

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

January 22, 2024

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met virtually and in person on this date at the South Florida Regional Planning Council, 1 Oakwood Boulevard, Suite 250, Hollywood, FL 33020. Chair Geller (virtually) welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said at the SEFRPI Meeting, held before the SFRPC Council Meeting. The recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8F6mF2Xw3k>.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Chair Steve Geller *

Councilmember Mario J. Bailey**

Councilmember Frank Caplan

Councilmember Craig Cates

Councilmember Joseph Corradino*

Councilmember Beam Furr

Councilmember René García*

Councilmember Oliver Gilbert, III**

Councilmember Cary Goldberg*

Councilmember Denise Horland

Councilmember Samuel Kaufman*

Councilmember Michelle Lincoln*

Councilmember Kionne McGhee**

Councilmember Greg Ross*

Councilmember Michael Udine**

* Virtually Present

** Absent

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

The following Ex-Officio Member was virtually present:

Ken Jeffries, for Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI

The following Ex-Officio Members were not present:

Sirena Davila, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Armando L. Vilaboy, representing the South Florida Water Management District

Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, stated for the record there is a quorum.

II. Approval of Council Agenda

The Council Agenda was carried by a unanimous vote.

III. Presentation (Time Certain: 11:00 AM): Update on the Central & Southern Florida Flood Risk Study – Status and Timing

- Jennifer L. Jurado, Ph.D., Deputy Director and Chief Resilience Officer, Broward County Resilient Environment Department
- James F. Murley, Chief Resilience Officer, Miami-Dade County
- Ana Carolina Coelho Maran, P.E., Ph.D., District Resiliency Officer, South Florida Water Management District
- Mayor Cory J. Bell, Deputy District Commander for South Florida, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
- Eva B. Velez, P.E., Chief, Ecosystem Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
- E. Timothy Gysan, P.E., PMP, Resilience Senior Project Manager, Ecosystem Branch, Programs & Project Management Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

IV. Action Items

A. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Chair Geller motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes for November 2023. Councilmember Furr moved the motion and Councilmember Horland seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

The Director of Finance and IT Leo Braslavsky Soldi presented the Financial Report in detail.

Chair Geller motioned to approve the Financial Report. Councilmember Furr moved the motion and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews (*Property Rights)

Legal Counsel, Sam Goren, read the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews, Proposed.

Proposed

- Broward County 23-04ESR
- Monroe County 23-04ACSC
- Monroe County 23-05ACSC
- City of Homestead 23-02ESR
- City of Key West 23-03ACSC
- City of Oakland Park 23-02ER
- City of Tamarac 23-01ESR

Public Hearing

Chair Geller opened the Public Hearing and asked if there were any comments or questions.

Public Comments

There were no comments or questions from the public in person or virtually.

Chair Geller motioned to approve the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Councilmember Ross moved the motion and Councilmember Furr seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

Legal Counsel, Sam Goren, read the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews, Adopted.

Adopted

- Broward County 23-01ESR
- Broward County 23-02ESR
- City of Coral Springs 23-01ESR*
- City of Florida City 23-01ESR*
- City of Hallandale Beach 23-02ESR
- City of Hallandale Beach 23-03ESR
- City of Hialeah Gardens 23-03ESR*
- City of Hollywood 23-02ESR

Public Hearing

Chair Geller opened the Public Hearing and asked if there were any comments or questions.

Public Comments

There were no comments or questions from the public in person or virtually.

Chair Geller motioned to approve the adopted Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Councilmember Ross moved the motion and Councilmember Horland seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

- D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review – None
- E. Nominating Committee Report / Election of Officers

Chair Geller summarized the meeting of the Nominating Committee, held on January 12, 2024, noting the Nominating Committee Members were Councilmembers Kaufman, Udine, and Garcia. In consideration of Vice Mayor Kaufman possibly being elected as Mayor of Key West, the Committee suggested that Councilmember Kaufman become Secretary, and the other Executive Committee Members move up the slate, to which Vice Mayor Kaufman agreed. Commissioner Furr, who would be 1st Vice Chair requested to be moved to 2nd Vice Chair since he would be the Broward County Mayor in 2025 and suggested Commissioner Garcia move to 1st Vice Chair. Both Councilmembers felt they could not be Mayor and Chair at the same time. Chair Geller stated that the Nominating Committee recommends the following slate:

Chair, Commissioner Geller
1st Vice Chair, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Garcia
2nd Vice Chair, Broward County Vice Mayor Furr
Treasurer, Monroe County Commissioner Lincoln
Secretary, City of Key West Vice Mayor Kaufman
Past Chair, Ex Officio, Miami-Dade County Mario Bailey

