

**MINUTES OF THE
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 17, 2017**

Chairman Smith 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 Zorc, Alternate Councilman Dodd Mayor Tyson
Martin County:	Commissioner Smith Commissioner Fielding Mayor Campo
St. Lucie County:	Commissioner Bartz
Palm Beach County:	Mayor Burdick Vice Mayor McKinlay, Alternate Mayor Gerwig Vice Mayor Hmara Mayor Tinsley Mayor DuBois
Gubernatorial Appointees:	Douglas Bournique Michael Houston Tobin Overdorf Steven M. Weaver, Sr.
Ex-Officios:	Kathy LaMartina, SFWMD Larry Hymowitz, FDOT Loraine Cargill, SFRTA
Council Staff:	Michael Busha Phyllis Castro Kim DeLaney Liz Gulick Stephanie Heidt Tom Lanahan Dana Little Peter Merritt
Council Attorney:	Keith Davis

The Executive Director announced a quorum is present.

AGENDA

Mayor Burdick moved approval of the Agenda. Vice Mayor McKinlay seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff announced preparation for the 2020 Census is underway. Staff indicated the Census Bureau will be starting the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program, which involves local governments helping to ensure address lists are as accurate as possible. Staff noted the two main areas where local governments can help are through the LUCA program and publically promoting the census as it gets closer. Staff indicated LUCA workshops will be held starting in March that will provide useful information to local governments. Staff noted the accuracy of this information is critically important, because the data is used for planning efforts and calculation for federal revenue sharing and grant qualifications.

Staff indicated the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has prepared a strategic monitoring plan for the three northern counties of the region that have Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs). The plan will monitor the progress and water quality of the different waterbodies covered in the BMAPs. Staff indicated FDEP will be contacted to see if they can make a presentation on the plan so local governments will understand what they are required to do in order to ensure their progress is recorded properly.

Staff announced Peter Merritt, Council's Assistant Director, will be retiring on March 10th after 31 years working for Council. Dr. Merritt stated it has been great working for Council, noting when he began in 1986, Ronald Reagan was the President, Bob Graham was the Governor, and I-95 had not yet been completed through Martin County. He stated one of his most memorable events was in the early 1990s when Palm Beach County arranged for a Sheriff's Department helicopter to fly him and a consultant over the proposed site for the North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport, but during the flight, they were diverted into downtown West Palm Beach to track down a stolen police car. Dr. Merritt stated one of the best things about working for Council is the variety of projects. He noted one project that stands out in his mind was the proposal of an electric transmission line in 1989 that would have leveled a 200-foot wide path of native vegetation through the middle of Corbett Wildlife Management Area. He noted Council filed a formal application with the state for an alternate route, which was approved by Governor Martinez and the Cabinet. He also noted another project that stands out was in 1999 Council filed applications with the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) *Save Our Rivers* Program and the state Conservation and Recreation Lands program for the purchase of about 4,100 acres in Martin and Palm Beach counties, known as the Cypress Creek/Loxahatchee Property. He stated with a lot of persistence by Palm Beach and Martin County staff and commissioners, these applications eventually led to the SFWMD and counties purchasing the property for conservation and recreation. He thanked Council for his employment over the years and wished everyone the best.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Smith asked Council members to include in their comments how the tourist season has affected their local government as well as what impacts and changes they have seen over the last 30 years, and how they are dealing with those changes and impacts.

COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATE

Commissioner Fielding with Martin County stated he would like everyone to be more attentive to how biosolids from waste treatment plants are being distributed throughout the area and how that affects the waterways. He stated when FDEP begins to analyze the BMAPs, this is a factor that needs to be included.

Loraine Cargill with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) indicated this is her first meeting and she will be speaking on the proposed resolution addressing railroad liability on the agenda. She stated SFRTA's major effort has been going into downtown Miami and they are on schedule to start their service later this year using the All Aboard Florida station in downtown Miami.

Councilman Dodd with the City of Sebastian stated cities need to concentrate on advancing pending legislation that will provide grant funding to eliminate septic tanks. He noted the following day the City will be hosting the Beer and Wing Festival that will feature draft breweries from all over the region.

Councilmember Doug Bournique, Gubernatorial Appointee from Indian River County, stated yesterday he was with Steve Crisafulli at a ribbon cutting ceremony for a disposal site to dredge the Eau Gallie basin. He stated it was rewarding to see the muck coming out of that 50-year disposal site, remembering when his family moved to Palm Beach in 1960 he would have to dodge toilet paper in the intracoastal when on his surf board. He stated in those days all the major cities dumped their sewage into the intracoastal, noting the 47 sewage treatment plants from Fort Lauderdale to Cocoa Beach are now gone. He stated for the first time in his life there are tangible, big projects underway that will help the lagoon.

