

**MINUTES OF THE
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
APRIL 19, 2019**

Agenda Item 1: Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. and welcomed everyone. She led the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Item 2: Roll Call

Thomas Lanahan, Council's Executive Director, took roll and announced a quorum was present.

The following members and alternates were present:

Indian River County: Commissioner O'Bryan
 Commissioner Adams
 Councilmember Dodd

St. Lucie County: Commissioner Townsend

Palm Beach County: Commissioner Valeche
 Commissioner Weinroth, Alternate
 Mayor Gerwig
 Councilman Hmara
 Commissioner Hardy
 Councilmember Marino, Alternate

Martin County: Commissioner Smith
 Commissioner Hetherington

Gubernatorial Appointees: Douglas Bournique
 Michael Houston
 Reece Parrish

Ex-Officios: Vicki Gatanis, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
 Kathy LaMartina, South Florida Water Management District

Council Staff: Thomas J. Lanahan
 Phyllis Castro
 Kim DeLaney
 Liz Gulick
 Stephanie Heidt
 Dana Little
 Jessica Seymour

Council Attorney: Keith Davis

Agenda Item 3: Agenda

Council Action: Commissioner Smith from Martin County moved approval of the April 19, 2019 Agenda. Councilmember Parrish, Gubernatorial Appointee from St. Lucie County, seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda were: 4B1, Financial Report – February 28, 2019; 4B2, Minutes – March 15, 2019; 4B3, Town of Hypoluxo Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 19-01ESR; 4B4, City of Lake Worth Beach Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 19-01ESR; 4B5, City of Riviera Beach Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 19-01ER; 4B6, City of Stuart Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 19-01ESR; 4B7, Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Log; 4B8, Supplemental No. 3 to Florida Department of Transportation Joint Participation Agreement; and 4B9, Resolution Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

Council Action: Commissioner Smith moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Parrish seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: Southeast Florida Coral Reef Tract Update

Mr. Lanahan gave an update on activities that have been done to date to bring awareness to the significant coral disease outbreak off the southeast coast of Florida, including the formation of a working group of representatives from Martin County south to Monroe County that has been working with Joanna C. Walczak at the office of Resilience and Coastal Protection with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Mr. Lanahan read a summary update that Ms. Walczak provided since she was not able to attend today:

Executive Office of the Governor and DEP Updates:

- Governor Desantis and DEP Secretary Valenstein have been champions for the environment, especially on coastal ecosystem issues including water quality and coral disease response.
- Dr. Thomas K. Frazer has been appointed as Florida's first Chief Science Officer. In his newly created role, Dr. Frazer will direct the newly established Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency, coordinating and prioritizing scientific data, research and analysis to more effectively address Florida's pressing environmental concerns. He will ensure that sound science and innovative strategies expedite our progress. Dr. Frazer is director of the University of Florida School of Natural Resources and Environment and serves as chair of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.
- The former DEP Florida Coastal Office has been renamed the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP) to better align with the Governor's priorities of coastal community resilience and ensuring the protection and resilience of the natural infrastructure that protects our coastal communities.

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Updates:

- Secretary Valenstein was in attendance at the meeting held in Washington, D.C. on April 4th, 2019. He strongly emphasized the urgency and need for immediate and swift action, including the significant risk of inaction.
- Coral Champion - Commissioner Smith - participated in a coral disease panel which presented on the current collective management response efforts; the concerns and needs as the disease is believed to have spread to other sites in the Atlantic/Caribbean including the US Virgin Islands; and the local perspective of what is at risk (our coastal communities and economies) if we lose the ecologically and economically valuable coral reefs.

