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**JOINT MEETING -- MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS  
FEBRUARY 17, 2023**

The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils held a joint meeting on February 17, 2023, at Long Key Natural Area and Nature Center, 3501 SW 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Davie, Florida 33330.

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome to Broward County & Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Geller called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He led the pledge of allegiance.

**Agenda Item 2: Roll Call**

The following members and alternates were present from the **Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council**:

Indian River County:	Commissioner Susan Adams (virtual) Commissioner Laura Moss
Martin County:	Commissioner Doug Smith
St. Lucie County:	Commissioner Larry Leet Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr.
Palm Beach County:	Commissioner Marci Woodward Commissioner Sara Baxter Mayor Anne Gerwig, Village of Wellington Councilman Jeff Hmara, Village of Royal Palm Beach Councilmember Yvette Drucker, City of Boca Raton Councilmember Robert Gottlieb, South Palm Beach (virtual) Commissioner John Linden, Town of Lake Park Vice Mayor Christopher McVoy, City of Lake Worth Beach
Gubernatorial Appointees:	Douglas Bournique, Indian River County Michael Davis, Palm Beach County Reece Parrish, St. Lucie County
Ex-Officios:	Lois Bush, FDOT Kathy LaMartina, SFWMD Jason Andreotta, FDEP Loraine Cargill, SFRTA

Council Staff: Thomas Lanahan, Executive Director  
Kim DeLaney  
Liz Gulick  
Stephanie Heidt  
Dana Little  
Terry Ann Paulo

Council Attorney: Keith Davis

The following members were present from the **South Florida Regional Planning Council**:

Broward County: Commissioner Steve Geller  
Commissioner Quinten “Beam” Furr  
Mayor Greg Ross, City of Cooper City  
Commissioner Michael Udine  
Councilmember Denise Horland, City of Plantation  
Commissioner

Miami-Dade County: Commissioner Franklin Caplan, Village of Key Biscayne

Monroe County: Commissioner Kaufman, City of Key West

Ex-Officios: Jason Andreotta, FDEP  
Lorraine Mayers, SFWMD

Council staff: Isabel Cosio Carballo, Executive Director  
Eralda Agolli  
Charlene Burke  
Hailey Lazzaroni  
Kathe Lerch  
Alisha Lopez  
Jeff Tart

Council Attorney: Sam Goren

**Agenda Item 3: Chairs’ Comments – The Honorable Steve Geller, Chair, SFRPC and Douglas Bournique, Chair, TCRPC**

On behalf of the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC), Chair Geller welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today’s joint meeting. On behalf of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC), Chair Bournique welcomed everyone to today’s joint meeting. Chair Bournique stated that water was one of the main denominators of all the regional issues and appreciated everyone working together on this and water-related topics.

Chair Geller recognized the newly appointed Executive Director, David Dech from the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA)/TriRail. Mr. Dech updated the Council

members and guests on the SFRTA activities and updates and thanked everyone for the opportunity to attend the meeting. Chair Geller thanked the SFRTA for their ongoing support.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Approval of the Meeting Agenda**

*Council Action: Mayor Ross from the City of Cooper City moved approval of the agenda. Commissioner Baxter from Palm Beach County seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

#### **Agenda Item 5: Legislative Update: Ron L. Book, Founder, President & CEO, Ron L. Book, P.A.**

Mr. Ron Book, President & Chief Executive Officer of Ronald L. Book, P.A. CEO, updated the Council members on the upcoming legislative issues.

- Housing Omnibus Bill – Senate President’s priority legislation, a comprehensive bill since the Sadowski Act was passed in the early 1990s, \$700 million in funding for various programs including SHIP and SAIL.
- Sovereign Immunity – bills filed would significantly raise the caps.
- Financial Disclosure for Elected Officials – requirement to file Form 6 to mirror what legislators file (instead of Form 1).
- Local Ordinances – would require an economic statement/business impact estimate with each newly proposed ordinance.
- Statewide Blue Ribbon Task Force on County Realignment – will require a report on County boundaries.
- Vacation Rentals – would cap the registration fee to \$50 and allow local governments to maintain a vacation rental registry.
- K-12 Voucher Bill, as well as other Bills.

