

## SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

September 21, 2020

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met virtually on this date. Chair Levine Cava welcomed everyone virtually and on the phone. Chair Levine Cava called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Patricia Asseff  
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey  
Councilmember Margaret Bates  
Chair Daniella Levine Cava  
Councilmember Michelle Coldiron  
Councilmember Joseph Corradino (absent)  
Councilmember José (Pepe) Diaz (absent)  
Councilmember Beam Furr  
Councilmember Steve Geller  
Councilmember Cary Goldberg (absent)  
Councilmember Samuel Kaufman  
Councilmember Jordan Leonard  
Councilmember Jean Monestime (absent)  
Councilmember David Rice (absent)  
Councilmember Greg Ross  
Councilmember Michael Udine

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

The following Ex-Officio Members were virtually present:

Jason Andreotta, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District  
Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI

The meeting was conducted as a Virtual Meeting, in which there was a quorum.

Chair Levine Cava requested that Agenda Item V.E. Councilmember Sandy Walters, be moved to the beginning of today's meeting. Councilmember Walters' resignation letter was part of the Council Packet. Chair Levine Cava welcomed Councilmember Walters. This was postponed to after the Approval of the Council Agenda.

### **II. Approval of Council Agenda**

*Councilmember Ross moved to approve the Agenda. Chair Levine Cava seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

V.E. Councilmember Sandy Walters

Chair Levine Cava stated that Councilmember Walters will always be a Councilmember and is pleased that she is joining today's meeting.

Councilmember Walters was pleased to be attending today's meeting and misses the Councilmembers. She stated that after being on the Council for fifteen years, it feels strange to not be actively involved with the meeting. She expressed her appreciation of the Councilmembers, their service and commitment to effective, regional cooperation and felt it was honor to serve with the Councilmembers. She will still be

spending time in Miami-Dade County and has offices in Hollywood and the Keys. She has been impressed with the Council's accomplishments during these difficult times and commended Mrs. Cosio Carballo for holding the ship on course and the commitment of the Executive Committee. Mrs. Cosio Carballo described the plaque and inscription that was sent to Councilmember Walters and mentioned that a small contribution was made to 1000 Friends of Florida in honor of her service. Chair Levine Cava commented on Councilmember Walters' many accomplishments and expressed gratitude for her leadership. The Councilmembers took turns thanking Councilmember Walters for her devotion, educating the Council on environmental issues, dedication, accomplishments, and service in representing Monroe County and Florida on environmental issues. Councilmember Walters thanked everyone for their accolades.

### III. Guest Presentations:

#### **Biscayne Bay Recovery Plan** (Time Certain: 11:45 A.M.)

Irela M. Bagué, Chair, Miami-Dade County Biscayne Bay Task Force; President and CEO of Bagué Group, and Lynette Cardoch, Ph.D., Director of Resilience & Adaptation, Moffatt & Nichol

### IV. Action Items

#### A. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Minutes of September 16, 2020 Committee meeting: Annual Review of Legal Counsel and Executive Director

*Approval was carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

#### B. Financial Report

Finance Manager, Leo Braslavsky Soldi explained the Financial Report in detail.

*Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.B Financial Report. Councilmember Geller seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

#### C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

##### Proposed

- Broward County 20-04ESR
- Monroe County 20-04ACSC
- City of Coral Springs 20-01ESR
- City of Hialeah 20-01ESR
- City of Homestead 20-01ESR
- Islamorada, Village of Islands 20-02ACSC
- Islamorada, Village of Islands 20-03ACSC
- City of Marathon 20-02ACSC
- City of Marathon 20-03ACSC
- City of Margate 20-01ESR
- City of Oakland Park 20-01ESR
- City of Parkland 20-01ESR
- City of Parkland 20-02ESR
- Village of Pinecrest 20-01ESR
- Village of Sea Ranch Lakes 20-01ER
- City of Sunrise 20-02ESR

### Public Comments

There were no comments or questions from the public via email or virtually.

