MINUTES OF THE
SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
JULY 20, 2026

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met virtually and in person on this date at the South Florida Regional Planning Council, located at 1 Oakwood Boulevard, Suite 250, Hollywood, FL 33020. Chair Senator García welcomed everyone in attendance, in person and virtually, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence in honor of troops and Councilmember Allbritton's aunt, who recently passed away. Agenda items were presented out of sequence during the meeting; however, these minutes are organized according to the published agenda. The recording of this meeting can be found here:
https://youtu.be/uUvkkkb_zB0

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Chair Senator René García (P)
Councilmember Jim Allbritton (P)
Councilmember Frank Caplan (P)
Councilmember Craig Cates *
Councilmember Joseph Corradino *
Councilmember Beam Furr (P)
Councilmember Senator Steve Geller (P)
Councilmember Oliver Gilbert, III (A)
Councilmember Cary Goldberg *
Councilmember Samuel Kaufman *
Councilmember Michelle Lincoln (VP)
Councilmember Kionne McGhee (A)
Councilmember Maria Rodriguez (VP)
Councilmember Michael Udine *

A = Absent	* = Excused Absence
D = Designee	VP = Virtually Present

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

The following Ex-Officio Member was present:
Viviana Useche, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The following Ex-Officio Members were virtually present:
Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District 6
Armando Vilaboy, representing the South Florida Water Management District

Legal Counsel, Sam Goren, stated that the Council Meeting met quorum for an Executive Committee. Chair García welcomed newly appointed Ex-Officio Member Viviana Useche, Acting Southeast Florida District Director, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. Useche stated it was a pleasure to be here.

II. Presentation:

- FY 24-25 Audit Presentation ***(Time Approximate: 11:00 AM)***

  Joy Chambers-Nicholas, Senior Accountant, S. Davis & Associates, PA

Chair Senator García introduced Ms. Joy Chambers-Nicholas, Senior Accountant with S. Davis & Associates, PA. Ms. Chambers-Nicholas gave a detailed presentation as of and for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. The auditor presented the results of the annual audit and reported an unmodified opinion on the Council's Financial Statements. Ms. Chambers-Nicholas stated that no material weaknesses were identified in internal control over financial reporting and no instances of non-compliance or other matters required reporting under Government Auditing Standards.

Ms. Chambers-Nicholas also reviewed the results of the Single Audit for federal grant programs and reported an unmodified opinion on compliance for each major federal program with no material weaknesses noted in internal control over compliance. Ms. Chambers-Nicholas further stated that there were no matters of negative impact to report under Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General, and that the Council was in compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding investment policies.

Ms. Chambers-Nicholas explained that the examination included an audit of the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, Government Auditing Standards, the Rules of the Auditor General, and a Single Audit performed in accordance with Uniform Guidance requirements.

Ms. Chambers-Nicholas provided an overview of the Council's financial position. Fund financial statements showed total assets of approximately $14.3 million, total liabilities of approximately $309,000, restricted fund balances for the Revolving Loan Program of approximately $11.1 million, and unassigned fund balances of approximately $3.0 million. Revenues totaled approximately $3.9 million, expenditures totaled approximately $3.1 million, and revenues and other financing sources exceeded expenditures by approximately $817,000.

The government-wide financial statements reflected total assets and deferred outflows of approximately $15.2 million, total liabilities and deferred inflows of approximately $1.4 million, restricted net position for the loan program of approximately $11.1 million, unrestricted net position of approximately $2.6 million, and a change in net position of approximately $705,000 during the fiscal year.

Ms. Chambers-Nicholas also reported that total expenditures subject to the Single Audit were approximately $6.8 million, with the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Cluster identified as the major federal program. The Council qualified as a Low-Risk Auditee under Uniform Guidance.

Councilmember Senator Geller inquired about the Council's reserve levels and the amount available to address any unforeseen issues or emergencies. Director of Finance & IT Leandro Braslavsky Soldi explained that the Council's reserve funds are intended to cover the portion of the operating budget that is not funded through member dues. He noted that the Council previously maintained reserves of approximately $10,000 but has established a long-term reserve goal of $1 million. Mr. Braslavsky Soldi stated that the Council has made significant progress toward that objective and currently maintains reserve funds of approximately $800,000.

