

Martin County: Commissioner Hetherington
Mayor Clarke

Palm Beach County: Vice Mayor Gottlieb
Commissioner Bohlen, Alternate

Gubernatorial Appointees: Michael Davis

Ex-Officios: Lois Bush, FDOT

Council Staff: Sarah Kammel

Agenda Item 3: Agenda Approval

Chairman Hmara indicated that an amended Agenda was distributed, which adds a new Agenda Item 8, American Rescue Plan.

Council Action: Commissioner Smith from Martin County moved approval of the amended Agenda. Commissioner Linden from the Town of Lake Park seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Consent Agenda

Chairman Hmara asked if anyone from the public wished to comment on the Consent Agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Lanahan requested Agenda Item 4B3, 2021-2022 Local Emergency Planning Committee Grant Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management be pulled from the Consent agenda. He stated that the funding amount and scope of work for that contract is still being approved as part of the state budget and this item will be on the June Council agenda.

Items on the Consent were: 4B1, Financial Report – March 31, 2021; 4B2, Minutes – April 16, 2021; 4B4, Boynton Beach Amendment No. 21-01ESR; 4B5, Palm Beach County Amendment No. 21-03ESR; 4B6, Port St. Lucie Amendment No. 21-02ESR; 4B7, St. Lucie County Amendment No. 21-01ESR; 4B8, St. Lucie County Amendment No. 21-02ESR; 4B9, Wellington Amendment No. 21-03ESR; and 4B10, West Palm Beach Amendment No. 21-02ESR

Council Action: Commissioner Smith moved approval of the Consent Agenda as amended. Mayor Gerwig from the Village of Wellington seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: 2020 State Emergency Response Commission Annual Awards

Kathryn Boer, Council’s Emergency Programs Director, provided an overview of the tabletop exercise conducted with Helena Chemical in 2020 during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Ms. Boer thanked the St. Lucie County Sherriff’s Department and Port St. Lucie Police Department for providing a safe space to hold the exercise. She noted that the awards being presented in connection with the exercise are given through the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) award program.

Chairman Hmara presented Mr. Gaynam Rackstraw and Ms. Jean Krum from Helena Agri-Enterprises with the SERC and the Treasure Coast Local Emergency Planning Committee (TCLEPC) 2020 Thomas Yatabe Award for outstanding achievement and commitment to facility safety plan

development, response operations coordination with local responder groups, and proactive preparedness activities in preventing, preparing, and responding to chemical release incidents. Mr. Rackstraw thanked Council for supporting ongoing efforts that include private chemical facilities in emergency response planning and further integration with fire and hazardous materials teams operational training.

Ms. Boer stated that in addition to the annual award, SERC also recognizes individuals for exceptional contributions in forwarding the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and the TCLEPC public safety mission by awarding Certificates of Appreciation to three individuals: Daniel Mikels, Battalion Chief with the St. Lucie County Fire District; Frank Lasaga, Public Safety Officer and Fire Chief with the Town of Jupiter Island and TCLEPC Chair; and Carlos Valle, TCLEPC member. Mr. Lasaga thanked Council for their support and noted his appreciation of the collaborative effort of several agencies involved in the planning process to maintain and improve safety in the Region. Mr. Mikels thanked Commissioner Sean Mitchell for representing St. Lucie County and noted that the importance of this activity for the Region to strengthen public-private relationships and provide tools for a more effective response during incidents. Ms. Boer recognized their key representation in the exercise planning and execution and thanked them for their regional collaboration and continued service to the TCLEPC. Chairman Hmara presented the Certificates of Appreciation and thanked everyone for their service.

Agenda Item 6: Regional Response to COVID-19 (Use of CARES Act Funds)

Michael Zito, Assistant County Administrator for Indian River County, provided an overview of how Indian River County allocated the \$28 Million of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act relief funding they received. He noted that when the money was first distributed in July of 2020 the guidance was not clear on how the funding was to be spent. He stated the first lesson he learned was that during a pandemic it is as though you are repairing an aircraft mid-flight, and you need to be ready to adapt. He noted that at first Jason Brown, the County Administrator, advised the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to consider taking a conservative approach and only drawing down 25% of available funding, because the guidance was still evolving, and he wanted to ensure the expenditures would be in compliance. The County categorized the relief funding into municipalities and constitutional office expenses; the Health Department and health care providers; economic development; community support; and funding for the school district. He noted that the spending was reliant on direct impacts of COVID-19, and they had to be specific in how to justify the use of the funds and how the federal funding could work with state programs such as the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program to supplement mortgage and rental assistance CARES funding. The County also developed software applications to make the process for applying for CARES funding work with the County's systems and make the application process easier.