Mayor Geller thanked Mr. Book for taking the time to address the Council members. Mayor Geller recognized Melissa McKinlay, former president of the Florida Association of Counties and former Palm Beach County Commissioner.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Approval of Joint Meeting Minutes (March 18, 2022) & Solid Waste Management Joint Conference Summary (October 21, 2022)**

##### ***Joint Meeting Minutes (March 18, 2022)***

*Council Action: Mayor Ross from the City of Cooper City moved approval of the March 18, 2022 Minutes. Councilmember Hmara from the Village of Royal Palm Beach seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

***Solid Waste Management Joint Conference Summary (October 21, 2022)***

Mayor Geller noted that the SFRPC and TCRPC are continually committed to a partnership and regional convening for information-sharing conversations and problem-solving on pressing regional issues such as the October 21<sup>st</sup> Solid Waste Management Conference. This Conference was a great success. Chairs Bournique and Geller directed the respective executive directors to identify a date for staff and chair-level next steps conversation in response to the information feedback that was received from our Solid Waste Management directors and their key staff.

Chair Geller thanked Commissioner Garcia, from Miami-Dade County for passing a resolution directing the County Mayor or designee to collaborate with the SFRPC on strategies and plans related to Solid Waste Management. The goal of the SFRPC is to provide regional leadership and planning for their three Counties along with the TCRPC. The SFRPC and TCRPC agree to work collaboratively on this matter.

*Council Action: Commissioner Smith from Martin County moved approval of the Solid Waste Management Joint Conference summary held on October 21, 2022. Councilmember Caplan from the Village of Key Biscayne seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

**Agenda Item 7: Florida’s Coral Reef – DEP’s Coral Protection and Restoration Program and Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization (Passed as part of the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act) [PowerPoint Presentation \(sfr regionalcouncil.org\)](https://www.sfrpc.org/powerpoint-presentation)**

Joanna C. Walczak, Administrator, Coral Protection and Restoration Program, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, Florida Department of Environmental Protection provided an update on Coral Protection and Restoration. She highlighted some of the work that the department and collective partnerships are doing to protect and restore Florida's coral reef.

**Management and Restoration Goals:**

1. Support passage of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act. This passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2022
2. Support Everglades Restoration and unify with Florida’s Coral Reef Efforts. She noted that a Coral Reef Coordination Team was established under the Everglades Task Force
3. Finalize reef restoration strategy and secure seed funding to jumpstart Florida’s ‘coral restoration economy’. Restoration Strategy Development FEMA Funding – Governor’s Executive Order 23-06
4. Support increased funding through EPA’s South Florida Geographic Initiative. South Florida Ecosystem Enhancement Act Introduced (S. 119/ H.R. 628)
5. Continue stakeholder engagement and update management plans

Ms. Walczak detailed the tiered restoration plan that was created for this ecosystem area. A tiered approach will come into play where items will fit together: Tier 1-Large-scale ecological goals for restoring resilience of Florida’s Coral Reef; Tier 2-Management area-specific plans that identify areas to restore specific ecosystem services; and Tier 3-Site-specific detailed plans.

She discussed funding:

FY 22-23 Funding:

- Resilient Coastlines and Waste Funding (\$9 M Recurring)
- Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grant (\$20 M)

FY 23-24 Proposed Funding:

- Resilient Coastlines and Waste Funding (\$12.2 M Recurring)
- Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grant (\$20 M)
- Proposed Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative Grant (\$10 M)

Chair Bournique noted something should be done about the sunscreens that people are utilizing and steer them away from sunscreens with negative impacts or use no sunscreens. Ms. Walczak noted that the EPA is considering assessing this issue and will need local data to do that. The DEP does not monitor at that scale. The continued emphasis is on physical protection as much as possible such as sun hats and rash guards. Chair Bournique suggested looking at Australia to see how they are monitoring this situation.

Mayor Geller noted the coral reef restoration is another example of a program that was promoted aggressively by both the TCRPC and the SFRPC. He thanked Commissioner Furr and Commissioner Smith for their leadership.

Mr. Lanahan noted that his eldest daughter did a science fair project on sunscreen. It questioned if it makes a difference if you let the sunscreen soak in, per the instructions, or if you just jump right in the water. It does make a difference if you wait 15 minutes versus immediately getting in the water.

Commissioner Smith noted two people who helped craft the language for the new legislation were Wes Brooks who is now heading up the effort, and James Chang in the Senator's office from Hawaii. He also recognized Beam Furr and thanked him.

