

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

APRIL 26, 2021

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met virtually and in-person on this date. Chair Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., reminded everyone of the meeting's procedures, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Bailey requested a moment of silence for the passing of past Executive Director Jack Osterholt and Congressman Alcee Hastings.

Chair Mario J. Bailey (present)
Councilmember Michelle Coldiron (virtually present)
Councilmember Joseph Corradino (absent)
Councilmember Beam Furr (present)
Councilmember René Garcia (virtually present)
Councilmember Steve Geller (present)
Councilmember Oliver Gilbert, III (Proxy)
Councilmember Cary Goldberg (virtually present)
Councilmember Samuel Kaufman (virtually present)
Councilmember Jordan Leonard (virtually present)
Councilmember Eddie Martínez (virtually present)
Councilmember Jean Monestime (absent)
Councilmember Greg Ross (present)
Councilmember Michael Udine (virtually present)
Councilmember Ana M. Ziade (present)

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

The following Ex-Officio Members were virtually present:

John Moore representing Jason Andreotta, from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI

Legal Counsel, Sam Goren announced that there was a legal quorum present.

Chair Bailey recognized former Councilmembers Patty Asseff, David Rice, and Ex-Officio Member Laura Corry for their commitment and public service. Chair Bailey first recognized Councilmember Asseff. She stated that she had enjoyed her time at the SFRPC, loved being involved in the Clean Cities and Revolving Loan Programs, learned and gained a lot of insight being a Councilmember and from working with the various Executive Directors. She thanked the Council for this recognition. Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that former Councilmember Asseff has been on the Council since 2000, in which she was Chair twice, and was a member of and Chair of the Southeast Clean Cities Coalition and the Revolving Loan Programs. The Council is indebted to Councilmember Asseff for her service at the Council, as a City of Hollywood Commissioner, and as Member and President of the Broward League of Cities. Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that Councilmember Rice could not be present today. He served on the Council from 2003 to 2006, then again in 2014 to 2021. Ex-Officio Member Laura Corry joined the Council in 2013 and retired in April 2021. Ms. Corry gave a brief summation of her time at the Council, SFWMD, and the counties she represented. She thanked everyone, stated that she enjoyed serving on the Council, and that the Council is doing great work under Mrs. Cosio Carballo's leadership. She has known many of the Councilmembers over 20 - 25 years. The Councilmembers acknowledged and thanked both Councilmember Asseff and Ex-Officio Member Corry for their contributions to the Council and their affiliations.

Chair Bailey stated that Councilmember Asseff was an amazing resource of information. As a member of FRCA, he realized how well-respected Councilmember Asseff is across the state. He acknowledged her dedication to the RLF Program and that she will be missed at the Council. He thanked Ex-Officio Member Corry for the SFWMD partnership, her dedication, and resources to the Council. He stated that Councilmember Rice was also an excellent resource for the Council. He thanked them all for their service. Councilmember Asseff thanked Ex-Officio Corry and Councilmember Rice. She reminisced when she first started at the SFRPC 21 years ago when no one even thought of electric vehicles; we have come a long way.

Mr. Goren, Legal Counsel, explained the voting procedures for the Action Items.

II. Approval of Council Agenda

Motion was carried by unanimous consent.

Chair Bailey announced that the presentation will be at 11:45 a.m.

III. Presentation (Time Certain: 11:45 a.m.)

“American Rescue Plan – Local Government Opportunities” – José Alfaro, Jr., Director, KPMG Advisory Services

IV. Action Items

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councilmember Ziade stated that she was virtually present at the February Meeting. The Minutes will reflect the change.

Councilmember Ross moved to approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting with the correction of Councilmember Ziade’s presence. Councilmember Geller seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

Finance Manager, Leo Braslavsky Soldi explained the Financial Report in detail. There were no questions.

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

Public Comments

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

Mr. Goren read the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews, Proposed and Adopted.

C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

Proposed

- Broward County 21-01ESR
- Broward County 21-02ESR
- City of Hollywood 21-01ESR

- City of Lauderhill 21-01ESR
- City of Miramar 21-01ESR
- Town of Southwest Ranches 21-01ESR
- City of Sunny Isles Beach 21-01ESR
- City of Weston 21-01ESR

Councilmember Geller moved to approve Agenda Item IV.C Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review, Proposed. Councilmember Ziade seconded the motion. Roll was called and the approval carried by a unanimous vote.

Adopted

- Broward County 20-05ESR
- Broward County 20-08ESR
- City of Homestead 20-01ESR
- City of Key West 20-01ACSC
- City of Key West 20-02ACSC
- Village of North Bay Village 20-01ESR
- City of North Miami Beach 20-01ESR
- City of North Miami Beach 20-02ESR
- City of Pembroke Pines 20-01ESR
- City of Pembroke Pines 20-02ESR
- Town of Southwest Ranches 20-01ESR
- Town of Southwest Ranches 20-02ESR
- Town of Southwest Ranches 20-03ESR
- Town of Southwest Ranches 20-04ESR
- City of Wilton Manors 20-01ESR

Public Comment

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

Mrs. Cosio Carballo explained the transmittal cycle of the Amendment numbers.

