

**MINUTES OF THE
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
JULY 23, 2021**

Chairman Hmara called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He led the pledge of allegiance and requested roll call. Thomas Lanahan, Council's Executive Director, took roll and announced a quorum was present.

The following attended in person:

Indian River County: Commissioner Earman, Alternate
 Mayor Dodd
 Mayor Foley
 Councilmember Minuse, Alternate

Martin County: Commissioner Smith
 Commissioner Jenkins, Alternate

St. Lucie County: Commissioner Mitchell
 Commissioner Johnson, Jr.

Palm Beach County: Commissioner Weiss
 Vice Mayor Weinroth, Alternate
 Mayor Gerwig
 Councilman Hmara
 Commissioner Linden, Alternate
 Vice Mayor Reed, Alternate

Gubernatorial Appointees: Douglas Bournique
 Michael Davis
 Michael Houston
 Reece Parrish

Ex-Officios: Lois Bush, FDOT

Council Staff: Thomas J. Lanahan
 Kathryn Boer
 Phyllis Castro
 Kim DeLaney
 Liz Gulick
 Stephanie Heidt
 Terry Ann Paulo
 Jessica Seymour

Council Attorney: Keith Davis

The following participated remotely:

Indian River County: Commissioner Adams
Martin County: Mayor Eula Clarke
Palm Beach County: Commissioner Bernard
Vie Mayor Gottlieb
Commissioner Peduzzi, Alternate
Commissioner Bohlen, Alternate
Ex-Officios: Jon Moore, FDEP
Council Staff: Sarah Kammel

Agenda Item 3: Agenda Approval

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

Agenda Item 4: Consent Agenda

Chairman Hmara called for public comment on the Consent Agenda. There was no public comment.

Items on the Consent were: 4B1, Financial Report – May 31, 2021; 4B2, Minutes – June 18, 2021; 4B3, 2021-2022 Local Emergency Planning Committee Grant Agreement with FDEM; 4B4, 2021-2022 St. Lucie and Martin County Hazards Analysis Agreement with FDEM; 4B5, Fort Pierce Amendment No. 21-01ESR (18.70 acres from Mixed Use to General Commercial); 4B6, Haverhill Amendment No. 21-01ER (EAR Amendments); 4B7, Lake Park Amendment No. 21-01ESR (Text Amendment creating Twin Cities Mixed Use designation and Assign to 22.3 acres); 4B8, Palm Beach Gardens Amendment No. 21-01ESR (49.04 acres from Professional Office to Mixed Use Development); 4B9, Palm Springs Amendment No. 21-01ESR (18.38 acres from Other Public Facility and Low Density Residential to High Density Residential); 4B10, Stuart Amendment No. 21-02ESR (49+ acres from County Low Density Residential to City Neighborhood Special District); 4B11, Wellington Amendment No. 21-05ESR (Conservation, and Recreation and Open Space); 4B12, West Palm Beach Amendment No. 21-03ESR (24.5 acres from PBC Institutional and High Density Residential to City Community Service); and 4B13, Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Log.

Council Action: Mayor Foley from Indian River Shores moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Linden from Town of Lake Park seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Mr. Lanahan indicated that at the June meeting Council reviewed and approved the mid-year amendments to the current budget. He noted that according to the interlocal agreement, Council’s budget for the upcoming fiscal year must be adopted no later than the end of July. He indicated that the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, which will begin on October 1, 2021, reflects a 17.5

percent decrease (\$439,519) from the current budget, which is primarily related to the completion of several contracts and the winding down of the current brownfields assessment grant. He discussed changes to the Revenue and Expenditure tables and highlighted differences from the amended budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. He also explained that the per-capita dues rate remains the same, but total dues collected will increase by 1.8% due to an increase in population in the Region. Mr. Lanahan indicated the Budget and Personnel Committee reviewed the proposed budget at a meeting on July 6, 2021 and recommended approval of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Council Action: Commissioner Smith moved approval of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 as presented. Councilmember Bournique, Gubernatorial Appointee from Indian River County, seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Lanahan indicated Supervisor Keith Jordano, board member of the Indian Trail Improvement District (ITID), was present and invited him to join Council members at the table.

Under discussion, Commissioner Johnson from the City of Fort Pierce asked why the Federal holiday, Juneteenth, was not included in the list of Council holidays. Commissioner Mitchell from St. Lucie County stated this should be a recognized holiday. Vice Mayor Reed from the City of Palm Beach Gardens stated that the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA) approved Juneteenth as a holiday for their agency. She noted that the City is considering doing the same, but for now is allowing staff to use an optional day off for the holiday. Commissioner Linden stated the Town of Lake Park gave their staff the day off this year and will continue to do so in the future. Commissioner Johnson noted that the City of Fort Pierce also allowed staff to take this as a floating holiday but will be recognizing this as a paid federal holiday beginning next year.

