

1406 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Pl, Cape Coral, FL 33991-2910

P: 844.988.8244 | www.swfrpc.org

# COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

**December 19, 2024**

**10:00am – 12:00pm**

## In Person and Virtual Meeting

**LOCATION: SFWMD Office, 2301 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers Florida 33901**

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91588729954?pwd=OVerTVNQVVpRZjQrY1Jab1dpMDBPUT09>

**Join by phone: 1-929-205-6099**

**Meeting ID: 915 8872 9954**

**Passcode: 082520**

### ***Mission Statement:***

*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.*

<b>1</b>	<b>INVOCATION</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>	
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Two or more members of the Peace River Basin Management Advisory Committee and Coastal Heartland National Estuary Partnership may be in attendance and may discuss matters that could come before the Peace River Basin Management Advisory Committee and Coastal Heartland National Estuary Partnership, respectively, for consideration.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling (844) 988-8244; if you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice/(800) 955-8771 TDD.

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**UPCOMING SWFRPC MEETING DATE:**

**January 16, 2025**

Two or more members of the Peace River Basin Management Advisory Committee and Coastal Heartland National Estuary Partnership may be in attendance and may discuss matters that could come before the Peace River Basin Management Advisory Committee and Coastal Heartland National Estuary Partnership, respectively, for consideration.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling (844) 988-8244; if you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice/(800) 955-8771 TDD.

## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

### OFFICERS

Commissioner Bill McDaniel, Chair	Councilman Fred Burson, Vice-Chair
Councilwoman Debbi Lux, Secretary	Councilman Ron Smith, Treasurer

### CHARLOTTE COUNTY

### COLLIER COUNTY

Commissioner Joe Tiseo, Charlotte BCC	Commissioner Bill McDaniel, Collier BCC
Commissioner Ken Doherty, Charlotte BCC	Commissioner Rick LoCastro, Collier BCC
Councilwoman Dr. Deborah Lux, City of Punta Gorda	Councilman Bill Kramer, City of Naples
Mr. Donald McCormick, Governor Appointee (Governor Appointee Vacancy)	(City of Marco Island Vacancy) (Governor Appointee Vacancy) (Governor Appointee Vacancy)

### GLADES COUNTY

### HENDRY COUNTY

TBD, Glades BCC	Commissioner Emma Byrd, Hendry BCC
Commissioner Tim Stanley, Glades BCC (City of Moore Haven Vacancy) (Governor Appointee Vacancy)	Commissioner Mitchell Wills, Hendry BCC Vice-Mayor Greg Thompson, City of Clewiston (City of LaBelle Vacancy) Mr. Mel Karau, Governor Appointee

### LEE COUNTY

### SARASOTA COUNTY

Commissioner Kevin Ruane, Lee BCC	Commissioner Ron Cutsinger, Sarasota BCC
Commissioner Brian Hamman, Lee BCC	(Sarasota BCC Vacancy)
Councilman Fred Burson, City of Fort Myers	Mayor Erik Arroyo, City of Sarasota
Mayor Dan Allers, Town of Fort Myers Beach	Councilman Ron Smith, City of Venice
Councilman Jesse Purdon, City of Bonita Springs (Governor Appointee Vacancy) (Governor Appointee Vacancy)	(Governor Appointee Vacancy) (Governor Appointee Vacancy)

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

(Vacant), FDEP	Keith Robbins, FDOT
Phil Flood, SFWMD	(Vacant) SWFWMD

### STAFF

Margaret Wuerstle, Executive Director
Rebekah Harp, Deputy Director/Business Operations Manager
Asmaa Odeh, LEPC Coordinator/VISTA Program Coordinator
Jim Burch, Disaster Recovery Coordinator/Project Manager
Catherine Peralta - Vista
Julie Bankston – Vista
Sophia Mercer – Vista
Alysia Cancel - Vista



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## Regional Planning Council Functions and Programs

March 4, 2011

- **Economic Development Districts:** Regional planning councils are designated as Economic Development Districts by the U. S. Economic Development Administration. From January 2003 to August 2010, the U. S. Economic Development Administration invested \$66 million in 60 projects in the State of Florida to create/retain 13,700 jobs and leverage \$1 billion in private capital investment. Regional planning councils provide technical support to businesses and economic developers to promote regional job creation strategies.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Statewide Regional Evacuation:** Regional planning councils have special expertise in emergency planning and were the first in the nation to prepare a Statewide Regional Evacuation Study using a uniform report format and transportation evacuation modeling program. Regional planning councils have been preparing regional evacuation plans since 1981. Products in addition to evacuation studies include Post Disaster Redevelopment Plans, Hazard Mitigation Plans, Continuity of Operations Plans and Business Disaster Planning Kits.
- **Local Emergency Planning:** Local Emergency Planning Committees are staffed by regional planning councils and provide a direct relationship between the State and local businesses. Regional planning councils provide thousands of hours of training to local first responders annually. Local businesses have developed a trusted working relationship with regional planning council staff.
- **Homeland Security:** Regional planning council staff is a source of low cost, high quality planning and training experts that support counties and State agencies when developing a training course or exercise. Regional planning councils provide cost effective training to first responders, both public and private, in the areas of Hazardous Materials, Hazardous Waste, Incident Command, Disaster Response, Pre- and Post-Disaster Planning, Continuity of Operations and Governance. Several regional planning councils house Regional Domestic Security Task Force planners.
- **Multipurpose Regional Organizations:** Regional planning councils are Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions on multi-jurisdictional issues, support regional economic development and provide assistance to local governments.
- **Problem Solving Forum:** Issues of major importance are often the subject of regional planning council-sponsored workshops. Regional planning councils have convened regional summits and workshops on issues such as workforce housing, response to hurricanes, visioning and job creation.
- **Implementation of Community Planning:** Regional planning councils develop and maintain Strategic Regional Policy Plans to guide growth and development focusing on economic development, emergency preparedness, transportation, affordable housing and resources of regional significance. In addition, regional planning councils provide coordination and review of various programs such as Local Government Comprehensive Plans, Developments of Regional Impact and Power Plant Ten-year Siting Plans. Regional planning council reviewers have the local knowledge to conduct reviews efficiently and provide State agencies reliable local insight.



- **Local Government Assistance:** Regional planning councils are also a significant source of cost effective, high quality planning experts for communities, providing technical assistance in areas such as: grant writing, mapping, community planning, plan review, procurement, dispute resolution, economic development, marketing, statistical analysis, and information technology. Several regional planning councils provide staff for transportation planning organizations, natural resource planning and emergency preparedness planning.
- **Return on Investment:** Every dollar invested by the State through annual appropriation in regional planning councils generates 11 dollars in local, federal and private direct investment to meet regional needs.
- **Quality Communities Generate Economic Development:** Businesses and individuals choose locations based on the quality of life they offer. Regional planning councils help regions compete nationally and globally for investment and skilled personnel.
- **Multidisciplinary Viewpoint:** Regional planning councils provide a comprehensive, multidisciplinary view of issues and a forum to address regional issues cooperatively. Potential impacts on the community from development activities are vetted to achieve win-win solutions as council members represent business, government and citizen interests.
- **Coordinators and Conveners:** Regional planning councils provide a forum for regional collaboration to solve problems and reduce costly inter-jurisdictional disputes.
- **Federal Consistency Review:** Regional planning councils provide required Federal Consistency Review, ensuring access to hundreds of millions of federal infrastructure and economic development investment dollars annually.
- **Economies of Scale:** Regional planning councils provide a cost-effective source of technical assistance to local governments, small businesses and non-profits.
- **Regional Approach:** Cost savings are realized in transportation, land use and infrastructure when addressed regionally. A regional approach promotes vibrant economies while reducing unproductive competition among local communities.
- **Sustainable Communities:** Federal funding is targeted to regions that can demonstrate they have a strong framework for regional cooperation.
- **Economic Data and Analysis:** Regional planning councils are equipped with state of the art econometric software and have the ability to provide objective economic analysis on policy and investment decisions.
- **Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generators:** The Small Quantity Generator program ensures the proper handling and disposal of hazardous waste generated at the county level. Often smaller counties cannot afford to maintain a program without imposing large fees on local businesses. Many counties have lowered or eliminated fees, because regional planning council programs realize economies of scale, provide businesses a local contact regarding compliance questions and assistance and provide training and information regarding management of hazardous waste.
- **Regional Visioning and Strategic Planning:** Regional planning councils are conveners of regional visions that link economic development, infrastructure, environment, land use and transportation into long term investment plans. Strategic planning for communities and organizations defines actions critical to successful change and resource investments.
- **Geographic Information Systems and Data Clearinghouse:** Regional planning councils are leaders in geographic information systems mapping and data support systems. Many local governments rely on regional planning councils for these services.

## **SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (SWFRPC) ACRONYMS**

ABM - Agency for Bay Management - Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management

ADA - Application for Development Approval

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act

AMDA -Application for Master Development Approval

BEBR - Bureau of Economic Business and Research at the University of Florida

BLID - Binding Letter of DRI Status

BLIM - Binding Letter of Modification to a DRI with Vested Rights

BLIVR -Binding Letter of Vested Rights Status

BPCC -Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinating Committee

CAC - Citizens Advisory Committee

CAO - City/County Administrator Officers

CDBG - Community Development Block Grant

CDC - Certified Development Corporation (a.k.a. RDC)

CEDS - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (a.k.a. OEDP)

CHNEP - Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

CTC - Community Transportation Coordinator

CTD - Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

CUTR - Center for Urban Transportation Research

DEO - Department of Economic Opportunity

DEP - Department of Environmental Protection

DO - Development Order

DOPA - Designated Official Planning Agency (i.e. MPO, RPC, County, etc.)

EDA - Economic Development Administration

EDC - Economic Development Coalition

EDD - Economic Development District

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

FAC - Florida Association of Counties

FACTS - Florida Association of CTCs

FAR - Florida Administrative Register (formerly Florida Administrative Weekly)

FCTS - Florida Coordinated Transportation System

FDC&F -Florida Department of Children and Families (a.k.a. HRS)

FDEA - Florida Department of Elder Affairs

FDLES - Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security

FDOT - Florida Department of Transportation

FHREDI - Florida Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative

FIAM – Fiscal Impact Analysis Model

FLC - Florida League of Cities

FQD - Florida Quality Development

FRCA -Florida Regional Planning Councils Association

FTA - Florida Transit Association

IC&R - Intergovernmental Coordination and Review

IFAS - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida

JLCB - Joint Local Coordinating Boards of Glades & Hendry Counties

JPA - Joint Participation Agreement

JSA - Joint Service Area of Glades & Hendry Counties

LCB - Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged

LEPC - Local Emergency Planning Committee

MOA - Memorandum of Agreement

MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization

MPOAC - Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

MPOCAC - Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee

MPOTAC - Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee

NADO – National Association of Development Organizations

NARC -National Association of Regional Councils

NOPC -Notice of Proposed Change

OEDP - Overall Economic Development Program

PDA - Preliminary Development Agreement

REMI – Regional Economic Modeling Incorporated

RFB - Request for Bids

RFI – Request for Invitation

RFP - Request for Proposals

RPC - Regional Planning Council

SHIP -State Housing Initiatives Partnership

SRPP – Strategic Regional Policy Plan

TAC - Technical Advisory Committee

TDC - Transportation Disadvantaged Commission (a.k.a. CTD)

TDPN - Transportation Disadvantaged Planners Network

TDSP - Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

USDA - US Department of Agriculture

WMD - Water Management District (SFWMD and SWFWMD)

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Minutes

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\_\_\_\_\_ Agenda  
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Minutes of the Sept 19, 2024  
Council/Executive Committee  
Meeting

6a

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
September 19, 2024, MEETING**

The virtual zoom meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council’s Executive Board was held on September 19, 2024. Collier County Commissioner and Council Chair, Mr. Bill McDaniel called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. There was a quorum of the Executive Committee present.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Charlotte County:** Mr. Don McCormick (zoom)

**Collier County:** Commissioner Bill McDaniel  
Councilman Bill Kramer - City of Naples (zoom)

**Glades County:** None

**Hendry County:** None

**Lee County:** Councilman Fred Burson – City of Fort Myers

**Sarasota County:** Councilman Ron Smith – City of Venice

**Ex-Officio Members:** Mr. Phil Flood, SFWMD

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ms. Margaret Wuerstle - Executive Director, SWFRPC  
Ms. Rebekah Harp – SWFRPC  
Ms. Catherine Peralta – SWFRPC Vista  
Ms. Sofia Mercer – SWFRPC Vista  
Ms. Alyssia Cancel – SWFRPC Vista



## AGENDA #5

**Councilman Fred Burson offered a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.**

### AGENDA ITEM #6(a) MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2024, COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE MEETING

**Councilman Fred Burson offered a motion to approve the July 18, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to approve the July 18, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.**

### AGENDA ITEM #7(a) FINANCIALS: Proposed FY24/25 Budget

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the budget is conservative, based solely on known grants and contracts, without projections. Initially, the budget showed an end balance of \$53,000, but it now shows \$169,000 due to the incorporation of \$288,000 in reserves, which offsets a \$118,000 income loss.

Commissioner McDaniel acknowledges the improvement from the previous version of the budget, thanks to the inclusion of reserves. Both Ms. Wuerstle and Commissioner McDaniel expressed hope for additional grants to further improve the financial outlook. The reserves, which are unrestricted, can be used for operational deficits.

Commissioner McDaniel notes that the current budget provides about a year of stability, even though it's not fully satisfactory. Mr. McCormick commends Margaret and Rebekah for preparing an effective budget.

**Councilman Fred Burson offered a motion to approve the Proposed FY24/25 Budget. Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to approve the Proposed FY24/25 Budget. The motion was approved unanimously.**

### AGENDA ITEM #7(b) FINANCIALS: April – August Financials

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the organization's financials were concerning earlier in the year, with reserves down to \$134,000 in April. However, by August, reserves had improved to over \$288,000, following a typical financial cycle. Ms. Harp added that more income will be

recognized as several grants close out in September and October, including a possible \$150,000 from a USDA grant.

Commissioner McDaniel raised concerns about the high consulting fees, particularly for a Brownfield grant, where \$300,000 is being paid to a consultant. He questioned the viability of such expenses, suggesting that internal resources or other counties could potentially handle some of the work to save costs. Commissioner McDaniel also requested a detailed breakdown of income, expenses, consultant fees, salaries, and staff structure.

Ms. Wuerstle clarified that while consultants do most of the work, the organization benefits by receiving administrative funds from grants, helping improve the RPC's financial standing. McDaniel emphasized the need for better income streams and suggested that the organization should carefully evaluate grant opportunities and the costs of managing them.

The discussion also touched on the potential for collaboration with other counties to share resources and reduce costs. Ms. Wuerstle stated that while the organization must contract with consultants for site assessments, such arrangements still benefit local communities, and the brownfield grant was submitted at the request of Glades County.

**Councilman Fred Burson offered a motion to approve the April – August Financials.  
Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to approve the April – August Financials.  
The motion was approved unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM #8  
CONSENT AGENDA: None**

**AGENDA ITEM #9  
DIRECTORS REPORT**

Ms. Wuerstle brought up a request from the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council to appoint a new representative, as the previous appointee, Ms. Williams, has not participated for some time. The council is struggling to establish quorums, and they asked either for a new appointment or for the organization to withdraw its membership. Ms. Wuerstle informed the group that they lack the resources to assign someone but wanted input before making a final decision.

Commissioner McDaniel agreed that no one is available or willing to serve and suggested they decline the seat on the council, citing the organization's upcoming reorganization. He added that they can reconsider in the future if the organization grows in membership. The group concurred and Ms. Wuerstle confirmed that she would communicate their decision to the council.

**AGENDA ITEM #9(a)(b)(c)**  
**Executive Director's Contract**  
**Executive Directors Compensation Matrix**  
**Attorney General Opinion: Planning Council Member Must Pay its Share of Dues**

Ms. Wuerstle presented her employment contract for review, which had not been updated since 2018. Commissioner McDaniel pointed out that the contract should have been reviewed annually but wasn't, likely due to disruptions like COVID-19. The group agreed to conduct a performance review by the end of the year, and Ms. Wuerstle will send previous review samples to all members.

Upon the arrival of Councilman Ron Smith there was also additional discussion about the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council appointment, with Councilman Smith expressing interest in more information. The group decided to withdraw their seat for now, with the possibility of rejoining later.

Finally, the board discussed whether to hold a retreat for reorganization. Most members, including Commissioner McDaniel, expressed disinterest in a retreat until reorganization is completed. The topic of an Attorney General opinion from 1995, which states counties must pay their assessments, was also briefly touched upon but dismissed by Commissioner McDaniel as not actionable.

**AGENDA ITEM #9(d)(e)(f)**  
**FRCA Monthly Activity Report – July 2024**  
**FRCA Monthly Activity Report – August 2024**  
**Promise Zone Grants (Informational)**

Commissioner McDaniel asks about the FRCA Monthly Activity Report and the Promise Zone. Ms. Wuerstle highlighted that while \$42 million in grants for the Promise Zone were denied, significant effort was made in applying for them. Despite the denials, \$5 million in grants have been successfully secured. She also mentioned the RPC's ongoing work, including the Rural Regional Development Grants for FHERO, which have been approved, and stated that the RPC is waiting news on a \$500,000 NOAA grant for the shrimp industry.

**AGENDA ITEM #9(g)**  
**Government Fund History (Informational)**

Commissioner McDaniel asked about the report on governmental funding activity. Ms. Harp explained that it is an historical overview of income and net balances, showing how funding has changed over the years. Commissioner McDaniel noted that in 2006, the organization received \$3.2 million from grants and membership fees. Ms. Wuerstle explained that was before her time. The organization received annual state funding of around \$250,000, which ended in 2012 when the governor vetoed it, leading to a significant drop in funds. There were no further questions or comments on the report.

**AGENDA ITEM #10  
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No Committee Reports were given.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

There was no update given.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(b)  
QUALITY OF LIFE & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

There was no update given.

**AGENDA ITEM #11  
NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Flood asked Commissioner McDaniel if he had heard back from the governor's office. Commissioner McDaniel replied that he had not received any communication, despite previous promises from a lawyer who said the governor's chief of staff would reach out. He mentioned calling again without success. Following this, Commissioner McDaniel moved on to hear from state agencies.

**AGENDA ITEM #12  
STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Mr. Flood announced that the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) will hold a series of workshops about water quality for Lake Okeechobee, the west coast, and the east coast. A meeting focused on the Caloosahatchee River and Everglades' west coast will be held in Fort Myers on October 22nd at 9 AM, with another in LaBelle that afternoon. Registration is not required, as the events are in-person only.

Mr. Flood also mentioned that \$53 million was awarded to build a new field station in Clewiston. He provided updates on legislative meetings, which begin in December ahead of the March 4th session. Florida's economy is currently strong, with a \$2 billion surplus expected for the next fiscal year. However, a \$3 billion shortfall is anticipated the following year. Mr. Flood encouraged local governments to begin planning legislative funding requests.

### **AGENDA ITEM #13 COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Councilman Kramer discussed a long-awaited \$120 million stormwater project in Southwest Florida, which includes upgrading the current gravity system with backflow preventers and pump stations, enhancing the stormwater management system. Commissioner McDaniel supported the effort.

Councilman Smith expressed his disappointment in the previous workshop meeting, where he hoped for more guidance on the organization's direction. He also shared frustrations over his city's refusal to pay dues for the organization, despite his efforts.

Commissioner McDaniel outlined his upcoming plan to reorganize the SWFRPC structure by amending bylaws and engaging local counties and municipalities. He intends to get county commissioners to support the RPC's financial stability and regional collaboration, and to enhance participation across counties. Other council members express support for these initiatives.

### **AGENDA ITEM #14 ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.  
Full audio is available: September 19, 2024 Zoom

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Councilwoman Debi Lux, Secretary

**The meeting was duly advertised in the September 6, 2024, issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 50, Number 175.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Agenda  
\_\_\_\_\_ Item  
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Minutes of the Qev19, 2024  
Council/Executive Committee  
Meeting

6d

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
October 17, 2024, MEETING**

The virtual zoom meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council’s Executive Board was held on October 17, 2024. Collier County Commissioner and Council Chair, Mr. Bill McDaniel called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. There was a quorum of the Executive Committee present.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Charlotte County:** Mr. Don McCormick (zoom)

**Collier County:** Commissioner Bill McDaniel  
Councilman Bill Kramer - City of Naples (zoom)

**Glades County:** Commissioner, Tim Stanley (zoom)

**Hendry County:** None

**Lee County:** None

**Sarasota County:** Councilman Ron Smith – City of Venice

**Ex-Officio Members:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ms. Margaret Wuerstle - Executive Director, SWFRPC  
Ms. Catherine Peralta – SWFRPC Vista

**Commissioner Bill McDaniel offered a motion to allow online members to participate and vote. Councilman Ron Smith seconded the motion to allow online members to participate and vote. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **AGENDA**

### **AGENDA ITEM #6(a) MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2024, COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Councilman Ron Smith noted that the minutes are not formatted in the usual summary style typically found in the packet. He recommended tabling the minutes to allow staff time to review and summarize them.

**Councilman Ron Smith offered a motion to table the September 19, 2024, meeting minutes until a future meeting. Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to table the September 19, 2024, meeting minutes until a future meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.**

### **AGENDA ITEM #7(a) FINANCIALS: September Financials**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that we finished the year with a smaller deficit than expected—\$35,770, compared to the anticipated \$160,000 to \$170,000. This improvement is due to receiving reimbursements and closing out some grants. Ms. Wuerstle explained that we need to approve both the financials and the budget amendment, which will transfer funds and zero out the accounts.

Commissioner McDaniel asked for clarification as to why there was a better-than-expected financial circumstances.

Ms. Wuerstle responded and explained that our better than anticipated end of the year financials is due to grants that we were able to close out and get reimbursement for. Ms. Wuerstle continued to explain that the federal agencies are much faster for reimbursements than the State. The State can take months to reimburse for grants. Ms. Wuerstle continued that we were able to get all of our reimbursements back from both the State and federal government, which put us in a much better position.

Commissioner McDaniel asked for clarification on the accounts receivable amount of \$119,000 on the balance sheet, page 38.

Ms. Wuerstle responded that it is for assessments and grant receivables. Ms. Wuerstle pointed out that Rebekah prepared a cheat sheet for the grants that outlines what grants we have, what goes to contractors and the length of the grants.



Commissioner McDaniels questioned if the accounts receivables is based off of the old interlocal agreement and MOU from a revenue standpoint or are using the proposed yet to be accepted and adopted MOU interlocal agreement?

Ms. Wuerstle stated that before we can use the new interlocal agreement assessment amounts, we will need all 6 counties to sign off on it, so it's based off of the old one. Ms. Wuerstle explained that we still send out invoices for the assessments.

Commissioner McDaniel would like staff to prepare a draft comparison of assessment receivables from the current (old) interlocal agreement assessment rates to the new proposed rates.

Ms. Wuerstle asked Commissioner McDaniel to ask his county attorney if we in fact need all six signatures or does the majority count.

Commissioner McDaniels replied that yes he would bring it to his attorney. McDaniels reviewed the updates to the membership in the new proposed Interlocal agreement, bylaws and MOU. Commissioner McDaniels reemphasized the importance of bringing the comparison of the current and proposed assessments so that there can be budgetary adjustments made.

**Councilman Ron Smith offered a motion to accept the September financials. Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to accept the September financials. The motion was accepted unanimously.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM #7(b)**

#### **FINANCIALS: FY23-24 Fiscal Year End Closeout Budget Amendment**

**Councilman Ron Smith offered a motion to accept the FY23-24 Fiscal Year End Closeout Budget Amendment. Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to accept the FY23-24 Fiscal Year End Closeout Budget Amendment. The motion was accepted unanimously.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM #8**

**CONSENT AGENDA: None**

**AGENDA ITEM #9  
DIRECTORS REPORT**

Commissioner McDaniel asked what the status is regarding the Executive Director's performance evaluation.

Ms. Wuerstle responded that we have only received two. One from Mel Karu and the other from Bill Kramer.

Commissioner McDaniel requested that staff send the members a notice to have the performance evaluations submitted by the December meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #9(a)(b)  
Executive Director's Evaluation  
Executive Directors Compensation Matrix (Informational)**

**AGENDA ITEM #9(c)  
FRCA Monthly Activity Report – September 2024 (Informational)**

**AGENDA ITEM #9(d)  
Government Fund History (Informational)**

**AGENDA ITEM #10  
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

There was no update given.

**AGENDA ITEM #11  
NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner McDaniel explained that in September he was successful at getting his board to unanimously accept and approve the draft MOU, interlocal and bylaws. Collier County is now back in active membership.

Commissioner McDaniel requested that the active members take the draft MOU, interlocal, and bylaws back to their boards for approval.

Councilman Kramer asked if he was given a copy of all the draft documents. Commissioner McDaniel believed it was sent out, however he can have his executive assistant send it out to anyone who needs a copy.

Councilman Kramer stated that he did receive it and ran it through finance and city attorney, and all were in agreeance. Councilman Kramer asked if he needed to bring it to his council for approval.

Commissioner McDaniel would like the City of Naples council to vote and approve and accept the draft and sign on when it is official. Commissioner McDaniel asked Councilman Kramer to send an email to his executive assistant and she will send over the executive summary that was presented to the Collier County board, which was ultimately approved and accepted.

Commissioner McDaniel offered to come to the December City of Naples board meeting to help with answering questions. Councilman Kramer responded that he would be happy to have him there.

Commissioner McDaniel asked if any other members are online.

Commissioner Stanley responded that they are still active paying members.

Commissioner McDaniel asked if the draft MOU, interlocal and bylaws have been brought before the Glades County board.

Commissioner Stanley responded that they have not.

Commissioner McDaniel asked Commissioner Stanely to send him an email and his executive assistant will also send him the executive summary. Commissioner McDaniel requested that Glades County add a formal agenda item to an upcoming meeting to review the draft MOU, interlocal and bylaws. Commissioner McDaniel explained that he will attend the meeting to answer any questions.

Commissioner Stanley responded that he would do so, however there are new commissioners coming in late November so it would be sometime after that.

Councilman Ron Smith would like to commend and acknowledge Glades County's active membership and that it should be less controversial for their board's approval.

Commissioner McDaniel stated that we will treat all boards equally. He continued to explain that he does not know any of the members from the Sarasota County board. Commissioner McDaniel asked Councilman Smith to provide any recommendation of who he can speak with from Sarasota County.

Councilman Smith responded that he would do so.

Councilman McDaniel brought up the last council meeting, recalling that the City of Venice did not agree to pay.

Councilman Smith acknowledged and stated that they voted not to pay and that he has since then circulated the Attorney General's opinion to the council, city manager and the finance director and he plans to bring it back up. There is a re-election for two members in November, which might bring in a new board so that he can bring it back in December. At which Councilman Smith would like to invite Commissioner McDaniel to come speak.

Commissioner McDaniel responded that he would love to be there and requested that Councilman Smith provide a contact for one of the commissioners in Sarasota County so that we can get on their agenda and hopefully schedule a time for him to present to the Sarasota County board.

Commissioner McDaniel opened the discussion regarding the meeting in November.

Councilman Smith recommended that the RPC forgo the meeting in November and meet in December, unless Margaret has any pressing business that would require us to meet in November.

Ms. Wuerstle responded that there were no pressing issues.

**Councilman Ron Smith offered a motion to forgo the meeting in November and continue the meeting in December. Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to forgo the meeting in November and continue the meeting in December. The motion was accepted unanimously.**

Commissioner McDaniel stated for the record that it was mentioned that the Department of Transportation has built a new building by I-75. Commissioner McDaniel has not spoken to Wayne Gaither regarding access there for our future meetings and attending as the DOT representative.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #12 STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS**

None.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #13 COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Councilman Smith would like to commend our chair for bringing Collier County back in the fold as dues paying members of this important regional planning council. He is excited about the plan to meet with each and every county first and then the cities to educate and invite back full participation and he looks forward to this revitalized council.

Commissioner McDaniel responded that he is pleased with the outcome and that regionality is paramount. Commissioner McDaniel requested that the mission/vision be sent to him that were aligned several months ago for this organization. He continues to explain that when he

goes to speak to the boards (counties and cities) he will create a PowerPoint with the discussion points that will be brought forward.

Ms. Wuerstle asked for clarification that it is not the mission statement of the organization, but the four items that the board decided to focus on.

Commissioner McDaniel responded that is correct.

Commissioner McDaniel asked if anyone online would like to add anything.

Mr. McCormick would like to commend the chair for what he is doing and is excited for the future of this council.

Commissioner Stanely stated that he is also excited for the future of the board.

Ms. Wuerstle would like to bring up that after Hurricane Ian, representatives from the Dutch embassy visited to discuss our concerns and offered to collaborate on identifying real, sustainable solutions beyond just adding sand to the beach. Given the challenges seen at Fort Myers Beach, are we interested in reaching out to them again to see what they have to offer and explore their potential contributions?

Commissioner McDaniel responded that he would certainly like to hear solutions from the Dutch Embassy of the Netherlands to know how they deal with their communities would certainly be a benefit. Commissioner McDaniel expressed that he would be willing to schedule an independent meeting to get a report on some of the action items that they have done.

Commissioner McDaniel continued to explain that the primary goal is to reestablish an organization that can exist more than month to month or year to year. The ultimate goal, after we are successful in bringing our membership back in the fold, is to have one or two organizational meetings where we make the final adjustments to the MOU and inter local agreement deciding who can be members and who cannot. There is no rationale for reducing the municipality's out of the membership, especially since there is no authority with regard to the council's existence in upcoming developments within our communities. We want as many members as possible. Once that is established, Commissioner McDaniels plan is to move to quarterly meetings and have subject matter and subject matter speakers come and present to us. It would be scheduled for a half day, with an hour presentation and an hour or so for conducting our business as a council, and then have a lunch provided so that we can socialize and talk further about what we are going to do going forward.

Councilman Kramer stated that it sounded like a great idea and gives us something to sell that is more concrete. Looking for best practices, even if they are from Europe, I think that's brilliant, and the fact is we have the same issues. Councilman Kramer also mentioned that they had issues with Hurricane Helene that washed their berm almost flat, and they couldn't get it put back in time for Hurricane Milton. Then we were breached with Milton. We are down to five

feet of sand on Gordon Drive and Gulf Shore streets with just a big pile of sand. It will be nice to bring back to my council and explain the plan going forward. Knowing we must build the foundation first, but none the less it, it puts a bullet in the gun for anyone questioning “what’s that group going to do”? For example, we are going to collaborate with whoever has the best practices and believes this is a good idea.

Commissioner McDaniel explained to Tim Stanley that he is part of a 16-county coalition focused on addressing water quality issues related to Lake Okeechobee. On the west side of Florida, the Western Everglades Restoration Project is underway, with the district constructing various structures to improve water quality. The goal is to enhance water quality as it flows out of Lake Okeechobee and into the Caloosahatchee River. This issue folds back to our points of interest of water, water, and water - water quality and water quantity. Commissioner McDaniels Montra today and going forward is what does width, breadth and depth create? The answer is volume. One of the things we do know is that it’s not about stacking sand on the beach and hoping that the next tile surge doesn’t take it out. It’s about creating the volume that exists in both our natural waterways and in our canal systems. Commissioner McDaniel recalls a conversation with a councilman from Osceola County, where they discussed the three feet of "sludge" at the bottom of Lake Okeechobee. The councilman corrected him, explaining it's called "legacy sediment". Commissioner McDaniel explained that removing this sediment could create more volume within the lake, reducing the need for human management. Commissioner McDaniel also mentioned that similar issues occur in coastal waterways, and advocate for more regular dredging to improve and open our inland waterways. This would help prevent flooding when tidal surges occur, ensuring water has a place to go. During tidal surges, water flows along the coast until it finds gaps, which then flood inland waterways. These waterways are constrained by legacy sediment. To prevent flooding, Commissioner McDaniel suggests creating more volume within existing waterways and strengthening beachheads with proper dune systems. This would allow the waterways to better handle surges, reducing the risk of flooding for residents by keeping the water within the existing boundaries of the communities' waterways. Commissioner McDaniel continues to explain that we took on significant damage caused by surges during Ian, Helene, and Milton. While a foot of water may seem less than five feet, it still causes severe damage, disrupts lives, and can turn everything upside down for those affected.

Commissioner McDaniel explained that he had an idea to create volume within our existing waterways along the coastal area. A suggestion of a continuous dredging operation of offshore dredging to move sand onto our beaches on a regular basis so we are continually fortifying higher and wider beaches to better manage the next inevitable storm surge. The combination of those things is going to take a group effort. Commissioner McDaniel continues to explain that it's going to take a force like the RPC to be able to move the regulators off of the permitting requisites to be able to allow us to move the available sands that we have offshore back onto our beaches and then certainly the proper disposal of the legacy sediment, once it's in fact removed from our from our waterways.

Councilman Kramer added that Commissioner McDaniel called out the elephant in the room -- the regulators. We can get best practices from anywhere, but by the time we get through the bureaucracy after having six storms. Councilman Kramer continues to acknowledge and agree that a united front and that there's enough juice in this area at a federal level that we can get stuff done if we need to. Councilman Kramer shares that they actually got the permission to put the sand back and they gave them the discretion to make sure it was clean enough instead of having to go through that process. So that shows that it's possible that we can get stuff done quickly if we need to.

Commissioner McDaniel agreed and explained that Collier County and Naples have been blessed to avoid a title surge event for the past 61 years. Commissioner McDaniel continued, emphasizing that proper planning with dune structures to better retain sand is essential when the inevitable surge occurs. We just need a few minor adjustments to the regulatory process to enable us to carry out these efforts on a more regular basis. As a strong front of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, we can turn some heads as a group far better than any one individual standing up there in front of them.

Ms. Wuerstle added that Marco Island is building man made islands to address water quality issues and asked if anyone has heard or seen anything regarding this? Ms. Wuerstle explained it was a short segment on the news and that it sounded like an interesting idea, however she hasn't had a chance to follow up yet.

Commissioner McDaniel responded that he had not heard anything about it but he would look into it and stated that Commissioner Locastro would most likely know more about it. Commissioner McDaniel stated that he did hear about some suggestions about dredging efforts within the waterways within the community and building manmade islands out of the legacy sediment that is in the existing canal structures. Due to the size of the waterways, there are certain areas where these efforts can't be implemented. Commissioner McDaniel continued to explain that the majority of Port Royal is man-made. They built that area by constructed canals, dredged, and legacy sediments pumped out to create the land. Similarly, Marco Island itself is primarily man-made, formed from legacy sediments removed from the waterways. Other waterfront communities in Collier County, such as Aqualine Shores and Royal Harbor, also fall into this category.

Commissioner McDaniel continued, noting that this was merely a suggestion, and he recalled dredging efforts in Lake Okeechobee in the past. He emphasized that without consistent dredging, the sediment quickly returns. The consistency and location of the sediment are crucial to success. One issue he pointed out is that the sediment on the bottom constantly shifts. For example, if a canal or a deeper section is cut through the main waterway, the legacy sediment along the sides will inevitably shift, refilling the channel. As a result, dredging must be repeated over time. Eventually, this process creates greater width, breadth, and depth, increasing the volume of the waterway. However, from a dredging perspective, the primary focus remains on maintaining the main navigable channel, whether it is a natural waterway or a man-made canal. But it has to be done regularly and consistently. A one-time dredging effort

may provide some benefit, but it is not the ultimate solution. To truly create the necessary volume to accommodate additional water, dredging must be an ongoing process. Regular and consistent dredging is the only way to achieve the long-term volume required.

**AGENDA ITEM #14**  
**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

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Councilwoman Debi Lux, Secretary

**The meeting was duly advertised in the October 12, 2024, issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 50, Number 202.**



# Agenda

## Item

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## Financials

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\_\_\_\_\_ Item

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Qevqber Financials

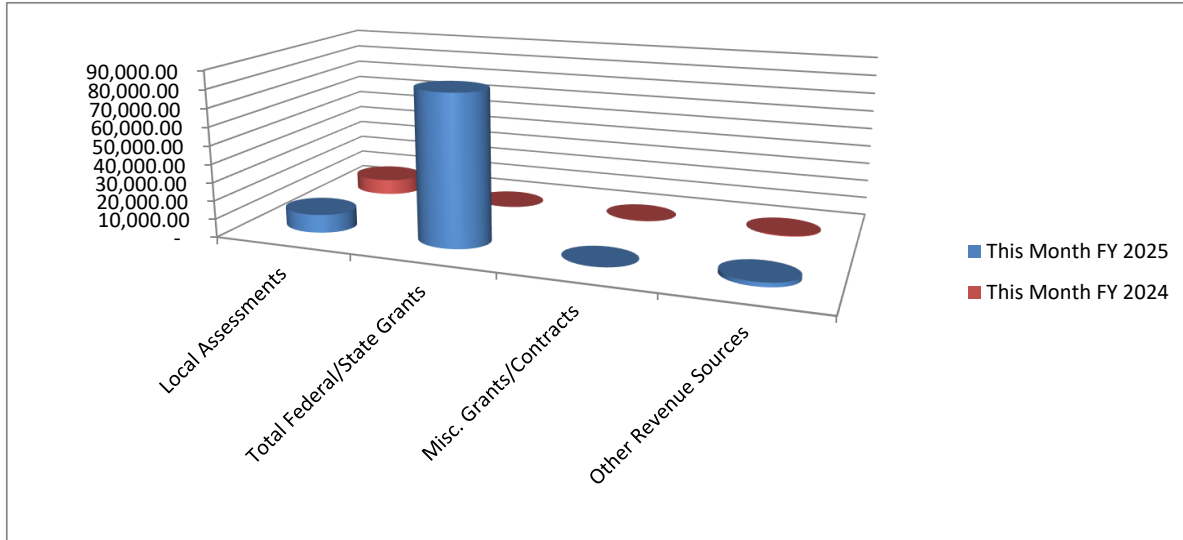
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## 2024 - 2025 Workplan & Budget Financial Snapshot Oct-24

**Revenues**

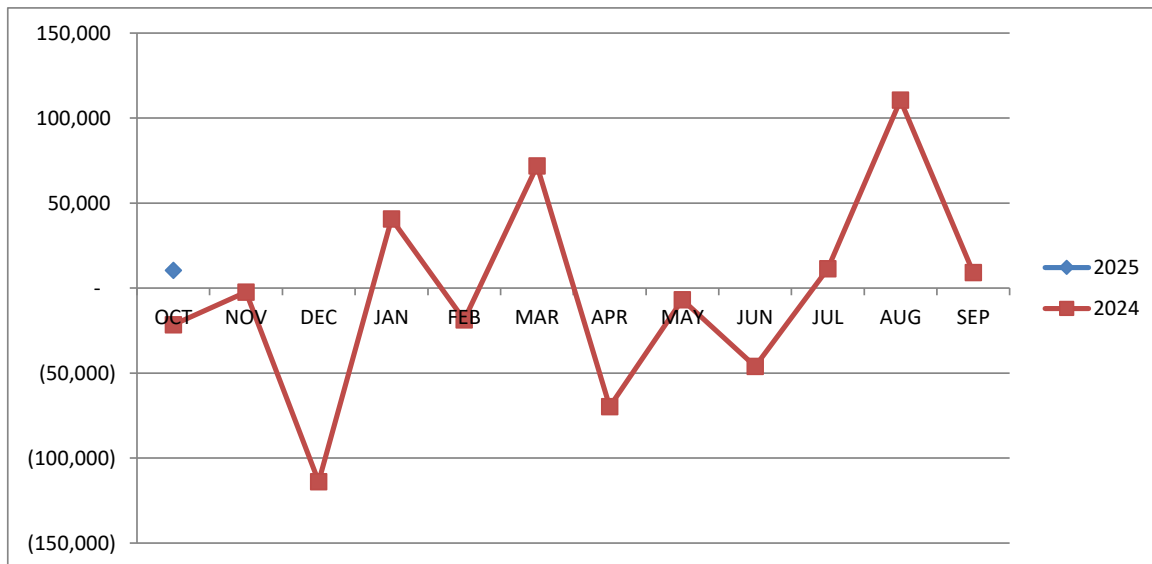
- Local Assessments
- Total Federal/State Grants
- Misc. Grants/Contracts
- Other Revenue Sources

**Monthly Revenues**



Notes: Local Assessments billed at the beginning of each quarter: October, January, April and July  
 State/Federal Grants billed quarterly: LEPC, HMEP  
 Federal Grants billed Semi Annually: Economic Development  
 Misc. Grants/Contracts billed by deliverable: Interagency PO'S  
 Other(DRI) billed /recorded monthly as cost reimbursement

**Monthly Net Income (Loss)**



**YTD: Net Income \$10,441 Unaudited**

SWFRPC  
Detail of Reserve  
As of October 31, 2024

***Cash and Cash Equivalents:***

Petty Cash	\$	200
FineMark Operating Funds		<u>36,372</u>
<b><i>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</i></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>36,572</b>

***Investments:***

FineMark Money Market	\$	51,280
Local government Surplus Trust Fund Investment Pool (Fund A)		<u>93,914</u>
<b><i>Total Investments</i></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>145,195</b>

Total Reserves		<u><u>\$</u></u>	<u>181,767</u>
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**SWFRPC INCOME STATEMENT  
COMPARED WITH BUDGET  
FOR THE ONE MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2024**

	Current Month	Year to Date A	FY 24-25 Approved Budget B	% Of Budget Year to Date	Budget Remaining
<b>REVENUES</b>					
<b>LOCAL ASSESSMENTS</b>					
GLADES COUNTY	944	944	3,777	25%	\$ 2,833
CITY OF NAPLES	1,448	1,448	5,792	0%	\$ 1,446
CITY OF FORT MYERS	7,328	7,328	29,313	25%	\$ 21,985
TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH INC	244	244	977	25%	\$ 733
CITY VENICE (*10/17/24 Not Participating)	-	-	8,338	0%	\$ 8,338
<b>TOTAL LOCAL ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 9,965</b>	<b>\$ 9,965</b>	<b>\$ 48,197</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>\$ 35,334</b>
<b>FEDERAL / STATE GRANTS</b>					
DEM - LEPC 23/24				#DIV/0!	\$ -
DEM - LEPC 24/25			90,000	N/A	\$ 90,000
DEM - HMEP 22/25			30,724	0%	\$ 30,724
DEM - Lee/Collier Hazard Analysis 24/25			9,462	0%	\$ 9,462
EDA - CEDS Planning 23-25			100,000	0%	\$ 100,000
EDA - Disaster Recovery Coordinator Ian			71,084	0%	\$ 71,084
FDEP - Marco Island Vulnerability			9,000	0%	\$ 9,000
EPA - Brownfields			191,410	0%	\$ 191,410
USDA - Regional Food Systems - USDA	82,112	82,112	209,448	39%	\$ 127,336
Vista Supervisor			19,637	0%	\$ 19,637
Promise Zone		-	-	N/A	\$ -
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL / STATE GRANTS</b>	<b>\$ 82,112</b>	<b>\$ 82,112</b>	<b>\$ 730,765</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>\$ 648,653</b>
<b>MISC. GRANTS / CONTRACTS/CONTRACTUAL</b>					
CHNEP Calendar 2025	-	-	5,000	N/A	\$ -
HERO	-	-	8,000	0%	\$ 8,000
<b>TOTAL MISC. GRANTS/CONTRACTS</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 8,000</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$ 8,000</b>
<b>DRIS/NOPCS/MONITORING</b>					
DRI MONITORING FEES	-	-	-	N/A	\$ -
DRIS/NOPCS INCOME	1,875	1,875	21,000	N/A	\$ 19,125
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,875</b>	<b>\$ 1,875</b>	<b>\$ 21,000</b>		<b>\$ 19,125</b>
<b>Program Development (Unsecured Grants/Contract)</b>					
*Program Development (Unsecured)	-	-	-	100%	\$ -
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE SOURCES</b>					
Misc. Income	-	-	400	0%	\$ 400
INTEREST INCOME - Money Market	9	9	800	1%	\$ 791
Fund A Investment Income	400	400	800	50%	\$ 400

	Current Month	Year to Date A	FY 24-25 Approved Budget B	% Of Budget Year to Date	Budget Remaining
<b>TOTAL OTHER REVENUE SOURCES</b>	\$ 409	\$ 409	\$ 2,000	20%	\$ 1,591
<i>Fund Balance</i>	\$ -	\$ -			
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 94,361</b>	<b>\$ 94,361</b>	<b>\$ 809,962</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>\$ 712,703</b>

### EXPENSES

PERSONNEL EXPENSES					
SALARIES EXPENSE	\$ 17,277	\$ 17,277	\$ 280,758	6%	\$ 263,481
FICA EXPENSE	1,309	1,309	23,339	6%	\$ 22,030
RETIREMENT EXPENSE	(1,101)	(1,101)	84,346	-1%	\$ 85,447
HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE	3,024	3,024	38,520	8%	\$ 35,496
WORKERS COMP. EXPENSE	-	-	1,011	0%	\$ 1,011
UNEMPLOYMENT COMP. EXPENSE	-	-	-	N/A	-
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 20,509</b>	<b>\$ 20,510</b>	<b>\$ 427,974</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>407,464</b>

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES					
CONSULTANTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,625	0%	\$ 12,625
GRANT/CONSULTING EXPENSE	46,200	46,200	376,824	12%	\$ 330,624
AUDIT SERVICES EXPENSE	1,000	1,000	30,000	3%	\$ 29,000
TRAVEL EXPENSE	-	-	23,000	0%	\$ 23,000
TELEPHONE EXPENSE	1	1	-	#DIV/0!	\$ (1)
POSTAGE / SHIPPING EXPENSE	-	-	-	N/A	\$ -
INSURANCE EXPENSE	104	104	7,044	1%	\$ 6,940
PRINTING/REPRODUCTION EXPENSE	-	-	1,000	0%	\$ 1,000
ADVERTISING/LEGAL NOTICES EXP	14,927	14,927	1,600	933%	\$ (13,327)
OTHER MISC. EXPENSE	-	-	500	0%	\$ 500
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	97	97	800	N/A	\$ 703
OFFICE SUPPLIES EXPENSE	183	183	1,000	18%	\$ 817
COMPUTER RELATED EXPENSE	790	790	21,947	4%	\$ 21,157
DUES AND MEMBERSHIP	-	-	2,699	0%	\$ 2,699
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	-	-	-	N/A	\$ -
MEETINGS/EVENTS EXPENSE	108	108	2,000	5%	\$ 1,892
CAPITAL OUTLAY - OPERATIONS	-	-	-	N/A	\$ -
UNCOLLECTABLE RECEIVABLES	-	-	-	N/A	\$ -
FUND BALANCE			\$ 453,577		
<b>OPERATIONAL EXP.</b>	<b>\$ 63,410</b>	<b>\$ 63,410</b>	<b>\$ 934,616</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>417,629</b>

	Current Month	Year to Date A	FY 24-25 Approved Budget B	% Of Budget Year to Date	Budget Remaining
TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXP.			\$ 934,616		
TOTAL CASH OUTLAY	\$ 83,919	\$ 83,920	\$ 1,362,590		\$ 825,093
NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u>\$ 10,441</u>	<u>\$ 10,441</u>			

SWFRPC  
Balance Sheet  
October 31, 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash - Florida Prime	\$	93,914.15
Cash - FineMark Oper.		36,372.00
Cash - FineMark MM		51,280.45
Petty Cash		200.00
Accounts Receivable		125,602.49
Transfer of Funds		30.00
		<hr/>
Total Current Assets		307,399.09
Property and Equipment		
Property, Furniture & Equip		43,026.31
Accumulated Depreciation		(43,025.31)
		<hr/>
Total Property and Equipment		1.00
Other Assets		
Amount t.b.p. for L.T.L.-Leave		41,305.44
FSA Deposit		0.29
Amt t.b.p. for L.T.Debt-OPEB		1,681.00
		<hr/>
Total Other Assets		42,986.73
		<hr/>
Total Assets	\$	<u><u>350,386.82</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities		
Deferred_Palmer_Ranch_5362	\$	13,125.00
FICA Taxes Payable		1,216.41
Federal W/H Tax Payable		(2,576.20)
United way Payable		322.00
Deferred Compensation Payable		100.00
FSA Payable		(489.55)
LEPC Contingency Fund		305.25
		<hr/>
Total Current Liabilities		12,002.91
Long-Term Liabilities		
Accrued Annual Leave		41,305.44
Long Term Debt - OPEB		1,681.00
		<hr/>
Total Long-Term Liabilities		42,986.44
		<hr/>
Total Liabilities		54,989.35
Capital		
Fund Balance-Unassigned		(229,044.02)
Fund Balance-Assigned		514,000.00
Net Income		10,441.49
		<hr/>
Total Capital		295,397.47
		<hr/>
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$	<u><u>350,386.82</u></u>



# Agenda

## Item

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## Assessment Comparison

Per Capita: Current (\$.30) Proposed (\$.15)

MEMBER	POPULATION 2023 (BEBR Estimates)	CURRENT ASSESSMENT .30/Capita	Quarterly Assessment	PROPOSED ASSESSMENT .15/Capita	Quarterly Assessment
Charlotte County	204,126	\$ 61,237.80	\$ 15,309.45	\$ 30,618.90	\$ 2,296.42
Collier County	380,174	\$ 114,052.20	\$ 28,513.05	\$ 57,026.10	\$ 4,276.96
City of Naples	19,306	\$ 5,791.80	\$ 1,447.95	\$ 2,895.90	\$ 217.19
Glades County	12,591	\$ 3,777.30	\$ 944.33	\$ 1,888.65	\$ 141.65
Hendry County	40,895	\$ 12,268.50	\$ 3,067.13	\$ 6,134.25	\$ 460.07
Lee County	700,023	\$ 210,006.90	\$ 52,501.73	\$ 105,003.45	\$ 7,875.26
City of Fort Myers	97,711	\$ 29,313.30	\$ 7,328.33	\$ 14,656.65	\$ 1,099.25
Town of FM Beach	3,255	\$ 976.50	\$ 244.13	\$ 488.25	\$ 36.62
Sarasota County	436,430	\$ 130,929.00	\$ 32,732.25	\$ 65,464.50	\$ 4,909.84
City of Venice	27,793	\$ 8,337.90	\$ 2,084.48	\$ 4,168.95	\$ 312.67
<b>Total Assessments</b>	<b>1,922,304</b>	<b>\$ 576,691</b>	<b>\$ 142,088.33</b>	<b>\$ 288,346</b>	<b>\$ 21,313.25</b>

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Consent Agenda

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Agenda

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Directors Report

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: December 19, 2024

### **Mission Statement:**

*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.*

### **1. Management / Operations**

- a. Executive Director's Contract
  - 2018 Contract- See Attached Exhibit A
  - RPC Executive Directors Compensation Matrix- See attached Exhibit B
- b. FRCA September Updates – see Attached Exhibit C

### **2. Resource Development and Capacity Building**

- Promise Zone Grants (as of December 11, 2024)
  - Awarded: \$5,306,160.25
  - Pending: \$1,262,667
  - Denied: \$26,540,098.50
  - Underdevelopment: NA

### **3. Fourth Quarter: July to September 2024**

- a. Recovery and Resiliency Projects
  - Awarded \$239,700 RRDG Grant submitted to FHERO for Economic Development
  - Pending NOAA grant for \$500,000 to reinforce the docks for the Shrimp Industry
  - Pending NOAA Grant for \$500,000 to market the shrimp industry
  - **Awarded \$282,000 FDEP Resiliency Florida Grant for SWFL Resilience Collaborative Project**
- Next RPC Meeting January 16, 2025

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Executive Director's Contract

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**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT  
WITH MARGRET WUERSTLE**

This employment agreement is made and entered into by and between the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") and Margaret Wuerstle (hereinafter referred to as the "Executive Director"). The parties agree to the following terms of employment:

**1. Employment**

The Council hires Margaret Wuerstle to serve as Executive Director of the Council. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Council.

**2. Duties**

The Executive Director will have the following duties:

- A. Prepare and present to the Council an annual Workplan to accomplish the mission and vision of the Council. The annual Workplan will include long range goals and objectives, and short-term action steps with objective performance monitoring criteria consistent with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.
- B. Lead implementation of approved Workplans through planning, organizing, and directing the operation of staff and collaborating and coordinating with outside stakeholders.
- C. Manage Council finances, oversee budget development, implementation and financial reporting.
- D. Prepare an agenda for each Council meeting, after consultation with the Council Chair; attend all Council meetings and Committee meetings.
- E. Ensure that the Council, its employees and its programs are in compliance with state and federal regulations and laws.
- F. Prepare or supervise the preparation of all reports required by the local, regional, state or federal agreements.
- G. Hire, supervise, manage and dismiss any employees of the Council.
- H. Represent the Council with the Florida Regional Councils Association and other national, regional and local organizations consistent with the annual Workplan, Strategic Regional Policy Plan, and budget.
- I. All duties as defined in the Council's Job Description for the Executive Director.
- J. Such other duties as may be assigned by the Council from time to time.

- K. Work forty (40) hours or more per week with no other gainful employment or other income producing activities. Exceptions to this are:
- 1) Weekend activities related to religious or non-profit agencies with no Council resources or work week hours devoted to this exception.
  - 2) Adjunct teaching at the post secondary level that does not impede fulfilling the duties of Executive Director.

### 3. Compensation

The Executive Director will be compensated as follows:

- A. Commencing February 1, 2018, the Executive Director will receive an annual salary of \$118,820 which will be paid on the same schedule as all other Council employees. Future increases in salary are determined yearly at the annual review based on performance, cost savings and new revenues.
- B. Benefits will be provided as follows:
- 1) Insurance:
    - a. The Council will provide term life insurance, short term disability, and long term disability on the same level and schedule as all other Council employees.
    - b. The Council will provide medical insurance, dental insurance and vision insurance on the same level and schedule as all other employees.
  - 2) Retirement:
 

The Executive Director is designated in the Senior Management Service classification in the Florida Retirement System. The Council will contribute the State mandated contribution to the FRS on behalf of the Executive Director.
  - 3) Leave:
 

The Executive Director will receive paid holidays, accrue personal leave at the rate of 14 hours per month and accrue sick leave at the rate of 10 hours per month consistent with Council approved employee benefits. The Executive Directive may accrue up to 240 hours of personal leave at the end of the fiscal year.
  - 4) Other:
    - a. The Executive Director will be reimbursed for automobile mileage on the same schedule as all other Council employees.
    - b. The Executive Director is entitled to all other benefits that are provided for Council employees, except as limited by **Section 4., Terms and Severability**, of this Agreement presented below.



#### 4. Terms and Severability

##### A. Terms

- 1) For the period February 1, 2012, through January 31, 2013, the Executive Director's performance will be reviewed quarterly by the Executive Committee. For all subsequent periods, the Executive Director's performance will be evaluated annually, no later than February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- 2) The Council and the Executive Director will review this employment agreement annually and any modifications, revisions or changes agreed upon will be incorporated into the employment agreement no later than February 1<sup>st</sup>, of each year.

##### B. Termination Provisions

- 1) The Executive Director must give forty-five (45) days written notice to terminate this employment agreement. The written notice shall be hand-delivered to the Council Chairperson and shall become effective forty-five (45) days after delivery. The Executive Director will be paid for accrued unused personal leave up to 240 hours. The Executive Director will receive no other compensation or payout.
- 2) The Council may terminate this agreement without cause with forty five days written notice.
  - a) The Council, by a super majority of seventy-five percent of those members present and voting, at a legally noticed meeting which has a lawful quorum, may vote to terminate this agreement without cause.
  - b) The Executive Director will receive eight (8) weeks salary for dismissal without cause. The Executive Director will be compensated for unused personal leave up to 240 hours.
- 3) The Council, by majority vote of a lawful quorum, shall have the right to terminate this agreement at any time for cause due to any of the following actions of the Executive Director:
  - a. committing any criminal act, classified as a felony;
  - b. knowingly violate a state or federal law or regulation while managing the business of the Council; or
  - c. failing to execute the duties detailed in Section 2 of this agreement.
- 4) Upon termination for cause, the Executive Director will receive salary and benefits only to the effective date of termination; all accrued unused personal leave will be forfeited.

Agreed to this 15th day of March 2018.

Executive Director

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

  
Margaret Wuerstle, Executive Director

By:   
Thomas Perry, Chair

The Chair of the Council affirms the negotiation of this agreement was approved by the Council at its meeting on March 15, 2018

  
Reviewed by Beth Nightingale, Council Legal Consultant

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# Agenda

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## Item

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Executive Directors  
Compensation Matrix

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### Compensation for Executive Directors of the Regional Planning Councils

Region	ED	Location	Counties	Cities	Population	Budget \$M	FTE Staff	Tenure	Salary	Other Comp	Retirement	Car/Allowance	VAC.	SICK	Annual Review	Other
ECRC	Mount	Pensacola	7	35	1,030,456	8.6	28	7/7	214,500		State/SMS	n/a	160	96	September	100% fam. Health ins, 25K life ins. Vision, dental ins
ARPC	Rietow	Tallahassee	9	28	484,168	7.6	17	22/9	130,000		State/SMS	mileage	176	104	September	100% Medical & dental ins, 30k life ins
NCFRPC	Koons	Gainesville	12	40	580,595	1.5	6	47/17	255,000		16.5% salary	750/month	248	96	September	75% fam. health ins., 75K life ins.,
NEFRPC	Payne	Jacksonville	7	27	1,878,000	2.7	16	15/4	140,000	8,000 deferred comp	State/SMS	Car	200	120	August	120K life ins.
ECFRPC	McCue	Orlando	8	78	4,437,866	3.5	18	20/1	135,000		10% salary	300/month	208	0	March	100% fam. health & dental ins., 50K life ins.
CFRPC	Codo-Salisbury	Bartow	5	25	972,798	5.5	21	15/5	144,000	18,000 deferred comp		700/month	200	96	September	dental, life, vision, No Health
TBRPC	Krahl	Pinellas Park (St. Pete)	6	21	3,856,031	2.7	12	7/7	177,864	7,500 deferred comp	State/SMS	500/month	250	90	October	260K life ins., 80% health
SWFRPC	Wuerstle	Ft. Myers	6	17	1,850,007	1.0	3	10/10	118,300	5% deferred comp	State/SMS	N/A	168	120	February	
TCRPC	Lanahan	Stuart (West Palm Beach)	4	52	2,195,884	2.5	10	6/4	155,000	5,000 deferred comp	15% salary	650/month	150	75	December	100% fam. health & dental, 100K life ins.
SFRPC	Cosio-Carballo	Hollywood(Ft. Lauderdale)	3	71	4,770,725	3.3	13	25/6	189,000		State/SMS	750/month	240	130	September	100% fam. health ins., 32.5K life ins.
<b>Averages</b>			7	39	2,205,653	3.9	14.4		165,866				200	93		
<b>Average Dropping High and Low Salary</b>																

