

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

July 18, 2022

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met virtually and in-person on this date at the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (Miami Dade TPO) at 150 West Flagler Street, Suite 1900, Miami, Florida 33130. Chair Geller called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and reminded everyone of the meeting's procedures.

Chair Geller welcomed the Council as well as special guests: SFRPC Councilmember, Miami-Dade TPO Chair, and Vice Chair of the Miami-Dade County Commission Oliver Gilbert, III. He thanked Executive Director Aileen Bouclé and Chief Communications Officer Elizabeth Rockwell of the Miami-Dade TPO. He welcomed and thanked Jimmy Morales, Chief Operating Officer of Miami-Dade County, who is present on behalf of Mayor Levine Cava. Mr. Morales welcomed everyone and stated that he will be offering comments during the solid waste management portion of the meeting.

Chair Geller emphasized the importance of the SFRPC's regional planning role for South Florida (Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe). He thanked Miami-Dade County Councilmembers Gilbert, McGhee, and Senator Garcia for being present for today's meeting.

Chair Geller introduced new SFRPC staff member Lisa Rallo Szumla and stated that Executive Director Isabel Cosio Carballo will provide further information during her discussion.

Chair Geller stated that today's meeting has a full agenda including a brief overview of the solid waste management issues facing South Florida. Presentations from all three counties will give an insight to some of the issues to be discussed at the upcoming joint meeting with the TCRPC and SFRPC in October.

COO Morales led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Chair Steve Geller *
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey*
Councilmember Frank Caplan*
Councilmember Craig Cates
Councilmember Michelle Coldiron
Councilmember Joseph Corradino
Councilmember Beam Furr
Councilmember René García
Councilmember Oliver Gilbert, III
Councilmember Cary Goldberg**
Councilmember Samuel Kaufman*
Councilmember Kionne McGhee
Councilmember Greg Ross

Councilmember Michael Udine*
Councilmember Ana M. Ziade

* Virtually Present

** Absent

SFRPC Executive Director Mrs. Isabel Cosio Carballo and Legal Counsel Sam Goren were present. Mr. Goren confirmed that a quorum was present.

The following Ex-Officio Members were virtually present:

Dat Huynh, from the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI

Lorraine Mayers, representing the South Florida Water Management District

The following Ex-Officio Member was absent:

Jason Andreotta, from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (SE District)

II. Approval Council Agenda

Councilmember Caplan moved to approve the Council Agenda and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

III. Regional Conversation – Solid Waste Management (Time Certain: 10:45 AM)

Achaya Kelapanda, Deputy Director, Miami-Dade County Solid Waste Management

Kevin B. Kelleher, Assistant County Administrator, Broward County

Cheryl Sullivan, Director, Monroe County Solid Waste Management

Chair Geller moved this agenda item for after the other board discussion items were completed.

IV. Action Items

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councilmember Udine moved to approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

Director of Finance, Leo Braslavsky Soldi presented the Financial Report in detail.

Councilmember Ross moved to approve the Financial Report. Councilmember Coldiron seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

Public Hearing

Proposed

- City of Marathon 22-07ACSC
- City of Miami Beach 22-03ESR
- City of Sunny Isles Beach 22-01ESR *

Public Comment

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

Public Hearing

Adopted

- Broward County 22-03ESR
- Miami-Dade County 21-06ESR
- City of Key Colony Beach 21-01ACSC *
- City of Marathon 22-02ACSC

*Property Rights

Public Comment

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

Councilmember Caplan moved to approve the Consent Items: Proposed and Adopted. Councilmember Udine seconded, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Public Hearing

Legal Counsel Goren confirmed that the items that require a roll call are listed as Agenda Item D., because a full quorum was not present during the June 27, 2022, SFRPC meeting.

D. Consent: Items adopted at the June 27th Council Meeting while in Executive Session

- IV.E FY 20-21 Audit (Presentation and vote preceded regular council items)

Councilmember Udine moved to adopt the FY 20-21 Audit, and Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. Roll call was administered, a quorum was determined, and the adoption was carried by a unanimous vote.

- IV.A. April 25, 2022 Executive Committee and Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Ross moved to adopt the April 25, 2022, Executive Committee and Council Meeting Minutes and Councilmember Coldiron seconded the motion, and the adoption was carried by a unanimous vote.

- IV.B. June 27, 2022 Financial Report

Councilmember Bailey moved to adopt the June 27, 2022 Financial Report and Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion. Roll call was administered, a quorum was determined, and the adoption was carried by a unanimous vote.

- IV.C. June 27, 2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

Councilmember Ross moved to adopt the June 27, 2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews and Councilmember Coldiron seconded the motion, and the adoption was carried by a unanimous vote.

