

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 6D

From: Staff

Date: December 13, 2013 Council Meeting

Subject: Minutes – September 20, 2013

Introduction

The Minutes of the September 20, 2013 Council meeting were posted to Council's website on November 27, 2013 at http://www.tcrpc.org/council_meetings/2013/DEC13/DecAgenda.html.

Recommendation

Council should approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2013 Council meeting.

Attachment

**MINUTES OF THE
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 20, 2013**

Chairman O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 9:30 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
 Commissioner Solari
 Mayor Fletcher (Alternate)

Martin County: Commissioner Fielding

St. Lucie County: Commissioner Johnson (Alternate)
 Commissioner Mowery
 Commissioner Perona

Palm Beach County: Councilwoman Valeche
 Councilwoman Gerwig
 Councilmember Brinkman
 Councilman Norris (Alternate)
 Mayor DuBois (Alternate)
 Vice Mayor Hmara (Alternate)
 Councilmember Tinsley (Alternate)

Gubernatorial Appointees: Michael Davis
 Kevin Foley
 Reece Parrish
 Peter Sachs
 Steven Weaver, Sr.

Ex-Officios: Lynda Westin, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
 Ann Benedetti, St. Johns River Water Management District
 Kathy LaMartina, South Florida Water Management District
 Lois Bush, Florida Department of Transportation

Council Staff: Michael Busha
 Phyllis Castro
 Kim DeLaney
 Anthea Gianniotis
 Liz Gulick
 Stephanie Heidt
 Kim Koho
 Dana Little
 Peter Merritt

Eloine Sabol
Greg Vaday

Council Attorney: Roger Saberson

The Executive Director announced a quorum was present.

In order to efficiently conduct Council business and ensure compliance with state law with respect to public speaking, Chairman O'Bryan indicated that public comment on individual items would be taken only on items for which Council would be taking action. He stated that public comment would then be opened at the end of the agenda for all informational agenda items. Councilmember Foley asked if there would be a time limit on public comment. Chairman O'Bryan stated it would still be limited to three minutes per speaker.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman O'Bryan indicated no written requests for comment had been submitted. However, there was one request from the public to speak.

Suzanne Eovaldi, an independent journalist and a staff writer for a nation-wide conservative blog, stated that with respect to some items on the consent agenda taxpayer money could not be used to broadcast meetings without giving the opposing side a chance to speak. Chairman O'Bryan asked if she was speaking to a particular item on the agenda, or making a general statement. Ms. Eovaldi indicated she had not reviewed the agenda. However, she asked that Council listen to the citizens who are in opposition of Seven50.

AGENDA

Commissioner Fielding moved approval of the Agenda. Councilman Norris seconded the motion, **Motion** which carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Fielding moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Mayor Fletcher seconded the **Motion** motion, which carried unanimously.

Items on the Consent Agenda were: 5A, Financial Report – June 30, 2013; 5B, Financial Report – July 31, 2013; 5C, Minutes – July 19, 2013; 5D, City of Fort Pierce Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 13-1ESR; 5E, Indian River County Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 13-2ESR 5F, Martin County Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 13-2ESR; 5G, Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 13-2ER; 5H, Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 13-3ESR; and 5I, Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Log.

**INDIAN RIVER LAGOON AND ST. LUCIE RIVER ESTUARY UPDATE –
PRESENTATION BY TEMPERINCE MORGAN, SOUTH FLORIDA WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Temperince Morgan, Director of Everglades Policy and Coordination with the South Florida Water Management District, provided an overview of the central and south Florida flood control system, and current water conditions. She indicated Senator Negrón had assembled the Senate Select Committee on Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin. The Committee is tasked with conducting hearings to review water management policies and activities; assess the impact of Lake Okeechobee releases on the St. Lucie Estuary; identify options to improve basin-wide water management, including alternatives to Lake Okeechobee discharges; and develop short-term and long-term recommendations for improved water management. Ms. Morgan indicated the Committee will have public meetings and submit a report by November 4, 2013 to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, Environmental Preservation, and Agriculture.

Chairman O'Bryan stated it would be helpful when referring to storage capacity and discharges in terms of acre feet to have that translated into gallons so it is better understood by the lay person. On water farming, he asked what the position of the District is with respect to handling possible mitigation that will need to be done when the land is reverted back to farmland. Ms. Morgan indicated that the District is working with federal and state regulatory agencies on an agreement that will determine what is in place before the project begins. The landowner will then be held to that after the project is complete, and they can return to pre-project conditions without consequences. Chairman O'Bryan asked if all federal agencies have agreed to this. Ms. Morgan indicated the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Protection have agreed. Chairman O'Bryan asked why it took so long for the District to undertake additional pumping to move the water south, and why it took pressure from the Senate Select Committee to get this done. Ms. Morgan indicated this was planned and being implemented before the Committee, however it was largely unbudgeted and the regulatory processes required special approval from the Tribes that would be affected.

Commissioner Valeche asked what the District is doing in terms of restoring sheet flow south out of Lake Okeechobee and the expense of this versus pumping. Ms. Morgan noted that the amount of subsidence and the topography of land needs to be taken into account when determining how to move the water. She stated the District is focusing on restoring sheet flow to areas in Everglades National Park.

Councilwoman Gerwig asked if there was a method to track where nutrients, especially nitrogen, are originating. Ms. Morgan indicated that the District collects samples from around the state to determine where the nutrients are coming from, but it is hard to determine if they are from groundwater, surface water, rainfall, or septic tanks. She noted there is cutting-edge technology currently being tested, but it is not being used in general practice.

Councilwoman Gerwig asked if the District had identified any more blockages, natural or man-made, to the south besides the Tamiami Trail. Ms. Morgan indicated there is very dense vegetation in the Everglades National Park wilderness area.

Councilmember Weaver asked what the possible negative impacts could be of the nutrient fall out on the privately owned water farm areas. Ms. Morgan indicated that these projects are expected to actually reduce the nutrient concentrations to the downstream system, and in most cases the expectation is that natural processes will largely bind the nutrients up on site. She stated that this is something the District will monitor as the pilot project progresses. She stated that at this time the District does not expect it to be a significant problem.

Councilmember Weaver asked if any potential climatic circumstance with the increased water surface area on the water farm areas is anticipated. Ms. Morgan indicated that because rainfall patterns change from year to year, the program has been structured to look at ten years of rainfall data. Contracts and payment structure are based on average rainfall assumptions for those ten years. Chairman O'Bryan noted that the water farming program is a voluntary program that compensates the farmers for use of land that is currently not being used for farming. Councilmember Weaver stated his concern was the pollutant fall out could potentially damage the soil.

Commissioner Fielding stated that is a concern for everyone and it is important to make sure we do not create something unintentionally. He cautioned it is important to ensure we do not introduce copper into the system, which could come from lands that have primarily grown grapefruit.

Councilmember Brinkman asked if water farming is just a temporary program to allow the long-term solutions to work, and if there is a minimum time for the contracts with the landowners. She asked if there are infrastructure improvements that need to be done that can only be recouped over time. Ms. Morgan indicated the pilot program is for three years, and based on those results, the District will determine the long-term course for water farming. She noted that dispersed water management contracts with ranchlands have been for ten years. She stated that it is believed that the dispersed water management is an interim solution until larger, regional projects are in place. However, that does not mean the program will go away once the other projects are in place.

Staff inquired about the funding for implementing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Ms. Morgan indicated there had been additional funding for specific projects such as the C-44 Storage Treatment Area. Staff asked if there were plans for any tax assessments. Ms. Morgan indicate there were not.

Councilmember Davis noted that there has always been a disconnect between the federal and state funding since CERP was enacted. He stated he believes there needs to be a higher priority for everyone to determine how to get the federal and state governments on the same page in terms of funding priorities.

