

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

June 26, 2017

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met on this date at the Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037. Chair Daubert called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Manny Cela, SFRPC Deputy Director, and Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, 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

The following Ex-Officio Member was not present:

Jennifer Smith, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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

Chair Daubert recognized Rhonda Haag, Monroe County Sustainability Program Manager. Ms. Haag then acknowledged Lisa Sheldon, a Doctoral Researcher at Ulster University in Northern Ireland. Ms. Sheldon stated she is exploring individual/community perceptions on flood mitigation action, awareness, preparedness and resilience to help communities in Northern Ireland for her primary thesis.

II. Approval of Council Agenda

Motion was carried by a unanimous consent.

III. Presentation

- The Honorable Holly Raschein, State Representative, District 120

Chair Daubert introduced the Honorable Holly Raschein, State Representative, District 120. Representative Raschein gave a synopsis of Senate Bill 10, the session process, and Florida Forever. Other topics discussed were vacation rentals, local/state planning for the future, the Community Redevelopment Agency Bill, homestead exemption, taxes, and local government / state wide regulations.

- The Honorable Heather Carruthers, Monroe County Commission, District 3;
“Climate Change, Sea-Level Rise and Flood Insurance: Impacts on Local Government”

Commissioner Carruthers shared the PowerPoint she presented at the Congressional House Climate Solutions Caucus which currently consists of 40 members; approximately 10% of the House membership. She summarized information regarding the Florida Keys, including residents, visitors, tax revenue, fisheries, and military training grounds. Information was provided on the problems of sea level rise, climate change and the need to find solutions. Local governments will be responsible for the issues relating to sea level rise and climate change. Monroe County has joined various organizations related to sea level rise and climate change (Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, Sustainability Action Plan, etc.). The County is preparing for the County’s future in the context of sea level rise and climate change. Activities include, but are not limited to, updating local government comprehensive plans to address sea level rise and climate change, data analyses, road adaptation analysis, identifying mitigation needed to rebuild public infrastructure, identifying other vulnerabilities, and budgeting resources needed to address these challenges. In 2016, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Grant was awarded to undertake the sea level rise analysis of road adaptation through detailed modeling. Budgeting for road adaptation and elevation is dependent on the local governments. This is also related to property values and property tax revenue. Not all local governments can afford to update their road systems. There is a need for federal government leadership and sharing of resources to ensure that roadways and bridges are maintained so that the economy can continue to thrive. Increased flood insurance premiums, and the negative impact on property values and local tax revenues which pay for sea level rise adaptation and emergency response to severe weather, will force the working families away from the coast. Commissioner Carruthers explained the Community Rating System, cost benefits, and activities that can reduce premiums. She believes we need to have sustainable flood insurance programs that support mitigation efforts. Coastal areas are not the only areas with flooding problems. She stated that there should be a way to create affordable flood insurance programs to mitigate against damage and consider long-range planning for the future.

- Steve Davis, Ph.D., Everglades Foundation; “The Health of Florida Bay”

Dr. Davis is involved with Florida Bay and Everglades Restoration. He summarized the historic and current flow of water north of Lake Okeechobee which is distributed in various directions. There was an explanation of freshwater flow as well as the effects that rainfall, evaporation, salinity balance, flow amounts, drought, etc., have on Florida Bay and sea grass die-off. The presentation contained a timeline of sea grass die-off, zombie grass, turbid water and algal blooms. There are signs of recovery but there is a long way to go before Florida Bay is restored. Hopefully we can prevent these types of disasters from occurring again. Everglades Restoration is the solution to this problem. The Comprehensive Everglades

Restoration Plan (CERP) was signed into law in 2000. One of the key components of CERP is to bring a clean flow of water south from Lake Okeechobee and store it. He explained CERP's Plan for water flow, surface storage, reservoirs, levees, and storage. There was conversation on the reservoir system and how to ensure that the water meets high quality standards before flowing south to Florida Bay. Discussion ensued on water treatment projects over the last 20 years and the State's responsibilities to address these environmental issues.

- Eric Buck, Manager, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, Florida Coastal Office, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); "Biscayne Bay and Seagrass Die-off"

Mr. Buck gave a brief rundown on Biscayne Bay. It is approximately 70,000 acres with 14 municipalities along its border and 40 islands. It is protected by an Aquatic Preserve and National Park, and is part of the Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades Watershed, etc. DEP protects our air, water and land through three programs: Regulatory Programs, Land and Recreation, and Water Policy and Ecosystem Restoration. He mentioned the Florida Coastal Office and the four million acres in its jurisdiction. There were slides of the Julia Tuttle Basin over 2011-2017 depicting seagrass die-off that has accelerated the loss of fish habitat and an increase in turbidity from loose sediments. There was a timeline linking the macroalgal bloom in the Bay to the canals near Coral Gables; the seagrass decline and finding cyanobacteria; a draft report suggesting a connection of previously dense seagrass growth to low canal freshwater input; and salinity change exacerbated by sea level rise beginning in 2010. Councilmember Cava stated she was very thankful to the presenters today.