Mrs. Carballo recalled a few years ago there was legislation prohibiting sunscreen of a certain type and there was a conversation about preempting apparently of local governments. She questioned if it had passed. Mr. Lanahan noted that Key West passed it and was preempted by the state.

Chair Bournique thanked Ms. Walczak for her presentation.

**Agenda Item 8: Marine Research Hub: Connecting the Dots of Florida's Blue Economy**  
[Microsoft PowerPoint - 2 - MRH presentation deck 2023.pptx \(sfrationalcouncil.org\)](#)

Katherine O'Fallon, Executive Director, Marine Research Hub, gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Connecting the Dots of Florida's Blue Economy." Ms. O'Fallon joined the Marine Research Hub a few months ago.

In 2016, the South Florida Marine Research Hub® Consortium (MRH), an initiative by the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF), was created with eight founding members

comprised of community partners and local universities to foster collaboration among research, education, business, and economic development organizations. The Marine Research Hub establishes the region as a global leader in oceanographic research while helping to commercialize and monetize innovative research-based solutions in the Blue Economy. The Marine Research Hub is building Florida's Blue Economy from all sectors: research, education, government, private and economic development organizations that support the commercialization of research-based solutions to create jobs, build businesses, harden our infrastructure, and create a positive impact for the health of our marine environments and community.

The New Blue Economy is built on a three-legged platform: Economic Growth, Health Ecosystem, and Thriving Communities.

Ms. O'Fallon noted that House Bill 527 was passed to secure funding to assist the Marine Research Hub in furthering its mission to secure Florida's blue economy. Achieving this success would not have been possible without Representative Chip LaMarca leading the way and being a consistent supporter of the marine industry and MRH. She pointed out that more support from the counties is needed.

Chair Bournique asked if the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils would be considered hub-worthy. Ms. O'Fallon said they are looking for partnerships and sponsorships and she can follow up with additional information.

Commissioner Smith cautioned on the phosphorus pelletized process -- how do we reprocess everything to get rid of phosphorus? Ms. O'Fallon will share that feedback with her board members.

Councilmember Davis from Palm Beach County asked if we are creating enough graduates to fill those jobs.

Chair Bournique thanked Ms. O'Fallon for her presentation.

Mayor Lamar Fisher, from Broward County, welcomed everyone to the joint meeting. He recognized Commissioners Geller, Furr, and Udine, all of whom have served as mayors of Broward County but to add their knowledge and expertise to this board is a blessing. Mayor Fisher joined Broward County in 2018. He thanked everyone for the collaboration on affordable housing and solid waste for sustainability.

**Agenda Item 9: Lunch & Learn: Affordable Housing Legislation including an overview of Florida Senate President Passidomo's Priority Legislation: Senate Bill 102**  
[Microsoft PowerPoint - FHC South Florida. Treasure Coast RPCs 2.17.23.pptx](#)  
([sfregionalcouncil.org](http://sfregionalcouncil.org))

Kody Glazer, Esquire, Legal & Policy Director, Florida Housing Coalition, provided a presentation on the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session and what it means for affordable housing.

The Florida Housing Coalition is a Statewide non-profit organization that is a training and technical assistance provider to local governments and nonprofits. There are two Statewide groups that are focused on one mission which is to fully fund Florida's affordable housing trust fund programs.

The Sadowski Coalition is a group of 40 Statewide organizations that are all joined together to fully fund the state's affordable housing trust fund programs. The Sadowski Affiliates are organizations and individuals working with the Sadowski Coalition to carry the message of the importance of housing and the need for all Sadowski funds to be used for the Sadowski housing program. The Sadowski Act was passed in 1992, and it created for Florida a dedicated revenue stream just for affordable housing initiatives across the state. There are two different trust funds. The State Housing Trust Fund funds the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL) which is the state's affordable rental housing program administered by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, and the Local Government Housing Trust Fund deploys money through the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program to 120 local governments across the state for local affordable housing initiatives. They are funded each year by a portion of documentary stamp taxes collected on real estate transactions.

He noted there is a new era for the Sadowski Trust Funds. Stop the sweeps era – where the legislature took monies collected in those two trust funds and then diverted them to other purposes rather than appropriating all the money collected for housing to affordable housing programs. As of 2021, by law, there are no more sweeps. In 2021, Senate Bill 2512 put into law that State and Local Government Housing Trust Funds may not be transferred to the General Revenue Fund. These two Sadowski Trust Funds cannot be swept for programs that are not affordable housing. He also noted that for the next few years, to expect full funding of affordable housing programs.

