



**JOINT VIRTUAL WORKSHOP -- MINUTES OF THE
SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS
MARCH 19, 2021**

The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils held a virtual joint workshop on March 19, 2021.

Agenda Item 1: Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hmara called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He led the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Item 2: Roll Call

The following members and alternates were present from **Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council**:

Indian River County: Commissioner Susan Adams
Commissioner Joe Earman, Alternate
Commissioner Laura Moss, Alternate
Mayor Brian Foley, Town of Indian River Shores
Mayor Ed Dodd, City of Sebastian

St. Lucie County: Commissioner Cathy Townsend
Commissioner Sean Mitchell
Commissioner Curtis Johnson, City of Fort Pierce

Palm Beach County: Commissioner Maria Marino
Commissioner Gregg Weiss
Vice Mayor Robert Weinroth, Alternate
Mayor Abby Brennan, Village of Tequesta
Mayor Anne Gerwig, Village of Wellington
Councilman Jeff Hmara, Village of Royal Palm Beach (Chair)
Commissioner John Linden, Town of Lake Park, Alternate
Mayor Kristine de Haseth, Town of Ocean Ridge, Alternate
Vice Mayor Robert Gottlieb, Town of South Palm Beach, Alternate

Gubernatorial Appointees: Douglas Bournique, Indian River County
Michael Davis, Palm Beach County
Michael Houston, Martin County
Reece Parrish, St. Lucie County

Ex-Officios: Jon W. Moore, FDEP, Alternate

Council Staff: Thomas Lanahan, Executive Director
Kathryn Boer
Phyllis Castro
Kim DeLaney
Liz Gulick
Stephanie Heidt
Dana Little
Terry Ann Paulo
Jessica Seymour

Council Attorney: Keith Davis

The following members were present from **South Florida Regional Planning Council**:

Broward County: Mayor Steve Geller
Mayor Greg Ross, City of Cooper City
Vice Mayor Michael Udine
Mayor Ana Ziade, North Lauderdale

Miami-Dade County: Commissioner Oliver Gilbert, III
Council Member Jordan Leonard, Town of Bay Harbor Islands

Monroe County: Commissioner Samuel Kaufman, City of Key West

Gubernatorial Appointees: Mario J. Bailey (Chair)
Cary Goldberg

Ex-Officios: Dat Huynh, FDOT
Laura Corry, SFWMD

Council staff: Isabel Cosio Carballo, Executive Director
Eralda Agolli
Mark Cassidy
Alisha Lopez
Christina Miskis
Jason McMahan
Jennie Sullivan
Leandro Braslavsky Soldi

Council Attorney: Sam Goren

Agenda Item 3: Chair’s Comments – The Honorable Jeff Hmara, Chair, TCRPC; and Mario J. Bailey, Chair, SFRPC

On behalf of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC), Chair Hmara welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today’s joint meeting.

On behalf of the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC), Chair Bailey welcomed everyone and expressed his excitement for today's meeting. Chair Bailey noted that Ms. Laura Corry is retiring and will be greatly missed. She has been a member of the SFRPC for eight years and an employee of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) for 30 years. He pointed out her accomplishments.

Chair Bailey recognized new appointed members to the SFRPC:

- Commissioner Rene Garcia, Miami-Dade County
- Commissioner Oliver Gilbert, III, Miami-Dade County
- Mayor Ana Ziade, North Lauderdale
- Commissioner Eddie Martinez, Monroe County

Agenda Item 4: South Florida Water Management District Overview – Presentation by Drew Bartlett, Executive Director

Mr. Drew Bartlett, Executive Director, South Florida Water Management District updated Council members on District activities.