Chairman O'Bryan indicated that because Council would not be taking action on this agenda item, public comment would be heard at the end of the meeting.

CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT DRAFT INTEGRATED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Staff provided a presentation on the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Draft Integrated Project Implementation Report and Environmental Impact Statement, which was submitted for review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the State Clearinghouse. The purpose of the

CEPP is to restore or improve the Everglades ecosystem, water quality, water supply, and recreation while protecting cultural and archaeological resources and values. CEPP is a component of the CERP which was authorized as a framework for restoring South Florida ecosystems while providing other water-related needs in the region. The recommendation presented by staff indicates that the implementation of the CEPP recommended plan will assist in reducing harmful discharges of freshwater from Lake Okeechobee. This will have a beneficial effect on major waterbodies in the region including the St. Lucie River Estuary, Indian River Lagoon and Lake Worth Lagoon which has also been impacted by discharges from Lake Okeechobee. Although the recommended plan provides a significant increase in freshwater needed for the restoration of the central Everglades, additional actions are needed to further reduce harmful discharges. Therefore, it is important that this project proceed in a way that complements the other CERP projects underway in the region and does not interrupt or delay those projects. Staff noted that the draft report concludes that the CEPP is consistent with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). Staff recommended Council adopt the report and authorize its transmittal to the Florida State Clearinghouse.

Commissioner Valeche asked if the flow equalization basins were active or more passive treatments of the water. Staff indicated the basins are shallow with cattails, designed to take up phosphorous.

Councilmember Davis stated he was present in December of 2000 when President Clinton signed the CERP legislation, which was made possible because of a very bipartisan group of elected and appointed leaders. He stated the CEPP, which is part of CERP, will reorder the projects, putting the most important projects first. He stated this project will help put the needed infrastructure in place to move the water south, which is the ultimate goal of CERP. He encouraged Council's support of the staff recommendation.

Chairman O'Bryan stated he contacted a friend at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Vero Beach to ask if there is acceptance of this plan. His friend indicated there seems to be overall broad support and this plan is a good step forward. He did note there may be some negative impacts to the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow.

Commissioner Fielding stated that this project is vital to the sustainability not only of ourselves but of our whole system. He stated Martin County is extremely supportive of this project, and he encouraged unanimous support from Council. He stated that this is not a solution, but a first step.

Under Public Comment, Drew Martin, representing the Sierra Club, noted that, with respect to Commissioner Valeche's question, not only cattails will be used but also submerged aquatic vegetation to pick up the phosphorous. He stated that the flow equalization basins are a very important component because they ensure the storm treatment areas receive the right amount of water and maintain the levels, then when it is wet they allocate the water directly down into the storm treatment areas, which is important for sending the water south. He noted the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Interior, and the South Florida Water Management District had numerous public workshops, so there is a very broad range of support. He stated it should not have a big impact on the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow because this will occur during wet times, when they are not nesting. He stated the idea is to rehydrate Everglades National Park. He urged Council to support the staff recommendation because this project will benefit the estuaries and is a step in the right direction. He suggested adding to the recommendation to contact members of Congress and ask for their support as well.

Chairman O'Bryan called for a motion on the staff recommendation. Councilwoman Gerwig moved approval of the staff recommendation. Commissioner Fielding seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

ENTERPRISE ZONE REAUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION

Staff presented an overview of the Florida Enterprise Zone program and a proposed resolution for Council's consideration to encourage the reauthorization of the program and support local efforts to include the City of Fellsmere in the Indian River County enterprise zone. The Florida Enterprise Zone program was created by the Legislature in 1982 to induce investment and job creation in economically distressed areas of Florida communities. Criteria to establish an enterprise zone includes pervasive poverty, unemployment levels, general areas of distress, slum and blight conditions, and general size and aerial extent of the area under consideration. Across the state there are 65 enterprise zones and in the Treasure Coast Region there are 5 designated enterprise zones. Enterprise zones provide sales and tax credits and benefits to local businesses that would establish new operations in enterprise zones. The statewide program is managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Staff noted that the program is currently expected to sunset on December 31, 2015 unless the legislature takes action to reauthorize the program. DEO staff has indicated that in the seventeen-year period from 1997 to 2013, the program has created over 130,000 new jobs. The program has been an important economic driver for the State of Florida and it provides meaningful opportunities for local governments to induce private sector investment.

