

PLAN.

IMPROVE.

PROTECT.



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



OUR MISSION

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's 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.



ON THE COVER

A native, wetland plant called:
Fewflower milkweed, *Asclepias lanceolata*.
Taken at CREW (Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed).
(Photo courtesy of Whitney Gray)

All photos in this report courtesy of:
Whitney Gray, Senior Environmental Planner



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Deep concerns about the prolonged economic hard times face many Southwest Floridians. Nonetheless, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) hereafter referred to as the Council) continues to function and deliver value to both the public and private sectors of our region. I believe the Council is a resource through which the region develops economies of scale by joining together with neighboring jurisdictions to address problems and provide services to residents.

2010 marks the 37th year that the Council has been in existence. During almost four decades of existence, the Council has strived to provide assistance to state and local government in its programs and endeavors and to provide a regional forum for elected officials, gubernatorial appointees, agencies and citizens of Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Hendry and Glades Counties and all the municipalities within, to discuss and solve important issues from a regional perspective.

During the past year, the Council continued to be very successful in providing numerous valuable services to local government and in fulfilling our mission 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.

Over the past year we have had monthly presentations on regional issues and have made contributions to the com-

munity on water quality, climate change, sustainability, hurricane preparedness, and the integration of planning disciplines to promote smart growth. We have learned that regions are increasingly the dominant economic, environmental and social forces in our lives.

As Chairman of the Council through 2010, I would like to take this opportunity to thank fellow Council members and our staff for the honor of serving you this past year. Throughout the year we faced many challenges, yet it was also marked with many accomplishments. If not for the Council members and staff, issues may not have progressed. Among the many accomplishments the Council achieved during my tenure as Chair was a clean audit and the success of the Lower West Coast Watershed Committee.

In addition to being Chair of the Council, I also had the honor of Chairing the Lower West Coast Watershed Committee and provided the guidance necessary to be successful in our endeavor.

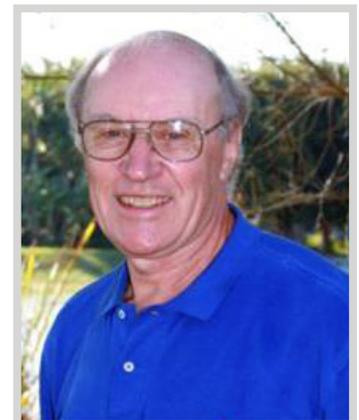
It has been my good fortune to be a member of the Council for the past five years and an honor to have helped strengthen the Council's position in the region and the state.

Thank you for your dedication and support. I appreciate the Council's contribution to the betterment of the region and have great hope for the future of Southwest Florida.



I believe the Council is a resource through which the region develops economies of scale by joining together with neighboring jurisdictions to address problems and provide services to residents."

Mick Denham, 2010 Governing Board Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2010 Chair, Vice-Mayor Mick Denham of Sanibel. The Vice-Mayor is a dedicated task manager. His resolve and technical knowledge came from his years in the private sector and the technical knowledge he gained as a “resultant”. His private sector approach, coupled with his understanding of how policy decisions are made provided the Council and the region with a unique and valuable resource. Thank you for your valuable counsel and leadership!

As we end another year, 2010 proved to be another successful year in the Council’s history. Our success has been realized through the dedicated work of Council staff, including our affiliated agencies the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP). All of the Council staff and the affiliated agencies remain committed to achieving excellence and furthering the well being of the region.

During 2010, the Council continued its collaboration with numerous public and private entities throughout the region and state. This past year, we continued to strengthen our partnerships with the other regional planning councils in the state and strengthened our relationship with the Florida Regional Council Association (FRCA). Considering the diverse nature of the eleven regional planning council districts within the state, and because the RPC’s are considered the only multi-purpose regional entities that plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to greater than local issues, the regional planning council’s (RPC’s) possesses the unique ability to address the numerous is-

ssues and challenges faced by local, regional, and state governments.

Thanks to the dedicated staff, the Council was able to provide a high level of service to its member governments throughout the region and the state. The Council plays an important role in planning for Southwest Florida’s resource management and quality of life. As the convener of the Region, the Council helps articulate multi-jurisdictional issues that need resolution and champion the unique themes of Southwest Florida with the State agencies and the Legislature.

During the past year, the Council also achieved important administrative goals. We successfully transferred the Council’s invested reserves to a higher interest rate account, continued to update the Human Resource Policy Guide, and improved the Council’s Information Technology (IT) and network capabilities.

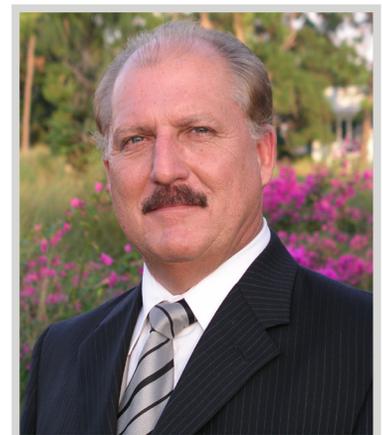
Of particular note is the extremely important role that staff has played in contracts, grant procurements and grant administration. Approximately 80 percent of the Council’s revenue stream is due to staffs’ hard work in securing local, state, and federal contracts and grants.

I am pleased that the Council continues to make great progress and will continue to be a valuable asset to the region and state. The following pages summarize some of the Council accomplishments.



As the convener of the Region, the Council helps articulate multi-jurisdictional issues that need resolution and we champion the unique themes of Southwest Florida with State agencies and the Legislature.

Ken Heatherington, Executive Director



COUNCIL MEMBERS



Mayor
Mick Denham
CHAIR
City of Sanibel



Councilman
Charles Kiester
VICE CHAIR
City of Marco Island



Commissioner
Karson Turner
SECRETARY
Hendry County



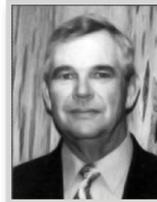
Councilwoman
Teresa Heitmann
TREASURER
City of Naples