Mr. Bartlett noted he was hired as Executive Director of the SFWMD in March of 2019. The district was challenged with 29 projects. The district has executed over \$700 million worth of contracts for infrastructure projects to improve water resources. He thanked everyone for their leadership during the pandemic. He noted that Ms. Jennifer Reynolds will give an update on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The district is getting behind the Army Corps of Engineers to do a re-study of the Central and South Florida flood control system. The district is doing its own analysis at the critical flood control canal, applying for federal grants to do some work on infrastructure, to make sure we can continue to provide flood protection. The district is preparing for hurricane season, updating and readying the pumps. The district continues to work with local governments. Chair Hmara thanked Mr. Bartlett for his presentation.

Agenda Item 5: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity: Programs and Funding Opportunities – Presentation by Dane Eagle, Executive Director

Mr. Dane Eagle, Executive Director, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) updated Councilmembers on FDEO activities and the state of the economy. The presentation is available on TCRPC's Website: [2021-03-CM-Presentations.pdf \(tcrpc.org\)](#)

Mr. Eagle was appointed Executive Director of the FDEO in 2020. He noted that the FDEO has had its challenges over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but Florida has remained open for business.

Prior to 2011, the FDEO did not exist. There were three separate agencies under the Governor's purview that were all combined into one, and those agencies still exist as three different divisions that make up the DEO. The Division of Community Development works closely with local governments, regional planning councils, counties, and cities, etc.

The FDEO contracts with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation on affordable housing.

The newly created and all-important Florida Office of Broadband was established in the July 2020 Legislative Session. A major part of the Community Development division is the Office of Long-Term Resiliency from which HUD and CDBG funds are received by FDEO, ensuring local communities can rebuild after storms and become more resilient for future storms.

The Division of Strategic Business Development, formerly the Governor's Office of Tourism Trade and Economic Development, contracts with Enterprise Florida, Visit Florida, and Space Florida to make sure that people all over the country know that Florida is open for business and for tourists.

The FDEO works closely with the Department of Labor to administer unemployment insurance. The FDEO also works closely with Career Source for workforce development, assisting people who need a job in finding one or helping people who desire career advancement in developing additional skills.

Mr. Eagle noted that the FDEO has three 2021 Legislative Priorities on which they are working:

SB 1948/HB 1463: Reemployment Assistance Program Modernization
SB 968/HB 379: Public Records/Economic Development Agency
SB 982/HB 6071: Tax Refund Program for Qualified Target Industry Business

Chair Bailey asked Mr. Eagle how the RPCs could be more helpful and a better partner to the FDEO. Mr. Eagle thanked the regional planning councils for their discussion on the broadband needs. He also reminded the RPCs to stay aware of grant programs that the FDEO offers.

Mayor and former Senator Geller thanked Mr. Eagle for his presentation and noted that Florida is fortunate to have him. Chair Bailey thanked Mr. Eagle for his presentation and looks forward to a longstanding relationship with the FDEO.

Agenda Item 6: Twenty Years of CERP – Past, Presentation, and Future

PowerPoint presentations were given by council member Michael Davis, Senior Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer, WGI and Ms. Jennifer Reynolds, Director of Ecosystem Restoration and Capital Projects, SFWMD (U.S. ACOE, Lt. Colonel ret.). The presentations are available on TCRPC's Website: [2021-03-CM-Presentations.pdf \(tcrpc.org\)](https://www.tcrpc.org/2021-03-CM-Presentations.pdf)

Mr. Davis began with a discussion about the formulation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), the policy foundation, and how the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 was formulated which authorized CERP. The CERP plan itself is about 4000 pages and cost about \$20 million to develop. It is estimated that CERP would take approximately 30+ years to complete. After the plan was completed, the job was to write the legislation for WRDA 2000. WRDA is an authorization of projects that allows for an appropriation but does not appropriate money for projects. The WRDA of 2000 was signed in December 2000, and the latest enacted in late 2020.

Ms. Reynolds thanked Michael Davis for providing a history of Everglades Restoration, and CERP. Ms. Reynolds talked about the progress of the CERP. She noted over the last few years there has been a tremendous amount of momentum regained in this program which has to do with the collaboration of federal, state, local, and tribal entities coming together to advocate for priorities that help us to conserve the water resources of our nation and our state here in South Florida. Acquired over 265,000 acres of land -- sixty-five percent of all the surplus land has been acquired and is allowing us to keep the momentum going on projects as we receive the funding to complete things.

Ms. Reynolds noted over \$6 billion dollars has already been invested in South Florida projects, including some of those critical projects that started before CERP was authorized and then including the CERP projects moving forward.

Ms. Reynolds shared information on the following projects:

- Kissimmee River Restoration
- Tamiami Trail Bridges
- Indian River Lagoon
- Picayune Strand Restoration Project
- Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir
- Broward County Water Preserve Area.
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1
- Central Everglades Planning Project – WRDA
- Central Everglades Planning Project – Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir Project
- Central Everglade Planning Project S333N, Old Tamiami Trail
- Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project – WRDA 2020
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project – Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- Western Everglades Restoration Project
- Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration
- Southern Everglades

Chair Mario Bailey had a question regarding the reservoir storage. Ms. Reynolds noted the reservoirs under construction include water quality components that help make sure that the water being delivered back to the natural system is cleaner than when it entered the reservoirs. The district is looking at doing a combination of natural and chemical treatment to address the nitrogen. She noted that alum is very effective at removing nitrogen from water.

A member of the public asked what will be treated for and not treated for before water goes into the aquifer underground via the Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells. Ms. Reynolds noted that there are primary and secondary drinking water standards. There are different elements that have to do with micro level contaminants as well as particulate matter and chemicals. Elements that have to be removed from the water before it can be injected and those are in line with both the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Florida's drinking water standards, and they are looking at treating that water. She also noted they are looking at feasibility of different types of treatments, to choose the one that is most effective, the most reasonable cost, and they are looking

at doing some proof-of-concept studies with different vendors and different technologies this summer and early fall so that SFWMD can choose the best technology ahead of doing any injection.

Chair Hmara asked what timeline is being considered for the proof-of-concept pilot projects.

Ms. Reynolds noted that the district is looking at implementing ASR in a phased fashion. They are starting with the two test wells at the two sites mentioned earlier, for which each will take about a year to drill. These are 36-inch wells -- over 50 inches of a hole in the ground to put casing in and to make sure that those wells are going in properly. One well is in the upper Floridan, and the other well is in the Avon Park Permeable Zone. In addition to the year that it takes to drill those wells, it then requires a year of testing. She indicated they are working with the contractor on the schedule now, and some of that information will arrive sooner than others. Following that, they will look at proof-of-concept for treatment technologies this summer or early fall. This will allow them to combine that information with the information received from the exploratory wells, to inform design before moving into the next phase of implementing a full cluster. Once they can design and construct a cluster, then we'll be able to do cycle testing of that cluster, which will help to really understand the viability of ASR in a more expanded fashion.

Ms. Reynolds stated the integrated delivery schedules go out to 2030, but that does not include some of the projects that are still under the study phase. The integrated delivery schedule that was built demonstrates how significant of an investment it takes to move projects up-to-speed so that they can be implemented. This investment is looking at over \$800 million a year for the next five years.

Chair Hmara thanked Mr. Davis and Ms. Reynolds for their presentations and stated what a remarkable journey CERP has been so far.

Agenda Item 7: Central and Southern Florida Flood Project Risk Management Infrastructure Resiliency Plan Study

Jennifer L. Jurado, Ph.D., Deputy Director and Chief Resilience Officer Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department provided a presentation on the Central and Southern Florida Flood project and talked about the Resilience Plan Study. The presentation is available on TCRPC's Website: [2021-03-CM-Presentations.pdf \(tcrpc.org\)](https://www.tcrpc.org/2021-03-CM-Presentations.pdf)

Overview of the C&SF Project:

