

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

April 15, 2019

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met on this date at the Council's office, located at 1 Oakwood Boulevard, Suite 250, Hollywood, FL 33020. Chair Ross called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. Chair Ross asked Lieutenant Colonel Reynolds to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Patricia Asseff
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey (via phone)
Councilmember Margaret Bates
Councilmember Daniella Levine Cava
Councilmember Michelle Coldiron (absent)
Councilmember Joseph Corradino (absent)
Councilmember José (Pepe) Diaz (absent)
Councilmember Beam Furr
Councilmember Steve Geller (via phone)
Councilmember Cary Goldberg
Councilmember Nelson Hernandez (absent)
Councilmember Samuel Kaufman (via phone)
Councilmember Jordan Leonard (via phone)
Councilmember David Rice (absent)
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 Member was present:

Shereen Yee Fong, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI, for Dat Huynh

The following Ex-Officio Members were absent:

Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District

Also present were Past Councilmembers Caplan and Daubert, and Tom Lanahan, Executive Director of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, noted that the Council Meeting will proceed as an Executive Committee Meeting. Chair Ross temporarily appointed Councilmember Asseff as 1st Chair, Councilmember Goldberg as 2nd Chair, Councilmember Walters as Secretary, and Councilmember Bates as Treasurer, in order to move forward as an Executive Committee Meeting.

Chair Ross welcomed new Councilmembers Jordan Leonard and Michelle Coldiron. He thanked Councilmember Leonard for joining the Council Meeting via phone. Chair Ross welcomed and thanked Past Councilmembers Caplan and Daubert for attending as well as Mr. Lanahan.

II. Approval of Council Agenda

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

Chair Ross requested those in attendance to introduce themselves including the Councilmembers, Council staff, and those in the audience. The SFRPC Councilmembers introduced themselves and their

SFRPC history and background, as well as Tom Lanahan, Frank Caplan, Tim Daubert, Sam Goren, Isabel Cosio Carballo, and Council staff. In the audience was Audrey Sui of Sandra Walters Consulting, Inc., interns with FDOT VI, Alex Dambach representing the City of Oakland Park, representatives from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and AC Graphics.

III. Presentation –

Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Reynolds, Deputy Commander for South Florida, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule

Chair Ross introduced Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Reynolds and gave a brief history of her many accomplishments.

Lt. Col. Reynolds stated that the Corps of Engineers (Corps) is involved in everything pertaining to water (managing water, restoring the Everglades, Hurricane Resilience, sea level rise, etc.). She noted the Everglades ecosystem's size (18,000 square miles) from Orlando south into the Florida Bay, the history of the water flow and habitats, the challenge of changing the Everglades back to its original flow, annual rain fall, capturing the rain for water supply, development, etc. The reasoning for building, directing, flood protection, and compartmentalization of the canal system was detailed. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), authorized by Congress in 2000, brought renewed awareness the need "to restore, reserve, and protect the South Florida ecosystem while providing for water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection." One challenge for the Corps of Engineers is the management of 52-65 inches of rain a year while managing competing goals. The Kissimmee River Restoration Project is a success story whereby restoring the historic flow of the river accomplished the myriad goals. The consequences of Hurricane Irma were depicted. The Corps of Engineers is working with the State and other partners on how to address the negative impacting issues. Lt. Col. Reynolds explained that the management of Lake Okeechobee (the Lake) water levels is subject to the regulation schedule adopted in 2008. There was a chart depicting the levels of the water in the Lake from various years and the effects of Hurricane Irma and other significant rain events. Over the last six years the Lake has seen higher lake levels than in the past with the past three years being extremely higher. This negatively affected the aquatic vegetation (seagrasses) on the Lake. Aquatic vegetation is important for the ecology, fisheries, fish habitats, and is also the mechanism by which the lake cleans itself. A plan that started in October is trying to make the Lake healthier by building resiliency in coastal estuaries that were hit very hard by the blue green algae blooms as well as the red tide events on the west coast. The Corps is monitoring the salinity levels, aquatic vegetation, nutrient levels, dissolved oxygen, in coordination with scientists on both coasts, the local, state, and federal agencies, and two federally recognized Tribes. The Corps hosts a weekly call for sharing information to help monitor and adjust the decision making for managing the Lake. Both estuaries have been able to maintain the salinity ranges. The Lake aquatic vegetation has started to grow bringing a significant increase of wading birds and pelicans. There are also some negative impacts due to the locks being shut down on the north side of the Lake affecting those who want to access the Lake through the northern canals. There are utilities and agricultural interests who are getting nervous with the lowering of the Lake; they feel the Lake levels should remain higher. The Corps appreciates the feedback and understands everyone's concerns. The Corps is not as concerned as they might be in an average year with lower lake levels in an El Nino system year where wetter than average conditions are expected. She explained the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM), and that upcoming Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule review, scheduled for 2019-2023. The upcoming review will consider the benefits and risks of potentially higher lake levels now that repairs to Herbert Hoover Dike are scheduled to be completed in 2022. Incorporating and

completing the Herbert Hoover Dike repairs and the CERP Projects will provide additional storage by the 2022 timeframe and is part of the LOSOM criteria.

