

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

February 25, 2019

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met on this date at the Murray E. Nelson Government Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33036. Chair Ross called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Patricia Asseff (absent)
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey (absent)
Councilmember Margaret Bates (via phone)
Councilmember Daniella Levine Cava (absent)
Councilmember Joseph Corradino
Councilmember José (Pepe) Diaz
Councilmember Beam Furr
Councilmember Steve Geller (absent)
Councilmember Cary Goldberg (absent)
Councilmember Nelson Hernandez (absent)
Councilmember Samuel Kaufman
Councilmember David Rice
Chair Greg Ross
Councilmember Michael Udine (via phone)
Councilmember Sandra Walters

Isabel Cosio Carballo, SFRPC 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
Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI

The following Ex-Officio Member was absent:

Jennifer Smith, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Sam Goren, SFRPC Legal Counsel, announced the meeting will be conducted as an Executive Committee Meeting due to a lack of quorum.

Also, on the phone was former Councilmember Frank Caplan.

II. Approval of Council Agenda

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

III. Welcome – The Honorable Sylvia Murphy, Monroe County Mayor

Chair Ross gave a brief description of Mayor Murphy's background and her employment history.

Mayor Murphy thanked Chair Ross and welcomed everyone to the Murray E. Nelson Government Center and Key Largo.

IV. Guest Speakers:

The Honorable Holly Raschein, State Representative, 120th District

- 2019 State Legislative Session Preview

Chair Ross introduced State Representative Raschein. State Representative Raschein has been in office since 2012 and represents the 120th District which includes Monroe County and the southern part of Miami-Dade County. He gave details on her background, governmental interests, and state legislative committees including her appointment as the Chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee.

State Representative Raschein continues to be a strong advocate for the environment, one of Governor DeSantis's priorities. This is an issue that is important to South Florida. She explained in detail the Governors' funding for environmental spending. This includes the Everglades Restoration, water quality projects, red tide/blue-green algae research, Lake Okeechobee, and other environmental issues. Governor DeSantis has created the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency which will be led by a Chief Science Officer. The Chief Science Officer position will be filled through a global search. She explained the various task forces on research the Governor is initiating. As Chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, State Representative Raschein is excited to be overseeing the funding of these programs and task forces. She highlighted HB 385, regarding Transportation and Infrastructure, and explained the legislation in detail. It was requested that the SFRPC provide suggestions/input regarding the legislation. Healthcare, infrastructure, local government preemption, Monroe County's Area of Critical State Concern, and the changes in the State's administration were other issues that were mentioned.

Information on the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency regarding Lake Okeechobee's discharges, as well as, other water projects prioritization and funding was described. The Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency is housed within the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. The Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is the lead Agency, with the South Florida Water Management District under it. There was discussion on funding and concerns for the Florida Reef Tract, outfall, water quality, Florida Forever, Everglades Restoration, Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule, workforce housing, and the Sadowski Fund. Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils are collaborating on regional issues such as those mentioned at this meeting. Laura Corry, SFWMD Representative, stated the Army Corps of Engineers is having public meetings to gather the public's comments on the regulation schedules and determination of water releases for Lake Okeechobee.

The Honorable Heather Carruthers, Monroe County Commissioner, District 3

- National Flood Insurance Program Update / Flood Mitigation Options

Chair Ross introduced Monroe County Commissioner Heather Carruthers and described her many past accomplishments.

Commissioner Carruthers presented an update on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The presentation included the history of flood coverage, global flood risk, flood risk throughout Florida,

updating of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps, strategies to properly fund flood insurance nationally, affordability, etc. The need for NFIP was described. Coastal areas are the economic engine of the United States and generate 46% of national gross domestic product (GDP). NFIP is needed for the protection of homeowner's assets, property values, and the nation's economy. She explained the reauthorization of NFIP, new FEMA flood maps, and Monroe County's involvement with the coastal mapping, Coastal Zones, and the Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA) line. She underscored the importance of obtaining flood insurance before the new maps become effective and the policy changes that will occur, the relationship of house elevations and new construction to Flood Insurance Premiums, suggested changes to the NFIP, and the reason for maintaining access to affordable flood insurance. Reform ideas were noted along with the House Financial Services Committee leadership, and the Senate and House support and ideas. Commissioner Carruthers will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to meet with the House of Financial Services and the Florida Delegation to continue education on the importance of Flood Insurance.