Ms. Chambers-Nichols thanked the auditors and Council staff for their work in completing a clean audit and ensuring timely financial reporting.

- Joint Initiatives of the South Florida Defense Alliance, SFRPC, and State of Florida
  (Time Approximate: 11:07 AM)
  Captain Richard Miller, Jr., USN (Ret); Executive Director, South Florida Defense Alliance

Mrs. Cosio Carballo provided a brief history of the relationship between the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) and Captain Richard "Rick" Miller before introducing Captain Miller, Executive Director of the South Florida Defense Alliance. Captain Miller provided an update on defense economic development initiatives and ongoing grant applications aimed at strengthening South Florida's defense and maritime industries. He discussed efforts to support the next Florida Military and Defense Economic Impact Study, including economic modeling, development of county-level data, quality assurance, and technical reporting.

Captain Miller explained that the overall goal is to develop a next-generation, county-level defense economic planning model that moves beyond traditional economic impact reporting. The initiative is intended to identify future defense growth opportunities, vulnerabilities, constraints, and potential intervention strategies while creating a scalable methodology that can be applied across Florida's diverse defense ecosystems. He reviewed the expected outcomes of the project, including county-level scorecards, common defense metrics, future demand and intervention scenarios, dashboard and GIS planning tools, and a final report to support statewide implementation.

Captain Miller also discussed recent federal and state activities supporting maritime and defense industries. He noted recent federal initiatives focused on restoring America's maritime dominance, modernizing defense acquisitions, increasing innovation within the defense industrial base, and expanding shipbuilding investments. He further highlighted state efforts to designate maritime industries as a target sector, support workforce development, expand apprenticeship programs, and continue defense economic planning activities.

Captain Miller provided an overview of a pending Defense Reinvestment Grant application focused on converting Broward County's commercial maritime strengths into a defense-ready and dual-use industrial ecosystem. The proposed project would identify existing maritime-defense assets, evaluate expansion opportunities, support vendor readiness for defense work, and strengthen Broward County's ability to support emerging maritime and unmanned vessel opportunities.

Captain Miller explained several analytical models being developed to assess existing maritime industrial capabilities, future expansion potential, cross-sector growth impacts, and the readiness of geographic areas for maritime-defense investment. He stated that the project would produce inventories, maps, economic impact scenarios, and recommendations to support future investment and defense-related economic development.

Captain Miller concluded by describing the Ocean Arsenal Project, a vendor assistance program designed to help businesses transition into defense contracting opportunities through stages including capability assessments, registrations, compliance planning, testing readiness, autonomous vessels, and ship-building production scaling capacity. Captain Miller encouraged the Council to promote participation among local marine industry companies and leaders by attending upcoming programs and events hosted by the South Florida Defense Alliance. He stated that he would provide the Council with additional information regarding these opportunities. Discussion followed regarding Opportunity Zones 2.0, aerospace and maritime growth and development, and opportunities for local workforce growth.

III. Action Items

A. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Chair Senator García motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Councilmember Senator Geller moved the motion; Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

Leandro Braslavsky Soldi, Director of Finance & IT, explained the Financials in detail.

Chair Senator García motioned to approve the Financial Report. Councilmember Senator Geller moved the motion; Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous vote.

C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

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

Proposed

- Broward County 26-05ESR
- Broward County 26-07ESR
- Miami-Dade County 26-01ESR
- Miami-Dade County 26-02ESR
- City of Doral 26-02ESR
- Islamorada, Village of Islands 26-02ACSC
- City of North Miami 26-01ESR
- City of North Miami Beach 26-01ER
- City of North Miami Beach 26-02ESR
- City of Wilton Manors 26-01ER*

Public Hearing
Chair Senator García 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 Senator García motioned to approve the Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Councilmember Senator Geller moved the motion, and Councilmember Caplan seconded it. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Adopted

- Broward County 26-02ESR
- Broward County 26-03ESR
- Town of Davie 26-01ESR
- City of Fort Lauderdale 25-02ESR
- City of Hollywood 26-01ESR
- City of Lauderhill 25-01ESR
- City of Marathon 26-01ACSC
- City of Miami Beach 26-01ER
- Town of Southwest Ranches 25-01ESR

*Property Rights Amendment

Public Hearing
Chair Senator García 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 Senator García motioned to approve the Adopted Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Councilmember Geller moved the motion, and Councilmember Caplan seconded it. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Public Hearing

D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews – None
E. FY 2024 - 2025 Annual Audit **(Time Approximate: 11:00 AM)**
   Audit presented earlier in the meeting.

