



**JOINT MEETING MINUTES OF THE
SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS
OCTOBER 16, 2020**

AGENDA ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance

First Vice Chair Geller called the virtual Joint Meeting of the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils to order at 10:02 a.m. and welcomed everyone virtually present. He led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Roll Call

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

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| Broward County: | Commissioner Beam Furr (Secretary)
Commissioner Steve Geller (First Vice Chair)
Commissioner Michael Udine |
| Miami-Dade County: | Council Member Jordan Leonard
Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava (Chair) |
| Monroe County: | Commissioner Michelle Coldiron
Commissioner Samuel Kaufman (Treasurer) |
| Gubernatorial Appointees: | Mario Bailey (Second Vice-Chair) |
| Ex-Officios: | Jason Andreotta, FDEP
Laura Corry, SFWMD
Dat Huynh, FDOT District VI |
| Council staff: | Isabel Cosio Carballo, Executive Director
Manny Cela
Arlene Davis-Walcott
Mark Cassidy
Kathe Lerch
Christina Miskis
Allyson Williams |
| Council Attorney: | Sam Goren |

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

Indian River County: Commissioner Susan Adams
Commissioner Peter O'Bryan
Council Member Jerry Renick
Mayor Ed Dodd, Alternate
Council Member Brian Foley, Alternate

St. Lucie County: Commissioner Cathy Townsend (Secretary/ Treasurer)

Palm Beach County: Commissioner Hal Valeche
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, Alternate
Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Alternate
Vice Mayor Jeff Hmara, Village of Royal Palm Beach (Vice Chair)
Commissioner Kristine de Haseth, Town of Ocean Ridge, Alternate
Commissioner Herman Robinson, City of Lake Worth Beach
Vice Mayor Robert Gottlieb, Town of South Palm Beach, Alternate

Martin County: Commissioner Doug Smith
Commissioner Stacey Hetherington
Commissioner Penny Townsend, Town of Jupiter Island

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

Ex-Officios: Kathy LaMartina, SFWMD
Lois Bush, FDOT District IV
Jason Andreotta, FDEP

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

Council Attorney: Keith Davis

AGENDA ITEM 3: Chairs’ Comments – The Honorable First Vice Chair Steve Geller, SFRPC; and Council Member Michael Houston, Chair, TCRPC

First Vice Chair Geller thanked the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council for co-hosting the meeting and running the webinar. He also thanked the guest speakers for sharing their time and expertise today. It was noted that there are 109 virtual participants at the beginning of this meeting. Information regarding virtual meeting protocol and agenda process was explained in detail.

First Vice Chair Geller introduced the Chair of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, Michael Houston. Chair Houston commented on the excellent agenda and all the work that was put into this.

First Vice Chair Geller introduced SFRPC’s Legal Counsel, Sam Goren. Mr. Goren clarified the roll call procedure, the SFRPC’s communications technology, the recording of the votes, membership, and presence of other participants.

First Vice Chair Geller introduced Keith Davis, Counsel for the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, who agreed with Mr. Goren’s explanation of today’s process.

First Vice Chair Geller asked when there is a motion or a second to please announce the names of the members making and seconding the motion.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Smith from Martin County moved approval of the agenda. Commissioner Udine from Broward County seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous consent.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Approval of the Minutes – October 25, 2019

Commissioner Smith moved approval of the October 25, 2019 Minutes. Commissioner Udine seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous consent.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Future Water Supply for Southeast Florida (LECWSP, CERP & LOSOM) – Presentation by Terrie Bates, Principal, Water Resources Consulting, Inc.

Ms. Bates’ focus and overview were on the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan (LEC), Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), and Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). She explained the evolution of the “River of Grass” and the increase of people dependent on the replenishing and recharging of our drinking water supply. Water Resource Consulting is working with utilities, monitoring saltwater levels, and reviewing daily and weekly reports to keep track of water flowing and monitor saltwater intrusion. There is concern about drought conditions and the ability to deliver water to the south. In 1990s, the Corps studied the overall integrated system on how to better manage the components; Governor Chiles convened the Commission for Sustainable South Florida; the Water Management District was working on the water supply plan for the Lower East Coast, which developed incredible modeling tools to evaluate the very complex system of how all the different alternatives would work together; and the state legislature put in effect several water supply planning components for the future water supply for South Florida. The SFWMD integrated their information with the Corps’ Study. This integration, known as CERP, created in 2000, to implement projects to capture and redirect freshwater to where it is most needed in the Everglades and to supplement urban and agricultural water supplies. Federal authorization and coordination between the various agencies and entities such as the Commission for a Sustainable South Florida, Army Corps of Engineers, and stakeholders (with