**Adopted**

- Miami-Dade County 20-01ESR
- Miami-Dade County 20-02ER
- City of Deerfield Beach 20-01ESR
- City of Fort Lauderdale 20-01ESR
- City of Marathon 19-04ACSC
- Village of Palmetto Bay 20-01ESR
- City of Parkland 19-01ESR
- City of Sunrise 20-01ESR
- City of Wilton Manors 19-02ESR

**Public Comments**

There were no comments or questions from the public via email or virtually.

*Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.C Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review, Proposed. Councilmember Geller seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

*Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.C Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review, Adopted. Councilmember Coldiron seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

**D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review**

- City of Pompano Beach 20-02ESR

Mrs. Cosio Carballo clarified that the SFRPC had no real concern regarding the Pompano Beach 20-02ESR Amendment. She explained that the Consent Agenda consists of amendments that do not have a regional impact. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has identified the regional water supply as an “important state resource” that is potentially adversely impacted by the amendment in its current form. The work between the SFWMD and the City of Pompano Beach has not been completed, making this amendment generally inconsistent with the *Strategic Policy Plan for South Florida*. This issue will be resolved before this amendment comes back for final adoption. Mrs. Cosio Carballo acknowledged Jean Dolan, Development Services Department Director, presence at the meeting. Ms. Dolan did not have any formal comments but acknowledged that the SFWMD is in the process of reviewing the amendment and does not expect any issues moving forward. Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that she has confidence in Ms. Dolan, the City of Pompano Beach, and that this amendment will be resolved before adoption.

*Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.D Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review. Councilmember Udine seconded the motion, Councilmember Bailey voted Nay, which carried by a majority vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

**Public Hearing**

There were no comments or questions from the public via email or virtually.

E. Legal Counsel Annual Review / Contract

Chair Levine Cava summarized the Annual Review Committee Meeting, held on September 16, 2020. She stated that there was great satisfaction expressed in both the Executive Director's and Legal Counsel's reviews. She noted that the results are included in the Agenda Item. Councilmember Geller stated, as Chair of the Committee, he had reviewed Mr. Goren's Legal Contract and the consensus of the Committee was that they feel privileged to have Mr. Goren as our Legal Counsel.

*Councilmember Furr moved to approve Agenda IV.E. Legal Counsel Annual Review and extend Legal Counsel's contract for another year. Councilmember Geller seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that at the next meeting on October 19, 2020, she would like to increase Legal Counsel's rates since Mr. Goren has not had an increase in years. Legal Counsel is an integral part of the SFRPC, and we would like to acknowledge him and his staff.

F. Executive Director Annual Review

Mrs. Cosio Carballo noted that the Council has been able to move forward to strengthen staff capacity and reorganize the office. She introduced Leo Braslavsky Soldi, Finance Manager; Allyson Williams, former intern, replacing Mark-Anthony Smith as Clean Cities Coordinator; Eralda Agolli, (a former employee of the Urban Land Institute), Economic Disaster Recovery Coordinator; Steve Foreman, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) CARES Administrator; Alisha Lopez, Small Business RLF Specialist; Jennie Sullivan, Communications and Social Media Coordinator; and Guillermo Verdura, Accounting Assistant. Guillermo and Alisha will be working part time. Joyce Hall, RLF Specialist and long-time employee has decided to retire. She is very proud of the Council and Council staff who have worked to rebuild the Council from its low point in 2017 when the Council almost closed its doors. Chair Levine Cava welcomed the new staff members and thanked those who have been part of the SFRPC staff and the wonderful work that is being done. Chair Levine Cava stated that there was a unanimous agreement that Mrs. Cosio Carballo is performing to the superlative in every category. She welcomed input from the Councilmembers. Councilmember Geller noted that the Annual Review Committee had given Mrs. Cosio Carballo fives across the board, which is the highest score. Councilmember Bailey thanked the Committee for their work. He stated Mrs. Cosio Carballo is doing an excellent job. He would like the assessment to be more forward thinking by reviewing the set goals throughout the year. He would also like for the Accomplishment Report to reflect more detailed information, such as when Mrs. Cosio Carballo became Executive Director and to clarify the causes of financial difficulties. Chair Levine Cava thanked Councilmember Bailey for his comments. She suggested that a personnel committee should be organized to lead and reflect on guidelines to help set up and review future goals. The SFRPC is coming out of a hole and we are now looking ahead. Councilmember Geller asked when Mrs. Cosio Carballo became Executive Director. The reply was she became Interim Executive Director in 2015, permanent Executive Director in 2016. Councilmember Geller stated that Councilmember Bailey was referring to things that happened two years after Mrs. Cosio Carballo became Executive Director and the big issue is that the Florida Legislature basically took away our major reason for existence and funding as everybody here has repeatedly said. The Council needs to look forward to arranging regional meetings and that can't be accomplished because of COVID. The Council is not able to have the large regional meetings that were planned. Councilmember Geller stated this is why he gave Mrs. Cosio Carballo fives for what she has done during COVID and hopes when we get out of the crisis, the Council would be doing more regional convening of large meetings. Chair Levine Cava said let's just be clear we had a crisis; Isabel lead us through, and we are grateful. Councilmember Furr stated that thinking forward, the Council should concentrate on transportation. There are some unique opportunities coming up. He said he would have