Councilmember Geller moved to approve Agenda Item IV.C Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review, Adopted. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. Roll was called and the approval carried by a unanimous vote.

D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review – None

E. Auditor Selection & Oversight Committee

Chair Bailey noted that the Finance Committee selection was removed, and the Council will create an Auditor Selection and Oversight Committee. Mr. Goren explained the proposal and process in creating a three- to five-member Auditor Selection & Oversight Committee. Discussion ensued on the Auditor terms.

Councilmember Geller motioned an auditor could serve two consecutive five-year terms. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion.

Public Comment

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

Councilmember Geller amended the motion that an auditor could serve for two consecutive five-year terms. If the current firm had served two terms, they would be allowed to have one additional five-year term. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion.

The amended motion was discarded.

Councilmember Geller motioned an auditor could serve for two consecutive five-year terms. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. Roll was called and the approval carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Bailey requested the following Councilmembers to be part of the Auditor Selection & Oversight Committee in which they all agreed.

The Auditor Selection & Oversight Committee Members:

Councilmember Ziade
Councilmember Coldiron
Councilmember Martinez
Councilmember Garcia
Councilmember Udine

Public Comment

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

Councilmember Geller moved to approve the Auditor Selection & Oversight Committee Members. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. Roll was called and the approval carried by a unanimous vote.

F. Statement of Organization Review and Update

Chair Bailey stated that the Statement of Organization Review Committee was comprised of the former past Chairs: Councilmember Geller, Councilmember Ross, and himself. Councilmember Geller summarized and explained the updates to the Statement of Organization. There were no comments from the Councilmembers.

Public Comment

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

Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.F. Statement of Organization Review and Update. Councilmember Furr seconded the motion. Roll was called and the approval carried by a unanimous vote.

G. Resolution TCSF #21-01 – Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Planning Study

Chair Bailey summarized Resolution TCSF #21-01 that was presented at the Treasure Coast and South Florida Regional Planning Councils' Workshop.

Public Comment

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

Councilmember Geller moved to approve Agenda Item IV.G. Resolution TCSF #21-01 – Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Planning Study. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. Councilmember Furr did not approve, and the item was passed by majority vote.

V. Discussion Items

A. Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Cosio Carballo updated the Councilmembers on the completion of the FDOT, District 6, Biscayne Bay Study, and the office technology for staff and the conference room. The FRCA Summer Meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2021, for SFRPC representatives, Chair Bailey, Councilmember Udine, and Councilmember Leonard. The Annual Report is being finalized, a Welcome Package will be sent to the Councilmembers for review, the Comprehensive Economic Development Study is being updated, in which Councilmember Geller was nominated as the lead point contact for the Council. Mrs. Cosio Carballo is available to the Councilmembers with any of their requests.

B. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren thanked the Councilmembers for their collaboration on the Statement of Organization. He explained the reasoning behind having a Statement of Organization and some of the changes that were made. He thanked everyone.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo thanked Finance Manager Leo Braslavsky Soldi for the technological upgrades in the Conference Room. She announced that he has taken over all the technology responsibilities. There was applause.

C. Councilmembers Report

Councilmember Furr stated that he had a call from Martin County Commissioner / Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council Councilmember Doug Smith. They have worked together on many issues but mainly the Coral Reef issues. Over the last few years, they have been discussing biosolids, outfalls, water treatment, etc., and they believe this is a matter in which all 7 counties / TCSF RPCs can collaborate together. He suggested a TCSF Joint Meeting for a discussion on this issue. Mrs. Cosio Carballo spoke to TCRPC Executive Director, Tom Lanahan and discussed having a publicly noticed meeting on May 7, 2021. Chair Bailey stated that the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Secretary Valenstein has been invited to speak at the May Council Meeting. He stated that DEP has a program with funding that addresses flooding and resiliency issues. He thinks the SFRPC should become involved and submit a plan. It was decided that both subjects be presented at the Council Meeting on May 7th. Chair Bailey would like to have a survey sent to the counties on their priorities and try to evaluate common issues. Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that the American Recovery Act Fund will be coming into the region for the state, counties, and municipalities. The TCRPC's suggestion is that this is an opportunity to take some of that money and put it towards a regional project and work together. Councilmember Geller suggested the meeting take place later in the month, this way our Council has time to gather information from the counties. Mrs. Cosio Carballo clarified that the May 7th meeting will be to discuss the broader issues effecting the counties and prioritize them for a Joint Meeting. There was discussion on the date of the meeting and regional issues to be considered. It was decided that May 7th would be a meeting for an internal discussion and then Mrs. Cosio Carballo will coordinate with Mr. Lanahan on a Joint Meeting. She thanked Councilmember Coldiron and Monroe County's accomplishment on their Flood Policy discounts. The Council will feature Councilmember Coldiron and her staff at an upcoming regional webinar organized by the Council. Invitations have been extended to the Treasure Coast.

