West Florida Regional Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
Tropicana Club; DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32433
June 20, 2018

Members Present:
Council Member Kasey Cuchens, City of Freeport (Chair)
Council Member George Robertson, Town of Ponce De Leon
Mayor Dick Rynearson, City of Fort Walton Beach (Vice-Chair)
Jim Foreman, Governor Appointee
Mayor Pam Henderson, City of Callaway
Kurvin Qualls, Governor Appointee
Commissioner Charles K Windes Jr., Okaloosa County
Council Member Skip Overdier, City of Destin

Others Present:
Austin Mount, WFRPC Staff
Dawn Schwartz, WFRPC Staff
Renee Quick, WFRPC Staff
Mary Beth Washnock, WFRPC Staff
Jennifer Laurent, WFRPC Staff
Brittany Ellers, WFRPC Staff
Kellie White, WFRPC Staff
Ada Clark, WFRPC Staff
Kathy Scott Wetmore, WFRPC Staff
Howard Vanselow, WFRPC Staff
Mary Louise Hester, Senator Bill Nelson Office
W. Dale Allen, Florida Greenways & Trail Foundation
Adam Fryksa, Florida Trails Association
Olen Pettis, Florida Department of Transportation, Chipley
Juliet Mylan, Gulf Power

Members Not Present:
Mayor David Cadle, City of Crestview
Mayor Margo Anderson, City of Lynn Haven
Commissioner Jeff Bergosh, Escambia County
Commissioner Nathan Boyles, Okaloosa County
Council Member Roger Brooks, City of Bonifay
Commissioner Robert Cole, Santa Rosa County
Brett Cyphers, Executive Director NWFL Water Mgmt. District
Mayor Matt Dannheisser, City of Gulf Breeze
Commissioner William T. Dozier, Bay County
Shawn Hamilton District Director, FL Dept. of Environmental Protection
Council Member Mary Ellen Johnson, City of Milton
Council Member Ron Kelley, City of DeFuniak Springs Commissioners
Mayor Lee Dell Kennedy, City of Chipley
Commissioner Lumon May, Escambia County
Council Member Sherri Myers, City of Pensacola
Commissioner Sam Parker, Santa Rosa County
Commissioner Danny Powell, Holmes County
Commissioner Billy Radar, City of Panama City
Commissioner Cecilia Jones, Walton County
Council Member Hector Solis, City of Panama City Beach
Commissioner Robert Carroll, Bay County
Call to Order/Prayer
A prayer was led by Kurvin Qualls.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
Chairwoman Cuchens called the meeting to order, and The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call and Recognition of Call-In Members
Chairwoman Cuchens asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

There were no call-ins.

Consent Item 1: Approval of the February 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Chairwoman Cuchens asked for action on the February meeting minutes.

**Mr. Qualls moved to approve the minutes of the February 13th meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Robertson and it was unanimously approved.**

Consent Item 2: Approval of the November and December 2017 Financial Statements
Chairwoman Cuchens asked for action on the financial statements presented in the agenda.

**Mr. Foreman moved to approve the November and December 2017 financial reports. The motion was seconded by Mr. Qualls and was unanimously approved.**

Action Item 1: Bylaws- Austin Mount, WFRPC Executive Director
Mr. Mount presented the final draft bylaws, and noted a copy included in each Board member’s packet. Mr. Mount explained how the organization had done an internal strategic planning effort in conjunction with an employee engaged survey. The survey results indicated that there was a high level of employee satisfaction, but 3 areas which could be improved.

Mr. Mount said employees indicated they wanted to be connected to the mission and purpose of the organization. This prompted the need for elevator speeches to be created and used by employees as a tool to explain what the WFRPC is and what we do as an agency. This creates a vision statement and values identified as excellence, integrity, teamwork, and accountability, which are important to employees.

**Mr. Qualls moved to approve the West Florida Regional Planning Council to do business as Emerald Coast Regional Planning Council. The motion was seconded by Mayor Henderson and it was unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Windes moved to have alternates with voting privileges assigned for the voting members. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foreman and it was unanimously approved.

**Mr. Qualls moved to change the titles of Chairman and Vice Chairman, to President and Vice-President. The motion failed due to lack of second.**

Mr. Qualls moved to change the quorum of a board meeting from 5 to 7. The motion was seconded by Councilman Robertson and it was unanimously approved.

**Commissioner Robertson moved to approve the Rules of the WFRPC with the all changes requested as well as those motion made above. The motion was seconded by Mr. Qualls and it was unanimously approved.**
Action Item 2: Resolution Recommending Tri-County Community Council, Inc. as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Holmes-Washington Co. Service Areas- Howard Vanselow, WFRPC Planner

Howard Vanselow, WFRPC Planner, presented a resolution recommending that Tri-County Community Council remain the community transportation coordinator for Holmes and Washington Counties. Mr. Vanselow noted that the WFRPC did a request for qualifications and Tri-County Community Council was the only one to respond.

Tri-County Community Council is currently serving as coordinator for the Holmes-Washington Co. areas, but the need for the resolution results from the agreement which comes up for renewal every 5 years.

George Robertson made a motion to approve resolution WFRPC 2018-04, second by Pamn Henderson, all aye, motion passed.

Information Item 1: Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation- W. Dale Allen, Executive Director

Chairman Cuchens called on Dale Allen. Mr. Allen provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Florida Greenways and Trails project. Mr. Allen showed examples of existing trails throughout Florida and the U.S. Mr. Allen noted the positive feedback and how this program had generated tourism and revenue. Mr. Allen explained why this area would be a perfect selection for the program, based on this region’s highly favorable candidacy. Mr. Allen reviewed the financial possibilities that this program could generate for the Emerald Coast and the positive press it would generate as well. Mr. Allen noted the project would a great opportunity for the Council.

Information Item 2: Quarterly Public Involvement Highlights- Brittany Ellers, Public Involvement Coordinator

Ms. Ellers presented an update of the public involvement efforts that the council is currently involved with. These efforts are created to promote involvement for all programs the agency is affiliated with. Ms. Ellers shared an informative video presentation, prepared by the public involvement team.

Ms. Ellers noted that the organization would love to be utilized by any of the counties outreach events, workshops or community programs that might be scheduled. The public involvement team offers any support or help that might be needed.

Information Item 3: Executive Director’s Report- Austin Mount, WFRPC Executive Director

Mr. Mount introduced Ada Clark as WFRPC new grants coordinator located in the Destin office. Ms. Clark explained the two grant projects that she was currently working on, Port Panama City and the Pensacola Airport Hanger #2.

Mr. Mount said the TPO will be working on a Rural Regional Transportation Plan, created in conjunction with the State DOT issued Statewide Priority of Rural Planning, which will begin July 1, 2018. This new task will look at rural transportation growth and effects on urbanized areas that fall outside of the TPO boundaries and develop a plan for the future.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm.