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Margaret Wuerstle - New SWFRPC Executive Director

FORT MYERS, FL – (January 10, 2012) – The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council has hired Margaret Wuerstle to be the Council's Executive Director. She will begin on Feb. 1, 2012.

Ms. Wuerstle has more than 30 years experience in a variety of urban and regional planning positions. She is currently the Chief Planner and Zoning Hearing Examiner for the City of Cincinnati, Ohio. Her experience includes seven years with an Atlantic City law firm, three years with an environmental consulting firm, three years as Director of Zoning for the City of Rochester, New York, five years in county government and three terms as the Mayor of Dunkirk, New York. Ms. Wuerstle is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a Licensed Professional Planner in New Jersey. She has been an adjunct instructor at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Louisville teaching courses in Land Use Controls, Zoning, Social Justice and Comprehensive Planning.

Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner, SWFRPC Council Chair, is pleased to welcome Ms. Wuerstle as the new Executive Director, "Ms. Wuerstle clearly understands our Council and is the leader to carry the Council forward."

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was created in 1973 by an interlocal agreement between Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota counties. In accordance with Florida Statutes, the agency is directed by members who live in the six counties that participate in the Council. Members include 25 county commissioners and municipal elected officials, 10 gubernatorial appointees, including an elected school board member. Five ex-officio (non-voting) gubernatorial appointees represent the Florida Department of Transportation, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, statewide economic development interests and water management districts.

The SWFRPC mission is to work together across neighboring communities to consistently protect and improve the unique and relatively unspoiled character of the physical, economic and social worlds we share for the benefit of our future generations. The Council is a regional information clearinghouse, conducts research to develop and maintain regional goals, objectives and policies, and assists in implementing a number of local, state and federal programs. The Council serves as an advocate for the Region with State and Federal agencies, including the Legislature and Congress. In support of the SWFRPC mission, the SWFRPC is the local host for the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. Visit www.swfrpc.org to learn more about the Council.