

**MINUTES OF THE
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 21, 2012**

Chairman Foley called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He led the pledge of allegiance and requested roll call.

The following members and alternates were present:

Indian River County:	Commissioner O'Bryan Vice Mayor Fletcher
St. Lucie County:	Commissioner Mowery Councilwoman Martin (Alternate)
Martin County:	Commissioner Hayes
Palm Beach County:	Commissioner Taylor Commissioner Burdick Councilwoman Webster Mayor Golonka Mayor Ferreri Vice Mayor Brinkman Mayor DuBois (Alternate) Vice Mayor Pro Tem Andel (Alternate) Councilwoman Gerwig (Alternate)
Gubernatorial Appointees:	Michael Davis Kevin Foley Peter Sachs
Ex-Officios:	Pam Mac'Kie, South Florida Water Management District Ann Benedetti, St. Johns River Water Management District Lynda Westin, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Lois Bush, Florida Department of Transportation
Council Staff:	Michael Busha Kim DeLaney Eloine Sabol Sandy Gippert Liz Gulick Stephanie Heidt Dana Little Peter Merritt Greg Vaday
Council Attorney:	Roger Saberson

The Executive Director announced a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

None.

AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Mayor Brinkman asked to have Item 5H, Town of Loxahatchee Groves Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12-1ESR, removed for a separate vote because her associate provided services on the amendments and she would not be voting on that item. Chairman Foley stated that rather than remove the item, a vote would be taken on the entire Consent Agenda with Vice Mayor Brinkman abstaining on that particular item.

Mayor Ferreri moved approval of the Agenda. Commissioner O'Bryan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

Mayor Ferreri moved approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Mayor Golonka seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Vice Mayor Brinkman abstaining on Item 5H. **Motion**

Items on the Consent Agenda were: 5A, Financial Report – May 31, 2012; 5B, Financial Report - June 30, 2012; 5C, Financial Report – July 31, 2012; 5D, Minutes – June 15, 2012; 5E, Hazardous Analysis Grant Agreement; 5F, Town of Jupiter Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12-1ESR; 5G, City of Lake Worth Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12-1ESR; 5H Town of Loxahatchee Groves Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12-1ESR; 5I, Martin County Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12-3ESR; 5J, Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12-2ESR; 5K, City of Port St. Lucie Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12-5ER; 5L, City of Vero Beach Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12-1ESR; 5M, City of Vero Beach Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12-2ESR; and 5N, Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Log.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2012-2017

Staff presented an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is a guide for the economic growth of the Treasure Coast Region. The CEDS analyzes the regional economy and serves as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. A CEDS is required to qualify for assistance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration's public works, economic adjustment, and other planning programs. This is the fifth version of the CEDS plan, having been done initially in 1998, with revisions done in 2000, 2004 and 2007. The CEDS was developed in cooperation and collaboration with other economic development planning efforts going on simultaneously statewide, including the planning efforts of other regional planning councils, State of Florida, workforce development boards, and other statewide economic development stakeholders. The current CEDS, developed by Council staff and Council's CEDS Committee over the past year, incorporates a number of regionally significant vital projects to implement the CEDS goals and objectives.

Mr. Gary Hines, Senior Vice President of Development for the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County and Chair of the CEDS Committee, addressed Council. He noted that the

twelve-month long process of developing the CEDS included both public and private input as well as a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analyses done for each county and the region as a whole. He thanked staff for their work on the development of the plan and encouraged Council to formally adopt the CEDS as presented.

With respect to the fiber optic network project, Commissioner Burdick asked if expansion into the Belle Glade area could be considered for inclusion in the plan next year. Staff noted that every year there is an update requirement, so projects can be considered and included in the plan on an annual basis. Commissioner Burdick asked how the current projects were considered for inclusion. Staff responded that in early July flyers were sent to all local governments requesting projects be submitted for consideration for inclusion in the CEDS.

Commissioner O'Bryan stated that Indian River County recently met with Enterprise Florida to discuss promoting and marketing Florida as not only a tourist destination, but as a business state as well. He noted that Florida is the twentieth largest economy in the world, and marketing efforts need to focus on promoting the state as a business hub focused on economic development. He suggested a marketing or branding component be included in the CEDS. Staff said the CEDS Committee had extensive dialogue with respect to the fact that Florida is perceived outside the region as being rural, and there does need to be a clear communication strategy that Florida is open for business. The intent of the CEDS is to present a clear regional business strategy.

Chairman Foley noted that Commissioner Hayes joined the meeting.