Mr. Zito noted that in July they realized that all the funding needed to be expended by December 31, 2020. He stated that, with the guidance of the Florida Association of Counties, the BOCC voted to pledge public health and safety payroll expenses into 2021, which enabled them to stretch the funding into 2021 and continue the County's CARES programs. He stated that the partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce and Indian River State College through their small business assistance program was phenomenal, but the County decided to administer the mortgage and rental assistance and vaccination clinics in-house. He stated that over time the Commissioners had to be very nimble in their thinking on how to spend the CARES Act funding and, with the guidance of Mr. Brown, had to be able to handle different challenges that arose. He noted that a recent audit of the mortgage and rental assistance program found that in the beginning they had a very strict approach on how to review

the applications to ensure there was a connection to COVID-19. However, over time the process loosened as the guidance became clearer and they were able to assist more individuals.

George Stokus, Assistant County Administrator for Martin County, stated that one of the burdens for counties with a population less than 250,000, like Indian River and Martin counties, was they did not receive their allocation of CARES Act money directly from the Department of Treasury, but rather had to wait for the allocation to come from the state. He noted that Martin County did not receive their first allocation until July of 2020. He concurred that there was little guidance in the beginning on how the funding should be spent and the deadline of December 31, 2020 did seem impossible. He stated that one of the things that set Martin County apart was that the BOCC had trust and faith in their staff and empowered their County Administrator to direct and lead the funding allocation process, which involved a team of no less than hundreds of people throughout the county as well as their public private partnerships. He stated that Martin County was the first one to receive its 25% allocation and the first one to close out its CARES Act process in the State. He noted that the County passed their audit with no indication of any problems.

Mr. Stokus reported that the County was able to assist 406 businesses at a rate of \$5.5 Million. He noted that although counties were not required to assist municipalities, Martin County helped their cities through 9 applications totaling just over \$500,000. He stated that the County provided over \$3 Million through their food assistance program. He noted that one of the requirements that he found fascinating was that someone must sign on the bottom line to receive the funding. He stated that although the process requires fingerprinting; social security and driver's license information; and thermal scan facial imaging, he was able to do all this from his kitchen counter. He agreed with Mr. Zito that it has been like flying a plane, and as a commercial pilot he knows that when your plane is falling apart it is important to aviate, navigate, and then communicate. He stated that in Martin County they were at 20% staffing but were able to work through the process by working through the Frequently Asked Questions, talking with the State, and working with media partners.

Howard Tipton, County Administrator for St. Lucie County, indicated that they received \$55 Million in late July, which created a challenge to get the money out the door. He stated that they focused on individual assistance and business assistance at non-profits, as well as working with the municipalities. The County provided over \$11 Million to individuals; over \$3.2 Million for business assistance; \$1 Million to non-profits; and \$2 Million to the cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie for their COVID-19 related expenses. He noted that because the County was also concerned about the potential to have the money clawed back from the Federal government, they used the remaining funding to cover Sheriff's office expenses. In doing that, they were able to reimburse themselves for COVID-related expenses. He noted that with the CARES Act individual and rental assistance programs, the County hired temporary staff to handle the applications in-house. As the County prepares for the new funding provided under the American Rescue Plan, they will be outsourcing the application process as it is a much larger challenge than originally thought.

Sherry Brown, Director of the Office of Financial Management and Budget for Palm Beach County, stated that Palm Beach County received their funding allocation directly from the Department of Treasury in April of 2020 and their Board approved the fiscal strategy for funding allocation in May of 2020. She stated that she is very proud of the way the County spent the CARES Act dollars. She also concurred that the process was confusing in terms of how the money could be spent. She stated that they were initially told the money could not be used for any budgeted items, had to be COVID-related, and would only cover expenses incurred from March 1 to December 30, 2020. She provided an overview of how the County used their \$261 Million allocation, plus the \$1.8 Million interest that

was earned on the initial funding allocation. Projects included: mortgage and rental assistance; small business grants; and county-wide COVID-19 testing. Ms. Brown noted that because the municipalities did not receive direct allocations, the County focused on programs that would have impacts throughout the County.