environmental, agriculture, and development interests), speaking as one unified voice for South Florida was needed to move forward. Information on the development of LOSOM and the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan was described in detail. It was noted that this is a water supply issue, not just an agricultural or east coast concern. Ms. Bates was thanked for her presentation.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Biscayne Bay Recovery Plan Case Study – Presentation by Lynette Cardoch, Ph.D., Director of Resilience & Adaptation, Moffatt & Nichol, Inc.

Dr. Cardoch stated the coastal and inland waterways are all part of one system, and the Biscayne Bay Waterway is on the southern end of the system. The Biscayne Bay Recovery Plan Case Study has very similar water quality issues that impact the entire Southeast Florida jurisdiction. She thanked the Miami Waterkeepers for their contributions to the presentation and for keeping water quality as an elevated issue in the public consciousness. There are four broad categories of issues that impact water infrastructure and water quality: septic tanks, sewer issues, stormwater, and fertilizers. When talking about stormwater systems, this includes both sides of the canal system. The phosphorus and nitrogen nutrients from these sources are affecting the Bay. There is an increase in algae and bacteria which lowers the oxygen level and is killing the fish, which in turn disintegrate and increase nutrients and bacteria. She explained the history of creating the Biscayne Bay Task Force in 2019, which brought together nine individuals, two from the county and seven of different disciplines from the private and public sectors. They had 18 meetings, 35 presentations from federal, municipal, government, academia, NGOs, and other experts focused on seven policy themes. The seven policy themes were explained in detail. She referenced a report from 2004 and is requesting this report be updated by SFWMD and Miami-Dade County. She stated that a healthy bay leads to a healthy economy, and it is the backbone of economic resiliency. She explained the research that has been done with various models (Tampa Bay Model), drainage districts, and the information from various groups to gather positive input. She mentioned the importance of education and outreach for all areas of Florida to keep this issue alive, and understand how this vital resource is so critical to our employment and our economy. She stated that a signature accomplishment would be to have a Chief Bay Officer to co-ordinate activities between county departments, the state, local governments, regional planners, and academia to develop a watershed restoration plan. Discussion ensued on septic tanks, stormwater runoff, advanced wastewater treatment, and other issues that are the purview of county jurisdictions but require local, regional, state, and federal coordination and assistance.

SFRPC Chair Daniella Levine Cava stated that it had been her pleasure to spend time on the Council and to be part of important conversations on issues of transportation, jobs, and the environment. She had requested today's discussion on water issues and was grateful to all the participants, presenters, and Board members. She thanked Mrs. Cosio Carballo for her leadership and patience, and that it has been an honor and a joy to serve with everyone. She noted that as Mayor of Miami-Dade County or as a citizen, she would stay active on regional issues. The Councilmembers expressed good wishes for her.

It was suggested for the next joint meeting to invite senior representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, and the South Florida Water Management District to give a 20-year recap of where we are. It would be valuable to see what has been accomplished in the last two decades, and perhaps paint a picture of the future for the next decade or so.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area Water Quality Monitoring Program – Presentation by Jamie Monty, Southeast Regional Administrator, Florida DEP, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection

Ms. Monty provided an overview of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area Water Quality Monitoring Program and shared the process and results of the offshore water quality monitoring. The water quality data was collected within the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area (ECA), which was designated by the Florida Legislature in July of 2018. This designation was championed by former Representative Kristin Jacobs. The ECA includes the waters off Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties, from the St. Lucie Inlet to the northern boundary of Biscayne National Park. She explained how the water quality affects the coral reefs because of land-based sources of nutrients and sediment which can lead to incidences of coral bleaching, disease, and algae overgrowth of corals. The history, data sampling, and data collection at the nine Inlet Contributing Areas (ICA), site types (inlets, ocean outfalls, and coral reefs), and funding of the Water Quality Monitoring Project was depicted. She thanked David White, NOAA, for the analysis dated 2016 to 2018. She explained the water quality analysis issues, data comparison in the ICAs, potential uses of the data (regulatory changes), effects on the coral, etc. The ECA has two products, today's report on the nine inlets and the water quality analysis report from Dr. White. She thanked various staff, conservation program members, public and private agencies, academia, and government agencies for their contributions. They are looking forward to partnering with the counties and municipalities to identify where some of the priority areas are and working on potential projects to reduce the sources of nutrients and pollution sources. First Vice Chair Geller thanked Commissioner Furr for his work and contribution leading the Southeast Florida Regional Coral Reef Program. Commissioner Furr stated there are many other people involved in this program including Commissioner Smith, and thanked Ms. Monty for the report and presentation. He stated that it has always been questioned if the pollution was coming out of the inlets as land based or coming from the outfalls. Ms. Monty stated that there is no easy answer. Scientists are looking at data sets to help prioritize which contributing areas are the worst offenders. First Vice Chair Geller thanked Ms. Monty for making an extremely complicated issue as simple as possible.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Florida's Coral Reef Update - Presentation by Joanna C. Walczak, Administrator, Florida DEP Coral Protection and Restoration Program / Joint Resolution TCSF #20-01

Ms. Walczak thanked the Councils for inviting her to update them on Florida's Coral Reef Program, a collective effort due to the Councils' support, as well as that of our coral champions. Commissioner Furr, who has already been recognized, and Commissioner Smith of Martin County are their state champions. Last year there was an historic proposal by the Governor for \$2.5 billion in funding for environmental initiatives in Florida to be spent over 4 years, with the current two years in place, and following two years requests initiated. Funding for Florida's Coral Reef has increased from \$1 million in FY18 to \$4 million in FY19. And through the recurring Florida Resilient Coastline Initiative and new coral reef protection and restoration grants, the state's coral reef specific funding this fiscal year is over \$15 million. In recognition of the additional focus needed to manage statewide efforts addressing the multi-faceted Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease outbreak, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection has created a new Coral Protection and Restoration Program. This program is designed to focus the state's protection of this important resource and the administration of this \$15 million for all these critical efforts. These funds are going to support ongoing efforts and some new initiatives. Water quality protection and the Water Quality Data Collection Program that Ms. Monty just recognized will be funded through this initiative. Funding will also support staff capacity and resources for the ongoing partner response to Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease, including creating a new response plan that will focus

our intervention and coral rescue strategies for the next three years. The office has also supported five intervention strike teams, working across Florida's coral reef to treat priority corals, and have begun the search for the few survivors. Focus will be on creating a comprehensive restoration strategy for Florida's Coral Reef, continuing to search for what the actual pathogen may be, and developing new tools to treat the illness. It is important to enhance the coral connections between Everglades Restoration and Florida Coral Reefs and support the Biscayne Bay Task Force. Ms. Walczak will be coordinating technical resources and financial resources to leverage the work and contributions of the agency and its partners. Focus has begun on aligning partners in the area to start a network of water quality monitoring across local, state, federal agencies, universities, NGO's, and anybody who has monitoring in the Miami area.

In January, the Governor announced a new awareness campaign that was created by DEP and our partners called the Florida's Coral Reef Campaign, aiming to increase recognition and cultivate a sense of environmental stewardship for our reef. <https://floridascoralreef.org/> is the new website and will be updated with the latest issues and restoration efforts across Florida's coral reef. She commended the local business leaders' meeting in Fort Lauderdale, co-hosted by the Joint RPCs and DEP because this campaign was a direct result of their recommendations. Ms. Walczak updated the Councils on the new Federal legislation with increased funding and support for restoration activities, the letters of support that helped get additional sponsors in the House of Representatives, and the Senate moving the bill forward. She thanked the Councils for all their continued support, active engagement, and other activities to protect ecologically and economically important coastal ecosystems. She pointed out that through the Department's resilient coastlines program, a new report on the business case for resilience in Southeast Florida was developed and released. It documents regional economic benefits of climate adaptation, talks about protective measures and investments, and the return on investment for integrating these resilient solutions in advance of storm and climate related impacts. She stated that she will forward this information.