Coral Disease Response efforts:

- The current boundary of the disease event is near Sand Key –offshore of Key West.
- Although the Governor's recommended budget for next FY coastal resilience and coral disease response was \$6 million, the current House and Senate budgets reflects significantly less. Efforts are underway to prepare disease responders for this potential loss of funding including prioritizing projects that will continue beyond June 30th when the current state funding is fully spent out.
- DEP (Joanna) and FKNMS (Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary) will be giving a presentation at the next South Florida Ecosystem
- Restoration Task Force to continue to educate the broader Florida community and champion the importance and connectivity of the Everglades and Florida's coral reef ecosystems.
- Force Blue has produced a Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease mission video, available at: <https://wimeo.com/325871028>
- For more information on SCTL D and Florida's ongoing response efforts, visit: www.floridadep.gov/rcp/coraldisease and <https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/coral-disease/welcome.html>

Commissioner Smith indicated there were meetings in Washington last week regarding the coral reef disease issue, noting the Florida task force has hired a representative that is an expert on this topic.

Commissioner Smith noted that in the last 4-5 months the disease has spread all the way to Key West and has been found in the U.S. Virgin Islands. He stated a lady from the Virgin Islands gave a presentation that showed outbreaks of the disease coincide with shipping lanes. He noted the large container ships take on ballast waters when they are out in the ocean in order to stabilize their ships and there is an international treaty that requires ships to dump those ballast waters 50 miles offshore. However, it appears that is not occurring and there is most likely ballast dumping being done along the coast and in ports. He stated there is currently no proof this is occurring and it is only a theory that it is contributing to the coral reef disease outbreak. Commissioner Smith noted that Australia has allocated \$100 Million to combat the issues of bleaching and disease because the Great Barrier Reef is such an important asset for them. In the United States, there has been \$75 Million dollars allocated to the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for coral reef issues. He noted that Secretary Valenstein with FDEP is committed to helping with this issue both at the upcoming congressional hearing in Washington and bringing back together the state task force of experts.

Commissioner Conze from the Town of Jupiter Island asked who is in charge of this issue in Florida. Commissioner Smith indicated that ultimately Secretary Noah Valenstein is in charge, and Joanna Walczak is the lead for the Coral Reef Task Force, along with the gentleman that was recently hired. He indicated that every institute and university that deals with water research and water quality is working on this issue both in looking for a way to combat the disease as well as gathering samples in an attempt to protect and save the various species.

Councilman Hmara from the Village of Royal Palm Beach asked if Congress is providing any support. Commissioner Smith stated there has been a fair amount of support, but the Coral Reef Act of 2018 was not reauthorized. He stated they will try again to get that reauthorized which will get more money and attention brought to the issue. He stated our delegation is completely supportive and the Admiral of NOAA is fully engaged and he has significant influence in Washington.

Mayor Gerwig from the Village of Wellington noted there has been talk that sunscreen use may be part of the problem. She asked if this has shown up in any of the research. Commissioner Smith stated sunscreen could possibly be a contributor to the stressing of the coral. He indicated legislation is currently being pushed through that would preempt local governments from passing ordinances to ban sunscreen. He stated there is nothing definitive that says sunscreen absolutely causes problems, but when there is a large amount of people on the reef for an event and they are wearing sunscreen, it does contribute a high concentration of chemicals that could be part of the problem. Mr. Lanahan noted there are articles in the Communication Package regarding banning sunscreen, and another article regarding the preemptive legislation. He noted that initially the legislation stated if sunscreen is banned by a local government then they will not get tourism money, now it is a fine of \$25,000 if a jurisdiction adopts a sunscreen ban. He suggested that when using sunscreen to let it soak in for 15 minutes before getting into the water because it does make a difference.

Agenda Item 6: SunRail Field Tour: Overview and Lessons Learned

Kim DeLaney of Council staff provided an overview of a field tour of SunRail stations and associated Transit Oriented Development (TOD) that was undertaken in early 2019. The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) requested the assistance of the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils (SFRPC and TCRPC) with logistics and evaluation of observed conditions. She highlighted key lessons learned to advance TOD along the Tri-Rail corridor and other locations as appropriate in the Southeast Florida region: 1) Stations and TOD equal Economic Development; 2) It is beneficial to get TOD land use and zoning in place as early as possible (ideally before the station is developed); 3) Station Context and Connectivity Matter; 4) Station-Area land owned by FDOT has become a station-area “land bank;” 5) There is a need for local champions to keep stations and the system a priority; 6) SunRail’s station transit connections are well-defined, intuitive, and easy to use; 7) SunRail’s TOD pattern works as an interconnected corridor, wherein different types of uses are linked

together by the system; 8) Naming Rights are Valuable; 9) Development activity is responding to market demand for station-area residential use; 10) Local governments have strong ownership over their stations, which is reflected in station upgrades and high standards for maintenance and upkeep; 11) The SunRail system feels like a customer-focused system; and 12) there are substantial benefits for Tri-Rail/SunRail collaboration.

