

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MAY 24, 2021

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met virtually and in-person on this date. Chair Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m., reminded everyone of the meeting's procedures, and asked Councilmember Ross to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

\* Virtually Present

\*\* Absent

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

The following Ex-Officio Member was virtually present:

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

The following Ex-Officio Members were absent:

Jason Andreotta, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Lorraine Mayers, representing the South Florida Water Management District.

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

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

*Councilmember Geller moved to approve the Council Agenda. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.*

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

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

***“Resiliency Initiatives and Programs at DEP” – Alex Reed, Director, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, Florida Department of Environmental Protection***

#### **IV. Action Items**

##### **A. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*Councilmember Geller moved to approve the Minutes of the April 26, 2021, Meeting. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.*

*Councilmember Geller moved to approve the Minutes of the May 7, 2021, Workshop. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.*

##### **B. Financial Report**

Finance Manager, Leo Braslavsky Soldi explained the Financial Report in detail and announced that the Audit FY 19/20 will be presented at the June Council Meeting.

*Councilmember Udine 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**

- City of Aventura 21-01ESR
- City of Doral 21-01ESR
- City of Doral 21-02ESR
- City of Florida City 21-01ESR
- City of Homestead 21-01ESR
- City of North Miami 21-02ESR
- Town of Southwest Ranches 21-02ESR
- City of Sweetwater 21-01ESR

#### **Public Comments**

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

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

###### **Adopted**

- Broward County 21-03ESR
- Monroe County 21-03ACSC
- City of Hallandale Beach 21-01ESR
- City of Miami 20-02ESR
- City of Pompano Beach 20-04ESR

**Public Comment**

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

Councilmember Furr inquired if the City of Hallandale Beach had replaced their wells. Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated she will update the Councilmembers at the next meeting.

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

D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review – None

E. Clean Cities Update / Board Membership

Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that Ms. Alisha Lopez, Clean Cities Coordinator, was present for any questions. Mrs. Cosio Carballo explained that the Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition has been in existence for 25 years, in which Councilmember Asseff was the Coalition's Board Representative and the Chair for many of those years. Included, in this Agenda Item, is an update on the Clean Cities Coalition and a Highlights flyer. Mrs. Cosio Carballo requested a Councilmember to join the Coalition. Councilmember Furr was nominated, and he accepted. Mrs. Cosio Carballo and Ms. Lopez thanked Councilmember Furr.

*Councilmember Geller moved to approve Agenda Item IV.E Clean Cities Update / Board Membership. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.*

F. American Rescue Act / Regional Funding Priorities

Chair Bailey summarized the discussion that took place at the May 7, 2021, Workshop, regarding the American Rescue Act and Regional Funding Priorities. Discussion took place on the clarification on the CS & F Study, (the finance on the Study and the implementation). It was suggested that Dr. Jennifer Jurado, be contacted for more information. Another issue discussed was the septic to sewer and whether it is a regional issue.

The Agenda attachment reflected the project name, proposer of the project (county, RPCs, various agencies, and agencies staff), Regional Importance, and estimated cost. Monroe County was not on this list. Chair Bailey inquired of Mayor Coldiron if Monroe County had any relevant projects that could be added to the funding priorities. She stated that Monroe County is unique in that it is much smaller and has significantly less funding than the other counties. She explained that with the lower amount given to Monroe County, there does not seem to be a regional project in the County or one that the County could lend their support to at this time. The County is looking at infrastructure projects that will probably not have a regional impact. Chair Bailey thanked Mayor Coldiron and requested if they did find something of regional importance to please reach out to the SFRPC for support. Mrs. Cosio Carballo read aloud the Broward and Miami-Dade Counties', Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC), and SFRPC proposals from the May 7<sup>th</sup> Workshop in detail, all noted in the Agenda Item. There was an inquiry on the pricing of the septic to sewer cost, discussion ensued, and it was decided that more detailed information is needed. Councilmember Furr recounted that in his conversation with TCRPC Councilmember Doug Smith the regional projects they discussed were the Central & Southern Florida Project Resilience Update, the Coral Reef studies, septic to sewer conversion, and/or reservoir recharge. Other topics were the cost sharing between Miami-Dade, Broward, and possibly Palm Beach counties – suggesting each county put in a set amount for a mutual, regional project, in requesting federal / state funding. Councilmember Geller stated that there are two conversations: 1) the American Rescue Plan fund in which each county

contributes an amount for a regional project; 2) regional projects that the counties should work on together. Chair Bailey suggested the discussion be postponed.

## **V. Discussion Items**

### **A. Executive Director's Report**

Mrs. Cosio Carballo updated the Councilmembers on the Military Installation Resilience Report proposal that the Council is submitting in partnership with the South Florida Defense Alliance to the Department of Defense and thanked the Councilmembers for their support.

Ms. Kathe Lerch, SFRPC staff, read the chat comments from Councilmember Ziade. Councilmember Ziade agrees with Councilmember Geller's comments. She also inquired if there was an adoption on Agenda Item IV.F. American Rescue Plan / Regional Funding Priorities. Chair Bailey restated that this discussion would continue at the upcoming meeting.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo continued with the Executive Director's Report. She stated that the Council has advertised for a Regional Planner position with experience in resiliency, water infrastructure, GIS, etc.