The Audit Report was adopted by unanimous vote.

F. Appointment of Audit Selection and Negotiation Committee / Draft RFP

Mrs. Cosio Carballo explained the Audit RFP and the responsibilities of the Selection/Negotiation Committee in detail. Mr. Goren informed the Councilmembers that he has reviewed the RFP and provided an overview of the legal issues regarding the Audit process. Discussion ensued on the negotiations. Chair Senator García, Councilmembers Caplan, Geller, Rodriguez, and Allbritton volunteered to be on the Negotiating Committee.

Chair Senator García motioned to approve the Audit Selection and Negotiation Committee / Draft RFP. Councilmember Senator Geller moved the motion, and Councilmember Caplan seconded it. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

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

G. FY 2025 – 2026 Amended Budget

The Director of Finance & IT, Leandro Braslavsky Soldi, presented the Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Chair Senator García motioned to approve the FY 2025-2026 Amended Budget. Councilmember Geller moved the motion, and Councilmember Caplan seconded it. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

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

H. FY 2025 – 2026 Membership Dues

Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that in July the Council is required to certify its membership dues for transmittal to Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Broward counties. She explained that this year represents the final scheduled dues increase, which will bring the Council's rate to $0.30 per capita. Mrs. Cosio Carballo reminded Council Members that the Council did not increase dues for 28 years prior to the implementation of the current dues schedule. She emphasized the importance of county funding to the Council's operations and expressed appreciation for the continued support of the member counties. Mrs. Cosio Carballo also noted that the Council remains fiscally prudent and committed to operating in a frugal manner while continuing to move the organization forward.

Chair Senator García motioned to approve the FY 2025-2026 Membership Dues. Councilmember Senator Geller moved the motion, and Councilmember Caplan seconded it. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

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

IV. Program Reports and Activities

A. SFRPC / TCRPC Joint Conference Update

Mr. Randy Deshazo, Deputy Director and Director of Economic Development and Research, provided an update on planning efforts for the upcoming SFRPC / TCRPC Joint Conference. He explained that Council staff and staff from the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) have held extensive discussions regarding potential speakers and conference themes. Mr. Deshazo stated that a key challenge has been balancing geographic and political diversity with a range of technical specialties while identifying opportunities for local governments to support the growth of the Blue Tech industry in the region.

Mr. Deshazo presented a draft of the conference agenda and reviewed a list of potential speakers. He requested the Council's support in inviting Allison Barlow, Executive Director of the Saint Petersburg Innovation District, to serve as a keynote speaker and provide an overview of the organization's work in fostering innovation and economic development.

Councilmember Senator Geller recommended inviting Captain Miller, Executive Director of the South Florida Defense Alliance, to participate as a conference speaker. Captain Miller accepted the invitation.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that the Council intends to invite Captain Miller to return as a guest presenter at a future Council meeting.

B. SFRPC Membership Committee Update

Mrs. Cosio Carballo reported that the Membership Committee met on June 15, 2026, to review Council membership and attendance. She presented a roster of current Council members and discussed participation levels, emphasizing the importance of maintaining strong and balanced representation from all three counties. Mrs. Cosio Carballo also highlighted quorum requirements as an important consideration and stated that the Committee's goal is to increase member engagement and participation.

Councilmember Senator Geller requested that Mrs. Cosio Carballo prepare a brief handout for Council members to share with their fellow county commissioners regarding Council membership and participation opportunities.

Chair Senator García thanked Mrs. Cosio Carballo for her leadership and efforts on this initiative.

C. SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report
D. SFRPC CARES Act RLF Status Report

Mr. Jeff Tart, Senior Loan Officer and Manager of the Revolving Loan Fund Programs, provided an update on the RLF Programs. He reported on recent outreach efforts, including participation in Broward County's Broward & Beyond Business Conference and a new partnership with the Florida Women's Business Center to connect small businesses with funding opportunities.