Councilmember Michael Houston, Gubernatorial Appointee from Martin County, said Dr. Merritt has made a big difference in this region with his efforts to make the natural environment a significant part of our built environment. He stated while he has not always agreed with Council comments, because he is in the development business, he commended Council and Dr. Merritt for laying the groundwork that makes our region a special place where people want to visit.

Mayor Burdick with Palm Beach County congratulated Commissioner Smith on becoming Council chairman. She stated last week she attended a tri-county metropolitan planning organization meeting of Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. She stated they looked at Complete Streets and learned Florida leads the nation in pedestrian fatalities. She stated they looked at ways to design communities and streets, considering those people who do not or should not drive, and how to make the routes safer for everyone. She said no matter what President Trumps says, with all the turmoil in Washington D.C. we need to stay active and watch what is happening at the federal level that will impact local governments. With respect to water and water quality, she stated she agrees we are starting to see progress, but we need to make sure that the science and monitoring used by that agency is fact-based. She stated tourism is up in Palm Beach County with 7.3 million visitors this year and she agrees the natural areas are a significant part of the regional and local economy.

Vice Mayor McKinlay with Palm Beach County stated 31 years ago she was in middle school and living in Siesta Key in Sarasota County. She stated she recalls much of the season there, which starts in spring and runs through summer, there were red tide breakouts. She stated although her

district includes the Everglades Agricultural Area and she supports her constituents, she has great sympathy for the coastal communities and what they experienced with the algae outbreaks. She noted we are in the midst of the equestrian season, and the county is trying to address the issue of equestrian waste which will in turn benefit the water quality in the area, especially the runoff through the C-51 canal. She invited everyone to come out for polo on Sunday and the events of the Winter Equestrian Festival on Saturday nights. She indicated that two weeks ago at the Great Charity Challenge in Wellington, Mark Bellissimo gave back approximately \$1.8 million to county charities with his total over the last 8 to 10 years about \$8 million in donations. Vice Mayor McKinlay stated her three priorities now are Senate Bill 10, which concerns the Glades residents and the nation's food supply; affordable housing; and the heroin/opioid overdose crisis all communities are facing. She stated she submitted a request to the Governor asking him to declare a public health emergency as have his colleagues in Alaska, Virginia, and Massachusetts. She stated she went to Tallahassee and spoke with the Governor's staff, but left very frustrated because they do not seem to share her level of concern for this issue. She was told she should work with Attorney General Bondi, because she had great success with the pill mills of 2011. Vice Mayor McKinlay stated the reason there was such great success with the pill mills is the legislature directed the Governor to declare a public health emergency, which created a task force. She asked Council staff to put together some numbers on the opioid crises with respect to number of calls, emergency service costs, and the death toll, which she stated was over 500 last year in Palm Beach County.

Councilmember Tobin Overdorf, Gubernatorial Appointee from Martin County, congratulated the New England Patriots on their Super Bowl win. He noted he is looking forward to baseball season with all the new teams that will be joining us for spring training. He stated he would like to see continued education on sober homes, which is affecting so many of our neighborhoods. He indicated Dave Aronberg is doing a fantastic job educating people throughout the region on this issue.

Councilmember Steven Weaver, Gubernatorial Appointee from St. Lucie County, noted there has been a lot of economic activity recently proposed for Orange Avenue in St. Lucie County. He noted he has been working with staff on a potential guest for the April 21st meeting. Staff noted Congressman Brian Mast has been invited to address Council in April. Additionally, staff is working with the Chairman to invite other members of Congress representing the region to speak at future Council meetings.

Kathy LaMartina with SFWMD noted the Water Resources Advisory Commission and land sub-committee will be having their meeting on April 12th for this region. She also stated next Thursday there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Indian Hills Recreation Area in Fort Pierce. She indicated this is a large project with several funding partners that is now a recreational area with a stormwater retrofit. She also reported the water management district raised \$35,000 for K9s For Warriors the previous weekend.

