

MINUTES OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 23, 2009

MPO/VCOG/WAV CONFERENCE ROOM
2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BLVD., SUITE 120
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Cassandra Reynolds
Mayor Greg Northrup
Mayor Robert F. Apgar
Vice Mayor Michael Carmolingo
Mayor Mike Thomas
Mayor Roland Via
Mayor Joan Duffy
Mayor Harley Strickland
Mayor Fredrick Costello
Mayor James Sowell
Mayor Tony Goudie
Mayor Allen Green
School Board Member Candace Lankford

REPRESENTING

Daytona Beach
Daytona Beach Shores
DeLand
Deltona
Edgewater
Holly Hill
Lake Helen
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Pierson
Ponce Inlet
Port Orange
Volusia County School Board

Members Absent: Mayor Garcia, DeBary; Mayor Mackay, New Smyrna Beach; Mayor Lauer, Oak Hill; Mayor O'Neal, South Daytona; County Chair Bruno, Volusia County

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Mellon

REPRESENTING

Emergency Medical Foundation/EVAC

OTHERS PRESENT

Alan Burton
Marsha Lewis
Joni Hunt
Gary Hughes
Jim Cameron
Betty Goodman

REPRESENTING

Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District
Take Stock In Children
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Volusia County Fire Chiefs Association
Daytona Beach/Halifax Chamber
City of Daytona Beach

VCOG STAFF PRESENT

Mary Swiderski, VCOG Executive Director
Mary Curran, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

At 5:00 p.m., Chairman Apgar called to order the March 23, 2009, regular meeting of the VCOG Governing Board.

The roll was called and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Apgar then led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION

ALAN BURTON, member of Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District, presented comments

- re the Smart Growth Joint Planning Agreement (JPA) Model Outline draft of 2-19-09
 - 1st paragraph under "WITNESSETH" – He appreciated the inclusion of agriculture and silviculture
 - Section IV.F. – He requested consideration of modifying items 1-4 to be more pro-agriculture

- Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District adopted a Resolution – it is going to the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida. He pointed out three conservation measures [i.e., use of wildflowers; use of atmospheric fresh water sources; and use of university curriculum] [a copy of the resolution is attached and hereto made a part of these minutes]:
- Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District adopted a Resolution of Property Tax for Conservation - they would like the County's and VCOG's consideration as a way to pay for conservation issues [for urban service areas, as well as, agriculture] [a copy of the resolution is attached and hereto made a part of these minutes]
 - Mr. Burton hoped a committee meeting may be scheduled for in-depth discussion
- Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District is willing to work with VCOG
- It was recommended that Mr. Burton attend the next VCOG Smart Growth TAC meeting on March 25, 2009, and present the Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District's comments

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/RECOGNITION

Chairman Apgar deferred his comments for the item of "Government Efficiencies".

VCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Mary Swiderski presented her briefing:

- Tom Pelham, Secretary of Florida Department of Community Affairs, presentation [3-23-09] was video taped by VCOG. VCOG is offering a copy of the video for \$10. Order forms were distributed for anyone having interest.
- Volusia Day planning is proceeding:
 - Requested that Board members still "advertise" the Bus Trip to Tallahassee, April 1, 2009
 - Locations of buses: WalMart in Ormond Beach; Lowe's in Port Orange; and Lowe's in DeLand
 - Current seating count: Ormond Beach-48; DeLand-43; and Port Orange-19
- Mayor Apgar's Memo re "Government Efficiencies Workshop" and the ideas put forward was sent to the VCOG Board, as well as managers

School Board Member Lankford suggested that Bus Captains provide some kind of conduct guidance to passengers on how to approach legislative people. Mary Swiderski indicated she has written a brochure relating to that and also has a video to play on each bus.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Minutes of the February 23, 2009, regular meeting of the VCOG Board were distributed to the Board members.