Commissioner Hardy with the City of Lake Worth Beach asked if there would be difficulty having both Brightline and SunRail service running to the Orlando airport. Dr. DeLaney stated that there would be a lack of efficiency to have both, and Brightline is better equipped to get financing than SunRail. She stated Brightline is actively pursuing their entire system all at once, and they have indicated they are expecting to begin construction to Orlando this summer. She indicated that they must first finish service to Orlando before continuing to the west, and what is important is that there is a train service to make those connections.

Commissioner Hardy asked how individuals on a SunRail train will have access to a Brightline train to complete their journey to the airport. Dr. DeLaney noted that the SunRail passenger will have to change trains to make a connection to the airport, because that will be a separate system. So it will be a two-seat ride for those SunRail passengers and they will need to purchase two tickets.

Commissioner Weinroth from Palm Beach County asked how to stop pushing the workforce housing out of these new TOD areas. Dr. DeLaney noted that in the transit-oriented development planning efforts Council is doing with SFRTA, gentrification is one of the issues that is being addressed. She stated we need to get more aggressive with planning for workforce housing and essential services in TOD areas so we do not create a different suburban commuter problem that pushes people out of the downtown and forces them to drive until they can afford a place to live. She noted this could be done through a public policy initiative to provide funding mechanisms and incentives to developers to get more affordable housing in the TOD areas. Mr. Lanahan noted that people want to live near the train and at the Longwood station for SunRail they have constructed an apartment building across the street from the station. Longwood increased zoning and land use to 50 units an acre and initiated a stormwater master plan to enable the developer to bring the housing they had not had for years. The station provides in-town housing for commuters who are taking the train to Orlando to work and then they come home and spend their money at night and on the weekends in Longwood.

Commissioner Conze noted that in the presentation there was mention of a rideshare driver living in the neighborhood. Dr. DeLaney stated that one of the planning practices that is being done around the country is to disassociate parking with individual apartments. She stated parking can be ratcheted down to become more about supply and demand versus having a minimum requirement in land development codes.

Councilmember Houston, Gubernatorial Appointee from Martin County, noted that one of the reasons he does not take Tri-Rail is the lighting is bad at night. Dr. DeLaney noted that at the Winter Park station the sidewalk was lit for the entire stretch as were the environs around the sidewalk. She noted one of the takeaways from the visit is that there needs to be upgraded lighting and safety measures at the stations.

Mayor Marino from the City of Palm Beach Gardens asked who owns the SunRail tracks and how the rail service originally was funded. Dr. DeLaney stated the rail corridor was purchased by FDOT from CSX, which retained exclusive rights to operate freight on the corridor. It is now called the Central Florida Rail Corridor. The capital funding for the system was 50 percent through a competitive process for federal funding; 25 percent from the state; and 25 percent from the local entities (Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia counties, and the City of Orlando). Mayor Marino asked if they have transportation impact fees. Dr. DeLaney explained they have mobility fees that are controlled by the local governments, who pay the county for their portion of roads and then they use the rest for other transportation projects such as bicycle and pedestrian connections and public transit.

Commissioner Valeche asked for this presentation to be made to the SFRTA Board. Dr. DeLaney indicated she is working on this. Commissioner Valeche asked how SunRail funds its operations. Dr. DeLaney indicated the coalition made up of the counties and the City of Orlando are working on the details of the operations and maintenance costs in preparation for taking over from FDOT. Commissioner Valeche asked if they are providing more than the statutory requirements. Dr. DeLaney indicated she will find out the answer to that and provide it at the SFRTA presentation.

Dr. DeLaney stated that all the local governments have a mechanism in place to capture revenue. She stated that local governments do not need to have a community redevelopment agency to be able to direct revenues, it can just be a policy decision. However, in our region there has not been agreement with respect to local government allocation of funds for passenger rail service.