There were comments on how this resolution is a tribute to Kristin Jacobs and her dedication to water quality and coral reef issues, among other matters. Research on septic tanks, wastewater systems, advanced water treatment, and canal analysis was discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

Resolution TCSR#20-01 was read into record by SFRPC, Legal Counsel, Sam Goren.

Commissioner Smith motioned to adopt TCSF #20-01 requesting that the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area be renamed the Kristin Jacobs Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area. Commissioner Furr seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous consent.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Nutrient Reduction through Innovative Technology in Removing Biomass and Accumulated Nutrients – Presentation by Mikhael “Mike” Elfenbein, Delegate, Everglades Coordinating Council; and Nick Szabo, Founder, AguaCulture

Mr. Elfenbein provided a PowerPoint presentation on Nutrient Reduction through Innovative Technology in Removing Biomass and Accumulated Nutrients. He stated that Lake Okeechobee is the liquid heart of the South Florida ecosystem and it is in peril. There is an abundance of nutrients in the lake that continue to accumulate year after year, and they have found a tool for the toolbox with the ability to mitigate those nutrients. The projects that Mr. Szabo is going to discuss has an opportunity to remove nutrients from the

system, and limit harmful algae blooms to limit the need for additional chemical spraying. It also provides benefits in the way of rebuilding the soil that that has been lost over this century through farming, degradation, and oxidation. It has the added benefit of transforming something which is considered to be a waste and hazard to our system into a valuable commodity.

Mr. Szabo noted the company's name is AguaCulture. He stated that AguaCulture is committed to restoring agriculture it to its rightful place in the economy, pinpointing the inefficiencies within the industry, and providing solutions. He shared his background and how he became interested in this process. Mr. Szabo explained the history of aquatic weeds/vegetation, the harvesting and disposal of aquatic vegetation, and the toxic chemicals that further degrade freshwater bodies and lead to increasing algae blooms. The AguaCulture tool removes aquatic vegetation, liquefies it, pumps it to shore via hose, then applies the liquid to crop fields such as hay in order to grow and harvest hay while removing harmful nutrients in hay bales. The amount of phosphorus, nitrogen, and potassium in those bales are wrapped and are taken away from the watershed. He explained the various machines that would harvest the algae, process, liquify, and distribute the algae liquid to the fields. He stated that aquatic plants contain the perfect amount of nutrients for commercial crops. The major benefits of this agricultural system are that it is sustainable, viable, green, and repurposes waste, which reduces chemical use. Mr. Elfenbein mentioned that this is a pilot project, and should be receiving DEP funding. It is being sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the South Florida Water Management District, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

First Vice Chair Geller introduced Ron Bergeron, SFWMD Boardmember. Mr. Bergeron thanked the Councils for their hard work beginning in 1974. He is excited about the benefits of this project, the removal of phosphorous from Lake Okeechobee, and reduction of the chemical strain. He is looking forward to working with the Councils through the SFWMD on Everglades Restoration, which is important to the people in Florida, and the quality of life for future generations.

First Vice Chair Geller introduced Melissa Tucker, from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). She stated that the FWC is one of the sponsors of this grant application and are excited to be working with AguaCulture, SFWMD, and the Army Corps of Engineers on seeing this pilot project being implemented.

There was discussion about the extra phosphorus being added to the soil on the farmland that will end up being runoff, since the land is already saturated with phosphorus. There was mention of biosolids. Mr. Szabo replied that they are not interested in working with biosolids (a different type of product) because of the imbalance and nutrients. He stated that the phosphorus level in aquatic plants is quite low compared to nitrogen and potassium.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Florida's Water Challenge Update and What's Next – Presentation by Frank Bernardino, Partner, Anfield Consulting, Inc. / Joint Resolution TCSF #20-02 and TCSF #20-03

Mr. Bernardino thanked Commissioner Smith on his recognition of Kristin Jacobs and her dedication to water issues.