Councilman
Tom Babcock
Town of Fort Myers Beach



Councilman
Forrest Banks
City of Fort Myers



Commissioner
Paul Beck
Glades County



Pat Carroll
Gubernatorial Appointee
Collier County



Mayor
Mali Gardner
City of Clewiston



Commissioner Tristan
Chapman
Hendry County



Commissioner
Jim Coletta
Collier County



Felipe Colon
Gubernatorial Appointee
Sarasota County



Commissioner
Tricia Duffy
Charlotte County



Michael Grant
Gubernatorial Appointee
Charlotte County



Shannon Hall
Gubernatorial Appointee
Glades County



Laura Holquist
Gubernatorial Appointee
Lee County

COUNCIL MEMBERS



Commissioner
Kenneth S. Jones
Glades County



Commissioner
Tom Jones
Sarasota County



Melvin Karau
Gubernatorial Appointee
Hendry County



Councilwoman
Rachel Keesling
City of Punta Gorda



Councilman
Pat Lucas
City of Moore Haven



Commissioner
Carolyn Mason
Sarasota County



George Mazarantani
Gubernatorial Appointee
Sarasota County



Andrea Messina
Gubernatorial Appointee
Charlotte County



Bob Mulhere
Gubernatorial Appointee
Collier County



Paul Pass
Gubernatorial Appointee
Lee County



Mayor
Paul Puletti
City of LaBelle



Commissioner
Robert Skidmore
Charlotte County



Commissioner
Jon Thaxton
Sarasota County

THE COUNCIL & THE REGION

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was created by an interlocal agreement between Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties in 1973. Under that agreement, the Council acts as a regional information clearinghouse, conducts research to develop and maintain area-wide goals, strategies, and actions, and assists in implementing a variety 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.

The Council is directed by a thirty-four member Council composed of local elected officials and gubernatorial appointees. Five individuals who represent State interests provide additional assistance through service as Ex-Officio members of the Council.

The Council is staffed by more than twenty professionals with expertise in planning, law, emergency management, public administration, environmental science, business administration and information technology.

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council serves Regional District 9 and consists of six counties and 16 municipalities with a total area (land and water) of 6,663 square miles and a land area of 5,986 square miles. Four of the counties border the Gulf of Mexico

and comprise a large portion of the region's urban area. Two counties are bounded by Lake Okeechobee, the second largest freshwater lake in the United States.

The population of Southwest Florida is dominated by retirees. People age 65 and older comprise 27 percent of the total population, and retirement incomes are the greatest single component of the region's economic base. Tourism is the next largest component of the economy – the population swells by as much as 30 percent each winter! Agriculture is the third largest economic component, thanks to a climate that allows for three growing seasons (winter, spring and fall) each year. Concurrent with the rise in population and its growing popularity as a tourist destination, the region's rural (non-urban) counties have emerged as a principal growth center for the State's sizeable agricultural community.

Natural resources have had a major influence on the area's economic development and growth. The most important of these resources are the region's location and climate, land and water resources, vegetation and wildlife, and inland and tidal wetlands. These resources have attracted large numbers of retirees and tourists to the region, thereby fueling the area's service, trade and construction industries.

THE COUNCIL MEETS MONTHLY TO:

- ❖ Develop agreement on a common vision for the region and assess the progress we are making toward reaching that vision;
- ❖ Deliberate on proposed projects deemed Developments of Regional Impact and on proposed changes to local comprehensive plans;
- ❖ Review federal projects, programs and documents of statewide significance that may affect the region;
- ❖ Collaborate on projects and programs that benefit multiple jurisdictions; and
- ❖ Discuss issues that emerge as matters of regional interest, for example, infrastructure needs and proposed growth management initiatives.



SARASOTA COUNTY

Area: 573 Square Miles

Population: 379,448*

County Seat: Sarasota

Incorporated Communities:

Longboat Key, North Port,
Sarasota and Venice

Established: 1921

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Area: 690 Square Miles

Population: 159,978*

County Seat: Punta Gorda

Incorporated Communities:

Punta Gorda

Established: 1921

GLADES COUNTY

Area: 763 Square Miles

Population: 12,884*

County Seat: Moore Haven

Incorporated Communities:

Moore Haven

Established: 1921

LEE COUNTY

Area: 803 Square Miles

Population: 618,754*

County Seat: Fort Myers

Incorporated Communities:

Bonita Springs,

Cape Coral,

Fort Myers,

Fort Myers Beach

and Sanibel

Established: 1887

HENDRY COUNTY

Area: 1,163 Square Miles

Population: 39,140*

County Seat: LaBelle

Incorporated Communities:

Clewiston and LaBelle

Established: 1921

COLLIER COUNTY

Area: 1,894 Square Miles

Population: 321,520*

County Seat: East Naples

Incorporated Communities:

Everglades City, Marco Island and Naples

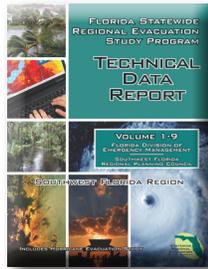
Established: 1921

* From Florida Population Census Summary 2010: April 1, 2011, produced by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida.

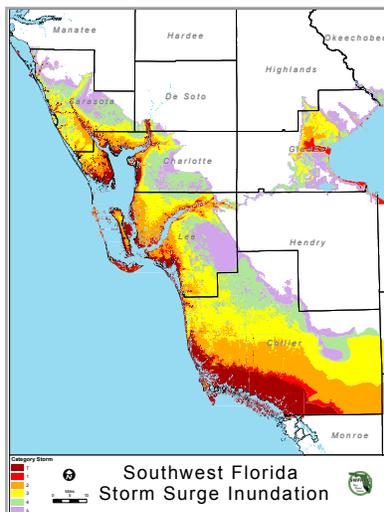
COUNCIL'S KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STATEWIDE REGIONAL EVACUATION STUDY

The Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida Department of Community Affairs - Division of Community Planning and Florida Department of Transportation in coordination with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council has developed the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study for the Southwest Florida Region. This report updates the region's evacuation population estimates, evacuation clearance times and public shelter demand. The study covers Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties and their municipalities.



The Emergency Preparedness work in the SWFRPC area was first started in 1977 with the completion of the first in the country Hurricane Evacuation Study for Lee County. Next was the completion of the region's first Regional Hurricane Evacuation Study in 1983. Five updates later, the 2010 Statewide Regional Evacuation Study is completed and primarily deals with hurricane storm surge flooding and wind vulnerable residents living in mobile homes. The Evacuation Study calculated evacuation times to leave the county and to shelter spaces. The National Hurricane Center's Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricane Model as developed for Lake Okeechobee and the Gulf of Mexico and shows overtopping of the lake's levee. Storm Tide Maps were completed by the SWFRPC, which show significant areas of flooding from a hurricane tracking close to the lake. For the first time the study also addresses other hazards that may require evacuations, like rainfall flooding, wildfire, hazardous material accidents and Lake



Okeechobee Dam/Levee breaks. The study produced a vulnerability analysis for all these hazards that can be used by local governments in developing their Local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Local Mitigation Strategies.