- IV.I. 2022 Amended Meeting Dates and Locations

Councilmember Ross moved to adopt the 2022 Amended Meeting Dates and Locations and Councilmember Coldiron seconded the motion, and the adoption was carried by a unanimous vote.

E. Council Dues Rate

Councilmember Gilbert moved to approve Agenda Item IV.E. Council Dues Rate and Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. A roll call was administered, a quorum was established, and the adoption was carried by a unanimous vote.

F. FY 2022-2023 Membership Fees

Councilmember Coldiron moved to approve Agenda Item FY 2022-2023 Membership Fees and Councilmember Ziade seconded the motion. A roll call was administered, a quorum was determined, and the adoption was carried by a unanimous vote.

Public Comment

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

Chair Geller discussed that on April 25, 2022, the Executive Committee unanimously approved an increase in dues for the SFRPC. It is currently, the lowest dues rate among the ten regional planning councils in Florida. Executive Director Isabel Cosio Carballo confirmed that it has been twenty-eight (28) years since the last increase. The proposal is to increase the dues from 17.5 cents per capita to 20 cents per capita this year and over the following four years in 1.25 cent increments to 25 cents per capita.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo explained that the increase is needed to attract and retain staff particularly in today's workforce marketplace. In addition, the dues increase will also provide the SFRPC match for competitive grants which bring additional resources to the region. She expressed her gratefulness for the support. Chair Geller confirmed that Mrs. Cosio Carballo, herself, has not received a raise for approximately 5-6 years. Councilmember Gilbert, Vice-Chair of the County Commission, supports the dues increase and offered to champion the dues increase personally.

Public Comment

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 provided a quick update on upcoming regional conversations that the SFRPC is organizing. In addition to a small group, first conversation on Affordable Housing with Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, Council staff is continuing to work toward the seven-county SFRPC / TCRPC October 21, 2022, in-person meeting at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in Boca Raton on the topic of Solid Waste Management. Mrs. Cosio Carballo mentioned Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe counties agreed several months ago that one of the big issues in South Florida is first/last mile transit connections. Council staff hopes to organize that meeting before the end of the year. The Council continues work on the South Florida Military Installation Resilience Review. She distributed an opinion guest column by former Florida Chief Resilience Officer Julia Nesheiwat lauding the Council and South Florida MIRR. MIRR site visits will soon be underway. The Council has also advertised a RFQ to identify qualified firms to work with the Council on different projects. She went on to state that the Council is the Economic Development District for the U.S. Department of Commerce and every 5 years, the SFRPC develops a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Chair Geller has kindly taken on the role as Chair. The CEDS draft will soon be finalized and posted for public comment. Lastly, Mrs. Cosio Carballo introduced Lisa Rallo Szumla as the new administrative staff member who will be assisting with meetings and other projects.

Chair Geller noted that President and CEO George Hanbury II, of Nova Southeastern University, a member of the CEDS Strategy Committee, is virtually present and thanked him for his participation.

B. Legal Counsel Report

Legal Counsel, Sam Goren, presented two items related to the Florida Administrative Code. Rule 29J, adopted when the Council was first formed by the State Legislature, requires revision due to changes that have occurred since its initial adoption. The Council is updating Rules 29J-2 and 29J-3 to revise the rules as they relate to the organization today. It is a very tedious process with no shortcuts including notice provisions, advertising, and public hearing provisions. He indicated that these are housekeeping changes which will be reviewed by the State. The process is under way and the revised rules will be brought to the Council for ratification. Sam thanked Kathe for her work in this effort.

Mr. Goren went on to discuss the SFRPC's Revolving Loan Fund Program (RLF). There is a current loan relationship with a borrower Angela Dawson. She has made a public records request in connection with a pending foreclosure matter that the Council has been involved with for a while. The staff has responded promptly, appropriately, and consistently with Chapter 119 by producing records in accordance with the statute and consistent with the cost and expense associated with producing records that are allowed to be charged. The SFRPC has acted in a professional manner and Counsel is currently in litigation of this pending foreclosure matter. It is progressing in the court system. Mr. Goren made the Councilmembers aware of this situation so that if they were to be contacted for any reason, via email, letter or any type of documentation, no one is blindsided by the fact that the SFRPC is in litigation.

Councilmember Ross asked Mr. Goren if we are in mediation or past completion of mediation. Mr. Goren responded that we are past mediation and are currently in litigation.

- C. Councilmembers Reports - None
- D. Ex-Officio Reports - None

The following Council Agenda Items will be addressed and updated at the September Council Meeting.