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2009

Treasurer Report for the period of February 1, 2009, through February 28, 2009, was mailed with Board members' agenda packets. *Note: Revenues and Expenditures were within the budget for the month.*

MOTION by Mayor Via and **SECOND** by Mayor Strickland for approval of all consent agenda items, as presented; motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON VCOG SMART GROWTH COMMITTEE – MAYOR GREG NORTHRUP [report]

- Had presentation on JPA Resolution and Model Outline for comments – drafts sent back to TAC for modification and refinements
 - Anticipate presentation to VCOG Board at April or May meeting for consideration of approval

Mary Swiderski announced the VCOG Smart Growth Committee meeting for April may be moved to a different date; she will contact Committee members of same.

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCIES WORKSHOP UPDATE: MAYOR APGAR [comments]

- Thanked all the VCOG Board members for attendance on Friday, March 13th; thanked also all the managers who attended.
 - Had good discussion; lot of ideas; and putting together a work plan.
- Referenced Memorandum – Summary of tasks VCOG Board would like managers to do; or areas for managers to look into.
 - He invited Board members to provide comments of any errors or omissions in Memo; if any, to submit comments to Mary Swiderski.

NEW BUSINESS

TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN – MARSHA LEWIS [presentation]

- Statewide Program – Each County administers its own Program – in Volusia, Take Stock is administered by Futures Foundation
- Provides scholarships to very low income students to attend a college or university; also, provides guidance from volunteer adult mentors
- Selection criteria must be met – e.g., high academics [must maintain a 3.0+ GPA]
- Acknowledged Mrs. Lankford's involvement: as a sponsor of scholarship fund; as a mentor to students; and she serves on the Leadership Council
- Acknowledged Mr. Burton in conjunction with Ormond Beach Kiwanis as a sponsor for underwriting cost of scholarships
- Proposed to VCOG members that their respective municipality sponsor one or more students.
- In Volusia County, over 1300 students qualify for Take Stock but it is able to only provide services to 65 students currently
- State funding for Take Stock In Children Program has been cut by half

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTSMAYOR MICHAEL THOMAS

Mentioned he had attended [3-23-09] the "State of the County Address"; also, the presentation by Tom Pelham. He deferred to Mayor Costello to comment on Tom Pelham's presentation.

VICE MAYOR MICHAEL CARMOLINGO

- Mentioned he had also attended the "State of the County Address" and Tom Pelham presentation.
- Proudly announced that the City of Deltona dedicates the total amount of its recycling funds for scholarships. [NOTE: City program is different than the Take Stock In Children Program]

MAYOR GREG NORTHRUP

- Inquired if any jurisdiction is going above the roll-back. Members briefly discussed the matter.
- Asked if any jurisdiction is giving raises next fiscal year. Mayors Costello, Apgar and Via commented: Ormond Beach has 3-year contract that stipulates a percentage increase; DeLand is looking at change to employee benefits; Holly Hill is not giving any raises

MAYOR HARLEY STRICKLAND

Announced that the Orange City Council will be reviewing VGMC issues at its meeting March 24th.

MAYOR JOAN DUFFY

Revealed that City of Lake Helen staff has not received any raises, including no COLA, in 2 years; also, the City does not plan to give raises in the new fiscal year.

MAYOR ROLAND VIA

- Reminded everyone of the Volusia League Dinner; hosted by City of Holly Hill, March 26th, at Halifax River Yacht Club; 6:30 p.m.; Shelley Lauten, with myregion.org, will be the guest speaker
- Made remarks regarding the Federal stimulus programs
- Reported that Volusia Tax Reform is requesting documentation, from every city, of anyone making over \$30,000; which they will post and probably make criticisms about raises and anything those

employees got over a period of 5 years.

- Indicated it is likely jurisdictions will get criticized during their Budget processes; he emphasized that officials need communications with the public so constituents have better understanding that they are getting what they asked for.

MAYOR TONY GOUDIE

- Articulated his frustration at the State legislative cutbacks regarding education. He is going to Tallahassee to express his views.
- Mentioned that Ponce Inlet Town Council members are also concerned about the School District's situation.