Emily Schemper, AICP, CFM, Acting Senior Director, Planning and Environmental Resources and Juanita R. Jones, PMP, Housing Recovery Administrator, Planning and Environmental Resources

- Overview of Hurricane Irma Recovery Efforts; Affordable and Workforce Housing

Emily Schemper reminded the Councilmembers about the homes, including workforce housing, that were lost due to Hurricane Irma and the recovery efforts that are still underway. She introduced Juanita Jones, the Monroe County Housing Administrator and described her past work experience. Ms. Jones and Ms. Schemper explained the handout regarding the housing recovery initiatives, and available and possible funding programs in Monroe County, such as Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, Pilot Programs, Rebuild Florida Program, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Disaster Recovery, as well as other opportunities. Discussion ensued regarding funding, land acquisitions, rebuilding/reconstructing homes, affordability, criteria, and conditions on all the Programs, in which Ms. Schemper and Ms. Jones went into detail.

V. Special Recognition – George Neugent, former Monroe County Commissioner, District 2, and the Honorable Jimmy Weekley, Key West City Commissioner, District 1

Chair Ross gave a brief summary of past Councilmembers Neugent and Weekley and presented them with a plaque of appreciation in recognition of their leadership during their service on the Board for more than 20 years. Both past Councilmembers Neugent and Weekley expressed their pleasure serving on the Council and thanked everyone, mentioning Sam Goren's dedication and friendship. Pictures were then taken of those present.

VI. Action Items

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councilmember Furr moved to approve the Agenda Item VI.A, Council Minutes. Councilmember Diaz seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

Rene Gonzalez, Director of Finance summarized the Financial Report.

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

C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

Proposed

- Islamorada, Village of Islands 19-1ACSC
- City of Miami 19-1ESR

Adopted

- Town of Cutler Bay 19-CIE1
- Town of Medley 18-2ESR
- Town of Pembroke Park 18-1ESR

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

Public Hearing – None

D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review – none

Public Comments – None

VII. Discussion Items

A. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that she and Mr. Cela, Deputy Director, are interviewing candidates for various positions, with a potential candidate for the Clean Cities Program. A company has been contracted to manage the SFRPC social media and they are interviewing companies for the website design. Senator Rodriguez and Representative Geller will be assisting during the upcoming state legislative session with SB 1004 and HB 995. This will enable the Council to lower the meeting quorum requirements and allow for electronic participation.

B. Legal Counsel Report

Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, reiterated the importance of the SB 1004 and HB 995. He explained the legislative report his office generates for the Council's use and will forward it at the Councilmembers' request. There was no litigation to report. There is progress regarding the RLF Program since Mr. Tart's involvement. Mr. Goren spoke personally about Commissioner Murray E. Nelson, whom the Key Largo Government Center is named after. He thanked the Councilmembers for their support.

Ms. Cosio Carballo announced that there will not be a Joint Meeting in March with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. She mentioned the public hearings regarding the Regulatory Plans for Lake Okeechobee. She thanked the Monroe County staff for use of their Governmental Center.

C. Ex Officio Reports

Laura Corry, SFWMD Representative, stated the public comments for the Regulatory Plans end March 31, 2019. The question came up if the counties are aware of this issue.

Dat Huynh, FDOT, VI Representative, announced that Kevin Thibault has been selected as Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation. Mr. Huynh summarized the Secretary's work history.

VIII. Program Reports and Activities

A. SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report
Information only.

B. Development of Regional Impact Status Report – None

Public Comments - None

IX. Announcements and Attachments

A. Attendance Form

B. Correspondence and Articles

C. Upcoming Meetings

1) March 25, 2019, 10:30 a.m. – (No Meeting Scheduled)

2) April 15, 2019, 10:30 a.m. – (SFRPC, Hollywood)

3) May 20, 2019, 10:30 a.m. – (SFRPC, Hollywood)

X. Councilmember Comments

XI. Adjournment

Councilmember Diaz reiterated that the Council should continue to be involved as a Tri-County liaison. The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 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 February 25, 2019 Meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 15th day of April 2019.

Samuel Kaufman, Secretary

Date