Staff reported that in 2005, Indian River County took action to designate an enterprise zone within its jurisdiction. That enterprise zone currently extends 4.5 square miles and encompasses the Vero Beach Municipal Airport and the Gifford community to the north of the airport area. The City of Fellsmere has requested that the County consider amending the legislation to include the City in the enterprise zone area. Staff indicated the report recommends that Council adopt the resolution supporting the general extension of the enterprise zone program throughout the State of Florida and support local efforts on the part of Indian River County to allow expansion of the enterprise zone program locally to include the City of Fellsmere.

Commissioner Solari indicated there are two issues, the enabling legislation, and second the possible later expansion into Fellsmere. He stated that Fellsmere is not seeking to expand the enterprise zone at this time. Currently, the County would just ask for support for the reauthorization from the Legislature of the program. He stated that he would encourage supporting the reauthorization.

Chairman O'Bryan inquired if Commissioner Solari would like to recommend that the proposed resolution be revised to delete any references to the City of Fellsmere. Commissioner Solari indicated that was his recommendation.

Commissioner Solari indicated that Helene Caseltine with the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce has also been active in the support of the enterprise zones. He noted she may want to add another "Whereas" clause to the resolution. However, in the interest of time, he stated he would be comfortable passing the resolution with the suggested deletions. Commissioner Solari moved approval of the resolution as amended. Commissioner Fielding seconded the motion.

Motion

Councilmember Weaver asked for information on the utilization levels of the other five enterprise zones in the Treasure Coast Region. Staff indicated they would get that information and provide it to Councilmember Weaver.

Vice Mayor Hmara asked if deleting the items would remove a mechanism for expanding and including other areas. Chairman O'Bryan indicated no, because the references being deleted are very specific to the City of Fellsmere.

Commissioner Solari indicated that this was amended legislation and initially it just read Indian River County, City of Vero Beach, and City of Sebastian, and because it didn't state the City of Fellsmere, Fellsmere was precluded from utilizing any of Indian River County's ten possible acres for an enterprise zone. He indicated that if the enterprise zones are reauthorized, then they will go back and determine what portion of Fellsmere would be appropriate to add to the enterprise zone. Councilwoman Gerwig indicated the amended resolution would be less limiting.

Councilmember Sachs noted that the complete states of South Carolina, Arkansas, and Kansas are enterprise zones. He asked if this could be done in Florida. Staff indicated that with the current wording of the enabling legislation, and the specific metrics that must be adhered to, it may not be possible to designate the entire state an enterprise zone.

Commissioner Solari stated that the purpose of the enterprise zones is to look in different areas of the counties that are especially depressed and then offer incentives for businesses to encourage them to locate in these areas. He indicated that the entire state should not be an enterprise zone, because that would be contrary to the purpose of providing economic incentives to particularly depressed areas. Councilmember Sachs asked how Florida can then compete when an entire state is an enterprise zone. Commissioner Solari suggested that the other states may have a different purpose for their enterprise zones.

A vote on the motion carried unanimously.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA PASSENGER RAIL UPDATE

Staff provided an overview of passenger rail projects within the region. The first presented was the proposed new Amtrak route that extends south on the FEC rail corridor from Jacksonville to West Palm Beach, crosses from the FEC to the CSX corridor in West Palm Beach, and travels south on the CSX tracks into Miami International Airport. This project is designed to be added to over time with ultimately three round trip trains per day. It is the only proposal that would introduce passenger rail service to the northern Treasure Coast, and is the best vehicle for Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties to receive direct passenger rail service.