The scoping meetings, workshops and public comments schedule on the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) was provided. The history and update on the Herbert Hoover Dike repairs and implementation process to provide public safety for the residents living and working around the Lake was described in detail (culvert replacements, cutoff walls gap closures, etc.). The South Florida Program, the 50-50 Partnership between the Federal Government and the State of Florida, along with the funding details and the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program using the FY19 Construction Budget Review was explained. Lt. Col. Reynolds encouraged everyone to continue to be part of the solution for the challenging problems. Questions were asked regarding the water levels of the Lake. Lt. Col. Reynolds reiterated that there is not a target level for the Lake on any particular day – they are looking at the climatological conditions to maintain the Lake levels within the operational band to make it healthy for the ecosystems and species. Managing and analyzing drought and flood condition impacts were discussed. Ground water recharge evaluations should be considered as part of the LOSOM effort along with the Lake Schedule and the CERP Projects/components, to ensure the entire southeast coast is included in the discussions moving forward. The southeast coast is part of the solution in being able to receive water and store it in places including in the ground water during the wet season, so it is available during the dry season. The reservoirs, construction, size, location, etc. were explained. Funding information was detailed. Algae issues were brought up. The Corps is not the lead for water quality and algae issues. The primary reason for algae blooms is high nutrient levels in fresh and salt water bodies throughout the country. The water flow history and future water flow was explained along with the projects to implement the flood protection, bridge projects, raising roads, levees, and Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) to help change the way the water flows south of the Lake and improve conveyance. The Councilmembers thanked Lt. Col. Reynolds for presentation. Chair Ross told offered the Council help to the Corps and its endeavors.

IV. Action Items

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councilmember Asseff moved to approve Agenda Item IV.A, Council Minutes. Councilmember Walters seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

Councilmember Bates moved to approve Agenda Item IV.B, Financial Report for February and March 2019. Councilmember Geller seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

Proposed

- Broward County 19-1ESR
- Monroe County 19-1ACSC
- Monroe County 19-2ACSC
- City of Doral 19-1ESR
- City of Key West 19-1ACSC
- City of Marathon 19-1ACSC
- City of North Miami 19-1ESR
- City of Oakland Park 19-1ESR
- City of Wilton Manors 19-1ER

Adopted

- Broward County 18-6ESR
- Miami-Dade County 18-5ESR
- Islamorada, Village of Islands 19-1ACSC

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

Public Hearing – None

D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review – none

Public Comments – None

V. Discussion Items

A. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Isabel Cosio Carballo updated the Councilmembers the quorum legislation sponsored by State Representative Geller and Senator Rodriguez. On May 20, 2019, the Council will hold its first Budget Workshop. Ms. Cosio Carballo introduced new employee, Mark-Anthony Smith, Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coordinator and Planner, and thanked Corey Aitken for referring Mr. Smith to the Council. Manny Cela of Council staff was thanked for his research into the technology update for the Conference Room. The technology update is more complicated and expensive than expected and the research continues. After speaking with Governor DeSantis' Appointments Director, it appears that new appointments will take some time to process. Jennifer Smith, FDEP Ex-Officio Member is now with the SFWMD. She thanked Tom Lanahan, TCRPC Executive Director, for attending today's meeting and for continuing the SFRPC / TCRPC tradition of working together on regional issues.

The Council's Facebook page and social media has been updated thanks to Mrs. Cindy Martin, President of Starfish Media. Ms. Cosio Carballo provided Mrs. Martin's bio and accomplishments. Also welcomed was Mr. Tico Casamayor, President of AC Graphics, who will be responsible for the SFRPC's website including ADA compliance. Mr. Casamayor gave a brief history of his company. Together, Mrs. Martin and Mr. Casamayor will have the SFRPC up to date with the website and social media. Mrs. Martin requested everyone join the SFRPC Facebook page. Councilmember Walters suggested the Council join LinkedIn.

B. Legal Counsel Report

Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, informed the Councilmembers about the ADA website compliance issues that have affected many municipalities and agencies. A disclaimer is on the SFRPC website about the reconstruction and update. Legal Counsel provided additional information on the quorum legislation. The legislation does not modify the Sunshine Law. It does amend Chapter 120, regarding quorum requirements and telephone, real time video conferencing or similar real time electronic or video communication voting. Mr. Goren thanked Mr. Tart for the progress on the Revolving Loan Program. With Mr. Tart's assistance, the correspondence from Mr. Goren's office has been reduced and the collection process more proactive. He thanked the Councilmembers for their support.

C. Ex Officio Reports –

Shereen Yee Fong, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI, invited the Councilmembers to the Future of Transportation in Florida Workshop in Jacksonville May 6-7, 2019.