Lee County Smart Growth Transit Oriented Development Design Competition



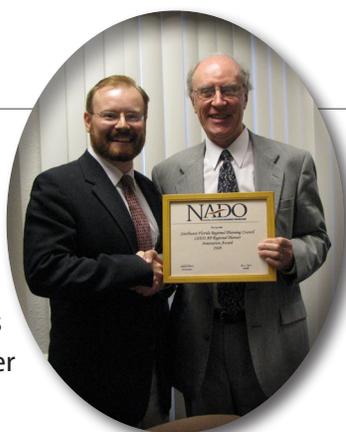
“What should smart growth and transit-oriented development in Lee County look like?” That was the question raised through the “Creating Better Places” design competition, conducted by the Council for Lee County in cooperation with the City of Fort Myers, Reconnecting Lee County, and Florida Gulf Coast University's Center for Public and Social Policy. The competition was featured as an example of regional collaboration in “Connecting Florida: Transit + Florida's Economy” an April 2010 report by the Urban Land Institute.

“We are challenging local citizens and design professionals to rethink sprawling development patterns and help visualize better prototypes for our future,” said Tammy Hall, Chair of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, who presented the awards. The following winners of the competition are as follows:

Three awards went to Ensite Inc., Architecture Inc., and Element 3 Designworks (one team): First Place Overall Winner, Finance Professionals Panel Winner, and Design Professionals Panel Winner. Two awards went to Barraco & Associates, Inc.: Second Place Overall Winner and Citizens Panel Winner. One award, Third Place Overall Winner, went to Mitchell Austin, AICP.

Winners were recognized May 7, 2010 as part of the monthly Art Walk event in downtown Fort Myers River District, at an Awards Reception sponsored by Morris-Depew Associates, Henderson-Franklin, Wilbur Smith Associates, the Southwest Florida Branch-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter-U.S. Green Building Council, and the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center.

The SWFRPC received the 2010 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Creating Better Places Design Competition.



THE COMPREHENSIVE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA/CHARLOTTE HARBOR CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The Comprehensive Southwest Florida/Charlotte Harbor Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment examines the current climate and ongoing climate change in Southwest Florida under five future scenarios of climate change into the year 2200. These scenarios include: Range from a least impact case in which all possible mitigative actions are taken, to a highest impact case, called “business as usual”, in which nothing at all is done to address climate change.

The Vulnerability Assessment was funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency and covered a combination of the SWFRPC and Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program’s study areas. It assesses significant potential climate changes in air and water and the effects of those changes on climate stability, sea level, hydrology, geomorphology, natural habitats and species, land use changes, economy, human health, human infrastructure and variable risk projections in Southwest Florida. Among the consequences of climate change that threaten estuarine ecosystem services, the most serious involve interactions between climate-dependent processes and human responses to those climate changes.

Some climate change effects will be experienced and can be compensated for in the relative near-term. Other effects with longer timelines will be more costly in habitat impact or human economic terms. Some effects, such as air temperature and water temperature increases, will be experienced throughout the region. Others, such as sea level rise and habitat shifts, will occur in specific geographic and clinal locations.

There are a number of planning actions that, if undertaken now, could significantly reduce negative climate change effects and their costs in the future while providing positive environmental and financial benefits in the near term.

In the course of the project, 246 climate change management adaptations were identified (Beever et al. 2009) that could be utilized to address the various vulnerabilities identified for the region. Future adaptation plans will identify the management measures best suited for each geographic location.

Monitoring of the effects and results of climate changes will be necessary to assess when and where adaptive management needs to be and should be applied. A critical goal of this monitoring is to establish and follow indicators that signal approach toward an ecosystem threshold that, once passed, puts the system into an alternative state from which conversion back is difficult to impossible. The likely effects of climate change, particularly tropical storms, drought and sea level rise, on Southwest Florida ecosystems and infrastructure development are too great for policymakers, property owners and the public-at-large to stand by and wait for greater evidence before considering strategies for adaptation. It is essential to plan and act now to avoid, mitigate, minimize, and adapt to the negative effects of climate change, and to examine the possibilities of providing benefits to human and natural systems by adapting to the changing planet.

Climate Change Teamwork

SWFRPC staff worked with the City of Punta Gorda using the Regional Vulnerability Assessment to determine a Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which was used to update the City’s Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.

The Lee County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment was completed on March 18, 2010, and was paired with the Lee County Climate Change Resiliency Strategy (completed October 6, 2010), both produced for unincorporated Lee County (with coordination with incorporated areas. A presentation was made to the Lee County Community Sustainability Advisory Committee.

The processes used to create these plans were designed to be replicable in communities all along the coast of southwest Florida. SWFRPC staff continues to look for opportunities to assist other cities and counties in their climate change planning.

PROGRAM UPDATES

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

The SWFRPC plays an important role in planning for growth management, community development and quality-of-life issues throughout our region. The Council provides technical urban and regional planning assistance to local governments, coordinates the review of Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs), reviews local plans and plan amendments for consistency with our Strategic Regional Policy Plan and facilitates intergovernmental coordination and cooperation. As the convener of the region, the SWFRPC helps articulate multi-jurisdictional issues that need resolution, and champions the unique themes of the region with state agencies and the Legislature.

During the past year, Council staff members reviewed and provided technical comments on 22 proposed small-scale amendments and 62 proposed large-scale amendments to local comprehensive plans. Council staff members also provide technical planning assistance to communities and private entities in the region with respect to issues that are regional in magnitude, location or character.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Major accomplishments for economic development in 2010 are as follows:

SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

In May 2010, the Council hosted a Sustainability Forum that discussed several key topics including communication, innovation, regional strategies and sustainability. In June 2010, the Economic Development Coalition decided to submit an application to HUD for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant. Although the grant was not awarded, key partnerships were developed during the application process.

EDA GRANT AWARD

The SWFRPC worked closely with the University of South Florida to prepare a successful grant application, which was awarded \$2 million for USF and Mote Marine Laboratory. The grant will help build an aquaculture incubator that will encourage businesses and technologies to dramatically reduce the industry's demand for our critical

supply of fresh water through recycling and reuse. The project is expected to support 22 start-up companies, creating 149 jobs and generating \$5.1 million in private investment within the first three years of operation, according to grantee estimates.

FHREDI \$23.7 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT

The Florida Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI) was awarded a \$23.7 million dollar grant for high-speed broadband. This project was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Hardee County, South Florida Community College and Hendry County financially assisted FHREDI in obtaining the \$23.7 million grant, which has nearly \$10.5 million in matching contributions. Throughout the state this project, which is expected to take 18 months, will benefit 190 community institutions, 417,600 people and 16,000 businesses. It's expected to create over 120 new jobs in the region.

BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

In 2010, the SWFRPC implemented a Brownfields Program. The SWFRPC has applied for one grant to date and plans to hold various meetings in 2011 to identify additional funding sources. This program has sparked tremendous interest in brownfields redevelopment across the region and many more local governments and nonprofit agencies have asked SWFRPC for additional assistance to perform environmental improvement program activities beyond the capacity of existing funding resources.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL BUSINESS INCUBATOR PLANNING STUDY

During the past year this study has derived several new incubator and entrepreneurial initiatives in the Southwest Florida Region. The following are developing plans for incubators:

- Immokalee CRA & Collier County worked to obtain \$300,000 in funding.
- City of North Port and the State College of Florida worked to complete a feasibility and work plan.
- FGCU Innovation-Hub Research Park is under development and will include an incubator.
- South Tampa Bay Innovation Center (business incubator) for Sarasota and Manatee Counties are out for proposals.

GRANT TEAM

During 2010, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) grant team applied for the following grants associated with Economic Development:

- Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program
- Sustainable Broadband Adoption
- Florida Broadband Planning Project

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION & REVIEW

The Council reviewed approximately 58 applications and proposals in 2010. Of these, 56 were deemed regionally significant and the Council recommended actions necessary to ensure that each project would be consistent with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan for Southwest Florida.

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

In Glades County, the CTC, Good Wheels, Inc. provided 3,363 total trips, a decrease of 5.03% from 2009. Vehicle miles for 2010 were 86,636, a decrease of 36.44%. Expenses decreased 10.06% over 2010 for a total of \$279,557. Revenues decreased 18.05% over 2010 for a total of \$267,877.



In Hendry County, the CTC, Good Wheels, Inc. provided 24,698 total trips, an increase of 21.95% from 2009. Vehicle miles for 2010 were 517,251, an increase of 17.62%. Expenses increased 0.40% over 2010 for a total of \$1,476,701. Revenues decreased 0.34% over 2010 for a total of \$1,625,205.

In Lee County, the CTC Coordinator, Good Wheels, Inc. provided 103,401 total trips, an increase of 18.83% from 2009. Vehicle miles for 2010 were 1,678,685, an increase of 18.85%. Expenses increased 14.04% over 2009 for a total of 3,705,363. Revenues increased

44.74% over 2009 for a total of \$4,261,324.

TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology (IT) Team at the Regional Planning Council continued to look for ways to improve the agency's needs. There were a number of initiatives discussed and implemented in 2010:

FIBER CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVE

The Council continued to research ways to improve the current broadband connection of a T1 bandwidth of 1.544 Mbps line. In October 2010, the Council signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the Lee County Clerk of Courts to share internet access and related services at a reduced cost, increase capability at no cost increase, and/or optimize service and performances for Lee County government as well as other government agencies. This transition is scheduled to occur in the early part of 2011, connecting using the Internet at fiber-optic speeds from 5Mbps up to 10Mbps.

WEB CONFERENCING

The Council has been using this service for the past two years. It has given us the ability to hold web conference meetings, which would promote more attendance by allowing members to attend via the web conferencing application, ultimately using less gas and less travel time, and providing more attendance via the web. This solution continues to be useful to staff and others at the Council. During the past year, the IT team continued to research possible options for intergrading video conferencing into the current solution. This component is scheduled for testing in the early part of 2011.

DISASTER RECOVERY CONSORTIUM MEETING

The Council staff continues to attend meetings of the Disaster Recovery Consortium to connect with key IT resources in the region. Due to the Council's limited resources, it is crucial to building relationships for advancing our Information Technology infrastructure. Staff will continue work towards a disaster recovery mechanism such as a continuity plan.

PROGRAM UPDATES

DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT

In 2010, 12 DRI Application for Development Approval (ADA), 7 Notice of Proposed Changes (NOPC) to DRIs, one Essentially Built-Out DRI, three DRI Abandonments, and the Babcock Ranch Master Traffic Update were under review. As of the date of this report, 12 NOPCs have but submitted so far in 2011. Reviews of the projects submitted in 2007/08/09/10 will continue into 2011. Some of these projects are on hold due to the recession and depressed real estate market. However, other projects that were on hold are now moving forward and toward completion. Therefore, we believe most of the projects on hold will ultimately be finished with local Development Orders. Four DRIs reviewed by the SWFRPC in 2010 are discussed below.

VILLAGES OF LAKEWOOD RANCH SOUTH

The Village of Lakewood Ranch South DRI site is a 5,489.7 ± acre parcel located in north central Sarasota County, south of University Parkway and the Lakewood Ranch Corporate Park DRI, east of I-75 and north of Richardson Road. The project is part of the 31,000 acre Schroeder-Manatee Ranch within Sarasota and Manatee Counties. It is the sixth DRI in the Ranch. This parcel is designated eligible under the Sarasota 2050, Resource Management Area (RMA) System Comprehensive Plan Amendment RMA-1 as a Village. Village Planned District (VPD) was established in support of this amendment. Concurrent with the DRI application, an associated rezone application seeks to rezone the subject property from Open Use Agriculture (OUA) and Open Use Rural (OUR) to Village Planned Development (VPD). A Comprehensive Plan Amendment application for the subject property was also submitted with this application.

The Village form of development envisions the creation of a new planned unit development-type with homes clustered around crossroads to include a Village Center, civic spaces, internal parks, 50% external open space, an elementary school, and mix of housing types clustered in neighborhoods with the majority of homes with a ¼ mile walking distance of a Neighborhood Center. The Neighborhood Center for each area will provide a public/civic focal point that may be a combination of parks, public facilities, and supportive non-residential services. Parks shall

be reserved at a minimum ratio of one acre per 47 dwelling units.

HARBORVIEW SUBSTANTIAL DEVIATION

The Harborview DRI is located in north central unincorporated Charlotte County, immediately north and adjacent to the Peace River on both sides of the I-75 and Harborview Road interchange and is situated on three quadrants on the interchange. The site was originally approved as a DRI in 1992. A Notice of Proposed Change amended the development order in 2006 to add 106 acres on the southeast corner of the interchange. In 2007, a Substantial Deviation Application was submitted for development approval that requested 139 additional acres to be added at the southwest corner of the interchange. The current 653 - acre DRI now proposes a 350 room hotel, 3,859 residential units (245 single family and 3,614 multi-family units), a marina with 400 wet slips, 192 dry slips, and 20 ancillary slips with single family units. A public boat ramp with 40 parking spaces for trailer and tow vehicles, 655,000 square feet of commercial and 50,000 square feet of office, 66 acres of easements and roadways, and 187 acres of preservation and open space (150 acres of salt marsh to be deeded to the State) are also proposed. The Charlotte Harbor Water Association will provide potable water with wastewater treatment being provided by Charlotte County Utilities. The project, as proposed will be constructed in eight one year phases starting in 2011 with a 2018 buildout date.