given Mrs. Cosio Carballo a six. Councilmember Bailey asked if the Agenda attachment can be changed to reflect that Mrs. Cosio Carballo became Executive Director in 2015? Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated she would be happy to revise the attachment. Councilmember Asseff stated, as one of the longest serving members here, the funding issues started long before Mrs. Cosio Carballo became Executive Director. Mrs. Cosio Carballo has brought us a long way from where the Council was. Thanks to Mrs. Cosio Carballo, the Council has been reeducated to what our goals are, where we are going, and now we have to continue forward. She gives a lot of respect to Mrs. Cosio Carballo, who has taken us through some of the worst times that she has seen in the twenty years that she has been here. She has been very good Executive Leader. This is all of our responsibilities to try to get new business into this Council. It doesn't end with the Executive Director. Councilmember Kaufman stated that he gave Mrs. Cosio Carballo all fives as well. As a newer Councilmember, he commended her on her quick responses to his requests and emails are really appreciated. He is sure she does the same for the other Councilmembers. Her knowledge about regional issues is really helpful. He wanted to emphasize that she is really appreciated.

*Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.F. Executive Director Annual Review. Councilmember Furr seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

Chair Levine Cava agrees that the Council initiatives are a joint responsibility, not to just sit and evaluate; the Councilmembers are here to participate and join in accomplishing those goals. She asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to help set some annual goals. Councilmember Bailey volunteered as Chair, and Councilmembers Asseff and Kaufman also volunteered.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo thanked everyone for their support and recognized the Council staff and the Councilmembers to help bring the Council where it is today.

**G. FY 2019-20 Revised Operating Budget**

Mr. Braslavsky Soldi explained the FY 2019-20 Revised Operating Budget. There were no inquiries.

*Councilmember Coldiron moved to approve Agenda IV.G. FY 2019-20 Revised Operating Budget. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

**H. FY 2020-21 Operating Budget**

Mr. Braslavsky Soldi explained the details of the FY 2019-20 Operating Budget. There were no inquiries.

*Councilmember Bates moved to approve Agenda IV.G. FY 2020-21 Operating Budget. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

**Public Comments**

There were no comments or questions from the public via email or virtually.

**V. Discussion Items**

**A. Executive Director's Report**

Mrs. Isabel Cosio Carballo thanked everyone for their support and noted that the Council is making progress and moving ahead with the EDD EDA CARES Act Planning Grant and waiting for news on a regional proposal. The Council will be facilitating a conversation in North Miami-Dade County related to

FIU – Biscayne Bay Campus. The FIU – Biscayne Bay Study was explained along with the participants and the Council's involvement. Mrs. Isabel Cosio Carballo announced that the Small Business Administration had designated the South Florida Planning Council as its 2020 South Florida District Community Partner of the Year. She commended Jeff Tart, Senior Loan Program Manager, and Joyce Hall, RLF Specialist, along with the RLF Board Members, which include Councilmembers Asseff and Bates. She is looking forward to the goal setting workshop and appreciates those Councilmembers who volunteered. Councilmember Bailey thanked the Board for the great work on the RLF Program and the recognition they received. Mrs. Isabel Cosio Carballo thanked Councilmember Furr, who with Commissioner Smith in Martin County, are on a joint task force of the Regional Planning Councils on the Coral Reef. She wrote some proposals for funding from DEP, and reached out to Joanna C. Walczak, DEP Coordinator. Mrs. Isabel Cosio Carballo stated that all of the Councilmembers are incredible to work with and she is very grateful for them.