He provided a PowerPoint presentation on Florida's Water Challenge Update and What's Next. Mr. Bernardino mentioned he had presented to the Councils previously and proceeded to describe the history on the annual update on water funding infrastructure needs. The Office of Economic and Demographic

Research is providing an annual update on the State’s water resources and conservation lands, thanks to the joint resolution that was passed last year. He explained Florida’s Water Infrastructure Challenge and the funding it would take to replace, maintain, and expand aging drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure for the next 20 years; the funding needed for natural resources projects; CERP, etc. The funding would come from the water management districts, program funding (state revolving loans, Everglades), and member water projects (general revenue). He explained the state budget, and the minimal investment in water infrastructure compared to transportation funding. Included in his presentation was a table describing the State Forecast of Potential Water Resources Revenues, Expenditures, and Gap from FY 19-20 to FY 28-29. This table noted the funding shortfall with regards to under investing in water infrastructure. He stated that Florida is beginning to make significant investment through funding programs such as the Coral Reef Protection Restoration Program, Innovative Technologies, etc. He mentioned the updated portal on the DEP website that will help move state funding to communities more quickly. He described some of the progress in the policy area. The State of Florida passed a Clean Waterways Act to tackle issues in the water resources area. Septic tank regulation is being moved from the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Protection, and he went into detail on the assessment requirements and changes. He gave updates on Agricultural Best Management Practices, stormwater treatment and design, statewide real-time water quality monitoring, biosolids regulation, domestic wastewater collection and treatment, and the bottled water industry.

Commissioner Furr motioned to adopt TCSF #20-02 supporting legislation that will quantify and address the current and projected deficit in funding needed for water and wastewater infrastructure investment to accommodate Florida’s growing population and protect the environment. Council Member Leonard seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

Sam Goren read Resolution TCSF #20-02 into the public record.

There was a motion by Commissioner Furr to amend Resolution TCSF #20-02 to include specific numbers. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

First Vice Chair Geller asked if there were any changes to Resolution TCSF #20-03 from last year? TCRPC Executive Director, Mr. Lanahan, stated there were no changes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

Sam Goren read Resolution TCSF #20-03 into the public record.

Council Member Leonard motioned to approve Resolution #TCSF 20-03. Mayor Brennan from Village of Tequesta seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous consent.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Affordable Housing – Resolution TCSF #20-04

Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated the only difference was the additional fact in Section 3 regarding the SHIP funding that was held back this year and if that money can be appropriated.

There was discussion on flexibility to help in rental assistance per county.

Commissioner O'Bryan motioned to approve amending Resolution TCSF #20-04, asking the Florida Legislature to consider more flexibility in how the SHIP funds are allocated between home ownership and rental assistance. Council Member Leonard seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

Mr. Goren read draft Resolution TCSF #20-04.

Councilmember Sachs, Gubernatorial Appointee, Palm Beach County motioned to approve amended Resolution #TCSF 20-04. Mayor Brennan seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous consent.

First Vice Chair Geller stated the Resolutions have been concluded.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Public Comments

First Vice Chair Geller asked if there were any members of the public registered for public comment on any item? There were no public comments registered.

First Vice Chair Geller stated that today's meeting is now open to public comment.

Nyla Pipes from One Florida Foundation stated that she is speaking today on a couple of issues, first being in support of the AguaCulture Project. She has followed this project from the beginning and with it being monitored and various agencies involved, we need to show that it works and develop tools in the toolbox. She mentioned One Florida Foundation, the 2017 American Society of Civil Engineers Report, and sewage infrastructure. She appreciated today's presentation and comments, especially the dollar amounts for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater. She noted the problems in Biscayne Bay, St Lucie River and the estuary watersheds, and the sewage infrastructure in Fort Lauderdale.

Garrett Stuart (Captain Planet) is a Marine and Agricultural Scientist. He is in support of the AguaCulture Project and grateful to know more about it.

Betty Osceola is a member of the Miccosukee Tribe, located in Miami Dade County, and resident of Collier County. She thinks that water quality, as mentioned throughout today's presentations, has been key in helping Florida's environment. She has walked 110 miles around Lake Okeechobee, and across the Everglades three times, and in the defense of water and education, this project looks very hopeful to her. She stated that we can pass regulations and educate, but we need to actively remove nutrients from the water. The Miccosukee Tribe has problems with the phosphorus in their waterways, the pollution in the Everglades, and all South Florida. She stated that Collier County passed a resolution in support of this project.