The second passenger rail project is referred to as the Tri-Rail Coastal Link, which is a proposal to add commuter rail service on the FEC corridor. Three stations in this project would be designed to also accommodate the All Aboard Florida service. Therefore, these stations would be designed specifically to be dual purpose stations that maximize the efficiency of that investment.

Staff also provided an update on the Florida East Coast Industries (FECI) All Board Florida project, which proposes a privately owned, operated, and maintained intercity commuter express rail service

between Miami and Orlando with stops in West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale. It was recently announced that FECI intends to pay for the safety improvements at all the grade crossings to accommodate the new service. However, local governments will still operate and maintain those crossings, because those crossings exist at the pleasure of the local governments. Staff noted that the environmental impact statement process is currently underway, and once permits are secured construction north of West Palm Beach will most likely begin late next year.

Staff also provided an overview of quiet zones, which are federally designed options to enable safety improvements to be installed at grade crossings such that trains are not required to blow their horns. Quiet Zones must be at least a half-mile long, and each individual community needs to determine where the zones would be appropriate and how they would be funded. Staff noted that FECI's commitment to pay for safety improvements at grade crossings to allow for the operation of the All Aboard Florida service do not cover any additional infrastructure necessary for the establishment of quiet zones.

Staff has also been facilitating meetings with agencies and local governments to discuss navigational concerns/challenges that will result from improvements that need to be made as part of the All Aboard Florida project. There are three movable bridges in the FEC Corridor, including the New River in Fort Lauderdale, Loxahatchee River in Jupiter/Tequesta, and the St. Lucie River in Stuart.

Councilmember Foley indicated he lives in an area that might benefit from a quiet zone, and asked how to coordinate this with the Town. Commissioner Valeche indicated Mayor Brennan in the Village of Tequesta has been very involved. Councilmember Foley asked for a schedule of when these projects will be completed. Staff stated the All Aboard Florida project has continued to indicate its service will be running by 2016; Tri-Rail service going to the Miami Intermodal Connection will be running by March, 2014; and if the Amtrak service proceeds, it will most likely be 2017. For the Tri-Rail Coastal Link service, staff indicated there are funding considerations that still need to be determined, but it was likely that this project has a five-year time frame, which could enable it to be operational by 2018.

Mayor Fletcher indicated the City of Vero Beach is interested in establishing a single quiet zone. He stated the City has been meeting with FECI, and they have been very cooperative. He suggested that other municipalities do the same. He indicated that it was bothersome that there are plans to seal the corridor for 100 miles by installing fencing which he believes would be an eyesore.

Commissioner Solari asked if any modeling had been done to show how the system will handle the current freight trains when the higher speed trains are added to the system, noting the bridge in Stuart will only be single-tracked. Staff indicated that the FECI has indicated it will install what is called positive train control from Jacksonville to Miami, which is a technology improvement where passenger trains share freight corridors. With respect to how the different speeds will be handled, that is still being analyzed and will be better understood when FECI makes a final determination of what track improvements will be made. FECI has also indicated that with the improvements, the freight trains will be able to move more quickly.

Commissioner Valeche asked if the crossing at Northwood is the ideal location and if there would need to be any additional acquisition of right-of-way. Staff indicated this location was determined

through a public charrette and the crossing was designed specifically to minimize right-of-way impacts. Staff noted there is substantial information on Council's website with respect to this location. The design proposes the acquisition of four parcels, and staff indicated FDOT was already in initial discussions with the property owners. Commissioner Valeche asked if this was always envisioned as the connection. Staff indicated six alternatives have been evaluated over time, with Northwood being determined as the best location.

