the fund raising conversation later.

Councilmember Wallace commented the Council should reorient itself as a more local board rather than a state functioning Board. He stated that the Council should try to approach county

governments since the RPC is a more local organization and identify what we have to offer. He suggested the Council replace the \$300K in state funds with local funds and the Council should be funded on a local level rather than grants.

Councilmember Bailey stated that the Legislature is fully behind the RPCs regarding funding; the Governors' veto message was that this appropriation does not show a statewide impact.

Councilmember Asseff stated that the RPC from Boston is self sufficient; they are not supported by their State. She explained that most of the RPCs throughout the country are not supported by their state governments. She informed the Council that seven years ago the Clean Cities Program became self sufficient by requesting membership dues, etc. She stated the Council has to continue looking for new ideas and new work such as the new mall, Revolving Loan Fund and the CDFI. She does not feel pessimistic and feels the Council's work is very important. She suggested the Councilmembers should attend other meetings hosted by this Council, such as Clean Cities.

Chair Walters stated that the new website will convey the Council's information more informatively and future email blasts should include the Boardmembers.

Mr. Murley stated Council staff will move forward on this suggestion.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Executive Committee Report

B. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Murley informed the Council about events that have recently happened, such as the co-sponsoring with Beacon Council and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance regarding the economic impact on our military bases. He stated that this will be an opportunity to continue to work with our economic development partners and the military. He stated that Isabel Cosio Carballo is continuing work with the CitiBank Foundation, a separate funding opportunity, on a data needs model from Broward County and share with Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Murley informed the Council on the Southeast Florida Community Development Financial Fund, a separate legal entity, in which Councilmember Asseff is a Boardmember, was asked to submit a Request for Proposal to be the loan operator for a new program funded by the Florida Legislature (a line item that was not vetoed) and the Request for Proposal was issued to the Broward County Urban League. He explained the loan funding and match amount. He stated the Council was chosen to be the Loan Servicer and we have signed the contract with Broward County Urban League. He stated that this will meet a need identified by both our business community and local governments to provide capital to small businesses in our region. He stated he will be reporting its progress to the Councilmembers. He informed the Councilmembers that the SFRPC RLF Program has paid its way for the Council which is the kind of income stream that allows for stable future funding. He informed the Councilmembers that we continue to receive state agencies grants, such as the grant from the Department of Economic Opportunity for \$110K which was raised to \$160K because our reporting mechanisms are excellent. He wants the Councilmembers to know that we are committed to making this program relevant to the needs of this Region.

Councilmember Asseff stated that all the Councilmembers' help will be needed to involve the banks in this program and explained the details. She stated that this SCDFI Program funding was secured because the RLF Program is so successful.

- 1) Downtown Miami Development of Regional Impact Increment III
- 2) Americas' Dream Mall

Mr. Murley stated that the Council is actively involved with FDOT and Miami-Dade County and information regarding the Mall will be on the Agenda monthly.

Councilmember Cava would prefer the Mall to be referred to as the "Mega Mall".

Councilmember Asseff stated she would like to hear Miami-Dade County's opinion on the Mega Mall.

Chair Walters thanked the Councilmembers for their interest in the Regional Convening; there are such critical issues; she appreciates their questions and involvement with today's speakers who came out of their way to be here.

C. Legal Counsel Report

David Tolces, Legal Counsel stated he had nothing to report.

D. Ex Officio Reports - none

V. **Program Reports and Activities**

A. Regional Convening - Topics
Presented earlier in the Agenda

B. Revolving Loan Fund Reports

- 1) SFRC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report

C. Emergency Preparedness Program Status Report

D. Florida Regional Councils Association

- 1) FRCA Monthly Accomplishments
- 2) FRCA Legislative Update

VI. **Announcements and Attachments**

A. Correspondence and Attendance Form

B. Upcoming Meetings

- 1) September 9th, 10:30 a.m. (SFRC Offices, Hollywood)
- 2) October 5th, 10:30 a.m. (SFRC Offices, Hollywood) – Executive Committee
- 3) November 2nd, 10:30 a.m. (MENC, Key Largo)
- 4) December 7th, 10:30 a.m. (SFRC Offices, Hollywood) – Executive Committee

VII. **Councilmember Comments**

VIII. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct minutes for the July 6, 2015 meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL adopted the 9th day of September, 2015.

Patricia T. Asseff, Secretary

Date