Councilmember Lincoln thanked Chair Geller for his years of service as Chair. She was respectfully concerned about the process for the past three years and would like to see new leadership and members yearly. Councilmember Furr stated Chair Geller has been a great Chair. He requested to be withdrawn from the Executive Committee thereby opening a position to be filled. Councilmember Garcia stated he liked the slate as is for now and would like to see new people on the Executive Committee as well as on the Board. He committed to seeing if he could recruit more elected officials to become Board Members. Commissioner Cates agreed with Commissioner Lincoln and requested Mr. Goren's insight on the SFRPC policy regarding the Chair's term limit. Mr. Goren referred to the Statement of Organization and its rules. He read Rule 7.0 and explained the past changes as to why Chair Geller has been Chair. Mr. Goren stated that the Nominating Committee created the slate legally and the option to amend the slate to respond to Council needs can be implemented. Councilmember Cates suggested the Nominating Committee review the choices of the Executive Committee. Councilmember Udine stated that he understands and respects the opposing and different sides to this debate, but there is something to be said about the continuity in moving this agency forward. He felt the slate does move everyone forward, this will be Chair Geller's last year as Chair, and then newer people will be chosen. He feels Chair Geller has done a good job in having some powerful and positive meetings. Councilmember Goldberg stated that he would like to be considered for the Executive Committee. Councilmember Caplan agreed with Councilmember Garcia. The Zoom meeting was hacked with a pornographic video. The recording was discontinued and excised from the record as a matter of law. The meeting was reestablished and continued shortly after. Chair Geller recommended that the Council vote on the slate and if rejected, send the slate back to the Nominating Committee with the recommendation to have an election at the next meeting. Chair Geller recommended that the Immediate Past Chair who missed three consecutive meetings be removed, and the position be filled by appointment. Councilmember Furr requested his name be taken off the slate for someone else to fill the vacancy. The slate would then be:

Chair, Commissioner Steve Geller
1st Vice Chair, Miami-Dade County Commissioner René Garcia
2nd Vice Chair, Monroe County Commissioner Michelle Lincoln
Treasurer, City of Key West Vice Mayor Sam Kaufman
Secretary, vacant
Past Chair, Ex Officio, Miami-Dade County Mario Bailey

Mr. Goren reiterated that Councilmember Furr declined his nomination to the Executive Committee, and he did so without coercion or duress, noting that there will be a vacant position on the Executive Committee. Chair Geller suggested the Council vote on the current slate (with one vacancy) and if not sufficient, the Nominating Committee reconvene and be brought to the February Meeting.

Councilmember Ross motioned to take this item back to the Nominating Committee and report back at the next Council Meeting. Councilmember Lincoln seconded the motion. The motion carried by 11-1 with Councilmember Udine opposing.

- F. 2024 Council Meeting Topics – not discussed.
- G. Resolution 24-01 Kristen Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area / Florida Aquatic Preserve

Mrs. Cosio Carballo explained that House Bill 1557 and Senate Bill 1386, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's legislative package, includes provisions that would designate the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area a Florida Aquatic Preserve Area. SFRPC Resolution 24-01 supports the inclusion of the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area to the list of Florida Aquatic Preserve Areas along with urging the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to work collaboratively to develop and implement a long-term coral reef conservation strategy for the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Conservation Area before adverse impacts to the reef cannot be reversed.

Chair Geller motioned to approve and sign SFRPC Resolution 24-01. Councilmember Furr moved the motion and Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

H. Central & Southern Florida Flood Risk Study Presentation (11:00 a.m. Time Certain)

Physically present in the office for the presentation were Jennifer L. Jurado, Ph.D., Deputy Director and Chief Resilience Officer, Broward County Resilient Environment Department; Ana Carolina Coelho Maran, P.E., Ph.D., District Resiliency Officer, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD); and James F. Murley, Chief Resilience Officer, Miami-Dade County. Virtually present were Mayor Cory J. Bell, Deputy District Commander for South Florida, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District; Eva B. Velez, P.E., Chief, Ecosystem Branch, USACE, Jacksonville District; E. Timothy Gysan, P.E., PMP, Resilience Senior Project Manager, Ecosystem Branch, Programs & Project Management Division, USACE, Jacksonville District.

Dr. Jurado gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Central & Southern Florida Flood Risk Study (C&SF Study). She explained in detail the terms of Flood Protection Level of Service and the Phases, coastal structures managing water and salinity, and funding; coordination and responsibilities with SFWMD, USACE, and counties; 216 Flood Risk Study Status, scope of work, new study requirements, structures, engineering studies, timeline, etc.; the current status of funding for the counties, phasing, studies, and scheduling. She summarized the Resilience Plan progress, Resilient Florida Funding, anticipated regional funding conversation, and the need for scope approval from the USACE, followed by subsequent appropriations. Discussion ensued on upgrading the salinity control structures (barriers/pumps), project timeframe/ completion, flooding, incremental improvements, funding, etc.

Ms. Velez, USACE, thanked Dr. Jurado for her excellent presentation. Ms. Velez commented on pump station funding for 2024 and the growing cost of civil works projects across the nation. She explained the

discussions being held from a national perspective between USACE, Members of Congress, and appropriators.