FLORIDA GULF COAST TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH PARK

This DRI is located south of the Southwest Florida International Airport, east of Treeline Avenue, and north of Alico Road in Lee County, Florida. The proposed 727 - acre project proposes a mix of land uses that includes 3,897,000 square feet of industrial, 400,000 office square feet, 700,000 commercial retail square feet and a 240 room hotel. Also proposed is a land use conversion matrix for the office and commercial, which will permit the maximum amount of conversion allowed by law.

The DRI will also include 36 acres of road right-of-way, 68 acres of lakes and 205 acres of preserve area. The applicant believes that the light industrial, office and commercial components of the project will serve as an economic incu-

DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT

bator for the area by providing private sector services that are coupled with cooperative extension facilities from the nearby Florida Gulf Coast University. The project will be constructed in two five-year phases commencing in the year 2012 with buildout in the year of 2022.

Table 1 includes the DRIs that had activity presented to the Council in 2010 by month.

TABLE 1:
DRI ACTIVITY PRESENTED TO COUNCIL IN 2010

DRI	ACTIVITY
1. Babcock Ranch Increment I	Development Order Review
2. North Port Gardens DRI	Request for Extension
FEBRUARY	
1. The Fountains DRI	Request for Extension
2. Millennium Corporate Center	Pre-App Checklist
3. Villages of Lakewood Ranch South	Staff Assessment
MARCH	
1. Florida Gulf Coast Technology and Research Park	Request for Extension
2. Lee County Red Sox Stadium	Development Order Review
3. Harborview Substantial Deviation	Staff Assessment
4. North Port Gardens	Request for Extension
APRIL	
1. Sarasota Care Center East	Abandonment Application
JUNE	
1. Villages of Lakewood Ranch South	Development Order Review
2. North Port Gardens	Request for Extension
SEPTEMBER	
1. Del Prado North Commerce Park	Abandonment Application
2. Indian Oaks Trade Center	Abandonment Application
3. The Fountains	Request for Extension
4. Florida Gulf Coast Technology and Research Park	Staff Assessment
5. Jetport/Interstate Commerce Park	Staff Assessment
NOVEMBER	
1. Harborview Substantial Deviation	Development Order Review
DECEMBER	
1. The Fountains	Request for Extension

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Since 1988, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council has sought to protect the citizens of the region pursuant to the Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). EPCRA was enacted by Congress to ensure that chemical emergency planning was being implemented across the nation. Moreover, EPCRA was implemented to increase public and private efforts to reduce risks associated with the use and storage of hazardous chemicals. Hazardous materials threaten public health, welfare and the environment. Chemical danger comes in many forms either from fixed facilities or transportation related sources. Although the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act is mainly concerned with fixed facilities, the participants assigned to implement the law are equally concerned about problems which might arise from transportation related incidents.

2010 AWARDS INITIATIVE

The Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee was pleased to honor Juan Maldonado as the 2010 Thomas Yatabe Awards recipient for the Southwest Florida area. Mr. Maldonado has served on the LEPC since 2007 in a Facility Operator's Category and is employed by Southern Garden Citrus Processing Corporation. Award recipients are recognized for outstanding achievement, accomplishment or superior participation in the State's Hazardous Materials Program. Mr. Maldonado is shown seated accepting the award during the Florida State Emergency Response Commission's meeting of January 7,



2011. Pictured on the left is Mr. George Danz conferring the award on behalf of the Florida State Emergency Response Commission. Chairman Bruce Porter of the Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee is shown on the right.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY E-PLAN

The Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee was very active in 2010 encouraging emergency responders to register under the U.S. EPA E-Plan program initiative. E-Plan allows emergency responders to review facility chemical data over the internet fairly rapidly during a chemical incident.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INVENTORY SYSTEM (HMIS) ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SUBMISSION

In February 2009, the Florida State Emergency Response Commission began beta testing of facilities reporting their Tier II data through a new online system. The Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee has supported this effort which will replace the need to mail in the Tier II form. The HMIS program is implemented by the Florida Division of Emergency Management with the assistance of Florida's Local Emergency Planning Committees. In 2010, the local LEPC assisted in this effort by mailing post cards and visiting facilities to explain the benefits of using electronic submission. HMIS is provided free of charge to all facilities and local planning committees. Information submitted by a facility is stored on a secure server managed by the State and is only accessible with permission granted by appropriate authorities.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM - FACILITY COMPLIANCE

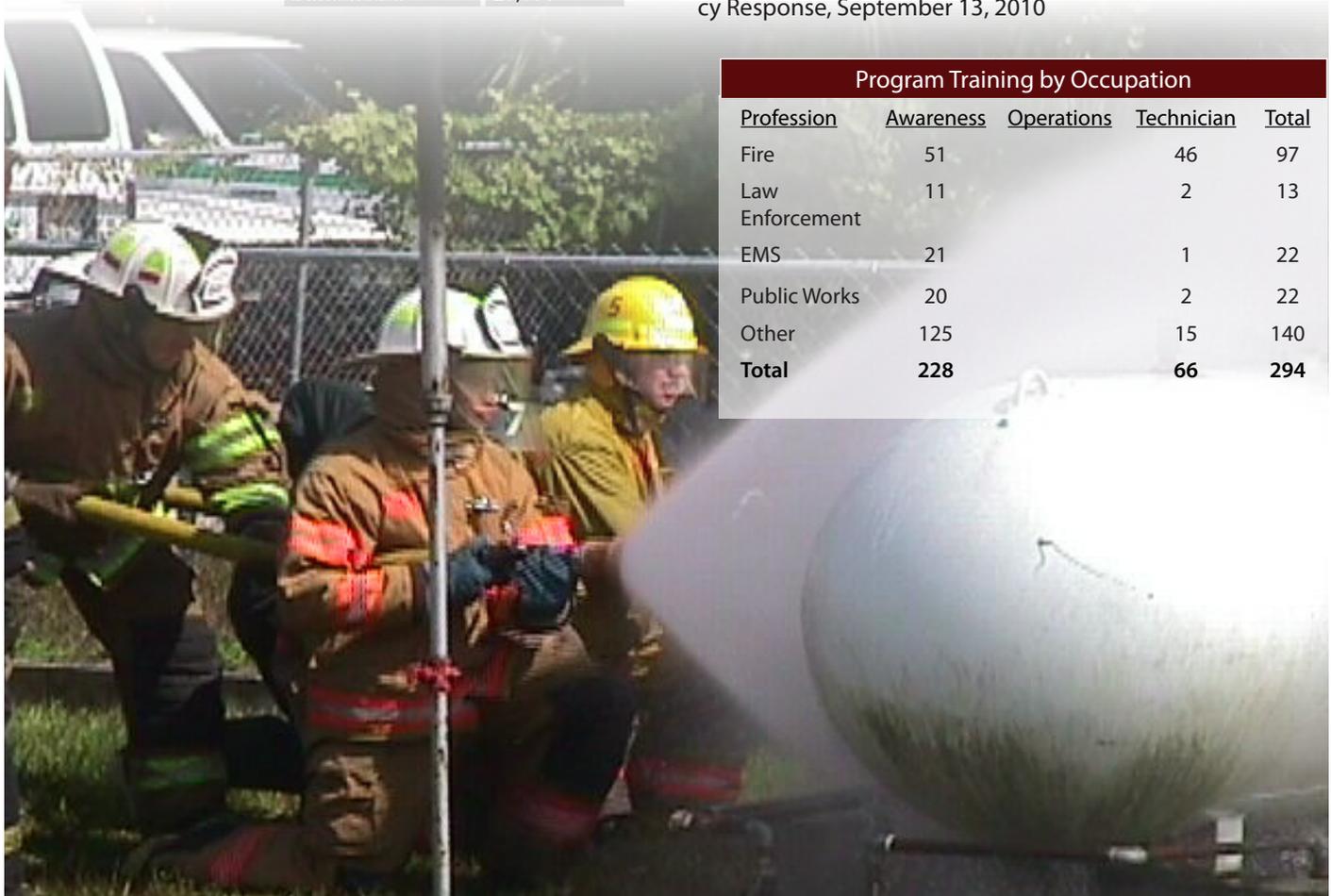
In 2010, there were more than 1,000 chemical records housed at the offices of the Council, congruent with the mandates of EPCRA, which are administered by the Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), an organization staffed by the Council. Facilities with either hazardous or extremely hazardous chemical inventories at a threshold planning quantity are required to submit formal reports to the Florida State Emergency Response Commission and the LEPC annually.

Top 10 Hazardous Materials and Inventory Levels	
Chemical	Inventory Level (lbs.)
Sulfuric Acid	4,372,039
Aldicarb	541,750
Ammonia	423,874
Methyl Bromide	381,840
Chlorine	306,068
Nitric Acid	70,410
Paraquat dichloride	43,214
Endosulfan	40,516
Phorate	30,240
Dimethoate	29,091

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING

Hazardous material training is an important mission of the LEPC. In 2010, a total of 249 individuals (see below) benefited from the training conducted by the LEPC. Training programs included the following:

- Hazmat Chemistry IQ, March 11, 2010
- Oil Spill Response Technician Level Course, May 24-26, 2010
- Fire Chemistry Course, July 6 – 11, 2009
- Recognition of and Response to Biological and Chemical Agents, August 26, 2010
- Clandestine Drug Lab Awareness Course (METHLAB), August 25, 2010
- Selected Agents of Bioterrorism Course, August 25, 2010
- OSHA 1910.120 Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, August 26, 2010
- Communicating with the Media during a Hazmat Incident and other Disasters, August 25, 2010
- National Fire Academy's Hazardous Materials Incident Management, August 23-29, 2010
- OSHA 1910.120 Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, September 13, 2010



Program Training by Occupation				
Profession	Awareness	Operations	Technician	Total
Fire	51		46	97
Law Enforcement	11		2	13
EMS	21		1	22
Public Works	20		2	22
Other	125		15	140
Total	228		66	294

CHARLOTTE HARBOR NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM



The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) is a partnership of citizens, elected officials, resource managers and commercial and recreational resource users who are working to protect the greater Charlotte Harbor estuarine system by improving the water quality and ecological integrity of the 4,400 square mile watershed. The partnership is hosted by the Council and works as an advocate for the estuarine system by building consensus that is based upon sound science.

Activities of the CHNEP are coordinated through the Management Conference, a body which is comprised of four committees (Citizens Advisory, Technical Advisory, Management and Policy) and the staff. Major accomplishments of the CHNEP in 2010 follow.

HIGHLIGHTS

COASTAL WETLANDS STUDY

The first draft of the EPA Region 4 Wetlands Program Development Grant entitled, "A Watershed Analysis of Permitted Coastal Wetland Impacts and Mitigation Methods within the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Study Area" was completed on October 15, 2010 and presented to the CHNEP Conference. A total of 118 field visits evaluating permitted projects, involving tidally-influenced wetlands, have been completed and are being documented. These projects have been located in Lee County, within the jurisdiction of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and Charlotte and Sarasota Counties, in the jurisdiction of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

SALT MARSH STUDY

Work began in January 2010 on the EPA Region 4 Wetlands Program Development Grant entitled, "Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Opportunities for Salt Marsh Types in Southwest Florida." Salt marsh GIS maps have been collected from the SFWMD, SWFWMD, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP). Other map prod-

ucts from other time periods with a baseline from 1953 are also being collected. A sampling protocol has been developed and placed into the Trimble for data collection. Due to the cosmopolitan nature of coastal Southwest Florida, it is important not to rule out species that may not be vouchered in the study area specifically. Additionally, many commercially available exotic species escape into the wild, becoming common locally or becoming invasive. The numbers of species in each list is found in the table below.