Mayor Gerwig from the Village of Wellington asked if Florida Emancipation Day should also be considered as a recognized holiday. Mayor Clarke from the City of Stuart noted that they have celebrations recognizing Emancipation Day and will discuss how they will recognize Juneteenth at their next budget meeting. Chairman Hmara noted that the Village of Royal Palm Beach has adopted Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. Lanahan to look at naming Juneteenth as a recognized holiday by Council from a budget standpoint and report back at the next meeting. He indicated that he would like to have a discussion of this at the next meeting where, if approved, the budget can be adjusted accordingly.

Agenda Item 6: Statewide Regional Hurricane Evacuation Study – TIME Model Results Presentation

Kathryn Boer, Council’s Emergency Programs Director, provided an overview of the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study TIME Model Results. She noted that the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) contracted with the ten regional planning councils in the state on this initiative to produce an integrated, multi-regional statewide evacuation dynamic using a single methodology. The update includes a new cellular phone location data-based behavioral analysis of expected evacuation choices for various storm strength and landfall scenarios based on actual behavior in recent hurricanes. The study update utilized the TIME software model that generates county, regional, and statewide roadway clearance times, numbers of people and vehicles moving on the roadway network, and anticipated final destinations prior and post storm landfall.

Ms. Boer presented the study components that were collected, analyzed, and incorporated into the TIME software to model new evacuation clearance times and associated data tables that describe vulnerable populations and their destinations. This study was delivered as a planning tool to help emergency managers engage in evacuation orders with current and comprehensive data to reduce injury and impact to populations and maintain an educated state of readiness for each county in the Region.

Councilmember Davis, Gubernatorial Appointee from Palm Beach County, asked if the 23-hour evacuation time had been changed. Mr. Lanahan stated that this study addresses two things: the philosophical approach to evacuation vs. shelter in place; and modifications that are needed to deal with transportation. Ms. Boer noted that it is safer to keep people in their homes and less people on the highways. She noted that the other part of that is contraflow (where both sides of the highway are converted to flow in the same direction) has been replaced with the Emergency Shoulder Plan, that keeps sides going north and south, and gives additional lanes for travel by using the paved shoulder areas.

Commissioner Weiss from Palm Beach County noted that for the last few years the County has been messaging to the public not to evacuate unless you are in a mandatory evacuation zone. They want people to stay home, or if they feel their home is not safe, stay with a relative, neighbor, or friend. With respect to the 23-hour evacuation question, Ms. Boer noted that time may be longer for different areas of the state, depending on how far north or south you are located. She noted there may also be a lot more people on the road because of perceived worry and the possibility of shadow evacuations, which occurs when people from areas outside the declared evacuation areas choose to evacuate.

Mayor Gerwig asked how emergency vehicles and breakdowns will be handled if the shoulder lanes are being used for travel lanes plus the debris problem. She also asked if at-risk housing, such as mobile homes or high-rise structures, were put into the evacuation map. Ms. Boer stated that the housing types were not looked at per se, but rather the building codes and populations located in the most vulnerable areas; mobile homes are part of evacuation scenarios. With respect to using the shoulders as travel lanes, she noted that the plan calls for staffing from law enforcement and fire rescue to determine which roadways will utilize this strategy, and consistently monitor the roadways during evacuation.

Councilmember Bournique noted that decades ago evacuation was much easier, but not now with the current population in the state. He stated that what is needed in Florida is for structures and homes to be built to withstand major storms, which will allow residents to shelter in place.

Councilmember Houston, Gubernatorial Appointee from Martin County, noted that part of the planning should be educating the public on different corridors and local connection roads that can be used during an evacuation and have real-time information available during an event so people do not have to make their own decisions of which route is best to use.

Councilmember Minuse from the City of Vero Beach asked why Brevard County was identified as an inland county. Ms. Boer explained that the Operational Scenario questionnaire added Brevard and Okeechobee counties as they surround the Treasure Coast region to the north and west and have a large rural area where persons evacuating out of or into the Treasure Coast region traverse through. The modelers included Brevard and Okeechobee to encompass the rural areas for the western roadways to be recognized. She noted that both of those counties have an extreme western edge and

dip far inland, so Lake Okeechobee is also a consideration. Councilmember Minuse suggested making these designations clearer on the questionnaires, suggesting rural clarification.

Chairman Hmara noted the presentation and study is rich with data that is probably most meaningful to emergency management officials. He stated this is exactly the type of planning project that is best done through the regional planning councils. Ms. Boer agreed, stating this is an extremely helpful planning tool for emergency managers.