Chair Bailey informed the Councilmembers who have social media to please share the job position.

### **B. Legal Counsel Report**

Mr. Goren announced that the Council approved the Statement of Organization at the last meeting and document is in process of being updated and will be shared once completed. He thanked everyone for their input on this important document. There is no litigation to report, and will clarify any questions pertaining to the RLF Program later in the meeting. He stated he was happy to be at today's meeting.

### **C. Councilmembers Report**

### **D. Ex-Officio Reports – None**

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

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

Jeff Tart, Senior Loan Officer, stated that there are two loans, accepted by past administration that have been performing poorly. He thanked Mr. Goren's office for working with the RLF staff to address these issues. One borrower is being pursued for litigation, and the other borrower - a settlement is being sought. He then detailed the funding amount that is now available in the traditional RLF Program.

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

Mr. Tart gave a brief history and prerequisites of the funding of the RLF CARES Act. Details were provided on the loans processed located in Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, and the amount of funds left to lend. He asked the Councilmembers to continue to communicate within their respected counties. Advertisement of the CARES Act RLF Program, with the help of our Communications Director, is on social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.), and along with the many responses from the survey that has been sent out, this Program has become successful. There may be additional funding in the future.

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

D. Council Highlights – Information only

V. C. Councilmember Reports

Chair Bailey requested the next Council Meeting take place in Miami-Dade County. Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that she is in conversation with Miami-Dade County for this meeting. Chair Bailey would like to have another meeting in Monroe County. He stated the importance of being present in the representative counties. Mrs. Cosio Carballo noted the importance of a physical quorum. He thanked Mrs. Cosio Carballo for finding matters that are regionally important for the Councilmembers to discuss.

**Public Comments – None**

**VII. Announcements and Attachments**

A. Attendance Form

B. Correspondence and Articles

C. Upcoming Meetings

- 1) Monday, June 28, 2021, 10:30 a.m. TBD - (SFRPC, Hollywood)
- 2) Monday, July 26, 2021, 10:30 a.m. TBD - (SFRPC, Hollywood)
- 3) Monday, August No Meeting (Summer Recess)

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

***“Resiliency Initiatives and Programs at DEP” – Alex Reed, Director, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, Florida Department of Environmental Protection***

Chair Bailey thanked Alex Reed for joining the Meeting and stated that it is a pleasure to work with her and appreciates her being here.

Ms. Reed explained the aspects of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and its functions including the three primary program areas of DEP: Land and Recreation, Regulatory, and Ecosystems Restoration Programs. She noted the offices and programs under each topic area. She informed the Councilmembers on the funding opportunities provided for the beaches program, Biscayne Bay Water Quality Initiatives (water quality studies, septic to sewer conversions, other restoration projects, some coral disease response efforts), the Cares Act, Coastal Mapping Initiative, Florida Resilient Coastline Initiative Program, and the new Resilient Florida Trust Fund. She went into details on the Resilient Florida Trust Fund: funding, year to year plans, prioritized lists, etc. Ms. Reed stated that the SFRPC could potentially partner with DEP in a regional collaborative effort to further these initiatives and protect regional assets. She explained the new statutory language defining and prioritizing the critical assets state-wide including infrastructure to state lands and everything in between. She gave an update on SB 178, the SLIP Study Bill. Inquiries ensued on the vulnerability study and Coral Reef Conservation Management Plan in collaboration with DEP/Florida Wildlife and Fish Conservation Commission (FWC).

Ms. Reed explained the minimum standards on the vulnerability assessment. She thanked the Council for putting forth the legislative initiative to rename the Coral Reef area in honor of Kristen Jacobs who was a wonderful advocate for the coral reefs. She stated that the Management Plan conversation is ongoing.

Councilmember Furr and Chair Bailey offered the Council's help to move the conversation along. Ms. Reed stated that after the next legislative session, she may reach out for additional support from the SFRPC. Councilmember Furr stated that DEP has acquired a "real star" in Joanna Walczak. Ms. Reed agreed.

Other inquiries were on ocean outfall, sewer to septic conversion, and if DEP had any possible ideas on these issues. Ms. Reed suggested contacting the Division of Water Resource Management contact as the regulatory arm and the Division of Water Restoration Assistance on a funding perspective. The Division of Water Restoration Assistance has more water related infrastructure projects being funded. The legislature has recognized that counties have a lot of work to do, a lot of challenges, and infrastructure problems that needs to be addressed. There are a lot of options and suggested contacting Trina Vielhauer, the Director of Division of Water Restoration Assistance.

Chair Bailey stated that the SFRPC and TCRPC are in discussion regarding regional projects and inquired if that would be helpful in trying to receive funding. Ms. Reed stated that anytime there is a regional discussion, DEP will be able to find those regionally significant assets established in the statutes. In early July, DEP should be going live on an information and application portal for the new program. The Department has to accept all applications statewide, from communities and SFWMDs by September 1, with a plan to submit to legislature for consideration by December 1. The portal will have information on the new Program to accept applications for planning grants, implementation projects, and regional resilience coalition requests. DEP wants to make this an open dialogue and partnership, so any ideas to improve the new Program is welcome. Chair Bailey thanked Ms. Reed for her time and the Council looks forward to working with her moving forward.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 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 May 24, 2021, Meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021.

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Jordan Leonard, Secretary

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Date