Mayor Gerwig with the Village of Wellington noted the Winter Equestrian Festival, which attracts participants and spectators from all around the world, is the longest running horse show. She noted she and Councilwoman Siskind attended the League of Cities' Federal Action Strike Team (FAST) Fly-In to Washington D.C. She indicated representatives from 31 local governments walked up and down the hill talking to everyone they could about their issues, one of them being the Federal Emergency Management Agency's claw back. She explained this is huge problem for

municipalities when audits are completed years after the event and they are told there is an enormous amount of money they need to reimburse the federal government. She noted they also talked about local issues and she was able to discuss moving up repairs on the Herbert Hoover Dike. Mayor Gerwig indicated she recently filmed a segment for a show called *Around Town*, which is filmed through PBS and shown on travel channels around the country. She noted 30 years ago she moved to Palm Beach County and has watched the environmental impacts that have occurred, stating she is proud of the community and how we have addressed those impacts and are not continuing with patterns of bad behavior.

Mayor Tinsley with the City of Palm Beach Gardens stated 30 years ago she was in high school and living in Wellington where she was able to ride horses down Forest Hill Boulevard and Big Blue Trace since these were dirt roads. She noted the Honda Classic will be February 20th through the 26th. She stated last year this event infused \$54 million into the local economy and, through the charitable contributions of Honda Cares, they donated \$3.2 million dollars that assisted 30,000 children and their families. She stated this is the season for elections in the city, noting she and two other council members are forced to retire due to term limits. She stated there are 9 people running for 3 open seats. She noted the Palm Beach Gardens Youth Athletic Association (PBGYAA) has begun baseball and softball and will soon begin soccer, which has tripled in size this past year. She said sports are very important for children to teach them things such as team work, noting the PBGYAA has never turned away a child. She indicated the city is running out of space for fields and are working with the county to possibly lease property to build and operate multi-purpose fields.

Vice Mayor Jeff Hmara with the Village of Royal Palm Beach stated 31 years ago he was on active duty in the Army and was assigned to the White House military office. He noted the Village is considering constructing a new amphitheater in their largest park. He stated everyone enjoys the park, but major events can cause issues with loud noises affecting residents who live around the park. He noted the previous evening he learned about traffic engineering and the psychology of driving. He stated their traffic issues are not caused by the season, but rather growth, so they would like to put into place traffic calming policies and procedures to deal with all types of transit. He noted West Fest will be February 24th through 26th, where there will be carnival rides, western music, horse and carriage rides, pig races, and food vendors.

Mayor James DuBois with the Town of Lake Park indicated he moved from New York City to Tequesta in 1993 and went to work at Callery-Judge Grove. He said at that time to him season meant non-stop work from October to April to get the harvest in and sold. He stated in 20 years that entire industry for the county will go away not only a result of development, but also because of disease such as canker and greening. He said the season changed for him from agricultural to managing a town, which means planning events and filling up the marina. He noted the Town also has an election coming up, and stated he plans to retire. He also noted one of the commissioners will be resigning his seat to run for mayor, with 4 candidates running for that seat.

Chairman Smith stated the presentation on Autonomous and Connected Vehicles will follow the Council Member updates.

Mayor Campo with the Town of Sewall's Point noted he made a presentation in Tallahassee recently in support of the town possibly getting \$3 million in grant funding for septic-to-sewer

conversions. With respect to season, he stated there are a lot of things elected officials must deal with such as the current issues with sand and water quality. He noted that when you see a tourist look at our community with wonder and amazement, it should be a reminder of how we live in paradise and all the work done to preserve our environment is worth it. He also noted he spoke with Congressman Brian Mast and he is open to speaking at the April Council meeting.

Mayor Tyson from the City of Fellsmere stated back in the 1970s department stores were selling t-shirts that said "Where the hell is Fellsmere?" He said now he believes it has been discovered, giving credit to Commissioner Adams for creating the Frog Leg Festival. He said when it first started they prepared for 500 people, but 5,000 people came the first weekend. This year it is estimated 90,000 to 100,000 people attended the festival. He noted the Shrimp Festival has also been successful with an estimated 25,000 expected to attend the 2nd annual festival the last weekend in February. He noted other attractions in the city are the stick marsh, an internationally known fishing hole, which is one created several years ago in a reservoir. Additionally, he noted the law enforcement games are held in the city using their Olympic swimming pool, gun range, and Fellsmere-FIT Challenge obstacle course built for the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps. He indicated 100 years ago the city was only one square mile, but now it is 57.3 square miles and the largest city in land area in Indian River County.