Mr. Lanahan concurred with Chairman Hmara that this is the type of approach that needs to be taken with the state to prove the worth of regional planning councils. He noted that FDEM has been very appreciative of having the support of the regional planning councils and been a great partner to work with getting this detailed level of knowledge. He noted that he recently learned that when Senate Bill 62 was proposed last session to eliminate regional planning councils in the state, FDEM was working in the background in support of the work being done at the ten regional planning councils.

Councilmember Bournique stated that in the citrus and agricultural industries they use best management practices, which are continually changing. He stated that over the years he has advocated for the regional planning council to develop a document that contains recommendations of how to live and build in the fragile environment of the Treasure Coast.

Councilman Davis noted that it is important to engage realtors, chambers of commerce, and insurance companies to connect the dots to the economics of living in the Region. He encouraged staff to reach out to these agencies to educate them on the value of regional planning councils.

Mayor Dodd from the City of Sebastian stated that he believes in local control, but this study done by the regional planning councils can be a driving force for modifications to improve land development codes that allow people to build in areas where we know they should not. He stated it would be helpful to have a framework for things a community needs to consider. Ms. Boer noted that each of Council's counties participates in the Community Rating System through the National Flood Insurance program that contains that information. She noted that the problem is it is not being pushed out to realtors, home buyers, and home builders.

Agenda Item 7: Announcements

Mr. Lanahan noted that on August 3rd Council staff is hosting a webinar with the U.S. Economic Development Administration to discuss Council's work as the regional Economic Development District. He noted that if anyone would like more information, they should contact Stephanie Heidt, Council's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Programs Director. He stated that invitations have been sent out to county and city administrators, as well as planning directors.

Mr. Lanahan noted that Council staff is currently working with the St. Lucie County Economic Development Council and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Indian River State College to identify resources and needs related to providing access to capital for small businesses in the Region. He noted that this effort includes a survey to small business to identify their challenges, as well as working with local lenders to determine where gaps in funding exist and what programs can be set up to address those gaps.

Mr. Lanahan also noted that on August 12th he, Ms. Heidt, and Ms. Paulo will be interviewed on the Small Biz Florida radio program hosted by the SBDC. On the show staff will provide an overview of Council's work program and upcoming funding opportunities.

Mr. Lanahan noted that Brightline is doing safety training along the Florida East Coast Railway corridor from West Palm to Miami prior to restarting their service. They are asking everyone to be very conscious and make safe choices around trains and crossings. He stated that their messaging is to "Look, Listen & Live."

Mr. Lanahan noted that Council staff will be hosting quiet zone workshops with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Palm Beach County TPA. He noted that they are getting prepared for the northern quiet zones in the County as the Phase two Brightline work continues. He noted that the meetings will be open to all local governments in the Region and Council staff will provide more detailed information soon. He noted that staff will also be participating in field diagnostics where FRA staff will be available to go into the field to determine what safety requirements will be needed at each crossing to make it eligible to be a quiet zone.

Mr. Lanahan noted that the Rebuild Florida grant program through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has announced there is \$175 million available. The deadline for submitting an application is September 17, 2021. This program is related to mitigation projects to address impacts of various past storm events.

Mr. Lanahan noted that Staff is working with FRA and the Florida Department of Transportation on a Railroad Trespass Prevention summit. The summit will be on September 22nd at the Boynton Beach Police Department Community Room. Stakeholders will be working to identify solutions to local trespassing issues, and developing practical ideas for technology improvements for pedestrian safety at railway crossings.

Mr. Lanahan noted that Palm Beach County won an award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for their Digital Inclusion Broadband Initiative. He noted there are other awards that were received within the Region and encouraged everyone visit the NACo website to find out more.

Agenda Item 8: Chairman's Comments

Chairman Hmara stated that the idea of reaching out to the chambers of commerce to let them know of the work Council does is an excellent idea. He indicated he will reach out to the Central Palm Beach County Chamber and make that offer. He noted that the evacuation study is a great example of the value regional planning councils bring to the state.

Agenda Item 9: Council Member Update

Vice Mayor Weinroth from Palm Beach County indicated that recertification standards for condominium buildings is becoming an important topic. He stated that he would like to work collaboratively, on both a county-wide and regional basis, to address this issue. He stated several local governments and agencies are working on this issue and he thinks it best to do this on a comprehensive, inclusive basis. He stated that although he is for home rule, he believes this will eventually bubble up to Tallahassee for a comprehensive decision on how to handle this. He indicated that he does not want to see overreaction to this issue that may force condo residents out of their units

as they are confronted with special assessments to address potential structural issues identified during the recertification process.