- Designed more than 70 years ago
- Anticipated to service 2 million residents, but today the system services a region of 11 million and is expected to grow to 15 million in the next 30 years
- System operated for collective purpose of flood control; water supply; mitigation for saltwater intrusion; natural system water deliveries (Everglades National Park, Fish and Wildlife resources)
- Changes in the physical environment
- Serves as the backbone to the Everglades Restoration
- C&SF project is fundamental to the resilience of southeast Florida

In summary, the C&SF system is failing, and a resilience study is overdue. The C&SF Flood Resiliency Study request is for a focused comprehensive study to assess the resiliency of the system's most critical infrastructure and related water resources concerns. The study would also provide recommended areas for further evaluation and study. A Section 216 New Start Study (and funding) must be included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Workplan, providing a study that leads to construction.

Chair Hmara thanked Dr. Jurado for her presentation.

Joint Resolution TCSF 21-01 For Discussion

Chair Hmara noted that each planning council will bring a resolution for consideration at their own meetings urging the USACE to conduct the C&SF Project Risk Management Infrastructure Resiliency Plan Study.

The action items for which they are calling are:

- That the United States Congress allow the USACE to begin an adequate number of new-start studies in the Investigations Account for flood and storm damage reduction in the FY 2022 budget.
- That the United States Congress provide sufficient funding for the USACE in the FY 2022 budget to conduct the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study.
- That the USACE select the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study as a new study and provide it with appropriate funding in the FY 2022 Work Plan for the Army Civil Works program.

Councilmember Davis encouraged expediency and getting to the Chief of Staff to President Biden and others. He pointed out that President Biden is formulating his budget right now to submit to Congress.

Council attorney Davis pointed out that this meeting was noticed and advertised as a workshop and not a regular or special meeting, where action can be taken under the status of state law. For a regional planning council, there must be at least one third of the quorum physically present in the room, and then you can constitute the remainder of the quorum virtually, but we do not have that today. The Councils are not structured today to take any action at this meeting.

Mrs. Carballo noted the SFRPC will follow up with an executed resolution, but there is certainly much that we can do especially with our Board members.

Agenda Item 8: Septic to Sewer Conversion, A Community-wide Approach

Ms. Donna Rhoden, Special Assistant to the Chief Assistant City Manager, City of Port St. Lucie, provided a presentation on *Septic to Sewer Conversion, Growing a Safer and Healthier Port St. Lucie*. The presentation is available on TCRPC's Website: [2021-03-CM-Presentations.pdf \(terpc.org\)](#).

Under discussion, Chair Bailey noted that this is a large problem affecting South Florida, and he thanked her for the presentation and the innovation in starting this.

Mr. Lanahan asked what reasons do people give for not connecting: do they not want to be on central sewer, do not want to pay a monthly bill, etc.? Ms. Rhoden noted she has worked in the water and sewer program since it began at the city and has not encountered anyone who wanted to connect for environmental reasons. She noted the bulk of the connections come from either those properties where their septic system has failed and the St. Lucie County Health Department has mandated that they connect, or they are in the process of either refinancing or selling a home. She noted that the mortgages that are now federally funded require that they connect to a public sewer system, if available. If connection costs became a 100% funded by the city, we might increase our numbers to a degree, but a lot of people do not open the envelope. They do not want to see their monthly water bill go up.

Mr. Lanahan asked if a neighborhood with platted, vacant lots has a sewer pipe on the street and you get a building permit for a new house, do you need to connect? Ms. Rhoden said yes. A person cannot get a permit from the health department for a new septic system.

Mr. Lanahan asked if there is no pipe in the street, then may you build a septic tank for the house. Ms. Rhoden stated yes. She noted there are only about 100 properties in the city that do not have a sewer line available to them.

Mayor Geller asked if there were any current programs that the state has funded, and if so, are they applied in general, in the urban areas, or only in certain very limited circumstances? He noted there is a city in Broward that is still on septic, and they want to do everything to get them onto sewer.

Ms. Rhoden noted the city applied for a grant through the legislative request process and received Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) funding, so that's one process. But of the \$800,000 that the city requested, they only received \$100,000.