Mayor Golonka stated it was encouraging that all of the communities are coming together to emphasize and encourage economic development throughout the region. She asked for clarification on the terms for identifying the different clusters. Staff noted that the terms refer to the industry clusters that are part of the technical analysis. For example, if a cluster is identified as being a Star Cluster, it is growing and showing a relative specialization compared to the nation and to other regions. These types of clusters do not require as much assistance as other clusters, but certainly need more work to be done to enhance their continued development.

Commissioner Taylor asked for an update with respect to the Glades Region Master Plan. Staff indicated the contracts between the County and Council have been signed and there have been initial meetings. A kick-off meeting is being planned by the County to occur in the next 30 days.

Commissioner Taylor also expressed concern that there is no representation on Council from the Glades area and asked if there is representation on the CEDS committee from that region. Staff indicated there was none. Commissioner Taylor asked how this could be remedied. Staff stated that letters are sent to the four county commission Chairs each October requesting appointments to the CEDS committee. Staff stated they would work with Commissioner Taylor to ensure proper representation from the Glades area.

Councilmember Davis moved approval of the staff recommendation to adopt the CEDS. Mayor Ferreri seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

Chairman Foley recognized that Allan Ennis from the Palm Beach County Traffic Division was in attendance.

**EVERGLADES RESTORATION STRATEGIES – PRESENTATION BY
MELISSA L. MEEKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Melissa L. Meeker gave an overview of the District and state three-part strategy for Everglades Restoration. The first part, the state-federal partnership to further implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), addresses improving quality, quantity, timing and distribution of flows throughout the greater Everglades system. The second part involves state projects and programs to improve water quality and storage. The third part addresses reducing phosphorus levels in flows to the Everglades. Ms. Meeker provided an update on what has been accomplished to date with respect to CERP implementation and the District's commitments related to source controls, water management, constructions projects, and habitat restoration. Also, she provided an overview of the current water storage and treatment facilities, and plans for replacement of existing facilities and construction of new projects. She noted that the District has a conceptual agreement with Palm Beach County to purchase the Mecca Farms property to be used for water storage to replenish the Loxahatchee River.

Staff asked if the District is considering purchasing more property in the Mecca Farms area for water storage. Ms. Meeker stated there are no current plans for additional land acquisition.

Chairman Foley noted that Mr. Kevin Powers, Vice Chair of the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board, was in attendance.

Staff asked if there was agreement between the District and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with respect to the water quality standards. Ms. Meeker indicated there is an agreement, and the state has been given the authority to issue permits to the District.

Ms. Meeker presented a brief overview of the impacts of Tropical Storm Isaac to Palm Beach County. She noted that while there was some inconveniences due to the significant amount of rainfall, the drainage systems worked.

Mayor Ferreri noted that his community received thirteen inches of rain during that time, but most of water drained properly. He stated that many of the communities and homeowner associations were not aware that it is their responsibility to maintain their swales and structures. He stated it is a common belief that the responsibility for this maintenance lies with the municipalities and/or water management districts. He suggested that it would be helpful if the water management district could work with the local governments to provide educational information to the various communities and homeowner associations.

Under Public Comment, Drew Martin, representing the Sierra Club, stated they are very supportive of the everglades restoration effort and the purchase of the Mecca Farms property from the County. He stated they also support what the district is doing with low equalization basins to clean up the water; however, until best management practices are improved, there will always be a lot of polluted water flowing through the canal system and back into Lake Okeechobee. He cited funding as a major problem, noting the lowering of the District's millage rate and a reduction of funding to the District by the Legislature. He expressed his concern that the District is spending \$60-70 million to install pumps at the L-8 Reservoir. He stated he is concerned that this is currently not the best place to spend money, indicating there are other things that can be done with that money that would

be more effective. He said it is also important to keep the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency involved, because their numeric standards are very important.

**“ALL ABOARD FLORIDA” PASSENGER RAIL PROPOSAL UPDATE -
PRESENTATION BY JOSE GONZALEZ, VICE PRESIDENT,
FLAGLER DEVELOPMENT**

Jose Gonzalez provided an overview of the evolving corporate structure of Florida East Coast Industries (FECI). He explained that in 2007 a private fund management firm, Fortress Development, purchased the company, transforming the firm into a private entity. The company was then divided into two divisions, one for freight and one for passenger service, with Flagler Development and All Aboard Florida being housed under the latter division. This was done to accommodate the difference in regulations that exist for the two services. Mr. Gonzalez’s presentation provided an historical overview of rail service in Florida and an executive summary of FECI’s current plans to build a privately-owned, operated and maintained intercity passenger rail system from South Florida to Orlando. The service will have stations in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, and Orlando to offer a faster, less expensive means of intercity transportation. He noted there has been much accomplished already, with on-going work to determine route alignment, schedules, construction cost, ridership potential, environmental concerns, and other services that could be provided in the future. He noted this will not be a high-speed rail, but instead, it will be strictly an intercity express service with modern technology, equipment, and stations. He also noted there will be significant transit oriented development opportunities created at the four station locations, as well as connections to existing infrastructure and transit services.