VI. Program Reports and Activities

- A. SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report
- B. SFRPC CARES Act RLF Status Report
- C. Development of Regional Impact Status Report

VII. Announcements and Attachments

- A. Attendance Form / Statement of Organizations (Adopted April 26, 2021)
- B. Correspondence and Articles
- C. Upcoming Meetings
 - 1. August Recess – No meeting currently scheduled
 - 2. Monday, September 19, 2022, 10:30 a.m., (TBD)
 - 3. Friday, October 21, 2022, Joint Meeting with TCRPC (TBD)

**III. Regional Conversation – Solid Waste Management (Time Certain: 10:45 AM)
Meeting Commenced at 10:46 am**

Chair Geller provided a brief overview of the importance regarding this topic as it will be the only item of discussion at the upcoming October 21st Joint Conference with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC). The meeting duration is slated to last approximately six hours and Chair Geller asked the Council to weigh in on what should be the most important key topics for discussion.

Chair Geller asked COO Jimmy Morales for opening comments. During Mr. Morales' discussion, he stated that Miami-Dade County currently disposes of approximately one ton of trash per year. The biggest question is where and how do we dispose of trash in the future? Long term strategies are being investigated to convert waste to energy, as landfills and facilities are dispersing methane gas hazards. A discussion ensued with various Councilmembers agreeing with COO Morales and discussing their own frustrations with this issue.

Chair Geller introduced Achaya Kelapanda, Deputy Director of Miami-Dade County Solid Waste Management. Mr. Kelapanda highlighted the current challenges Miami-Dade County is currently facing issues related to Landfill Capacity, Aging Infrastructure, Competition for Human Capital, Innovative Design & Land Use, etc. Both landfills in north and south Dade will be reconstructed via vertical expansion allowing for more waste to enter those areas. Other landfills have been repurposed for recreational activities such as soccer fields, parks, etc. The aging infrastructure at 30-40 years old, will face 40/50-year

recertifications, and many systems are outdated. The Department is also recruiting new employees to move forward with succession planning. Investing in current and new staff is essential. Long-term planning and creation of regional partnership to search and secure waste to energy materials recovery and compost processing facilities is vital. The biggest question is how do we incorporate the assistance? Chair Geller mentioned that educating the communities is key. Chair Geller thanked Mr. Kelapanda for his time. The PowerPoint presentation is located on the SFRPC website: <https://sfrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Miami-Dade-County-SFRPC-Governing-Board-Presentation-071822-POST.pdf>

Chair Geller introduced the second guest speaker, Kevin Kelleher, Assistant County Administrator for Broward County. Mr. Kelleher stated that Broward County currently disposes of approximately four million tons of waste per year. He stated that most solid waste facilities are privately owned and operated, including a waste-to-energy facility and a Class I landfill. Broward County owns a Class III landfill and three drop-off centers. There is a nine-member Solid Waste Working Group convened through the Broward League of Cities currently working on developing a governance structure, a waste generation study, a waste composition study, revenue requirements and financial projection study, and an upcoming master plan. Like Miami-Dade County, Broward County is also dealing with aging infrastructure and lack of sufficient disposal facilities. There is a need to leverage waste disposal systems to take advantage of economies of scale and to explore opportunities for other waste reduction and diversion programs. Mr. Kelleher touched on Broward County's recycling and stated that the County is faced with challenges of contamination, higher processing fees/reduced commodity values, and municipalities which are or have suspended their curbside recycling programs. Some innovative waste technologies would be to better manage processing/disposal of biosolids and explore opportunities for composting or organic waste processing. The bottom line is to continue educating the public and increase awareness. Chair Geller thanked Mr. Kelleher for his time. The PowerPoint presentation is located on the SFRPC website: <https://sfrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/SFRPC-SW-Update-7-15-22.pdf>

Chair Geller introduced Cheryl Sullivan, Director of Monroe County Solid Waste Management. Ms. Sullivan began by stating that Monroe County has four contracted collection franchisees and owns three transfer stations located throughout the Florida Keys. Waste is collected and all commercial, household, hazardous and electronic waste segments are hauled to the mainland, primarily to Miami-Dade County. Ms. Sullivan continued by emphasizing that Monroe County is an Area of Critical State Concern facing many special challenges associated with this designation. There have not been any landfills since 1992. There are limitations of land and open space. All garbage, recycling, vegetation, household hazardous waste, and electronic waste must be transported out of Florida Keys. Critical environmental impacts due to near shore waters, protected species/wildlife reserves, and travel distance limit viable options. A large portion of recycling in the Keys is glass which is very heavy for transportation. Illegal Dumping and near shore pollution is problematic. Ms. Sullivan summed up her presentation by stating that we all share the same concerns regarding solid waste. Where do we put it? What is the environmental impact to our communities, health, water, air, wildlife, etc.? How much is it going to cost? Who is going to act?

