



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM # 11

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2023

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: STATEWIDE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Please welcome Frank Bernardino, Founding Partner of Anfield Consulting, for a presentation on water infrastructure challenges and opportunities as we look to the 2023 State Legislative Session.

In addition, please find herewith Resolution # 23-01 related to Water Resources Investments. This resolution was unanimously approved by the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board at their January 13, 2023 Board Meeting.

The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils were early leaders on these issues as evidenced by the unanimous adoption of Joint Resolution TCSF 20-02 at their March 19, 2021 meeting.

Recommendation:

Information Only.

RESOLUTION #23-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION SUPPORTING CREATION OF A STATEWIDE COORDINATED PLANNING AND PRIORITIZATION APPROACH FOR WATER RESOURCE INVESTMENTS MODELLED ON THE FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Regional Councils Association is a multi-purpose association of regional planning councils with policy responsibility in the areas of economic development, emergency preparedness, transportation, and resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Regional Councils Association includes membership by the Apalachee, Central Florida, East Central Florida, Emerald Coast, North Central Florida, Northeast Florida, South Florida, Tampa Bay and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils; and

WHEREAS, a significant roadblock to effectively addressing the water challenges facing Florida is the fractured nature of responsibility for water and the uncoordinated investment of funds to meet our needs; and

WHEREAS, funding at the state level has been subject to shifting legislative priorities and local perspectives rather than a strategic approach, leading to inefficiencies and a growing backlog of needed infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, recognizing this situation, the Water and Environmental Sustainability Committee of the Florida Association of Counties recently proposed modeling state water resource investment on the Florida Transportation Commission and Florida Transportation Plan approach for planning, prioritization, a predictable multi-year capital construction program, and oversight which reliably delivers transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, coordinated and efficient investment of sufficient state funding for regional systems in concert with local funding of local systems is needed in order to meet water needs and protect water resources and the environment now and into the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL ASSOCIATION THAT:

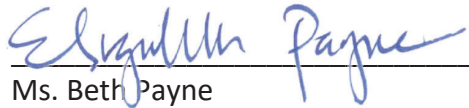
Section 1. The above recitals are declared to be true and correct and are hereby made a part of this Resolution.

Section 2. The Association expresses its support for statutory changes that will lead to coordinated and strategic investment of state funds for water resources using a structure modelled on the Florida Transportation Commission.

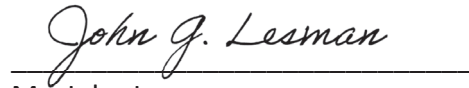
Section 3. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida League of Cities, and all Regional Planning Councils in Florida.

DULY ADOPTED by the Florida Regional Councils Association this 13th day of January 2023.

Attest:



Ms. Beth Payne
Chair, EDAC



Mr. John Lesman
President