- James W. Fourqurean, Ph.D., Professor, Florida International University Department of Biological Services and Southeast Environmental Research Center; Director, Marine Education and Research Initiative for the Florida Keys

Mr. Fourqurean stated the seagrass loss in Biscayne Bay and Florida Bay are similar by the effects they have on the ecosystem. Seagrass loss is seen around world. One of the differences between the Biscayne Bay and Florida Bay is the path of the water to each Bay. High salinity alone is not killing the seagrass in the Florida Bay; it is hot water with salinity, along with the lack of oxygen. He explained the history and timeline of the seagrass die-off that occurred before the algae blooms in the Florida Bay and the effects this had on coral, fish, crustaceans, people, and jobs. The PowerPoint slides depicted graphs/lessons on the core salinity; yearly rainfall; oxygen solubility; sulfide toxicity; sulfate; sponge die-off; the effects of hot, salty water; nutrient limitations; various sediments; chlorophyll; and epiphytes coverings, and how each affects the two Bays. The similarities are relatively high nutrient availability, dense seagrass coverage, and fine grained sediment. The differences are that there is no increase in nutrients or algae in Florida Bay, and no large hypersalinity trigger in Biscayne Bay. Florida Bay seagrasses died from inside of the seagrass outward and Biscayne Bay the seagrass is dying from out-in. There is *Thalassia* in Florida Bay vs. *Syringodium* in Biscayne Bay. The conclusion is that the mechanism killing the seagrass could be the same, but the triggers are different. Discussion ensued regarding phosphorous, bacteria, septic tanks, fertilizers, saltwater intrusion, the aquifer, and the effects they have on the Florida Bay/Biscayne Bay and possible solutions.

IV. Action Items

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

B. Financial Report

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

C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

Proposed

- Broward County 17-5ESR
- Miami-Dade County 17-2ESR
- Monroe County 17-1ACSC
- Monroe County 17-2ACSC
- Town of Cutler Bay 17-1ESR
- City of Doral 17-1ESR
- City of Florida City 17-1ESR
- City of Hialeah Gardens 17-1ESR
- City of Key West 17-1ACSC
- City of Key West 17-2ACSC
- City of Layton 17-1ACSC
- City of Miami Beach 17-1ESR
- City of Plantation 17-3ESR
- Village of Virginia Gardens 17-1ESR

Adopted

- Broward County 17-2ESR
- Monroe County 16-5ACSC
- City of Deerfield Beach 16-1ESR
- Town of Pembroke Park 16-1ER
- City of Plantation 17-1ESR
- Village of Virginia Gardens 16-1ESR

Public Comment

Councilmember Bailey recused himself from voting due to a conflict of interest regarding Miami-Dade County 17-2ESR and the Village of Virginia Gardens 17-1ESR proposed amendment as well as the Village of Virginia Gardens 16-1ESR, adopted amendment.

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

Public Comment – none

D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews – none

E. Nomination of Selection Committee – Brokerage Services

Councilmembers Caplan, Baily, and Walters were nominated to the Brokerage Services Selection Committee.

Councilmember Cava moved to approve Agenda Item IV.E, Nomination of Selection Committee - Brokerage Services, Councilmember Weekley seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Discussion Items

A. Report on Strategic Planning Retreat

Chair Daubert stated the Planning Retreat went well. The second part of the Retreat will be at the July 24, 2017 Council Meeting. He reminded everyone the meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. Councilmember Bailey offered the Law Offices of Becker Poliakoff, located in Fort Lauderdale and Coral Gables, as an alternative place for Council Meetings.

B. Executive Director's Report

Chair Daubert updated the Councilmembers on Ms. Cosio Carballo's Mom.

C. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren informed the Councilmembers that Sarasota County is requesting to withdraw their funding from the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council. He explained the legal information (documents, correspondence between entities, etc.) pertaining to this decision and the precedence it may set for the future of the RPCs. Chair Daubert suggested the Councilmembers relate to their municipalities what the Council does and can offer, not just planning but economic development, loan programs, clean energy, etc.

D. Ex Officio Reports

Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI reminded everyone that that the Financial Disclosure is due July 1, 2017.

Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District announced that the SFWMD launched a new web page featuring the progress of the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee.

VI. Program Reports and Activities

A. Revolving Loan Fund Reports

1) SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report - information only

B. Development of Regional Impact Status Review Report - none

C. Southeast Florida Clean Cities Program Update - information only

D. Update on the Southeast Florida Transit Oriented Development Pilot Program

Christina Miskis, SFRPC staff, updated the Council on the financial and technical assistance process on the TOD Program.

VII. Announcements and Attachments

A. Attendance Form, Correspondence, and Articles

B. Upcoming Meetings

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

2) August 2017 – No meeting

3) September 25, 2017 10:30 a.m. (FDOT, Dist 6)

4) October 23, 2017, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC Offices, Hollywood)

VIII. Councilmember Comments - none

IX. Public Comments - none

X. Adjournment

Councilmember Ross moved to Adjourn. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 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 June 26, 2017 meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 24th day of July, 2017.

Daniella Levine Cava, Secretary

Date