Chair Geller thanked Ms. Sullivan for her time. The PowerPoint presentation can be found on the SFRPC website: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OkClgNz8pqPTTwTxJf9C7JRvXDVzcSO/view>

Chair Geller asked the Councilmembers to think about the key takeaways from each presentation and what will be the most important questions and possible solutions of what can be done to reduce waste.

Several members provided comments:

Councilmember Garcia mentioned that this issue affects us all and impacts public health. He is excited that the Council and the three counties are working together to find solutions. This includes focus on waste to energy and finding the impediments in getting the energy to the public consumer – may have to deal with FPL and State regulations. Very important to create public awareness/education (public awareness campaign) and be honest to the public on costs. Councilmember Garcia also emphasized that a tri-county effort will make a direct impact through the SFRPC.

Councilmember Caplan highlighted that this issue is overdue and suggested providing a briefing paper to the public (municipalities) before the October meeting from recycling, to process, cost, economics, etc. to help them understand the recycling process. A public policy or legislation should be made on efficiently biodegradable and recycled materials.

Councilmember Furr followed by stating that many are unaware of Monroe County's issues and concurred that each county has their own unique challenges. In Broward County, glass is reused and turned into sand to renourish the beach. In St. Lucie County, a market has been found that changes recycled glass to help build roads. There are many items made from plastic and we need to find a manufacturer that will change recycled plastic into demand items.

Councilmember Furr suggested some websites to look at on different ways to look at markets:

Wastedive <https://www.wastedive.com>

Waste360 <https://www.waste360.com/>

He continued with questions to be raised:

- 1) What is the demand and how do we create the demand for those recycled items?
- 2) How do you use the fuel that is being created at waste to energy (WTE)?
- 3) Heat being used to pelletize biosolids instead of the sludge being moved to central Florida
- 4) How to use heat transfer to create other things.
- 5) Advertisements daily on the radio & accentuate on contamination levels (St. Lucie used as an example)
- 6) Educating children on recycling and the importance of recycling
- 7) Diversify
- 8) Ask entrepreneurs/schools for their ideas

Chair Geller takeaways from Councilmember Furr's remarks:

- 1) Public education (a) costs; (b) how to recycle
- 2) Uses of recycling
- 3) Glass and plastic recycling programs and its uses
- 4) What we do with the waste to energy and associated new laws as to selling that energy

In addition, Chair Geller would like to learn more about how the ash created impacts the environment.

COO Morales continued the discussion with the following challenges:

- 1) Where do you put the facilities, logistically (population, transportation/trucks, environmental issues, etc.)?
- 2) Work together to make larger facilities, use the power to create a recycling facility, electric trucks, garbage trucks (net zero impact).
- 3) Challenge as we grow/where to put them/work together on the cost sharing, contracts, and flow.

Councilmember Ziade commented:

- 1) For Monroe County – reach out to other islands outside of Florida on their methods.
- 2) North Lauderdale issues: renters do not recycle and just do not care. Who do you hold accountable?
- 3) Valuable to have pathologist/medical recommendations/opinions.

Councilmember Ross mentioned that the counties all have their challenges, strengths, and commonalities:

- 1) How can we better collaborate?
- 2) How can we better educate?
- 3) What are the other alternatives?

Councilmember Cates remarked on the following: Recycling importance – saves money in the long run, even if subsidized.

Chair Geller mentioned the following questions as key topics of discussion:

- 1) To what extent can this be done by public or private sectors?
- 2) What will be the collaboration between the two?

Chair Geller asked if there were any additional comments and was particularly looking for subjects for the October meeting.

Mike Fernandez, Director of Miami-Dade County Solid Waste and Broward resident commented:

- 1) Collaboration with the counties on strengths and weaknesses – joint forces
- 2) Put it in one basket and see what we want to accomplish
- 3) Is it waste management?
- 4) Recycling cost?
- 5) Reduction of waste/recycling?
- 6) Waste to energy opportunities.
- 7) How do we reuse sludge, can we use seaweed for waste to energy?
- 8) Power facilities and trucks
- 9) Ash pilot reuse – concrete aggregate

Chair Geller added that the main topic to discuss is what can be done to reduce waste? How much is going into landfills? And we will need to come up with alternatives, because at some point, we are going to run out of land and space. Chair Geller asked if anyone has any additional questions or comments. There were none.

Mrs. Isabel Cosio Carballo thanked everyone at the meeting virtual and present, as well as the TPO for their hospitality.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Geller motioned to adjourn the meeting and Councilmembers Udine and Ziade moved to adjourn, and Councilmember Coldiron seconded the motion.

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 July 18, 2022 meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 19th day of September 2022.

Michelle Coldiron, Secretary
Monroe County Commissioner, District 2

Date