There will be two parts: Part I is the Vision Zero Workshop, Part II is on the Long-Range Visioning Session. A link was provided: <http://www.floridatransportationplan.com/ftpvisioning.htm>

VI. Program Reports and Activities

A. SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report

Jeff Tart, Senior Loan Officer and Manager of the SFRPC Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) reported that the RLF Program achieved great strides in newly funded loans and new borrowers, booked over \$660K in new loan funding related to five new borrowers which the majority are minority owned businesses. He explained in detail the total assets and the available cash to lend. Due to the continued efforts of the RLF administrative team, there has been a direct impact on the overall strength of the program, improvement of credit strength of the portfolio, and a reduction in non-performing loans. With all factors combined this has led to a significant improvement in the RLF Program as measured by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) guidelines. He explained the past incidents that rated the Program a “C” by EDA, and EDA’s criteria an RLF Program should maintain. As of March 31, 2019, the reporting to the EDA will reflect an RLF Program of a B+. The Councilmembers thanked Mr. Tart for his efforts. Councilmember Asseff announced there will be an RLF and Southeast Florida Community Development Fund, Inc. (SFCDFI) Meeting the following day. Mr. Tart announced that the RLF Program has a direct positive impact on local businesses and communities in the three counties by assisting them with their business needs who have been overlooked and unable to achieve financing through traditional finance institutions. Attached to the RLF Agenda Item were letters of gratitude from some of the borrowers, which was explained in detail by Mr. Tart. Councilmember Bailey expressed his gratitude for the RLF Program’s improvement. Ms. Cosio Carballo mentioned that the SFCDFI is focusing on affordable housing issues in Broward County. The SFCDFI is assisting in financing the buildings (four homes) for the Broward County properties for affordable housing. There was discussion of future funding availabilities to assist other counties and municipalities. She thanked Councilmembers Asseff and Bates for their contributions to the RLF and/or SFCDFI Programs.

B. Development of Regional Impact Status Report – None

C. Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Transit Use (Mode Split) Use

Ms. Cosio Carballo explained Christina Miskis’ and the Council’s participation with the various agencies and transit projects within the Region. Councilmember Furr suggested the Council become involved with the Broward County and Broward MPO’s research on mobility hubs. Ms. Cosio Carballo offered to meet with Councilmember Furr and Ms. Miskis.

D. Update on Work Related to Peril of Flood Grants (FDEO/FDEP)

Corey Aitken, Council staff and Resiliency Specialist, identified the two grants from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He explained the technical assistance provided to the chosen municipalities in updating their comprehensive plans and to address potential flood issues in compliance with Florida Statute which requires coastal communities to implement the “peril of flood”.

Councilmember Levine Cava stated for the record that the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners approved the Strategic Plan for the South Dade Economic Development Grant with the SFRPC. This grant is meant to further solidify resilience focusing on economics in the South Dade Region. This will include working with the South Dade Economic Development Council along with Miami-Dade County. Councilmember Levine Cava championed this Grant and is part of the Council’s work with the EDA. Councilmember Levine Cava stated that it is not just the

Council's expertise in this area that the SFRPC was chosen but that the Council is an official partner with Economic Development District for EDA.

Councilmember Geller stated that the Water Advisory Board will be presenting to Broward County Commission the requirements for higher seawalls on every property along the coast and tidal waterways. He will be available to answer any questions on this subject.

VII. Announcements and Attachments

- A. Attendance Form
- B. Correspondence and Articles
- C. Upcoming Meetings
 - 1) May 20, 2019, 10:30 a.m. – (SFRPC, Hollywood)
 - 2) June 2019 – No Meeting Scheduled
 - 3) July 22, 2019, 10:30 a.m. – (SFRPC, Hollywood)

Tom Lanahan, TCRPC Executive Director, said that it is a pleasure working with the SFRPC. The TCRPC enjoyed the last few Joint Meetings and is looking forward to another Joint Meeting in October. "We are much stronger together." He stated that when we speak with one voice, we are representing one-third of the State's population. Ms. Cosio Carballo said that the Councils work very well together, and it is a pleasure working with Mr. Lanahan. There were many compliments on the past Joint Meetings and it was suggested to have an update on the past Joint Agenda Items. Ms. Cosio Carballo suggested the Councilmembers contact their constituents regarding funding for the Coral Reef Tract on behalf of their county, municipality, agency – without mentioning the RPCs. Update on the Sadowski Fund was explained in detail.

VIII. Councilmember Comments

Mr. Lanahan led the discussion of rail on U.S. 27: concerns from Broward County Port Everglades, invitation and representation by Broward County Port Everglades, future discussions, destinations, FDOT existing conditions study, benefits and impacts on the ports, and other issues. Chair Ross thanked Mr. Lanahan for the update.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 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 15, 2019 Meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 20th day of May 2019.

Samuel Kaufman, Secretary

Date