Vik Chhabra is a resident of Lee County and is in support of the AguaCulture Project. He gave the background of agricultural scientist, Sir Albert Howard, the founder of the Organic Farming Movement in the 1920's, who found it very efficient in purifying sewage effluent. He mentioned the development and retention ponds that are growing due to development, the spraying that is taking place, and how the entire biodiversity was completely off in the two small lakes in his community. He stated that his HOA

had stopped spraying and within a year the edge of the lake has been restored and the lakes are full of life. He is very thankful for the agricultural project and thanked the Councils for the presentation.

Tom Van Note is also in support of the AguaCulture Project and thinks this is great technology. He stated that he is with the Everglades Coordinating Council in Broward County, a group of organizations that are heavily involved in the recreation and preservation of the Everglades. He stated that this science has been proven in Minnesota and Michigan for decades. It is not the same format because of Florida's specialties, but he asked that this is taken seriously.

First Vice Chair Geller thanked everyone for their comments. He stated, for the record, the Council normally requires people to register to speak before an item is brought up. He is stating this because the comment list continues to get longer as the meeting continues. He asked Mr. Goren if he can stop the list at any time, in which Mr. Goren replied yes. First Vice Chair Geller stated that the remaining list of comments will have to limit their time to two minutes.

David West is a commercial fisherman, originally from Miami, was a Monroe County resident, and is now living in Martin County. He appreciates the Councils' effort and is in support of the AguaCulture Project.

Scott Lones is in support of the AguaCulture Project.

Anne Gorden-Vega is in support of the AguaCulture Project.

First Vice Chair Geller thanked everyone for their comments and brevity. He stated that concludes the public comment.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Council Comments

First Vice Chair Geller stated that he appreciates these joint meetings. He mentioned that the previous Joint Meetings were on water, affordable housing, and transportation to name a few. He asked the Treasure Coast and South Florida RPC Councilmembers what they would like to discuss in the future joint meetings. Topics of discussion mentioned were economic development, invite the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the central water study, and how to make the citizens aware – educate the populace on all the work the RPCs are planning for the environment. First Vice Chair Geller stated that one of the biggest problems the RPCs have is the disconnect between what government does, and what people think government does. He agrees the RPCs need to educate the public as to what government does.

There were inquiries on the Governor's Executive Orders allowing governmental bodies to meet remotely and still be able to conduct business. Mr. Goren explained the sequence of the Governor's Executive Orders on physical quorums and Senate Bill 1398 referring to RPCs and Communications Media Technology (CMT) that affect the RPCs and local governments. Commissioner O'Bryan questioned if the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) would have to physically meet. Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that FRCA is not an organization like the Council body, and that rule would not apply. First Vice Chair Geller stated that the joint meetings have no standing under Florida Statutes, so he suggests having joint meetings virtually.

Councilmember Sachs commented on how impressed he was regarding the meeting and the attendance of approximately 150 participants, the efficiency, professionalism, and respect First Vice Chair Geller had for all the members and the public. First Vice Chair Geller thanked him and appreciated his remarks.

Tom Lanahan stated that a few members of the Council are transitioning, either leaving office entirely or leaving office to seek higher office. He announced that Commissioner Zorc from Indian River County, Vice Mayor Laura Loss from Vero Beach, Councilman John Carvelli from Port St. Lucie, Commissioner Valeche and Commissioner Berger from Palm Beach County, Commissioner Hardy from Lake Worth, and Council Member Maria Marino from Palm Beach Gardens, are all leaving the Council, at least for an interim period.. A couple of those folks are in races for a different office and may be able to come back on the Council. He thanked them for their service on Council, in which some have been on for many, many years and appreciates all their efforts and dedication. Some may be able to return as a Governor’s Appointee.

First Vice Chair Geller stated the remarks are certainly well taken, and extend our best wishes to all those longstanding members who have moved on to higher office or no longer in elective office.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Adjournment

Commissioner O’Bryan moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Sachs seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous consent.

The Joint Meeting of the Treasure Coast and South Florida Regional Planning Councils adjourned at 1:26 p.m. This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary or a designated nominee of the South Florida Regional Planning Council, and that the information herein provided is the true and correct Minutes of the October 16, 2020 meeting.

Date

Beam Furr, Secretary, SFRPC