Councilmember Houston noted that in our region the cities of Palm Beach Gardens and Boca Raton are looking at how to fund their stations. He encouraged everyone to look at the models that have been used for the SunRail service and see if there are some things that will work here. Dr. DeLaney noted that Council staff has been doing work in the region with local governments and agencies doing a lot of very progressive planning, particularly because we do have a lot of downtowns. She noted that the private sector has said they are going to make this happen and we are not going to fall behind other regions. They have taken the leadership position and are working with local governments, in Washington, and with lending institutions to promote this type of rail service in our region.

Commissioner Conze asked how this meshes up with Brightline. Dr. DeLaney noted that Virgin Trains (fka Brightline) has three stations in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach and are actively pursuing additional stations within that corridor. She indicated Virgin has been meeting with local governments about quiet zones and has reached a settlement agreement with Martin County that requires Virgin to deliver a station in the Treasure Coast in either downtown Stuart or Fort Pierce.

Commissioner Conze asked if Brightline's service from West Palm Beach to Orlando will affect a Tri-Rail extension north. Dr. DeLaney noted that legislation that was adopted a few years ago has made it very difficult for Tri-Rail to extend north of Palm Beach County. That legislation required a super majority and specific approval of FDOT to allow Tri-Rail to expand outside of

Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. She stated that with Brightline adding interim stations, we as a region may be satisfied with the type of limited commuter rail service that they will provide.

Commissioner Valeche noted that Brightline has the borrowing capacity to extend to Orlando, however Tri-Rail is struggling to extend service to Jupiter. He asked if there is a way to get that done. Dr. DeLaney noted that there are currently conversations with the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization to extend Tri-Rail on the FEC Corridor to Aventura and Brightline has announced they will have a station at Aventura. She noted Brightline and Tri-Rail are coordinating to deliver passenger rail service, but to different types of customers. Commissioner Valeche noted that when Tri-Rail starts service to Miami there will be a train that will take passengers straight to the airport and then another train to downtown.

Agenda Item 7: Bow Wow Solids Update

Kathy LaMartina from the South Florida Water Management District shared an informational presentation entitled "*What's the Scoop on Dog Poop.*" She noted this presentation was not done for the SFWMD, but was developed as a campaign for the Indian River Lagoon license plate program with all statistics being obtained from the American Association of Pets and the U.S. Census Bureau. The purpose of the presentation was to highlight the effects of how dog feces, when not picked up, can affect our waterways, and provided steps dog owners can take to help mitigate some of those affects. Using the City of Stuart as an example, it is estimated that 2,000 pounds of dog feces per day are left in the ground to potentially runoff into the waterways.

Agenda Item 8: Announcements

Mr. Lanahan reported he attended the Florida Regional Councils Association meeting in Tallahassee where the state representative from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and staff from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) shared information on their joint effort to create a statewide small business recovery revolving loan fund. The \$40 Million fund will offer loans for 36-60 months for up to \$350,000 at a competitive interest rate. The primary channel for businesses to access the funds will be through Small Business Development Centers throughout the state and it is geared toward longer term business recovery activities.

Mr. Lanahan indicated FDOT is revising their drainage manual to address sea level rise as part of the design process for drainage systems. This will have local impact since many jurisdictions reference the FDOT manual.

Mr. Lanahan noted that all of the Local Update of Census Addresses (aka. LUCA) packages have been submitted by the local governments to the U.S. Census Bureau for the upcoming national population count. He noted it is important for staff to go over the information and provide feedback as needed with respect to the BAS (boundary and annexation surveys) of municipalities. He stated December of 2019 will be the last chance to change city boundaries as far as the Census is concerned before the process begins in April of 2020. He noted that through the Participant Statistical Area Program (PSAP) municipalities, especially newly incorporated

areas, need to determine if census tracts and blocks should be adjusted. This information can be found with the county planning staffs. Mr. Lanahan noted it is very important to ensure that each person is counted, because it is estimated that each resident is worth \$1,600 over the next 10 years in terms of how revenue is allocated from state and federal programs to local governments. He stated that on March 12, 2020 postcards will be mailed to households and the Census Bureau's website will go live on March 16, 2020 for people to start inputting their information. He noted although paper copies can still be obtained, the Census Bureau really wants to do the count electronically. He indicated that some local governments are planning to set up computer kiosks at their city halls and libraries to help accommodate citizens who do not have access to a computer.