The CARES Act RLF Program has closed 39 loans totaling $9.06 million since inception, supporting more than 350 jobs, with approximately $590,000 available for new lending. The RLF Board recently approved two $100,000 loans for business expansion projects in the cities of Tamarac and Fort Lauderdale.

The traditional RLF Program has provided $5.20 million to 29 businesses and currently has approximately $1.80 million available for lending.

Included in the Board Packet is an update on the Claude Pepper Park Redevelopment Project in North Miami, which received $3.5 million in EPA funding for site assessment and remediation. He also reported that the EPA awarded the SFRPC a new $1 million Brownfields RLF supplemental grant to support remediation of the former Hollywood Incinerator Ash Dump site.

In affordable housing, progress continues on the 29-unit Sunset Strip workforce housing project in Sunrise and the Minority Builders Coalition Infill Lot Development Project in Fort Lauderdale, which includes four affordable single-family homes. Loan Administration also participated in the Riviera Beach CRA Housing Fair to promote affordable housing opportunities, including the Renaissance Riviera Beach project.

V. Discussion Items

A. Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Cosio Carballo reported that the Council is actively recruiting for several vacant positions, including a Regional Planner, a Senior Planner, and a Financial Specialist. She stated that filling these positions will support the Council's ongoing programs and initiatives and help ensure the organization has the staffing resources necessary to meet its operational needs.

B. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren briefly summarized the pending litigation and asked Councilmembers to review the materials provided. He confirmed that the Council has met its obligation.

C. Council Members Report

Councilmember Senator Geller requested a brief discussion regarding Amendment III. He stated that he had prepared documentation reflecting the actual percentages of spending by the municipalities and noted that he has compiled the supporting data. Councilmember Senator Geller advised that the information is available for review by any Councilmember who would like to examine it.

Councilmember Furr reported that the Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve is now operating under a formally adopted management plan, marking the culmination of an effort that the Council has been involved with for approximately eight years. Mrs. Cosio Carballo congratulated Councilmember Furr and commended his leadership in helping bring the initiative to completion.

Councilmember Furr provided an update on the Broward Solid Waste Authority, stating that the Authority's Master Plan was scheduled to be established on July 21, 2026. He reported that participating municipalities had reached 79.2 percent of the required threshold for approval and that one additional municipality was needed to vote in favor of the Master Plan for it to move forward.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo provided additional comments regarding the Broward Solid Waste Authority Master Plan. She stated that the Council will be working closely with regional partners on these issues and plans to reconvene the regional Solid Waste Working Group with county representatives from Southeast Florida to continue advancing the regional solid waste management conversation. Mrs. Cosio Carballo emphasized that regional solid waste planning remains a top priority for the Council.

Councilmember Senator Geller noted that a key consideration moving forward will be the ability to negotiate favorable long-term contracts with the companies providing recycling and waste management services. He stated that the success of the initiative will ultimately be dependent on securing competitive pricing and favorable contract terms.

Councilmember Caplan reported that he and Mrs. Cosio Carballo would be traveling to St. Petersburg to represent the South Florida Regional Planning Council at the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Summer Policy Board meeting. Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that the Council is seeking participation from two additional Council members to represent the Council as members of FRCA.

Councilmember Lincoln reported that workshops are being conducted throughout the Florida Keys to educate residents about the potential impacts of property tax reform in their respective communities. She stated that the purpose of the workshops is to ensure that voters are informed about the implications of the proposed changes before casting their votes.

D. Ex-Officio Report

Ex-Officio Members reported no updates.

VI. Announcements and Attachments

A. Attendance Form
B. Upcoming Meetings
   1) August – Summer Break
   2) Monday, September 28, 2026, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC)
   3) Monday, October 19, 2026, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC) (Upon call of the Chair)
   4) Friday, October 30, 2026 (Broward Center for the Performing Arts)
      SFRPC / TCRPC Joint Conference - Topic: Blue Tech Jobs: Policy, Investment, and Workforce Development in Southeast Florida

VII. Adjourn

Chair Senator García adjourned the meeting at 12:20 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 July 20, 2026, of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, adopted on the 30th day of September 2026.

____________________________________ ____________________________________

Maria Rodriguez, Secretary
Commissioner, City of Pembroke Pines

Date