Commissioner Zorc with Indian River County stated 30 years ago he was an elected member of the board of the Treasure Coast Builders Association. He stated looking back 35-37 years, I-95 ended in Vero Beach and he remembers the tremendous accidents, so he is glad that opened up and moved the traffic congestion further to the south. He noted 30 years ago there were a significant number of beachside merchants who would board up after Easter and not return until Thanksgiving. He stated the county now has a much better year-round economy and more sporting activities that make the summers incredibly busy, noting Historic Dodgertown brings in about 32,000 room nights a year through sporting activities in the community. He indicated about 30 years ago a visitor from the Clermont Institute warned the building industry in Florida of an incoming thing called impact fees. He said no one thought it would occur here and at the time they were proposed it was \$215 per house. Now he states on average it is just under \$10,000 per house, excluding water and sewer. He noted his family owns a piece of property on the north fork of the St. Lucie River and 30 years ago his goal was to develop that property. However, now he sees the benefits of conservation and how this is a missing link that will allow public access to a beautiful piece of nature. He indicated his family is now considering putting that land into conservation and keeping some of his family history alive.

Chairman Smith noted 30 years ago he and Councilmember Overdorf lived in neighboring towns in Massachusetts and did not even know it. Chairman Smith stated it is very fascinating to listen to all the individual events occurring in each county, noting Council members are not only elected officials, but hosts to the world. He stated the diversity of the region that is really amazing and it is cool to be able to come together as a regional planning council and share the things that make our region special. He noted the National Association of Counties will be in Washington D.C. the following week and there will be a meeting the following week of a 16-county coalition to deal with their top priorities.

Beth Kigel, President and CEO of the Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce (PBNCO), noted the ArtiGras Fine Arts Festival, created 32 years ago by the PBNCO, will be held this weekend

and through Presidents' Day. She stated they are expecting tens of thousands of people to attend the festival in Abacoa to enjoy the work of the artists and entertainment.

**AUTONOMOUS AND CONNECTED VEHICLE PRESENTATION BY BETH KIGEL,
PRESIDENT AND CEO, PALM BEACH NORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Ms. Kigel provided an overview of autonomous and connected vehicles and how they play into the future of transportation. She indicated she is a Commissioner with the Florida Transportation Commission, which was created in 1987 by Florida Statutes as a separate entity to oversee the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). She noted one of the Commission's responsibilities is to review FDOT's 5-year work program, as well as plans of the expressway and regional transportation authorities, and provide a report to the Governor and Legislature. Ms. Kigel noted autonomous cars, or self-driving cars, are vehicles that are capable of sensing their environment and navigating without human input. She explained that connected cars are able to communicate with each other and the world around them resulting in better informed decision-making. Ms. Kigel indicated the reasons there is a push for both types of cars include: 1) the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates there will be an 80 percent reduction in road fatalities involving non-impaired drivers; 2) there will be increased capacity resulting in reduced congestion; and 3) there will be improved mobility/access. She reviewed federal and state modeling and identification of possible impacts this new technology may have and the development of guidelines to ensure the safety of these forms of transportation. Ms. Kigel's presentation included updates on personal delivery devices that will deliver goods to a customer's door. Ms. Kigel also explained the concept of driver assistive truck platooning, which is a convoy of semi-trucks that make their way along the highway with the driver of the first truck controlling speed, and the drivers in the following trucks only need to steer. The trucks have wireless communication that allows them to travel within 50 feet of each other to get the benefits of drag and fuel savings.

Under Council discussion, Councilmember Houston thanked Ms. Kigel and noted his children live in Atlanta and will be the first to buy these types of cars.

Mayor Gerwig asked how reliable the wireless connections will be. Ms. Kigel indicated private sector technology experts are studying the reliability as well as cyber security issues.

Councilmember Weaver asked what will happen in 20 years from now when the electric components and batteries in these cars start to fail. Ms. Kigel noted this technology is more software dependent, so there will be periodic software updates that will need to be downloaded to the vehicles' computers. Also, there will need to be maintenance done on the hard infrastructure components.

Mayor Burdick thanked Ms. Kigel for her presentation, noting this is a very mind/brain stretching concept for many. She indicated government is concerned with providing public transportation, and there is not only capital funding to consider, but also the on-going operational costs. She stated we need autonomous cars to move large groups of people, because she keeps hearing we cannot have light rail because it is too expensive. She said this seems like a perfect solution if there is increased capacity resulting in decreased congestion. She stated the county needs transportation that will reduce costs and the car concept does not work into the idea. Ms. Kigel stated there are autonomous buses and other multi-modal transit being tested for mass transit, and programs where Uber is

subsidized to travel the last mile or block. Mayor Burdick stated she understands this, but would like for the industry to be more focused on transporting more people, because many of the residents in her county cannot afford a car and need efficient public transportation. Ms. Kigel stated this is being addressed and offered to meet with Mayor Burdick and an expert in the field to provide more information.