Ms. Brown indicated that the County provided small business grants that totaled almost \$80 Million. She noted that during this process the County helped many businesses with other issues such as understanding business tax receipts and registering with Sunbiz. The County provided \$76.5 Million in assistance to 99% of the businesses with 25 or fewer employees (90% of which had five or fewer employees), and 60% of the businesses that did not qualify for other assistance, such as the Paycheck Protection Program. She stated that the County allocated approximately \$25 Million to their rental utility assistance program. For the mortgage assistance program, the County provided up to \$10,000, or six month's worth of mortgage payments, to 1,582 applicants. She noted the County also received SHIP dollars, so the Housing Department was able to use the state funds, outside the CARES Act dollars, to rehabilitate homes.

Ms. Brown noted that the County spent \$38 Million on food programs that provided almost 5 million pounds of food to the PBC Food Bank and partnering agencies; the Feed the Hungry and Boca Helping Hands super pantries; and the Glades Initiative. The County also provided \$2.3 Million to support the School District's drive-through feeding sites; \$5.6 Million for home delivered meals to seniors unable to leave their homes; and \$14 Million for a pre-paid card program to assist families and individuals. She stated that the County also worked with the farmers in the Glades communities to distribute fresh produce. She noted the County also allocated money for non-congregate sheltering because of early concerns on what to do with individuals that test positive for COVID-19. Ms. Brown noted that the County contracted with 7 different hotels to make 424 rooms available for the approximately 175 homeless individuals living in John Prince Park. In the Glades region, by using \$5 Million of CARES Act funding, the County was able to renovate a county-owned building and set up a permanent, non-congregate shelter with 42 individual housing units in 30,000 square feet of living space, which will have a long-lasting impact for the area.

Ms. Brown noted that the County, in partnership with municipalities and private industries, invested \$15.75 Million to extend broadband service. Projects included extending Wi-Fi coverage to the parking lots of all 17 county libraries; implementing Wi-Fi infrastructure at 10 Boys & Girls Club locations; extending the County's broadband network to 98 schools; installing 3,000 radios covering 50 square miles; adding over 400 miles of additional fiber; and installing 2,000 poles for broadband infrastructure, 1,000 which were donated by Florida Power & Light Company (FPL). She noted they still need \$35 to \$40 Million to complete the work county-wide, which could happen with the American Rescue Plan dollars. Ms. Brown noted that funding also provided \$900,000 for childcare and early learning programs that serve approximately 2,086 youths; \$4.24 Million to eligible non-profit organization grants; and \$17 Million in COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs.

Commissioner Smith noted that the lack of broadband access is a national issue. He stated that he would like to see a presentation from Palm Beach County on their program, including their partnership with FPL, to see how that can be done in other areas of the Region. Ms. Brown noted that this initiative started with the School District of Palm Beach County because they were able to see which students were unable to sign in for virtual school. Commissioner Smith noted that it would be helpful to know how broadband can be offered publicly versus through an institutional supply chain. Commissioner Bernard from Palm Beach County indicated that Commissioner Weiss took the lead on this project. Commissioner Weiss noted that Palm Beach County was able to use Wi-Fi rather than

run fiber to directly compete with traditional providers. He stated that the combination of this, and using the school district as the mechanism, relieved some of the regulatory problems. He noted that FPL's role was the donation of the poles, and the County worked with the municipalities on permitting and locating those poles. He stated that the radios that receive and transmit the signals run on solar power, so there is a battery and solar cell that sits on top of the poles and serves as an extender device to homes. Commissioner Weiss noted that he serves on the Broadband Task Force for the National Association of Counties (NACo), so their initiatives, as well as what the League of Cities is doing, would provide for a beneficial update on this issue.

Lisa De La Rionda, Director of the Public Affairs Department for Palm Beach County, noted that the County utilized the media, as well as the chambers of commerce, as communication partners to get the word out to businesses and individuals on the programs that were being offered. She indicated that the County held regular press conferences, which proved to be a great strategic way to communicate with everyone. Chairman Hmara stated that he appreciated the regular press conferences because it allowed the municipalities and county to work well together with rapidly changing information.

Vice Mayor Reed from the City of Palm Beach Gardens noted that their City used about \$1.2 Million of their economic funding dollars for food, and business grant and mortgage assistance programs. Chairman Hmara stated that it would be helpful to have a future agenda item that discusses all the initiatives done by the municipalities. He stated that what the County presentations have provided is great lessons learned that will better position all of us to make the best use of future funding opportunities.

Mr. Zito noted that prior to the CARES Act, the federal government passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act that provided a mandate for two weeks of paid sick time for employees under the premise of having been exposed to or know someone who had been exposed to COVID-19. He noted that at that time, we were also struggling with Florida being at the forefront of driving the economy and trying to keep businesses open, so the concern was that the County would be unable to mount a workforce. Additionally, the County was not prepared for teleworking, but they cobbled together a system. He stated that the concern was there would be exploitation of the two-week mandate. He stated that they used CARES Act funding and worked through union contracts, memorandums of understanding, and Human Resource policies, to give employees the ability to defer that two-weeks past the December 31, 2020 deadline.

Mr. Lanahan thanked each of the County representatives for sharing the plusses and minuses, as well as the challenges they faced. He stated that he appreciated learning the different approaches and creative solutions of each County.

Agenda Item 7: Proposed Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Mr. Lanahan provided an overview of the proposed budget amendment that represents an increase of revenue and expenditures of \$385,681 from the budget that was adopted in July of 2020. Under the state funding, he reported that Council received two additional contracts, one with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to work with the City of Stuart on their U. S. Highway 1 commercial area, and the other is funding through the Florida Division of Emergency Management for the 10 regional planning councils to update the State Hurricane Evacuation study. For Federal funding, Council will receive more funding than budgeted as a function of completing work faster than anticipated under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields grant, which will

result in Council being able to fully expend the funding in two years on that three year grant. Under local funding, a few projects have not progressed as anticipated due to the impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the ability to hold public workshops. Additionally, some projects that staff believed would be finished last year will finish this fiscal year. He also noted that Council has received six new local government contracts.

Under expenditures, Mr. Lanahan noted the following changes: a reduction in health insurance premiums; a reduction in travel, training, and conferences, mainly due to the cancellation of the in-person Statewide Hazardous Materials Conference; and an increase in consultant expenses due to the need for significant economic analysis components of projects. Mr. Lanahan noted that for the restricted Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund budget, based on the expenditures so far this fiscal year, there will be a reduction of funds that will be moved into the general fund. He indicated that the proposed budget was reviewed by Council's Budget and Personnel Committee on May 12, 2021, and the Committee recommends that Council adopt the budget amendment as proposed. Commissioner Townsend, Chair of the Committee, concurred with Mr. Lanahan's summary of the Committee's action.

Council Action: Commissioner O'Bryan from Indian River County moved approval of the Proposed Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Commissioner Townsend from St. Lucie County seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: American Rescue Plan – Opportunity from Adversity

Mr. Lanahan noted that he gave a presentation at the April Council meeting on identifying projects that can be accomplished with American Rescue Plan funding that will provide long-term, lasting impacts. He noted examples include projects from the Great Depression where money was used to build bridges, court houses, and post offices and how those types of projects have a multi-part advantage of putting people back to work, invigorating the economy, and providing people with the dignity of having earned money and created assets that will serve the community. At the request of Council members, he indicated he has been speaking with the executive director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) about identifying projects for the seven-county region. He stated the SFRPC had a special meeting to solicit project ideas for their three-county region with a focus on projects that are long-desired and necessary, but too expensive to get done. Mr. Lanahan stated that the SFRPC board will be having a meeting on May 24th to talk about the following projects: funding the Central and South Florida Flood Risk Management & Resilience Study (the Councils adopted a joint resolution on this, so the hope is that if local American Rescue Plan dollars are added, this will move the project forward); Tri-Rail Coastal Link upgrades for infrastructure improvements to enable new trains to cross the New River in Fort Lauderdale; septic to sewer conversions in Miami-Dade County (systems along the waterfront and canal that drain directly into the Biscayne Bay are being impacted by rising groundwater that is injecting nutrients which impacts the coral reef tract); and funding the Tri-Rail Coastal Link northeast corridor project in Miami-Dade County. Mr. Lanahan noted that the SFRPC also has consensus around issues that affect this Council such as water and wastewater infrastructure, the coral reef tract, biosolids, and affordable housing. Issues that SFRPC staff has identified are a risk reduction revolving loan fund to finance resiliency efforts and an economic impact study to identify the effects of not addressing the disease that is devastating the coral reef tract. Mr. Lanahan noted that SFRPC is eager to work with this Council and believes in the value of seven counties with millions of people speaking with one voice on common concerns. He stated that by working together it will be more impactful and could result in receiving more funding to do projects that are broadly beneficial. Chairman Hmara asked if there is an opportunity to have a