Mr. Murley, Miami-Dade County, stated that Mayor Levine-Cava is aware of this matter and some projects in Miami-Dade County do not have federal funding. On this specific project, Miami-Dade County received FEMA BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) funding to initiate upgrades, not replacements, for three canals. Mr. Murley appreciates the SFRPC's initiative to regionally look at this issue together, along with the SFWMD.

Dr. Maran, SFWMD, thanked everyone for their interest and support in this matter. She summarized the SFWMD history of this project, the plans, and the reports. The SFWMD has concerns with the study and is working closely with the USACE on the timing, strategies, funding requirements, control barriers, canal enhancements, matching funds, quality control structures, etc.

The Council Members discussed flood protection/salinity control structures in Miami-Dade and Broward counties and the need to work in partnership with the SFWMD and provide local county funding to advance the Engineering Studies.

Major Bell, USACE, stated the Corp would accept any level of support to finish the report. SFWMD is the state sponsor so any support for them will support the USACE. Mr. Gysan, USACE, stated the comprehensive solution would be to look at the capacity and structure of the canal's upstream and downstream areas. There are additional features that are needed for the system to work properly. He brought up community resilience and this collaboration is a great example of how different levels of government/partnership work together. He appreciated today's discussion.

Dr. Jurado explained the reason for the study is to reassess the system, landscape, and environmental conditions today and move forward to meet the flood protection needs through the improvements of the system accounting for the 2070-2100 timeframe. The presentation can be located on the Council website: https://sfregionalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/CSF-UPDATE-RPC_012224-ICC_JJ-v2.pdf. Mrs. Cosio Carballo summarized the Agenda Item.

Chair Geller motioned for the SFRPC to write a letter urging Miami-Dade and Broward counties to work in partnership with the SFWMD to fund the preliminary studies. Councilmember Furr moved the motion and Councilmember Horland seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Geller thanked Dr. Jurado, Miami-Dade County, SFWMD, and USACE for being part of today's meeting.

Public Comments

V. Program Reports and Activities

A. SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report

B. SFRPC CARES Act RLF Status Report

Mr. Jeff Tart, Senior Loan Officer and Manager of the Revolving Loan Fund Programs stated the RLF Administration Team participated in a joint small business technical workshop "Get in Gear For the New Year" with our partner M. Gill & Associates. The webinar provided technical assistance to more than 50 small businesses on topics such as understanding credit, tips on cybersecurity, marketing, building website traffic, and construction bonding assistance. Marie Gill, from M. Gill & Associates, and Lisa Mooney from Centennial Bank, are both RLF Boardmembers who participated in the technical assistance webinar.

On January 16th, the RLF Board approved \$1.1 million in financing to two non-profit organizations; the Housing Foundation of America, Inc. and the Community Partners of South Florida, Inc. These two borrowers specialize in housing services and counseling to underserved families in South Florida and are truly grateful to the SFRPC and the RLF programs for helping address the affordable housing crisis.

The CARES ACT RLF Program provided \$7.17 million to 34 businesses and continues to perform as an "A" rated program pursuant to the EDA's 2023 Annual Review.

The Traditional RLF Program has provided \$5.5 million to 30 businesses. Two borrowers filed for bankruptcy in December: Cornerstone Paving and CCesar, Inc., and Mr. Tart detailed their future business plans of liquidation and modification. Further details are included in the Agenda Item.

The Affordable Housing Initiative, provided by the Southeast Florida Community Development Fund, Inc. is in the process of closing a new construction loan with the Housing Foundation of America (a HUD-approved non-profit) to assist with 4 new single-family homes in West Park. The Housing Finance Authority of Broward County awarded 8 new vacant lots as part of Broward County's residential single-family In-fill lot program to 2 of our affordable housing developers: Minority Builders Coalition and the Housing Foundation of America. He stated that this initiative has been successful because of its collaboration between local minority-owned non-profit homebuilders, the Urban League of Broward County, the Broward County Commission, and the Housing Finance Authority of Broward County.

Councilmember Horland motioned to approve the SFRPC RLF Status Report and the SFRPC CARES Act Status Report. Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

VI. Discussion Items

- A. Executive Director's Report - none
- B. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren explained some of the details of the Angela Dawson litigation.

- C. Council Members Report
- D. Ex-Officio Report

VII. Announcements and Attachments

- A. Attendance Form
- B. Correspondence and Articles
- C. Upcoming Meetings
 - 1) Friday, March 15, 2024
SFRPC / TCRPC Joint Meeting (West Palm Beach)
 - 2) Monday, February 26, 2024, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC)
 - 3) Monday, March 18, 2024, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC)
 - 4) Monday, April 15, 2024, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC)
 - 5) May 2024, SFRPC Regional Conference (Date / Location TBD)
 - 6) Monday, May 20, 2024, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC)

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Geller adjourned the meeting at 12:12 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 January 22, 2024, meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted on the 26th day of February 2024.

Michelle Lincoln, Secretary
Monroe County Commissioner, District 2

Date