Vice Mayor McKinlay indicated she met with Representative Williamson from Santa Rosa County who has filed a bill with respect to personal delivery devices. She stated that this type of technology is around the corner and will be a concern for Palm Beach County with the current temporary flight restrictions when the President visits.

Vice Mayor Hmara indicated the Florida League of Cities has adopted autonomous and connected vehicles as a priority for the upcoming legislative session, even though there are still a lot of questions and speculation on the subject. Ms. Kigel stated one of the roles she plays as a chamber executive and transportation commissioner is to not only provide resources and education, but to create relationships and trust with the local governments.

Commissioner Fielding said freight autonomy is more likely to impact us soon, which will help enormously as we have a congested central coastal corridor. He also noted we already have self-charging battery systems and it is just a matter of refining and growing that.

Chairman Smith stated 31 years ago no one would have known how technology would change our world. He said whether we like it or not, this is moving ahead at the speed of light. He noted Uber was once the subject of much debate, but that service was not stopped and it is very successful. He thanked Ms. Kigel for her presentation and update on this issue so we can begin to think about this when considering future decisions related to land use and roadway capacity. Ms. Kigel stated she is available to help with any policies or issues related to transportation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Burdick moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Weaver seconded the **Motion** motion, which carried unanimously.

Items on the Consent Agenda were: 8B1, Financial Report – December 31, 2016; 8B2, Minutes – January 20, 2017; 8B3, Town of Lake Clarke Shores Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 17-1ESR; 8B4, Town of Lake Park Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 17-1ER; 8B5, Town of Loxahatchee Groves Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 17-1ESR; 8B6, Town of Palm Beach Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 17-1ESR; 8B7, Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 17-2ESR; 8B8, City of Palm Beach Gardens Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 17-1ESR; and 8B9, Village of Palm Springs Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 17-1ESR.

Under Public Comment, Drew Martin, who resides in the City of Lake Worth, indicated there is a comprehensive plan amendment on the consent agenda from Palm Beach County that deals with an interlocal agreement between the county and the school district. He said he has some concerns about the charter schools that have been built in the Agricultural Reserve on preserved land that could have been used for open space or farming. He stated he hopes the interlocal agreement will address this concern.

**RESOLUTION ADDRESSING TRI-RAIL/FLORIDA
EAST COAST RAILROAD LIABILITY**

Vice Mayor McKinlay moved approval of the resolution addressing Tri-Rail/Florida East Coast Railroad Liability. Mayor Burdick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Ms. Cargill thanked Council members for their support.

Motion

**CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM PRESENTATION BY JOANNA
WALCZAK, SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE FLORIDA
COASTAL OFFICE, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Joanna Walczak, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Coastal Office provided an update on the Florida Reef Tract and coral reefs in southeast Florida. This tract runs 330 nautical miles from the Dry Tortugas in the Florida Keys to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County. She explained that corals are animals that live together in colonies that provide habitat for all sorts of organisms and are very important to our economy. She noted they are very slow growing, which is important to understand, because when planning for their recovery we need to understand it will take decades, if not centuries for these systems to recover once they are impacted. She indicated there are both global and local threats that are stressing our coral reefs. Those threats include ocean and coastal acidification, increased frequency and severity of extreme thermal events, land-based sources of pollution, damage from anchors and boat groundings, invasive species, algae blooms, and coastal construction.

Ms. Walczak stated the Coral Reef Conservation Program was founded in 2004 to promote and coordinate research, monitoring, partnerships and stakeholder engagement in this area. The Florida Coastal Office represents the entire State of Florida on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, and administers Florida's Local Action Strategy to reduce threats and work toward building partnerships to address and control local stressors. She stated that working with local, state, and federal agencies as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, a list of 140 different projects was developed that can collectively be tackled over time. She noted that through a planning process called *Our Florida Reefs*, stakeholders from the local community were brought together and developed 68 science-based recommended management actions for southeast Florida's coral reefs. Ms. Walczak indicated the final report will be coming out in June.

Chairman Smith asked what Council can do to help. Ms. Walczak said they are asking for people to look at the recommendations that have been created through the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative and Our Florida Reefs Community Planning Process as well as the Coastal Ocean Task Force to see what can be implemented through the various avenues and organizations. She stated it is very challenging, because there is no one thing that can be done to save the reefs. She noted we need to make sure coral reefs offshore are included in all the planning for water at the inlet, and there is currently no water quality monitoring in this region.