What to expect in the 2023 Legislative Session:

- Senate President Kathleen Passidoma makes affordable housing a top priority.
- Full funding of the Sadowski Trust Fund programs and substantive policy bills that address housing affordability is expected over the next two sessions.
- Senate Bill 102/House Bill 627, co-sponsored by South Florida lawmakers Senator Alexis Catalayud and Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera coined the “Live Local Act” which addresses a variety of housing issues including funding, tax incentives, and substantial amendments to the state's housing strategy. The new law provides \$711 million in funds and tax incentives for affordable housing projects throughout Florida, while reducing local government rights to deny a project — changing the way affordable housing is developed. It also provides incentives for private investments in affordable housing and offers flexible housing regulations that encourage developments in commercial areas (plus up to \$100 million in a new tax credit program) which provides down payment and closing cost assistance to first-time home buyers with a focus on teachers, health care providers, law enforcement and other first responders, as well as active and retired military.

The Live Local Act includes \$259 million for low-interest loans for developers, \$150 million of which is recurring for certain uses, such as projects near military installations. It also includes \$252 million for local governments to preserve and produce housing, \$100 million for the [Hometown Heroes Program](#), and \$100 million for a loan program to alleviate inflation-related cost increases.

He noted the SHIP estimates for FY 23-24 for the South Florida and Treasure Coast RPCs and preemptions in SB 102/HB 627. Rent control is prohibited and there is also a new preemption on local authority to deny affordable housing developments in commercial parts of your community. He asked local governments to look at Section 24 of the bill which has provisions encouraging local governments to adopt best practices on their own.

*Several questions were asked and answered at the end of the presentation.*

**Agenda 10: Connecting Southeast Florida’s Restoration & Flood Control Planning Studies, Projects, and Timelines** [South Florida Resiliency Efforts \(sfregionalcouncil.org\)](http://sfregionalcouncil.org)

Chair Geller welcomed guests Drew Bartlett, SFWMD Executive Director; Carolina Marán P.E., Ph.D., SFWMD Resiliency Officer; and Timothy Gysan, P.E., PMP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resilience Senior Project Manager with the Ecosystem Programs and Project Division in Jacksonville.

The South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are partnering to advance the **Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970**. This study analyzes the current Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF Project), which laid the groundwork for the series of flood protection canals that exist today. In Southeast Florida, the District is also coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on several resiliency planning initiatives, including the South Atlantic Coastal Study, the Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study, and the Florida Keys Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study.

*Topics of discussion from the South Florida Water Management District.*

- Recognizing changed conditions: Emerging Trends in Regional Resiliency
- District Resiliency Planning: Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan (building resilience and mitigating risks on South Florida water resources)
- Everglades Restoration: Get the water right, restore, preserve, and protect natural habitats and species, and Foster compatibility of the built and natural systems
- Flood Control: Central & Southern Florida Project
- Governor DeSantis’ Executive Order 23-06 bringing significant funds to continue efforts in Everglades restoration
- Coastal Structures Hardening and Self Preservation Mode

*Topics of discussion from the Army Corps of Engineers*

- Building Community Resilience through a comprehensive and collaborative approach
- USACE Southeast Florida Project Integration



- Central & Southern Florida Project
- USACE Project Integration

*Several questions were asked and answered at the end of the presentation.*

**Agenda Item 11: Statewide Water Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities**  
[PowerPoint Presentation \(sfrpc.org\)](https://www.sfrpc.org/powerpoint-presentation)

Mr. Frank Bernardino, Founding Partner, Anfield Consulting, gave a PowerPoint presentation on water infrastructure challenges and opportunities related to the 2023 State Legislative Session.

- EDR 10-year funding gap Estimate
- Projected State Funding Gap
- EDR Assessment of Florida’s Water Resources – 2023 Edition
  - Water Supply Urban & Agricultural
  - Water Supply for Natural Systems
  - Summary for All Water Supply
  - Water Quality Protection – TMDLs
  - Water Quality Protection – BMAPS
  - Stormwater Management
  - Wastewater Management
- Funding Needs Summary (FY 2022-2023 WMD Cooperative Funding). In summary, not including adaptation for Sea Level Rise, Florida will need \$137.23 billion over the next 20 years to address its water resource protection and infrastructure needs.