III. Presentation (Time Certain: 11:45 a.m.)

“American Rescue Plan – Local Government Opportunities” – José Alfaro, Jr., Director, KMPG Advisory Services

Chair Bailey gave a brief introduction and thanked Mr. Alfaro for his presentation. Mr. Alfaro thanked Chair Bailey and introduced Ross Ashley, who helped coordinate today’s presentation. They spoke with various Florida entities to focus on their priorities. One priority item is for local and state levels to be prepared for a quick response to the federal opportunity. He explained the funding for resiliency, water, water quality, a front and center for government. The presentation illustrated the American Rescue Plan’s (ARP) funding estimates to the State of Florida and to the local government entities. Mr. Alfaro informed the Council of the distinct funding areas to address pandemic related needs for response, recovery, revenue replacement, and the specific restrictions associated with the funding for both new and existing programs. The PowerPoint showed the funding amounts for state agencies and capital projects, counties, cities, and non-counties. He explained the financial aspects of the funding: application deadline, payment information, deadline for fund spending, etc. When looking at this ARP, he suggested that you do not look at just the local government’s allocations. There is a lot of funding flowing through the State. Every facet of government will be covered, and the ARP requires close attention to the competitiveness of some of these grants, the coordination, having the data resources, and other requirements and compliance. He stated that given the limited time, a lack of coordination and a lack of action will lead to a lot of confusion. They focused on education and transportation / infrastructure and described in detail funding and the needs at all levels of government. The application process was explained noting its length and requirements. The applications received before June 30th (deadline) will be reviewed first, funded more easily, and funded more. Once the requirements are met, funding eligibility is next, and then compliance becomes the focus. The government expects that if the efforts exceed your capacity, then a nonprofit can be involved but with that also comes the requirement and responsibility to monitor and oversee the recipient of these funds. Mr. Alfaro stated that you have to be quick to react, that some applications are already open and may be closing in mid-summer, and explained the ongoing compliance requirements, etc. Chair Bailey stated that at the May 7th Meeting, the various projects will be discussed and prioritized, and then hopefully be adopted at a Joint Meeting with Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. Mr. Alfaro noted the various programs the Governor is planning to create, and the funding being distributed to the various Florida Agencies. Chair Bailey thanked Mr. Alfaro for his presentation.

C. Councilmembers Report - continued

Councilmember Coldiron stated that Monroe County (designated as an area of critical state of concern) was given an unfunded mandate fifteen years ago to go from septic to sewer. The County is almost finished with those projects. At one point, Monroe County thought they would be reimbursed with Mayfield Grant money, but then learned they were not allowed to use it for reimbursement. So, the County is always extremely careful. She looks forward to hearing what Miami-Dade County is doing with their infrastructure and how their funds were used and their disbursement.

Monroe County has always been looking at infrastructure and roads. They are in the process of completing a county-wide study. She will ask her staff to come up with a quick list of what they would like to do in collaboration with the other counties. Monroe County will be part of a program (May 11, 2021 from 1:30 to 3:00) describing how their residents were able to receive a discount on their flood insurance due to the improvements in making their community more resilient. Chair Bailey thanked Councilmember Coldiron.

D. Ex-Officio Reports – None

VI. Program Reports and Activities

A. SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report

Jeff Tart, Senior Loan Officer, thanked newly appointed RLF Board Members Councilmembers Kaufman and Goldberg for their leadership. He thanked Patty Asseff for guiding the RLF Board over the years, and wished her the best of luck. He stated that she will be missed. The RLF Program continues to perform with over 29 loans. He also thanked Mr. Goren and his office for their input and guidance with the problem loans.

B. SFRPC CARES Act RLF Status Report

Mr. Tart gave a brief history of the funding and expectations of the RLF CARES Act. Details were noted on the loans processed and the amount of funds left to lend. He asked the Councilmembers to continue to communicate within their respected counties. Advertisement information is available in Spanish and Creole. With the help of our Communications Director, the RLF Program is on social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) and has been successful.

Councilmember Ross requested more information on Angela Dawson's Loan. Mr. Tart explained that she is a client from the previous administration who unfortunately stopped verbally communicating with the Council or providing required information. He thanked Legal Counsel for their help and support, and explained her loan is secured with real estate properties and gave the specific details regarding the legal process to reach a settlement. Councilmember Ross recommended moving full force and to disregard the settlement. He mentioned that an additional option is to notify the Bar. Kerry Ezrol, Legal Counsel for the RLF Program stated that is what is being recommended. Mr. Ezrol was present for the legal proceedings regarding Ms. Dawson.

C. Development of Regional Impact Status Report – None

Public Comments – None

VII. Announcements and Attachments

A. Attendance Form

B. Correspondence and Articles

C. Upcoming Meetings

- 1) Monday, May 24, 2021, 10:30 a.m. TBD - (SFRPC, Hollywood)
- 2) Monday, June 28, 2021, 10:30 a.m. TBD - (SFRPC, Hollywood)
- 3) Monday, July 26, 2021, 10:30 a.m. TBD - (SFRPC, Hollywood)

Chair Bailey stated that now that the country has opened, he would like to travel to Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 a.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 26, 2021 Meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 24th day of May 2021.

Jordan Leonard, Secretary

Date