joint meeting with SFRPC. Mr. Lanahan noted that a joint meeting is not scheduled until October, but there have been discussions of an earlier joint meeting, whether that be the full Councils or through working groups to develop a joint list of projects.

Councilmember Bournique, Gubernatorial Appointee from Indian River County, stated that he believes the biggest issue for the Region is getting people back to work. He stated that no matter what the industry sector, there is a problem with filling open job positions. He stated that people are staying home and loving the free money being handed out by the Federal government, but he thinks it is more valuable for people to have a job. He noted that we have a lot of great industries in the Region that are suffering because they need employees, and as a regional planning council we should help get people back to work.

Mayor Gerwig stated that after the April meeting she met with Village staff to determine what they think would be good projects to fund under the American Rescue Plan. She indicated that staff had the same concerns as Indian River County that any spending might not qualify and later be clawed back. She agreed this concern may be warranted, but at some point, if there is money available, decisions need to be made on how to use the money. She agreed with Mr. Lanahan that projects need to have a long-term impact. She stated that in Wellington they used their CARES Act funding to do similar things Palm Beach County is doing, such as rental and utility payment assistance. She stated they are also doing food distribution services and have created virtual recreation programs.

Vice Mayor Reed stated that, in terms of jobs, Palm Beach Gardens has approached this using a three-tiered system. First, they collaborated with CareerSource, the PGA Corridor Association, and several restaurant groups to hold a virtual job fair. Next, they plan to do a drive through job fair, and the final step will be an in-person job fair.

Commissioner Smith stated that if we wait for the October joint meeting, the National League of Cities and NACo will be working through their priorities for American Rescue Fund allocations. He suggested identifying policies that can be adopted at the state and federal levels and at the joint meeting adopt the bigger than life opportunities. He indicated that he sits on NACo's Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee and what would be helpful is to develop policy language at the regional level that can be promoted to NACo so there will be lobbying and support at the national level for projects at the regional level. He noted that he would also like to identify using U.S. Highway 27 as an alternative rail corridor to move freight to the central part of the state as a regional project. He stated that advancing innovative technology related to biosolids management would be a good national policy statement for the Region, as well as an economic analysis study of the coral reef tract.

Mr. Lanahan stated that one of the lessons learned is that Federal programs evolve over time and the rules get modified, noting that the CARES Act funding deadline of December 31, 2020 was adjusted because it was determined that it was difficult to effectively distribute the funding. He stated with the American Rescue Plan, now is the opportunity to help set the program rules. He noted that many of the rules are not written into the adopted law, but done at the agency level, so there is a chance to get the rules modified. He stated that local and state governments should not hesitate to explore ideas just because the written guidance today does not allow it. He suggested that all ideas can be explored with the Federal agencies because program rules can be changed. He also noted that those in Washington want these programs to succeed and do not want to have to take back the funding.

Commissioner Weiss stated that it is his understanding that the American Rescue Plan funding does not need to be expended until 2026, so there is plenty of time to really look at different community

investments and determine which will have long-term, lasting results. He asked the Palm Beach County staff to focus on those types of projects.