Councilmember Weaver indicated the planning staff at the City of Fort Pierce has completed modeling and determined the cost will be between \$50 and \$100,000 per crossing to comply with the quiet zone. He noted that this is a burden that is going to be borne by the local community even though many of these lines are not going to stop in the city. Staff stated that FECI has been very clear that they are not able to fund quiet zones because they could be perceived as reducing safety per the company's interpretation of federal statute, and FDOT has taken the same position. FECI has indicated it is willing to do the safety improvements, but the quiet zones are considered a quality of life improvement.

Councilmember Weaver asked if there will be any sound buffering done. Staff indicated this has been raised by several local governments, but to date there has been nothing to address this in the improvement plans. Staff indicated it may be in the environmental permitting that will become public in November or December of this year.

Chairman O'Bryan indicated that the railroads own the tracks, so they are granting the local municipalities permission to cross their property. Getting the crossing agreement usually involves the local government agreeing to bear the financial cost of any maintenance and improvements. He noted that FECI agreeing to the safety improvements is a big plus for the local communities. Staff indicated the improvements should also bring down the cost of the quiet zones.

Commissioner Fielding updated Council members on the status of getting fiber optic cable for public use added to the All Aboard Florida project. He indicated that there is a partnership between FECI and Allied Fiber to install fiber optics. This is currently being done from Miami to Chicago, and has been completed from Miami to Jacksonville. He noted that the track from Cocoa to Orlando falls in FDOT's right-of-way, and that is included in the lease agreement with FECI. He stated he would distribute information on this important, public benefit project and asked for support from all Council members.

Commissioner Valeche noted legal agreements between the railroad and every municipality will need to be redrafted to address the double tracking and new safety improvements. He indicated the county's traffic engineer has suggested this is something that should be a priority for each municipality.

STATE CONSERVATION LAND ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Staff presented an overview of an assessment currently being done by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The assessment, prompted when the 2013 Florida Legislature appropriated funds for the Florida Forever program, is being conducted in order to identify land no longer needed for conservation purposes. This land will be sold as surplus and the funds raised from selling the land would then go back into buying properties that have greater need for conservation.

The assessment process resulted in a list of 96 sites statewide totaling 4,235 acres that could potentially be considered surplus. The statewide list includes 8 sites totaling 747.1 acres within the region. These sites are located in Martin and Indian River counties. Staff noted that three sites in particular located in the John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area contain natural resources of regional significance identified in the SRPP. These sites have important value based on their own natural resources, and because they are located adjacent to other large natural areas. Staff stated that removal of these three sites from conservation status would be inconsistent with SRPP Strategy 6.1.1: Preserve and manage natural systems as a network of connected nature preserves and promote the establishment of greenway systems in the region.

Staff indicated that FDEP's data assessment will be submitted to the Board of Trustees in September. However, the assessment results will not be considered for potential surplus sale until the agency receives input through a number of public workshops being conducted around the state.

Council Member Brinkman indicated that on one of the Indian River County sites there had previously been a land swap. She asked if there were any deed restrictions done on the uses. Staff stated this would need to be determined; however, there are concerns that any use of this site other than conservation could impact the St. Sebastian River and the Indian River Lagoon.

Chairman O'Bryan noted there had been negotiations with FDEP for the St. Sebastian Preserve State Park, and the County not only paid for mitigation, but was required to give up the island as part of the negotiation. He stated it was now ironic they want to get rid of this land. Staff clarified that the information contained in the report was not final.

Councilmember Weaver asked what the impacts are of these properties being sold, because most are not developable, but could potentially be useful as mitigation banks. Staff indicated that only one of the properties has some potential to restore the natural drainage and raise the water levels. However, other properties are natural areas with a low potential for this use. Staff indicated that mitigation banks are usually larger than the identified properties. Councilmember Weaver asked what the downside would be to surplussing the wetland prairies, because these properties cannot be developed. Staff stated that the uplands can be developed and there are a lot of pine flatwoods on the Hungryland properties. However, the downside is we are using the Everglades Restoration program to buy similar properties specifically for conservation to hold water. Instead, by using these properties that the state already owns, water can be held without additional cost.