Councilmember Bournique stated he supports Ms. Walczak and her group and their work. He noted there are only two natural inlets along the east coast of Florida, with the rest of the 16 being dug by man for various reasons.

Vice Mayor McKinlay indicated she attended a meeting this week in Tallahassee with Devon West, Martin County's Legislative Coordinator, and Representative Kristin Jacobs with respect to a piece

of legislation Representative Jacobs is filing on this issue. She noted Miami-Dade, Broward, St. Lucie and Martin counties all support this, but Palm Beach County has not yet become involved. She suggested Council could help by sending a letter of support under Chairman Smith's signature in support of Representative Jacob's proposed legislation. Vice Mayor McKinlay indicated she would like to make that a motion. Commissioner Fielding seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

Commissioner Fielding asked Ms. Walczak if she has been working with Dr. McCarthy from Harbor Branch. Ms. Walczak stated Harbor Branch has been a great partner and indicated she would reach out to Dr. McCarthy. Commissioner Fielding stated the Indian River Lagoon Council is also involved in recognizing this problem and trying to develop programs to monitor the water quality. He noted the outfall of biosolids also needs to be addressed as this contributes to the killing of the reefs. Ms. Walczak indicated that daily there are millions of gallons of treated wastewater going out and impacting our reefs.

Chairman Smith stated by being an elected body that represents millions of people, Council has the opportunity to collectively get to the 40,000 foot level and support issues such as this without hurting anyone individually by an action, but help to figure out solutions to problems without getting down into the weeds.

Mayor DuBois noted when Florida Power and Light (FPL) opened up their manatee observation area in Riviera Beach they looked for science partners for their outreach efforts at the visitors center. He suggested reaching out to FPL for assistance, noting they may also be able to help with funding.

Ms. Walczak indicated that in August she will be hosting, on behalf of the Governor, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force in Fort Lauderdale.

VILLAGE OF PALM SPRINGS AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATING TO FINDINGS OF NECESSITY AND A COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY PLAN

Staff indicated the Village of Palm Springs has requested Council to enter into an agreement related to the establishment of a Community Redevelopment Agency for the city to include the development of up to three Findings of Necessity and a Community Redevelopment Plan.

Commissioner Fielding moved approval of the staff recommendation to authorize the executive director to enter to an agreement with the Village of Palm Springs. Mayor Burdick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Staff indicated All Aboard Florida has begun running test trains on a section of track from Okeechobee Boulevard down to Hypoluxo Road. The tests will involve running the trains at increasing speeds as well as synchronizing the signals between the trains and the gates. Staff stated that construction delays will delay the establishment of this quiet zone for a few weeks.

Commissioner Zorc asked if the test runs are to implement positive train control. Staff indicated the purpose of these runs is to test all the equipment to ensure everything is communicating properly, including the positive train control. Commissioner Zorc suggested they need to simulate running the trains through the communities 32 times a day to see the effects.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Martin noted a city in India and the entire country of France have done away with all plastic. He noted plastic is very harmful to the reef system and asked everyone to please use reusable shopping bags and not bring plastic bags to the beach. He stated when he attends meeting he brings his own metal fork, cup, bamboo plate and encouraged others to do the same. He stated he is interested in continuing the discussion of how flood insurance rates are impacted by open space. He indicated there is a piece of property in Palm Beach County called the McMurrin property that he would like the county to purchase. He noted the county once owned the property, but sold it to the SFWMD to put in a reservoir. However, the SFWMD has decided not to build the reservoir and is surplussing that piece of property. He stated if that property is developed it will increase flood insurance rates for everyone in the surrounding area due to the way flood insurance rates are calculated. He indicated his gratitude that the minutes from the previous meeting included his comments on this topic and he stated he would like to have a presentation on this at a future meeting.

STAFF COMMENT

Staff informed everyone the March 17th meeting will be held at an alternate location in Palm Beach County. Staff will send out the details of the location.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Mayor Gerwig stated the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization will be hosting the Complete Streets workshop next year and encouraged Council members to attend.

Vice Mayor McKinlay cautioned everyone to pay attention to House Bill 17, which will preempt all local governments from being able to pass ordinances that are not specifically specified in the statutes, which will drastically affect home rule authority.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:03 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 February 17, 2017 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Date

Signature