Commissioner O'Bryan stated that he believes concern for the Federal government to claw back funding is justified. He noted that the funding requests Indian River County submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes, although initially approved, were later denied and the County had to return the funding. He indicated that the American Rescue Plan is a 4,000-page document that does not contain a lot of information on how to expend the funds. He stated Indian River County will again take a conservative approach on how those funds will be allocated. He stated that working with SFRPC to create a master list of projects is good planning but suggested looking for sources other than the American Rescue Plan for those projects to avoid the potential of having to give back the funding. He noted that one area the County invested a lot of the CARES Act funding was for affordable housing since SHIP money is always subject to cut-backs. He recommended sticking with projects that are clearly eligible, such as affordable housing and broadband expansion.

Agenda Item 9: Announcements

Mr. Lanahan noted that in the Communication Package there are articles related to the Legislature and Home Rule, and the State Road 7 land use study that Council will be doing for Royal Palm Beach.

Mr. Lanahan noted that also in the Communication Package is an excerpt from an Urban Land Institute national publication recognizing the work in the West Palm Downtown Development Authority for the programs for outdoor dining they put in place to support their local merchants and restaurants during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Mr. Lanahan noted that the Martin MPO has formed a Freight Technical Advisory Committee as an outgrowth of their recent freight study that will look at including the freight aspect of transportation into their transportation planning. He noted that freight is an important component that is usually not up in the front, so this group will seek to do that. Council is going to have a seat on that committee.

Agenda Item 10: Chairman's Comments

Chairman Hmara stated that with the American Rescue Plan funding the Village is talking about the possibility of accelerating their capital improvement projects and doing projects they would not otherwise be able to afford. He stated they are also concerned about potential claw backs, but at the same time do not want to miss an opportunity. He stated the U.S. Highway 27 freight corridor project would be good. He noted that he would like to encourage businesses to offer hiring bonuses.

Agenda Item 11: Council Member Update

Commissioner O'Bryan stated they are very excited to be hosting both the Men's Baseball and Women's Softball teams at Jackie Robinson Stadium. He noted that Governor DeSantis signed Senate Bill 864, which eliminates any discharges to bodies of water, so last week the County agreed to negotiate with Hartland Water Technology to evaporate the leachate at the landfill.

Councilmember Minuse from the City of Vero Beach noted that in recent years they have been updating their comprehensive plan and she thanked Council for providing technical assistance during that process. She noted that the provision to develop a cultural arts village in their historic downtown area has now become a reality. It will allow people to live and work in their homes and feature

entertainment, retail, a café, and bed and breakfast. She noted that they have finalized their stormwater utility.

Vice Mayor Reed noted the City is finishing up their work to redevelop their downtown. She noted that the land use changes, and full vision will be presented to Council in the next two months.

Commissioner Linden invited everyone to a Memorial Day celebration at Kelsey Park on May 31st.

Mayor Gerwig noted that the previous evening the Village held the Flavors 2021 event, which is the Chamber of Commerce’s introduction to local restaurants and entertainment. She noted that last year they did this as a mobile event, because of COVID-19. She noted that Wellington had only one restaurant permanently close during the pandemic. She thanked the Governor for supporting the plan to allow alcoholic beverage sales through take-out ordering.

Councilmember Parrish, Gubernatorial Appointee from St. Lucie County, recognized the Council’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy plan, noting that it was very professionally done and should be shared with the State of Florida.

Commissioner Smith stated that Florida downtowns fared well during the Pandemic. He noted that downtown Stuart had one of its more remarkable seasons and West Palm Beach is very active. In contrast, he stated that he was recently in Pittsburgh, and they are just re-opening. He said that there is a big difference in how downtown businesses survived between Florida and Pennsylvania.

Councilmember Bournique noted that he has never seen the little towns of Jupiter, Stuart, Vero Beach, and Sebastian so inundated with out-of-state tags from California to Washington State. He stated that the pandemic has put our area in the crosshairs of people wanting to get to a cool place with a good governor, and freedoms that we all know and cherish.

Chairman Hmara noted that they have been working with Feeding South Florida for about 14 months to help with the distribution of food to over 40,000 families. He stated that what is remarkable about the program is that it is not only helping people in need but neighbors helping neighbors. He noted that on Memorial Day they will be dedicating their Gold Star monument. He also noted that the Royal Palm Beach High School Boys/Men’s Volleyball team made it to the semifinals but were unfortunately defeated by last year’s champions.

Agenda Item 12: Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 13: Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Hmara adjourned the meeting at 11:42 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 May 21, 2021 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Date

Signature