Mayor Geller noted that for over 20 years, this has been going through an individual legislative request. But the legislature has discussed, at times, setting aside dollars specifically for septic-to-sewer. Ms. Rhoden noted she is not aware of any current program to that extent. The city stumbled upon the National Estuary grant. They applied and received another \$100,000, but truly the only thing that is relative to grants has not been for the conversion process as much as for installation of the infrastructure.

Mr. Bill Eggert, a member of the public, noted that his insurance company recently required him to reroof his house because it was more than 20 years old; asking if this could be a driver for this program. Ms. Rhoden noted she is under contract to get a new roof because her insurance company did not want to ensure a 15-year-old roof. She noted she is already connected to city sewer, but if not, she probably would have been required to connect as part of that refinancing for a new roof.

Chair Hmara thanked her for the presentation.

Agenda Item 9. Legislative Update

At the Joint Meeting of the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils held on October 16, 2020, four resolutions were adopted, reflecting the common concerns of the Councils on significant regional issues. Since that time, and in some cases inspired by the Joint Resolutions, various actions have taken place at the Florida Legislature and elsewhere related to these issues.

a. Coral Reefs (TCSF 20-01)

Mrs. Carballo thanked Joanna C. Walczak and her team at the FDEP; Tom Reiner, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC); Kathleen Fitzpatrick and other partners that are part of our Coral Task Force that is led by Commissioner Furr and Commissioner Smith, making it a truly seven-county initiative. She also thanked Greg Burns, who is the federal lobbyist for Martin County, who gives updates on what is happening in Washington.

Mrs. Carballo gave an update:

- The Governor's Florida Leads Budget has significant dollars for water resources and specifically includes \$10 million for the Resilient Coastline program, which also can be used for coral reef health, including restoration and monitoring. There was funding last year and again this year.
- Restoring Resilient Reef Acts of 2021. This is House Resolution 160 and Senate Bill 46. Encourage all our legislators to sign on to this legislation and to move it forward.
- The Boards voted at the October meeting to pursue the renaming of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area after Representative Kristin Jacobs, who championed and passed the conservation area legislation. Senate Bill 588 introduced by Senator Book and House Bill 217, introduced by Representatives Hunschofsky and Overdorf have been added to the March 18th Special Order Calendar and is poised for passage.
- The Boards instructed Council staff to work with the chairs to send a request to FDEP Secretary Valenstein and Eric Sutton, FWCC director asking them to please make a joint effort by both organizations to take the lead in the creation of a long-term conservation strategy for Florida's Coral reefs a priority. A letter to this effect was sent in December of last year. Receipt was acknowledged and now we are awaiting a reply.

b. Water and Wastewater Infrastructure (TCSF 20-02).

Mr. Lanahan thanked Mr. Frank Bernardino, Anfield Consulting, for his assistance on this update. He also thanked Mayor Geller and the advisory board.

- In January the Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) Office, released their 2021 Assessment of Florida's Water Resources and Conservation Lands.

- The needs have grown to \$840 million a year to increase over the prior year forecast at \$577 million, and then only \$383 million back in 2019.
- In response to the requests by the RPCs, there have been conversations with the Senate President's office and the House Speaker about commissioning a study to accomplish the goals that the Councils outlined in that joint resolution. It does seem like they would be supportive of it. Once completed, we will be able to take the next step towards the development of a long-term water infrastructure plan.
- The House of Representatives has proposed an expansion to EDRs annual assessment to include short- and long-term flooding and sea level rise, so that would be a new feature to that analysis and would probably make the backlog number higher.
- There is funding for water related items in the Governor's proposed budget: \$360 million for Everglades Restoration, \$150 million for Targeted Water Quality Improvements, \$50 million to restore Florida's world-renowned springs, \$25 million to improve water quality and combat harmful algal blooms, and \$40 million for alternative water supply development. Considering the multi-year funding requests that he has been proposing, we are looking at \$625 million a year. That would be \$2.5 billion invested by the end of his first term in office, which is an increase of over a billion dollars more than in the prior four years.
- Governor DeSantis also recommends a transfer of 19 positions, composing the Environmental Crimes Enforcement Unit, from FWCC to FDEP, which would allow them to bring in the Environmental Crimes Enforcement unit.