Kathy LaMartina indicated that the water management district was also conducting a regional land assessment exercise. While the District is not necessarily looking to surplus the land, properties are being identified that are not meeting initial goals. As an example, there is a property in Martin County that the District is looking to work with the county to use as a stormwater retrofit. She stated that the District is looking to possibly trade some of this property. She indicated that the information can be found on the District's website.

Chairman O'Bryan asked staff to review the District's plan. Staff indicated this had already been done and there were no regional concerns identified.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff noted that the City of Fellsmere, with the assistance of Council staff, received a \$364,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Agency to help with the shrimp farming industry.

Staff stated that Council closed on a Brownfields loan in Fort Pierce to assist the City with redevelopment of the H.D. King Power Plant site.

Staff indicated the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners recommended that the Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) receive \$900,000 in funding for neighborhood restoration. The CRA's application was based on work that had been done by Council to restore Broadway and Avenue E in the master plan.

Staff noted that Council received an award of merit in the best practices category of the Florida Chapter of American Planning Association for the TOD Guidebook. This was done in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation.

Staff reminded Council members of the upcoming joint regional planning council meeting to be held October 18th at the International Game Fish Hall of Fame in Dania Beach. The meeting is being held to review the draft Seven50 plan with Council members and the executive committee of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership.

Staff indicated that Council is working with Palm Beach County through a sustainable communities challenge grant to gather public input and determine how to provide economic development opportunities in the Glades Region.

Staff congratulated Commissioners O'Bryan, Valeche, Dzadovsky and Fielding for their work on the board of the Indian River Lagoon Counties Collaborative. The Collaborative was put together to address problems in the lagoon. Chairman O'Bryan especially thanked Commissioner Fielding for his work organizing the Collaborative.

Staff provided Council members with information from Jeff Atwater, State Chief Financial Officer, about his Operation S.A.F.E. (Stop Adult Financial Exploitation) program.

Council recognized Representative Magar's aides present at the meeting.

Commissioner Fielding asked that Council members petition the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection to give back the conservation lands that are being surplus. Commissioner Solari noted that it would first be best to check with each local government to determine if they would want the land.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Lodomirak suggested designing a filter system, like that used in an aquarium to filter water before it flows into the Indian River Lagoon. With respect to the All Aboard Florida project, he suggested eventually tying into the Tri-Rail to allow easier access. He also thought there should be additional stops in the Treasure Coast. He offered his support for the project.

Mr. Martin, representing the Sierra Club, stated that fertilizer runoff needs to be addressed by the individual counties. Additionally, he suggested that since the cost for hooking into public sewers could be very expensive, and there may be a way to provide grants to individuals to help them get off their individual septic systems. He expressed his disappointment with respect to the state offering up conservation lands for purchase. He noted that one of the properties contains a county park, and another a pepper farm. He stated his fear that these lands might be developed, which would be bad for the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge. He stated that a lot of work went into getting the conservation designations for these properties and it is unfortunate that the conservation designation now has to be justified again. He urged Council to weigh in and say that this is not a good idea.

He indicated that the Sierra Club supports the All Aboard Florida project. However, he noted that until we can determine how to move people east to west, ridership will be low. He noted a recent train trip to Miami and the several forms of transportation he had to take once he got to Miami before he reached his final destination. He stated that in Florida, not a lot of people will want to walk to their final destinations.

Councilmember Foley thanked Mr. Martin for his comments. He inquired about a recent news article regarding a lawsuit regarding the Briger tract. Mr. Martin indicated the Sierra Club was initiating the lawsuit because this is one of the few uplands left. He noted that Council's plan that was originally presented was an excellent plan, but that had been completely ignored by the developer and the county. He stated the current problem is that there is an unwillingness by the developer to preserve any of the property.

COUNCIL MEMBER INFORMATION EXCHANGE

None.

STAFF COMMENT

None.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman O'Bryan adjourned the meeting at 12:00 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 20, 2013 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Date

Signature