Commissioner Weiss indicated that NACo has released their Broadband Task Force report, which he will provide to Mr. Lanahan to send out to all Council members. He noted that he served on the task force, along with Commissioner Burroughs from Okeechobee County, representing Florida. He indicated the report provides good guidance to others as they considering developing plans and policies. He noted that with respect to the cybersecurity incident related to the Colonial Pipeline, it was not the hacking that shut down the pipeline. He stated that they intentionally shut down, because their billing system had been hacked and they did not want people to get gasoline and not pay for it. He noted that local utilities need to plan for this type of invasion and determine if they are going to shut down service if this happens to them. He stated he is bringing this up because a breach like this could happen on any part of a utility's internet infrastructure. He stated this is true also for governments, noting that there are several resources available as part of the federal government's cybersecurity network to address potential issues and make systems more secure.

Councilmember Minuse noted that the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) has put together a draft report on how to address water supply for future growth. She noted that there will be a workshop at the Indian River County Administration building on Wednesday, July 28th to review the report.

Mayor Dodd noted there was an article in TC Palm on Council's Access to Capital project. He indicated he is looking forward to the staff presentation of the project at an upcoming City Council meeting.

Commissioner Mitchell noted that St. Lucie County is finalizing their budget and the allocation of American Rescue Plan dollars. He stated they are being cognizant of the fact that there needs to be a good return on the investments, so they are looking at projects such as septic to sewer and making sure that the engineering and design work is done so when the infrastructure bill funding is made available they will be ready.

Commissioner Johnson noted that the City changed some of its land development processes which has resulted in growth in the commercial corridor. He noted long-time Commissioner Rufus Alexander is retiring so the City will be holding a special election. He stated that Commissioner Alexander is having some health concerns and would appreciate everyone's thoughts and prayers. He noted that the City is also looking for a new city attorney.

Vice Mayor Reed noted the City of Palm Beach Gardens is experiencing a lot of growth, but they are maintaining their 51 percent green space. She stated projects within the City include updating the aquatic complex; mobility projects, including bike lanes; a new park; and a driving range. She noted the City sent letters to condominium associations for buildings over four stories to begin initial inspections in preparation for county and state inspections.

Mr. Jordano thanked Council members for allowing him to have an unofficial seat at the table. He stated that Council has given ITID a lot of support on big community endeavors, noting Dr. DeLaney has made several presentations to their board on the mobility and resiliency plans. He noted that they are considering the possibility of incorporation.

Commissioner Earman from Indian River County noted he has been working with the SJRWMD and other governmental agencies on a plan to reduce stormwater runoff into the Indian River Lagoon. He noted that he serves on the Treasure Coast Sports Commission and stated that there are a lot of sports initiatives in the four-county region, which benefits all the counties and communities.

Lois Bush with the Florida Department of Transportation noted that they are in the process of updating the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Policy Plan. She indicated that the SIS includes all the highways, railways, waterways, ports, and airports that are critical to the state's economy and mobility. She stated they will be doing outreach efforts and scheduling interactive sessions to get input from around the Region.

Councilmember Houston thanked Ms. Boer for her presentation on the evacuation study, noting that these types of projects are a good fit for regional planning councils.

Commissioner Linden noted that they recently had a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Nautilus waterfront residential development. He stated that 20 percent of the 220 units have been presold and this project will create a great economic boost for the Town.

Mayor Gerwig noted that the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center has been sold to some European interests. She noted that there could be some future partnerships and major investment from Danish interests as well. She indicated that she agrees that the state will have to step in when it comes to structural assessments on buildings, but local governments, being closest to the people, need to be proactive from the standpoint of life safety. She stated the Village is considering an ordinance that will make golf carts an integral part of the public trail system and public roadways throughout the equestrian preserve area.

Commissioner Jenkins from Martin County stated it has been rather calm in the County. He thanked Council for completing the Community Redevelopment Area updates, which have been positively received by the public.

Councilmember Davis thanked the entire Council staff for the great work they do. He indicated that his agency employs 70 structural engineers and has been receiving a number of calls over the last couple of weeks related to building certifications. He stated that after internal discussion with their risk management team and insurance carrier, they have declined to take on this type of work.

Chairman Hmara noted that there is a combination of things that need to happen, not least of which is having the condominium associations involved. He stated this challenge needs to be taken on at the state level and he hopes the legislators will engage appropriately on this issue. He noted that it is not only about identifying needed repairs, but also about how those repairs will be funded. He indicated that the Village has been hosting a Shakespearean Festival that is free to the public with the final play being performed on the last two weekends in August at Commons Park.

Agenda Item 10: Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 11: Adjournment

Mr. Lanahan noted that there will be no Council meeting in August. The next scheduled meeting is on September 17, 2021.

There being no further business, Chairman Jeff Hmara adjourned the meeting at 11:43 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 July 23, 2021 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Date

Signature