**Agenda Item 12: SFRPC/TCRPC Legislative Priorities Conversation**

Mr. Lanahan presented the following list of common legislative priorities within the seven-county TCRPC & SFRPC region:

- **Home Rule and Unfunded Mandates**
  - Oppose preemption of local governments’ ability to: regulate vacation rentals, issue occupational licenses, and keep existing living wage ordinances (Palm Beach, Broward, and Monroe counties)
  - Support increase in technology recording fees distributed to counties
  - Oppose the use of local revenue sources to fund the state’s judicial responsibilities
  - Oppose any state legislation that would preempt or prevent local governments from accomplishing growth management and planning objectives
- **Economic Development**
  - Support efforts and investment in: Visit Florida, Enterprise Florida, Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, Department of State’s Arts and Cultural Grants, Qualified Targeted Industries Tax Refund Program, and Film, Television, and Digital Media Program

- Oppose policies that mandate local tourist development funds be diverted away from local communities or impair a county's use of the funds for local tourist development
- **Environment and Natural Resources**
  - Support investments that protect and further natural resources, including the Indian River Lagoon, St. Lucie River, Loxahatchee River, Lake Worth Lagoon, Biscayne Bay, Florida's Coral Reef, etc.
  - Encourage legislation that protects inlets and promotes beach restoration and renourishment
  - Encourage continued State funding for Everglades Restoration projects under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)
  - Support resilience initiatives against the impacts of sea level rise and flooding, and natural disasters (e.g., hurricanes, windstorms)
  - Support programs for septic to sewer conversions
  - Encourage funding and planning for the operations and maintenance of stormwater systems
  - Support the creation of a statewide coordinated planning and prioritization approach for water resource investments
  - Support the removal of derelict vessels and anchorage restriction on overnight vessels
- **Public Infrastructure**
  - Support public infrastructure projects and programs including: Florida's Transportation Five-Year Work Plan, Programs for the Transportation Disadvantaged, Expansion and funding of broadband, and Expansion of public access trail networks (greenways and blueways, parks and recreation)
  - Support public safety investments for: School safety and school resource officers, and Emergency Operations Centers/County Bases
  - Support funding for mental health and substance abuse treatments
  - Support initiatives for homelessness through the provision of increased affordable housing opportunities, such as: Allowing increased flexibility in spending of State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program funds by local government in addressing affordable housing needs, increasing funding to the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program, and Oppose diversion of Sadowski Trust Fund for purposes unrelated to affordable housing projects
  - Support funding for public libraries
  - Support the local agriculture industry

Council members were asked to share their thoughts and discuss potential legislative priorities that can be supported by both Councils.

*Council Action: Chair Geller made a motion to authorize the Chairs and Executive Directors to come up with three to five legislative priorities and ask the members of each Council to send their top priorities to the two executive directors. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

**Agenda Item 13: Public Comment**

None.

**Agenda Item 14: Council Comment**

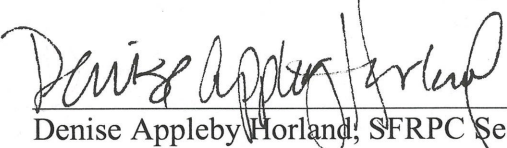
Chair Geller noted that the SFRPC will hold a conference on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization. The topic of Discussion: *Striding Forward: First and Last Mile Innovation in the Region*. Members of the TCRPC were encouraged to attend.

Chair Bournique thanked the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council staff for all their help with today's meeting. Mr. Lanahan thanked the South Florida Regional Planning Council for hosting. Chair Geller thanked the South Florida Regional Planning Council for all their help in hosting and especially with the logistics.

Chair Geller announced that Mrs. Cosio Carballo will be retiring on October 31, 2023.

**Agenda Item 15: Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Geller and Chair Bournique adjourned the Joint Meeting of the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils at 2:00 p.m. This signature is to attest that the undersigned are the Secretaries or designated nominees of the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils and that the information herein provided is the true and correct Minutes of the February 17, 2023, meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Appleby Morland, SFRPC Secretary  
City of Plantation Councilmember

  
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Anthony Bonna, TCRPC Secretary/Treasurer  
City of Port St. Lucie Councilmember