MAYOR JAMES SOWELL

- Mentioned the Town of Pierson is not giving raises but is giving a 2% cost of living.
- Reported that Pierson did increase taxes for the first time in 10 years.

MAYOR FRED COSTELLO

- Voiced his opinion, that they, as local governments, have done an outstanding job in trying to be effective and efficient
- Recalled receiving an informational spreadsheet from the Volusia School District; he offered to send that to Mary Swiderski for distribution
- Remarked that all jurisdictions ought to welcome public information requests
- Indicated if a TABOR Amendment passes that limits government to current revenue plus "X" percent this year, then jurisdictions will be capped to whatever level they go back to. There was brief discussion of the 1.35% property tax cap; also, VTR has not come out in favor of it.
- Recalled from the presentation by Tom Pelham, a list of four things. Mayor Costello suggested, if there is agreement on these, VCOG may want to pass a resolution to send to the Volusia Legislative Delegation.
 1. Transportation concurrency exception areas – ask that transportation concurrency amendment definition be expanded to include areas adjacent to an existing transportation concurrency exception area, if that area wants to be included.
 2. Legislature advocate passed resolution that economic development living wage jobs projects are treated differently than ones involving increased residential units.
 3. Reduce proportion share mitigation fees for economic development living wage jobs by 50% for 3 years.
 4. Existing DRIs have same benefit that we are asking for new ones – if they expand industrial or commercial component to that; if a local agency wants to do it and if there is agreement among all local entities.
- **SUGGESTION** made by Mayor Costello, if appropriate, to ask County Planning staff to come up with some recommendations of things jurisdictions could do at the local level
- **REQUEST** made by Mayor Costello for presentation(s) to VCOG Board on what we could do locally and what impact it would have.
- Recalled discussion of Fire and the Regional agreement between Port Orange, New Smyrna Beach, Edgewater, South Daytona and Ponce Inlet – that he wanted to try and get something similar with other jurisdictions
 - For the record, Mayor Costello stated:
"If we all go off and do our own thing then I will be starting to lobby. If we cannot cooperate with EVAC, then let us do everything ourselves."
 - He had hoped a County Council representative would have been at tonight's meeting to discuss what can VCOG members do to encourage getting some of the trial programs going

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER CANDACE LANKFORD

- Announced that school systems are not going get their budget till mid June; also, it is a possibility that the Legislature will go to extra sessions
- Pointed out the School District is answering public information requests as quickly as possible, considering cut-backs in staffing
- Revealed that reduction in local property taxes also affected the School District budget; in addition to the \$47-60 million cuts in school systems funding
- Indicated that she did not know if the School District is getting the stimulus package
- Recalled she had sent Mary Swiderski a TABOR video; she asked if Mary had distributed it .

- Mentioned a website – www.flarecovery.com – that has to do with the stimulus package.
- Reported that the legislature is talking about bringing forward a new amendment to amend the classroom size reduction amendment – putting it at the school wide level instead of the classroom level – which school systems are for; however, there is intent to take out the language that made it the responsibility of the legislature to fund.

MAYOR ALLEN GREEN

- Inquired what does ECHO stand for
Mayor Costello replied: Environmental, Cultural, Heritage, Outdoor
 - [Green] remarked that local government does not need to buy land in these economic times.
- Emphasized that all jurisdictions are going to have to slash and cut their budgets.
- Mentioned he had attended the State of the County Address and he remarked on its context.

MAYOR ROBERT APGAR

- Recalled Mayor Northrup's comment and talked of DeLand as his example of budgetary concerns
- Revealed that DeLand's Charter states that a mandatory pay comparability study be required every three years; however, it is not mandated that the City give raises.
- Mentioned that DeBary held a nice opening ceremony of its new City Hall.