c. Biosolids (TCSF 20-03)

- Mr. Lanahan noted on June 8, 2018, the TCRPC convened a biosolids Symposium. The FDEP formed a Biosolids Technical Advisory Committee on which we participated. They met through September 2018 to January 2019, with extensive deliberation. Clearly, they identified existing regulations are not accomplishing the goals in protecting the water from nutrients. So, they moved into proposed rule changes.
- The Technical Advisory Committee moved that process along through 2019. However, they withdrew the rules because Senate Bill 712, the Clean Waterways Act, was adopted, which covered much of the same territory, and then FDEP proceeded into rulemaking based on the new statutes.
- The proposed amendments were published in December of 2020. On March 1, 2021, the FDEP announced the date for the public meeting, which will be on May 27, 2021.

The Clean Waterways Act 2020 (Senate Bill 712).

During the 2020 Florida Legislative Session, the legislature passed the Clean Waterways Act (Senate Bill 712), sponsored by Senator Debbie Mayfield and Representative Bobby Payne, with broad bipartisan support. Building on the work of the Blue Green Algae Task Force, the Clean Waterways Act addresses a wide range of water quality protection provisions aimed at minimizing

the impact of known sources of nutrient pollution on our waterways; realigns the State's resources to enhance protection of the environment; and strengthens regulatory requirements.

Some of the key components of the Clean Waterways Act are:

1. Regulation of septic tanks as a source of nutrients. Transfer of oversight of septic tanks from the Department of Health to the DEP.
2. Requirement for contingency plans for power outages at wastewater treatment plants to minimize discharges of untreated wastewater.
3. Provision of financial records from all sanitary sewer disposal facilities so that the DEP can ensure funds are being allocated to infrastructure upgrades, repairs, and maintenance that prevent systems from falling into a state of disrepair.
4. Requirement for detailed documentation of fertilizer used by agricultural operations to ensure compliance with Best Management Practices and aid in evaluation of their effectiveness.
5. Requirement for updating stormwater management rules and design criteria to improve the performance of stormwater drainage systems, with a special emphasis on nutrient management.

d. Affordable Housing (TCSF 20-04)

Mrs. Carballo thanked the Florida Housing Coalition for the information that was taken from their webinar. She noted that Governor DeSantis has recommended full appropriation of funds from the FY 2021-22 budget, and they are working with our legislators in Tallahassee to make sure that they appropriate the full funding.

The passing of Senate Bill 510 by Senator Hooper and House Bill 13 by Representatives Killebrew and Silvers would protect the trust funds going forward to prevent them from being swept into the general revenue.

American Rescue Plan Act:

- \$27 billion for emergency rental assistance (in addition to the \$25 billion passed in December 2020).
- \$21 billion through Coronavirus Relief Fund (available through 2025).
- \$5 billion for housing vouchers (available through 2030).
- \$100 million for rural households, homelessness assistance, foreclosure assistance, utility assistance, as well as some money for housing counseling and fair housing.

Mrs. Carballo pointed out the projected State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funding for this year is in the meeting package and for year 2022, it will give the SHIP estimates for each jurisdiction and when these funds will be available.

Ms. Ellen Kendall asked when these funds would be available. Mrs. Carballo stated that some of the funds would be available after the budget was completed. She noted that the webinar said that while the housing funds are already in the budget and ready to be released, the full appropriation for the two programs will not be transferred until 2022, but typically the money is appropriated.

e. Additional Updates

Update from Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Miami-Dade County: Mayor Cava thanked Chair Bailey and Chair Hmara for the opportunity to speak at this meeting. She noted that she served on the SFRPC for many years and mentioned the successful collaborations of the two RPCs that started almost eight years ago. The preparation of the Seven50 Plan, supported by US Department of Housing and Urban Development, EPA, and FDOT, and all seven counties, is here today providing a framework for many of the issues. She stated we are a region and must behave as one and be responsible for the resources of the region.

She also noted they recently launched a sea level rise strategy in Miami-Dade County with the leadership of our Chief Resilience Officer, James Murley. These federal water projects, particularly affect all of us and we need to continue to advocate together to protect our vulnerable environment. Additionally, she thanked Dr. Jennifer Jurado for her leadership on the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact.

Mayor Cava continued that though there are immediate issues with the Central and Southern Florida Flood Project (which are being addressed), disappointingly, the project did not get funding for the re-study this year, but she will double down with the other county mayors to ensure funding is approved going forward.

She indicated the current shared priority with Miami-Dade County is the regional interest and need to reduce pollution from septic tanks that end up in our bays and estuaries. She stated the Broward Commission is working with the support of the State Legislature to create a Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board, and one of the major focuses of this initiative is the conversion of our most vulnerable septic tanks, which have been mapped out to show the ones that become inoperable with rising seas to countywide sewer. Monroe County paved the way, so she is hopeful that not only will they have state funding for these efforts, but through the American Rescue Plan will also have federal funding for these efforts.

Mayor Cava noted they are actively lobbying in Tallahassee and Washington, since they are a mega region of six million plus people and a recognized leader on many of these issues and deserve their fair share of the funding from the state and federal government.

Update on Senate Bill 62 by Chair Hmara: The bill was passed by one committee in the Senate and not yet scheduled for any others, and there is no House companion bill. He thanked Senators Cruz, Polsky and Powell for their support in opposing this bill that would remove regional planning councils from the Florida Statutes. He thanked Commissioners O'Bryan and Smith and Chair Bailey for going to Tallahassee to testify before the Senate

Community Affairs Committee. He thanked all who contacted their senators and representatives and those who have passed resolutions supporting regional planning councils.

Agenda Item 10: Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 11: Council Comment

Mayor Gerwig from the Village of Wellington noted at a previous joint meeting she was able to meet with Peter Janicki, Janicki Industries, who worked on biosolid issues and since then they have continued the conversation looking for real solutions that are environmentally responsible for ways to deal with the manure issue in Palm Beach County and the equine industry.

Councilmember Minuse from the City of Vero Beach noted that the city sent a letter of support for the regional planning councils to Representative Grall and Senator Mayfield opposing any bill that looks to eliminate the councils. She also appreciated the information that was given today about the efforts with the discharges coming from Lake Okeechobee to St. Lucie. She noted this has been a huge source of the nutrient pollution in our lagoon, so this is encouraging information. She noted the city has a successful system, with mandatory septic inspections, and if they fail, they're required to hook up to the city's system. The city is actively pursuing any kind of illegal dumping from vessels in the Indian River Lagoon.

Commissioner Moss from Indian River County thanked staff for the information on the Affordable Housing section and Sadowski Trust Fund. She noted that the Vero Beach City Council has been working on this for years and she is hopeful that there will be changes this year.

Chair Bailey thanked everyone for an excellent meeting and extended his thanks to staff for working on putting this meeting together and identifying great speakers. Chair Hmara thanked all for attending, and the presenters for great presentations.

Agenda Item 12: Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Hmara and Chair Bailey adjourned the Joint Workshop of the Treasure Coast and South Florida Regional Planning Councils at 1:45 p.m. This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary or a designated nominee of the Treasure Coast and South Florida Regional Planning Councils, and that the information herein provided is the true and correct Minutes of the November 5, 2021 meeting.

Michele Coldiron, SFRPC Secretary
Monroe County Commissioner

Doug Smith, TCRPC Secretary / Treasurer
Martin County Commissioner