**B. Legal Counsel Report**

Mr. Goren thanked everyone for the Board's confidence and their long-term relationships. This means a lot to him personally and professionally and he is very honored to be the Council's Legal Counsel. He stated that the Governors Executive Order 20-69, modified by 20-193, which allows for virtual quorums, legally expires October 1, 2020 and will keep the Council updated. The Legislature and Governor did sign SB 1398, effective July 1, 2020, which provides for a reduced physical quorum for RPCs of three or more counties. The SFRPC qualifies.

**C. Councilmembers Report**

Chair Levine Cava announced her transition of leaving the Miami-Dade County Commission on midnight November 16, 2020 and will no longer be able to serve as the SFRPC Chair. She aspires and hopes to be able to continue her public service in a different role. She is grateful for Vice-Chair Geller, who has stepped up when needed. It has been a joy to serve on the SFRPC Board and will take this regional perspective and the sense of urgency on our regional issues wherever she continues to serve.

**D. Ex-Officio Reports**

FDOT, District Six Representative Dat Huynh thanked Mrs. Cosio Carballo and Council staff for their participation in the facilitation of the FIU – Biscayne Bay conversations. He announced that Brad Thoburn has become the Assistant Secretary for Strategic Development.

SFWMD Representative announced the Budget Meeting and stated that all the meetings are listed on the website.

**E. Councilmember Sandy Walters – reviewed earlier in the Meeting.**

**III. Guest Presentations:**

**Biscayne Bay Recovery Plan** (Time Certain: 11:45 A.M.)

Irela M. Bagué, Chair, Miami-Dade County Biscayne Bay Task Force; President and CEO of Bagué Group, and Lynette Cardoch, Ph.D., Director of Resilience & Adaptation, Moffatt & Nichol

Chair Levine Cava stated she is delighted that Irela M. Bagué has been at the forefront for our water quality issues and is able to join us for an update on her work with the Task Force. She reviewed Ms. Bagué's professional history. Mrs. Cosio Carballo introduced Dr. Lynette Cardoch and described her professional background. Both presenters work together on the Biscayne Bay Task Force and the Study. The presentation links are listed below.

- [https://sfregionalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2.-Biscayne-Bay-Recovery-Plan\\_Summary-of-Task-Force-Recommendations.pdf](https://sfregionalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2.-Biscayne-Bay-Recovery-Plan_Summary-of-Task-Force-Recommendations.pdf)
- <https://sfregionalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/3.-BiscayneBayTaskForceReportandRecommendationsJune2020-.pdf>
- <https://sfregionalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/5.-09-21-20-Guest-Presentation-Biscayne-Bay.pdf>
- <https://sfregionalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/4.-The-Time-is-Now-to-Save-Biscayne-Bay-%F0%9F%8C%8A.pdf>

Irela M. Bagué stated that it is a pleasure to provide the Council with insight on the work that the Biscayne Bay Task Force has been engaged in for eighteen months. She gave the history of, and reasoning for starting, the Biscayne Bay Task Force. Her presentation included the Biscayne Bay Recovery Plan Summary Report and Recommendations. She described the various meetings and presentations from various agencies and public involvement. She spoke about the Bay's current issues including fish kills, algae blooms, and the challenges of the pandemic. The Study showed that the health of the Biscayne Bay is clearly in a state of emergency and at a tipping point of irreversible ecological collapse and described the means by which that conclusion was reached. South Florida is highly dependent on the environment since it is our economy (a healthy ecosystem). We have to ensure that we all work together to collaborate on creative funding. In summary, we called for a unified committed effort of the county to work with all levels of government to set up a long-term course for resilient and healthy Biscayne Bay.