Mr. Lanahan indicated that the Budget and Personnel Committee will meet at Council offices on May 2nd to review a proposed budget amendment and provide recommendations that will be presented at the May 17th Council meeting.

Mr. Lanahan indicated he will be attending the FDOT "Future of Transportation in Florida" visioning session in Jacksonville on May 6th and 7th.

Mr. Lanahan noted that on June 10th-13th the North American Hazardous Material Management Association Conference will be held at the PGA Resort in Palm Beach County. Commissioner Valeche from Palm Beach County will be addressing the group and Kate Boer of Council staff will be teaching one of the courses. He noted this is a good educational opportunity for those who deal with hazardous materials across the state and the country.

Mr. Lanahan noted that the next FRCA meetings are scheduled for June 13th and 14th in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties annual meeting being held in Orlando. He also noted the next meeting of the FRCA Policy Board will be held on August 15th and 16th in conjunction with the Florida League of Cities annual conference in Orlando.

Agenda Item 9: Chair Comments

Chair Adams wished everyone a nice Easter weekend.

Agenda Item 10: Council Member Update

Councilman Hmara stated he appreciated the presentation on transit-oriented development and is envious they do not have a rail line in western Palm Beach County. He noted the Village has been working on putting together and educating the public on a landscaping ordinance and with what is happening in Tallahassee regarding tree trimming, this may be an example of what happens when Tallahassee weighs in on local issues.

Mayor Gerwig noted that next week the League of Cities will be hosting Representative Brian Mast in Palm Beach Gardens. She stated she plans to introduce him to the most regulated farmers in the world that are in Palm Beach County. She indicated next month she will be turning over the presidency of the Palm Beach League of Cities to Councilman Hmara.

Ms. LaMartina noted that the next Indian River Lagoon meeting will be held on May 10th in Palm City.

Commissioner Townsend from St. Lucie County indicated the County has signed a contract with Derecktor Shipyards to operate a mega-yacht repair center at the Port of Fort Pierce.

Commissioner Valeche indicated he has been in discussions with Nick Uhren, executive director of the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency, about three new transportation corridors that are being proposed by the legislature through the central part of the state that are examples of horrible planning that will lead to more sprawl. He asked for a presentation on these corridors to bring Council members up to date on what is being proposed. Chair Adams stated this could be put on a future agenda.

Commissioner O'Bryan from Indian River County indicated they had a major press conference to announce that Major League Baseball will be assuming the lease of the Dodgertown property and changing the name of the facility to the Jackie Robinson Training Complex. He noted that Jackie Robinson's family attended the press conference. He stated the plan is to use the facility all summer for youth development programs. He noted that with the sale of the Vero Beach electric facility to FPL they are seeing about an \$11,000 savings in the electric bill for the two county administration buildings. He also noted that FPL has hired Kate Cotner from the county to replace the retiring Amy Brunjes.

Councilmember Bournique, Gubernatorial Appointee from Indian River County, stated our environment is very fragile, noting a study that was done in the Keys that indicated it took 43 minutes from when a toilet is flushed for the water to reach adjacent canals through the septic system. It so happened that he had been diving to get lobsters in that canal in the Keys. He stated there is no magic filtration system to protect the lagoon and we need to get smarter and more aggressive in how we protect it.

Commissioner Weinroth noted that Palm Beach County has reduced impact fees for residential development. He indicated there will be a joint meeting between Palm Beach, Hendry, Martin, and Glades counties to discuss Lake Okeechobee on May 7th at Okeechobee High School.

Agenda Item 11: Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 12: Staff Comment

None

Agenda Item 13: Adjournment.

There being no further business, Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.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 April 19, 2019 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Date

Signature