Numbers of species listed:

	Macro Invertebrates	Fish	Amphibians	Reptiles	Birds	Mammals
Statewide count to date	2,372	1410	71	210	494	108
Statewide Salt Marsh	588	285	12	11	341	16
Local Salt Marsh	500	217	12	6	329	15
Confirmed to Date	30	7	0	1	36	4



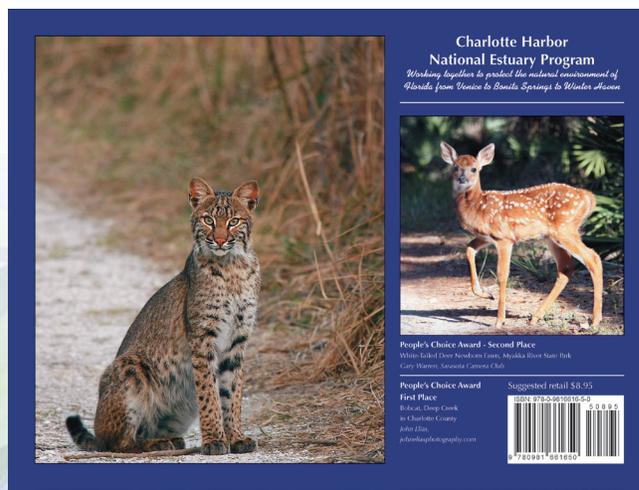
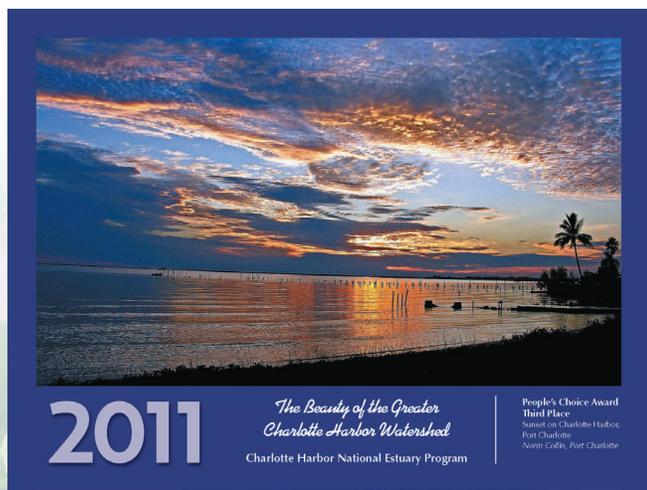
ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

During 2010 the ABM was led by Chair, Paul O'Connor and Vice Chair, Tom Babcock. Some of the more important items considered by the ABM were:

- Updated by-laws to be consistent with current ABM operations. The revised by-laws were approved, along with the annual workplan.
- Support of the creation of a San Carlos Bay Aquatic Preserve; review of the revision and the technical support document of the DEP Designated Water Uses Rule.
- Funding was obtained from FGCU, FDEP, and Lee County after a resolution was passed and a letter written from the SWFRPC, so that the EBABM will have a \$7,500 budget for 2011.
- Initiated a carbon footprint assessment of their activities including travel, meeting refreshments, and clerical materials.

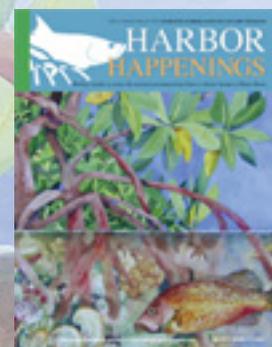
CHNEP 2011 CALENDAR

Thanks to the generosity of those who submitted images, the CHNEP's 2011 calendar once again displays spectacular images showcasing the beauty of the natural environment of Southwest Florida. The calendar also provides the curious reader with morsels of information about the program's committees, partnerships, management plan, grants, events, conservation landscaping initiatives, videos and printed materials. Mailed in November to those who receive the free Harbor Happenings newsletter, small supplies of the calendar were also available for pickup at locations throughout the seven counties that participate in the program.



HARBOR HAPPENINGS

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program produces Harbor Happenings, a 16-page newsletter on the “happenings” of concern to the CHNEP. The newsletter, in conjunction with www.chnep.org, are the main ways CHNEP reaches interested citizens, private agencies and governments. They provide information on upcoming events, recent scientific findings, new restoration projects, policies, and ways for citizens to become more involved. Each issue of the newsletter includes an 11x17” poster. The newsletter is mailed to approximately 10,000 subscribers with another 3,000 copies distributed at events, by nature centers, libraries and other partners. The newsletter is available on the website as a PDF file as is a Spanish translation.



LEE COUNTY MPO

The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is an intergovernmental transportation planning agency created by an agreement among Lee County, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Sanibel, Fort Myers Beach and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). State and federal laws require the formation of an MPO in urbanized areas with populations of more than 50,000 in order for surface transportation projects to be eligible for federal funding. The MPO is responsible for the comprehensive transportation planning process for all of Lee County and must plan for the movement of both people and goods within the county by all modes of travel - including highways, public transportation, biking and walking.

The MPO develops a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) every five years. This document addresses the future multimodal transportation needs of the Lee County area. It is a plan which coordinates and guides the capital improvement programs of FDOT and the local governments which are members of the MPO, as well as recognizes the ongoing maintenance and operational activities of these entities. The 2035 LRTP was adopted by the Board on December 8, 2010 and it included converting the



model from the Florida Standard Urban Transportation Model Structure (FSUTMS) to CUBE/Voyager, modeling transit and listing the projects that are financially

feasible in five-year increments through the 2035 horizon year.

Bicycle and pedestrian transportation issues have long been an important part of transportation planning efforts in Lee County and in recognition of that, the MPO worked on the development of a county-wide Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan, which will be completed in 2011. The development of a county-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan will help provide a more consistent network of facilities across jurisdictional boundaries, and will also provide the local jurisdictions an opportunity to capture the federal and state bicycle/pedestrian funding for high priority projects.

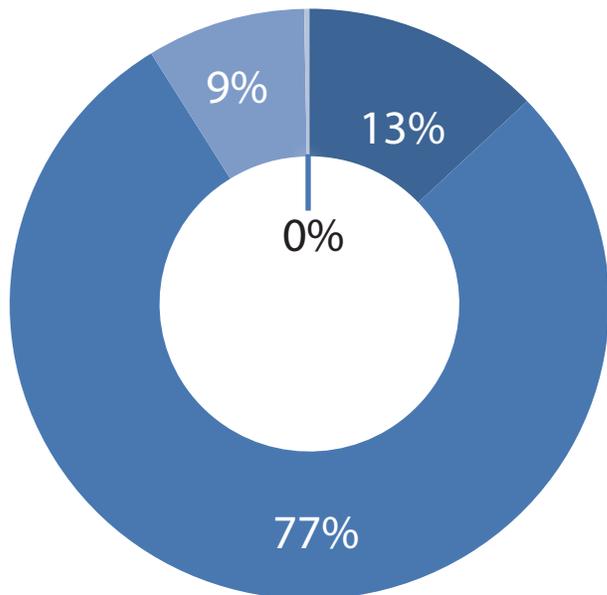
The MPO's website, www.mpo-swfl.org, was launched in May 2006, and was updated with a new format during 2010 that has increased the MPO's visibility. If you would like to receive updates throughout the year on current issues that the Lee County MPO Board is undertaking via the Transportation Advisory Network distribution list, or to take the MPO's Public Participation Plan Survey, please contact Meghan Marion at 239-338-2550 ext. 219, by email at mmarion@swfRPC.org or visit the MPO's website.



FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

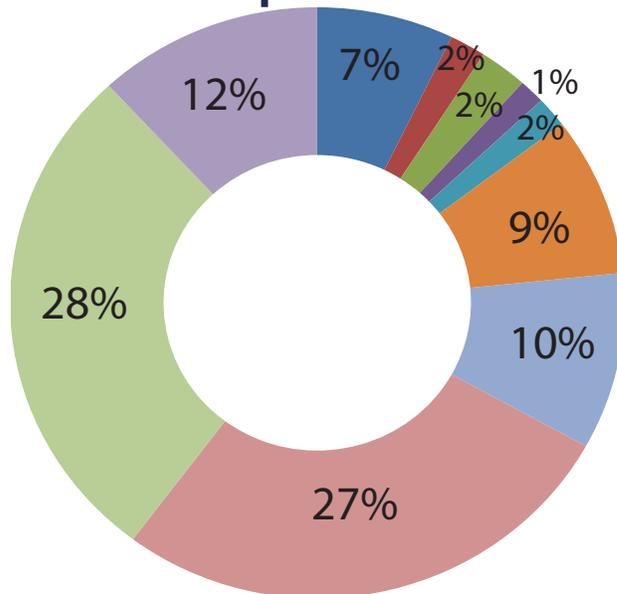


Revenue



- 13% Membership Dues
- 77% Federal/State/Local Grants
- 9% DRI Monitoring Fees
- 0% Interest & Misc.

Expenses



- 28% CHNEP
- 27% Lee County MPO
- 12% Admin General Operations
- 10% Other Contracts
- 9% DRI
- 7% DCA
- 2% Emergency Preparedness
- 2% Economic Development
- 2% TD
- 1% Hurricane Evacuation

BUDGET SUMMARY

In its annual Independent Auditor's Report to the Council, Tuscan & Company P.A. opined that the basic financial statements of the Council presented "fairly, in all respects, the financial position of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council as of September 30, 2010 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

The Council's fund balance stood at \$680,090 on September 30th, an increase of \$24,374 from the prior year-end balance. Total expenses increased .12% and revenue increased by .06%.



MEET THE 2011 OFFICERS



COUNCILMAN, CHARLES "CHUCK" KIESTER, CHAIR

City of Marco Island

Mr. Kiester was first appointed to the SWFRPC in 2008. Currently, Mr. Kiester serves on the Council's Executive Committee as chair.



COMMISSIONER, KARSON TURNER, VICE CHAIR

Hendry County

Mr. Turner was first appointed to the SWFRPC in January 2009. Currently, Mr. Turner serves on the Council's Executive Committee as vice chair and the Legislative Affairs Committee as chair.



COUNCILWOMAN, TERESA HEITMANN, SECRETARY

City of Naples

Ms. Heitmann was first appointed to the SWFRPC in February 2008. Currently, Ms. Heitmann serves on the Council's Budget & Finance Committee; the Executive Committee; the Legislative Affairs Committee and the Regional Watersheds Committee.



COMMISSIONER, CAROLYN MASON, TREASURER

Sarasota County

Ms. Mason was first appointed to the SWFRPC in December 2008. Currently, Ms. Mason serves on the Council's Budget & Finance Committee as chair as well as the Executive Committee.

COUNCIL STAFF



Ken Heatherington, AICP
Executive Director
kheatherington@swfrpc.org
Ext. 222



David Hutchinson,
Planning Director
dhutchinson@swfrpc.org
Ext. 221



Liz Donley, Esq.,
Legal Counsel
ldonley@swfrpc.org
Ext. 234

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

<i>Nancy Doyle</i>	H/R Operations Manager	Ext. 233	ndoyle@swfrpc.org
<i>Nichole Gwinnett</i>	Senior Administrative Specialist	Ext. 232	ngwinnett@swfrpc.org
<i>Debbie Kooi</i>	Senior Administrative Specialist	Ext. 210	dkooi@swfrpc.org
<i>Angela Tomlinson</i>	Accounts Clerk	Ext. 236	atomlinson@swfrpc.org
<i>Gaila Triggs</i>	Information/Records Clerk	Ext. 214	gtriggs@swfrpc.org
<i>Janice Yell</i>	Finance Manager	Ext. 237	jjell@swfrpc.org

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

<i>Jim Beever</i>	Principal Planner	Ext. 224	jbeever@swfrpc.org
<i>David Crawford, AICP</i>	Principal Planner	Ext. 226	dcrawford@swfrpc.org
<i>John Gibbons</i>	Principal Planner	Ext. 229	jjibbons@swfrpc.org
<i>Whitney Gray</i>	Senior Environmental Planner	Ext. 241	wgray@swfrpc.org
<i>Jennifer Pellechio</i>	Network Administrator/Senior Planner	Ext. 218	jpellechio@swfrpc.org
<i>Daniel Trescott</i>	Planning Manager	Ext. 220	dtrescott@swfrpc.org
<i>Jason Utley, AICP</i>	Senior Planner/Assistant DRI Coordinator	Ext. 227	jutley@swfrpc.org

GRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES

<i>Timothy Walker</i>	GIS/Graphics Manager	Ext. 212	twalker@swfrpc.org
<i>Daniel Cobb</i>	GIS Analyst	Ext. 225	dcobb@swfrpc.org
<i>Rebekah Harp</i>	Webmaster/Public Information Specialist	Ext. 217	rharp@swfrpc.org

CHARLOTTE HARBOR NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

<i>Lisa Beever, Ph.D.,</i>	Director	Ext. 235	lbeever@swfrpc.org
<i>Liz Donley, Esq.</i>	Deputy Director	Ext. 234	ldonley@swfrpc.org
<i>Judy Ott</i>	Program Scientist	Ext. 230	jott@swfrpc.org
<i>Maran Hilgendorf</i>	Communications Manager	Ext. 240	mhilgendorf@swfrpc.org

LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

<i>Don Scott</i>	Director	Ext. 238	dscott@swfrpc.org
<i>Ron Gogoi, AICP</i>	Deputy Director	Ext. 239	rgogoi@swfrpc.org
<i>Brian Raimondo</i>	Senior Planner	Ext. 211	braimondo@swfrpc.org
<i>Meghan Marion</i>	Public Relations Specialist/Planner	Ext. 219	mmarion@swfrpc.org



Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

1926 Victoria Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Phone: (239) 338-2550
Fax: (239) 338-2560

www.swfrpc.org



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