Dr. Lynette Cardoch explained the interconnected canal system and the underground infrastructure. Her presentation showed the extent of how surrounded we are by water. We are all interconnected from Biscayne Bay, the Keys, Broward and the northern areas of the region. She went into detail about the beach closures, fish kills, sewer systems, sewer system breakage, fertilizer issues, nutrients, algae bloom issues, and storm water systems, which includes the broad canal systems. She commended Miami Waterkeeper for the pictures of these events that have kept water quality in public consciousness. She stated there are a lot of collaborative measures throughout the State regarding water. We are all in this together with the broad canal system and the issues (nutrients, bacteria, etc.) we are facing. We already know the things that we need to do, in getting our storm water system under control.

Chair Levine thanked both Irela M. Bagué and Dr. Cardoch for an outstanding presentation and that the emphasis is on engagement and education. Clearly in addition to the public policies is the funding issues. Councilmembers thanked them for the presentation and that their timing could not have been better. The SFRPC would be able to engage the three counties along with the TCRPC's seven counties together to make a concerted effort for funding. Discussion ensued on ocean outfall, funding, advance water treatment (AWT), aquifer recharge, wastewater treatment plants, septic tanks, concerns on deep well injections, shared cost, etc. Chair Levine Cava described the circumstances in Miami-Dade County. The issues in Biscayne Bay are occurring in the water ways throughout the State, the degradation of seagrass, algae bloom, sewage breaks, etc., since they are all connected. This would be a good topic (top priority) for the SFRPC/TCRPC to make it our cause and use our collective strength to ask for funding. Chair Levine Cava suggested a Resolution on the part of the Council but since it is a complicated issue it may require further discussion. It was suggested to bring it to a future meeting. From the Monroe County perspective, who has Advance Water Treatment and have seen the effects of the fish kills, there is a lot of concern in

Monroe County. It was strongly urged that the elected officials address the septic issues, fertilizer issues, leak issues and canal issues. Monroe County takes this very seriously. Councilmember Kaufman invited the Councilmembers to visit their facility. Any resolution we may take to County Governments, we should include the Florida Legislature and Governor as well.

Councilmember Geller moved the Resolution on water issues to be discussed at the next Council Meeting.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that she will be talking with Tom Lanahan, TCRPC Executive Director, about the Joint Meeting that will be held on Friday October 16, 2020. It will be a virtual meeting. Their discussions have been about water and would like for this to be part of the Joint Meeting. They would reach out to various agencies and water experts. Councilmember Bailey stated that before there is discussion with the TCRPC, there should be a discussion with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or a representative regarding Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs). Dr. Cardoch stated that she is optimistic at the way the Council is looking at the water issues in a holistic manner. Councilmember Coldiron shared that Monroe County, being a, Area of Critical State Concern, has an annual worksheet from the State that it must comply with and a work plan on canal restoration. She stated that if you do get the designation of an Area of Critical State Concern you will have a homework sheet and then held responsible for an unfunded mandate. It does give you extra points with the DEO for funding. Councilmember Walters stated she would send out the information regarding the Keys Water Quality Protection Program.

Chair Levine Cava had to leave the meeting and Vice-Chair Geller took over.

## **VI. Program Reports and Activities**

### **A. SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report**

Jeff Tart, Senior Loan Program Manager, presented the Revolving Loan Funds Status Report and the CARES Act RLF, the loan applicants, new loans in the CARES Act RLF and funds availability in both Programs. The traditional RLF 5-Year Plan has been accepted by the EDA and in good standing. He reiterated that the Small Business Administration has designated the South Florida Regional Planning Council as its 2020 South Florida District Community Partner of the Year.

### **B. SFRPC CARES Act RLF Status Report**

Mr. Tart explained the funding award (\$5.3 million) and background. This includes Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. Mr. Tart explained the criteria difference between the two loan programs. Mrs. Cosio Carballo thanked the Councilmembers for sharing this information with their constituents.

### **C. Development of Regional Impact Status Report – None**

### **D. Economic Development District – Information only**

### **E. Council Highlights – Information only**

## **VII. Announcements and Attachments**

### **A. Attendance Form**

### **B. Correspondence and Articles**



C. Upcoming Meetings

- 1) October 16, 2020, 10:00 a.m., TBD – (TCRPC/SFRPC Joint Meeting)
- 2) November 23, 2020, 10:30 a.m. TBD – (SFRPC, Hollywood)
- 3) December (No Meeting – Winter Recess)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 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 September 21, 2020 Meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.

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Beam Furr, Secretary

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Date