Jim Cameron made brief comments:

- Reminded everyone of Volusia Day, April 1, 2009; 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM; at the Senate Portico
- Commended Mary Swiderski for doing a fantastic job
- Announced who some of the speakers are and that the focus is mostly on education
- Urged Board members to please continue to promote the Bus Trip to Tallahassee

Discussion:

- Cassandra Reynolds announced no Daytona Beach City Commissioners will be going to Tallahassee on April 1 as it is their regular City Commission meeting day.
- Mayor Northrup wanted to know if there would be an opportunity of speaking with legislators
- Jim Cameron announced that microphones will be out in the audience; also, speakers have been told the group want the opportunity for Q&A
- Mary Swiderski mentioned that buses will not be leaving Tallahassee until 4:30; providing time for anyone who wants to schedule late afternoon appointments with legislators
- Mayor Northrup made a request to School Board Member Lankford of scheduling appointments with some legislators; to which she agreed.

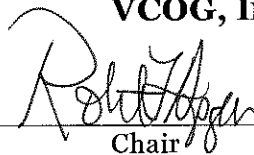
Mary Swiderski mentioned Orange City is hosting a farewell party for its former-Mayor Ted Erwin on Friday, March 27, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business before the VCOG Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

AS SUBMITTED, THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD WERE APPROVED IN AN OPEN MEETING HELD ON APRIL 27, 2009, IN THE MPO/VCOG/WAV CONFERENCE ROOM AT 2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 120, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

VCOG, INC.


Chair

ATTEST:


Recording Secretary

Resolution for Florida's Water Congress

Whereas, the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida provided a report and recommendations on the 2008 Water Congress, and

Whereas, the Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District, VSWCD wishes to contribute on the sustainable suggestions for the state, and

Whereas, the VSWCD and other conservation districts were legally established 1937 by Florida Statute 582, and

Whereas, It is the policy of the Legislature to provide for control and prevention of soil erosion, and for the prevention of floodwater and sediment damages, and for furthering the conservation, development and utilization of soil and water resources, and the disposal of water, and thereby to preserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this state.

Now, Therefore Be it Resolved: the Volusia Soil & Water Conservation District support the added conservation measures to be considered by the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida, and

Further, the use of wildflowers and other native Florida plants on state, county and local road corridors for soil & water conservation, and

Further, the use of atmospheric fresh water sources specifically defined as a sustainable Florida water source and with current technology.

Further, the use of university curriculum and continuing education for landscape architects to professionally advance sustainable landscapes in Florida parks, roads, government properties, etc.

Dated this 14th day of January 2009

Michele Moen, Chairman _____

Resolution: Property Tax for Conservation

- Whereas, To provide for control and prevention of soil erosion, and for the prevention of floodwater and sediment damages, and for furthering the conservation, development and utilization of soil and water resources, and the disposal of water, and thereby to preserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, reserve wildlife, protect private property, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this state, and
- Whereas, To provide resources to plan, implement and pay for any and all conservation measures for a sustainable future up to 10 years, and
- Whereas, To conserve energy consumption, soil and water resources, improve private property for agriculture, promote best management practices and empowering the property owner to maximize the greatest land production & soil and water conservation, and
- Whereas, To utilize technology to reduce consumption and increase conservation in the widest sense for natural resources of property improvements, and
- Whereas, To conserve soil, water and energy including but not limited to grading, landscaping, water collection, irrigation, energy collection, water generation and storage of resources and reduce waste and pollution, and
- Whereas, To stimulate the economy by utilizing existing local property taxes to pay for life sustaining natural resources such as water, soil, crops and energy, and
- Whereas, To empower the property owner for greater conservation and financial resources for the general welfare for all property owners now and for future generations of the county.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved: That the Volusia County Soil and Water Conservation District support the property owners to use their own property taxes to be used for conservation measures for any and all property owners including but not limited to agriculture, and

Further, the use of local property taxes to pay for life sustaining natural resources for current and future generations is needed, and

Further, Property Taxes for Conservation will provide the highest and best use of property resources to produce life sustaining natural and financial resources for economic well being for current and future generations.

Dated this 13th day of February 2009

Michele Moen, Chairman
Volusia County Soil and Water Conservation District Board