Staff noted that there have been several presentations made to local officials on the project. Mr. Gonzalez thanked staff for all their assistance in the public outreach efforts with the various stakeholder partners. Chairman Foley stated everyone in South Florida should have an interest in this project.

Councilmember Davis asked for a status on the permitting. Mr. Gonzalez stated Phase One approvals have been submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and the field work has been initiated for Phase Two. This field work will concentrate on issues such as environmental impacts to wetlands and water flows, and the expansion of crossings. He noted there is currently 200 miles of rail that goes from Miami to Cocoa, but north of that, there are three different options that need to be studied to bring the rail to the Orlando International Airport. He stated that the National Environmental Policy Act requires that all alternatives be analyzed, and a recommendation be provided for a preferred alternative. The target date for submittal of this document is December of this year. Councilmember Davis asked if the FRA had committed to an Environmental Assessment, or would an Environmental Impact Statement be required. Mr. Gonzalez stated that since existing corridors were to be utilized, the project should be allowed to stay within the Environmental Assessment process.

Commissioner Burdick asked if there was any coordination being done with Amtrak’s Safety Patrol Trip. Mr. Gonzalez stated Amtrak has made contact with FECI’s operations personnel on this event.

Mayor DuBois asked whether or not a commuter connection between West Palm Beach and Miami was being considered. Mr. Gonzalez explained that this is an intercity passenger rail system, not a commuter service. He stated that economically it could become cost prohibitive for the average day

commuter to use this service. He stated the services provided by the Department of Transportation and Tri-Rail would be better options for this type of passenger travel.

Councilwoman Gerwig asked if service to Tallahassee was planned. Mr. Gonzalez indicated this was not currently being planned.

**THE GOOD GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE: A REGIONAL APPROACH –
PRESENTATION BY KATY SORENSON, PRESIDENT AND CEO,
THE GOOD GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI**

Katy Sorenson presented an overview of The Good Government Initiative (GGI), a program to educate elected officials at the state and local level on the important issues of governance. Each year, from late August to November, GGI offers a certificate program for elected officials to receive more than 60 hours of training in government operations in South Florida. The inaugural class was completed in December of 2011. The Initiative also sponsors a series of Community Conversations to bring together elected officials and the public to consider issues important to governance in our communities. Additionally, GGI periodically offers an all-day workshop for citizens who are considering running for office, as well as customized programs. Ms. Sorenson stated she is in the process of having brochures made and will forward them to Council staff for dissemination.

Councilwoman Gerwig inquired about the program cost. Ms. Sorenson stated the program cost is \$1,500, which can be paid by the individual, the local government, or from leftover campaign funds, because GGI is a 501(c)(3) corporation. She noted this includes all materials, overnight retreats, meals, and bus tours.

COUNCIL WORK PROGRAM UPDATE

Chairman Foley noted that when he first became a Councilmember over 23 years ago it was apparent that in order to be relevant, regional planning councils needed to do more than just review developments of regional impact. He stated that over time the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council has become a supplemental arm to many existing county and municipal programs, providing planning services to those local governments that cannot afford their own planning staffs.

Staff presented an overview of Council's work program. This program includes special planning projects and initiatives that are the result of requests from local governments and other agencies. Staff indicated the work program features thirty-one projects, including seven recently completed projects, seventeen current projects, and seven future projects. Staff noted that future Council meetings will showcase individual projects that may be relevant and useful to Council Members and their respective local governments.

Councilmember Sachs indicated that an application submitted by Palm Beach County to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for relief from the impacts of Tropical Storm Isaac had been denied. He said Governor Scott intends to appeal the denial. He asked if this is something Council should undertake. Staff indicated Council has assisted local governments in several capacities such as annexation agreements and bankruptcies, but it is Council's practice to only become involved if there is a request for assistance. Staff also noted the involvement of regional planning councils in statewide initiatives such as the bridge loan program that provided assistance to businesses devastated by the hurricanes in 2004 and 2005, the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study, and the

Statewide Energy Resiliency Strategy. Staff suggested there should be more effort to educate agencies and local governments of the many services that can be done by regional planning councils.

Regarding the Glades Region Master Plan, Councilwoman Gerwig asked if there are plans to connect with private industries that may be attracted to the area. Staff noted that one idea in launching the work program and developing the scope of work is to look at the industry clusters in that region that not only are in existence today, but maybe in existence there tomorrow.

**SEVEN50 SOUTHEAST FLORIDA PROSPERITY PLAN UPDATE – PRESENTATION BY
MARCELA CAMBLOR-CUTSAIMANIS, PROJECT DIRECTOR,
SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP**

Marcela Cambor-Cutsaimanis provided an update on the Seven50 project. The goal of Seven50 is to create an investment plan to grow a more prosperous, resilient and desirable future for the seven counties in the Southeast Florida Region over the next 50 years and beyond. Seven50 seeks to establish a comprehensive regional plan that will identify critical projects and infrastructure. The plan will be used as a guide to prioritize and focus future local, state and federal investment and policies. Ms. Cambor-Cutsaimanis indicated that the following activities have been accomplished: an opening summit attended by close to 600 people; a joint transportation model for the entire seven-county region; initial discussion and preliminary acceptance regarding expansion of the Southeast Florida Climate Compact to the northern three counties; partnerships with Southeast Florida's Life Sciences Corridor; the creation of a seven-county expansive data warehouse; a Regional Assessment of Housing Impediments; and completion of initial data collection and national research.

In order to gather extensive community input, the Partnership created six work groups tasked with identifying regional opportunities and challenges. Participation in each of the work groups is voluntary with the findings and recommendations being integrated through the work of the overall Partnership and the Executive Committee. Ms. Cambor-Cutsaimanis noted that the second summit will held on January 24, 2013 at the Miami-Dade College Wolfson Center in Downtown Miami.

Mayor Ferreri commended Ms. Cambor-Cutsaimanis for her hard work to bring all of the individuals and agencies together. Commissioner O'Bryan concurred, noting the tremendous amount of progress that has been made over the last six months.

Commissioner Burdick asked if the Regional Assessment of Housing Impediments included a section for the housing of special needs adults. Ms. Cambor-Cutsaimanis noted there are a number of indicators that are required. She offered to provide more information to Commissioner Burdick once the assessment has been approved by the Executive Committee on September 28, 2012. She noted that there are thirty-four different housing authorities within the seven-county region, and there are plans to bring all those agencies together for a meeting.

Staff noted this plan will be the perfect vehicle to change the perception that the Southeast Florida region is only a tourist destination, or for winter agriculture and the Everglades. This plan will serve as a marketing/advertising vehicle to show the region is a place to not only do business, but experience a high quality of life.

Ms. Cambor-Cutsaimanis encouraged Councilmembers to become involved, noting that now is the time to provide input.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner O'Bryan noted the next council meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2012. Staff reminded Councilmembers that the November and December meetings have been combined and will be on the second Friday of December.

COUNCIL MEMBER INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Commissioner O'Bryan informed everyone that Indian River County is now certified as being tsunami ready with a tsunami management plan. He offered to provide information to anyone who is interested.

Vice Mayor Fletcher stated that the Vero Beach Council has authorized the mayor and city manager to sign a memorandum of understanding between the City, the Orlando Utilities Commission, and Florida Power and Light Company for sale of the City's electric system.

STAFF COMMENT

None.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Chairman O'Bryan adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m. This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary or a designated nominee of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct Minutes of the September 21, 2012 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Date

Signature

APPOINTED OFFICERS (continued)

- A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency.
- The form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

IF YOU MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION EXCEPT BY DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING:

- You must disclose orally the nature of your conflict in the measure before participating.
- You must complete the form and file it within 15 days after the vote occurs with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who must incorporate the form in the minutes. A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency, and the form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

I, Joni Brinkman, hereby disclose that on September 21, 20 12 :

(a) A measure came or will come before my agency which (check one)

- inured to my special private gain or loss;
- inured to the special gain or loss of my business associate, _____;
- inured to the special gain or loss of my relative, _____;
- inured to the special gain or loss of Urban Design Kilday Studios, by whom I am retained; or
- inured to the special gain or loss of _____, which is the parent organization or subsidiary of a principal which has retained me.

(b) The measure before my agency and the nature of my conflicting interest in the measure is as follows:

Item 5.H Town of Loxahatchee Groves No. 12-1ESR
 An Associated in my office provided services to the applicant
 and to avoid an appearance of a conflict as my employer/firm received fees for services
 I will not vote on the item.

9-21-12
Date Filed

Joni Brinkman
Signature

NOTICE: UNDER PROVISIONS OF FLORIDA STATUTES §112.317, A FAILURE TO MAKE ANY REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR AND MAY BE PUNISHED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT, DEMOTION, REDUCTION IN SALARY, REPRIMAND, OR A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.