Updated: 11-8-2023

Not Verified

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### **SWFRPC RESOLUTION #24-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF SARASOTA, CHARLOTTE, LEE, HENDRY, GLADES AND COLLIER COUNTIES, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY STUDIES, INCLUDING A GENERAL MULTI MODAL PLANNING STUDY AND A PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY, AND EXPEDITE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW FREIGHT RAIL ROUTE ALONG THE U.S. HIGHWAY 27 MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR BETWEEN PORTMIAMI AND THE I-4 CORRIDOR; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council is a multi-purpose regional governmental entity with policy responsibility in the areas of economic development, emergency preparedness, natural resources, urban planning, and regional transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) is Florida's high priority network of transportation facilities important to the state's economy and mobility, the highest priority for transportation capacity investments, and a primary focus for implementing the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP), which is the State's long-range transportation vision and policy plan; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Highway 27, the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway, the CSX Transportation/South Florida Rail Corridor, I-95, and the Florida Turnpike are included in the SIS network and

**WHEREAS**, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes rail as an economically and environmentally valuable form of passenger and freight transportation throughout the Region and the State; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Highway 27 has long been identified by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and several regional transportation planning organizations and providers as an important future corridor between Miami and Orlando critical for improving Florida's global competitiveness, economic development, multimodal mobility opportunities, and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, FDOT in 2012 conducted a Planning and Conceptual Engineering (PACE) study to analyze multimodal options to connect PortMiami by rail within inland logistics centers around

Lake Okeechobee, this study considered the feasibility of removing freight traffic from congested coastal corridors facilitating the restoration of passenger rail service along the FEC Railway, and this study identified “no fatal flaws;” and

**WHEREAS**, advancing the project would provide several important regional benefits, including:

1. Reducing freight traffic through the population centers of the coast between Ft. Pierce and Miami;
2. Freeing up capacity on the FEC Railway for commuter passenger trains;
3. Diverting truck traffic from U.S. Highway 27, I-95, and Florida’s Turnpike;
4. Enhancing port operations by making inland intermodal logistics centers viable;
5. Supporting economic development and job creation for the distressed communities along the south, east, and west sides of Lake Okeechobee; and
6. Providing transportation without triggering sprawl; and

**WHEREAS**, rail along US 27 has been included as an unfunded need in the SIS 2045 Multimodal Unfunded Needs Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) will include the US 27 Rail project in its 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and considered Resolution 2024-1 on October 18, 2024 requesting FDOT to undertake a PD&E study for rail along U.S. Highway 27; and

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that the Miami-Dade TPO, Broward MPO, and Palm Beach TPA will include portions of the US 27 Rail project within their planning boundaries in their respective 2050 Long Range Transportation Plans; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 12, 2018, meeting jointly, the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and South Florida Regional Planning Council adopted Resolution TCSF #18-05 which called for the FDOT to “expedite the process to advance the (US 27 Rail) concept, leading to inclusion of scheduled funding to undertake a PD&E study and construction of a new freight rail route along the U.S. Highway 27 Multimodal Corridor between PortMiami and the I-4 Corridor;” and

**WHEREAS**, for the significant reasons given above and due to the ever-expanding growth in population, trade, and transportation demand in South Florida it is critically important and urgent that a new, efficient freight transportation corridor be created.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL THAT:**

**Section 1.** The above recitals are declared to be true and correct and are hereby made a part of this Resolution.

**Section 2.** The Council again requests that the Florida Department of Transportation undertake the necessary studies, including a General Multi Modal Planning Study and a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study, leading to expedited construction of a new freight

rail route along the U.S. Highway 27 Multimodal Corridor between PortMiami and the I-4 Corridor that meets the above-described objectives.

**Section 3.** A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the MPO’s in the Southwest Florida Region, the Heartland Regional TPO, South Florida Regional Planning Council, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and the Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

**Section 4.** This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

**DULY ADOPTED** by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council this 19th day of December 2024.

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William McDaniel  
Chair

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Margaret Wuerstle  
Executive Director



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## 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

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JANUARY

2025

*\*Election of  
Officers*

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FEBRUARY

2025

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MARCH

2025

*\*Resiliency  
Meeting/Workshop*

17

APRIL

2025

15

MAY

2025

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JUNE

2025

*\*Audit Report  
\*Budget*

17

JULY

2025

21

AUGUST

2025

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SEPTEMBER

2025

*\*End of FY*

16

OCTOBER

2025

*\*Start of New FY*

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# Agenda

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FRCA Monthly Activity  
Report - Qevqber 2024

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Apalachee ○ Central Florida  
 East Central Florida • Emerald Coast  
 North Central Florida • Northeast Florida • South Florida  
 Southwest Florida • Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast

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## MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: October 2024

### ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Hosted the October FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee (EDAC) Executive Committee meeting and November FRCA EDAC monthly meeting.
- Signed agreement with Public Trust CPAs for FRCA Bookkeeping services and worked with current and new Bookkeeper to facilitate transition
- Coordinated logistics for Winter Policy Board Meeting
- On-Board new Association Director; Review FRCA files, calendars, meeting schedules, contacts, and accounts. Update FRCA contact information and review all existing accounts, sponsorships, events and other services.

### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Coordinated November 1<sup>st</sup> FRCA EDAC Partners meeting
- Contacted FRCA Partners to provide update on new Association Director, which will continue through November
- Began working with RPC staff on Newsletter submissions, Quarterly Data Reports, and Workgroups.
- To enhance partnerships, share best practices and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, organized, participated in or attended the following meetings and shared information:
  - Quarterly Economic Development Administration Coordination Meeting
  - Coordinated November Finance Workgroup Meeting

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# Agenda

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## Item

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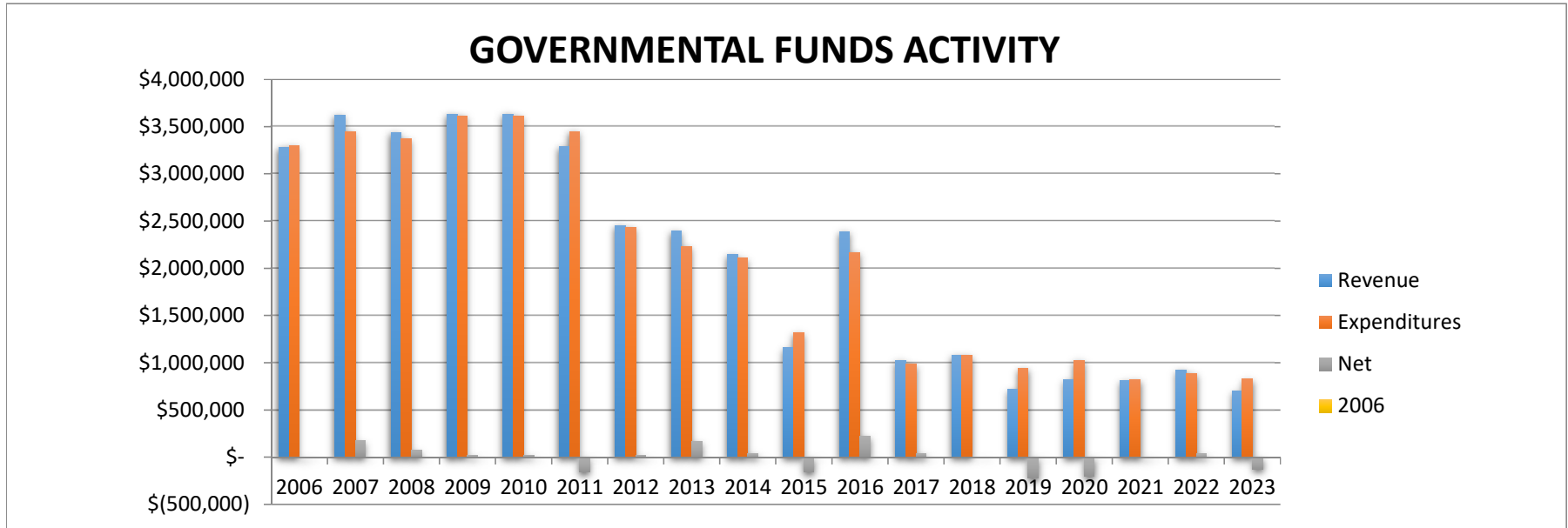
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Government Fund History  
(Informational)

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**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**GRAPH - COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE (FUND BASIS STATEMENTS) - ALL FUNDS**  
**Fiscal Years Ended September 30, 2006 - September 30, 2023**



Fiscal Yr	Revenue	Expenditures	Net
2006	\$ 3,282,874	\$ 3,293,955	\$ (11,081)
2007	3,620,972	3,448,094	172,878
2008	3,439,973	3,367,828	72,145
2009	3,631,561	3,613,833	17,728
2010	3,633,853	3,609,479	24,374
2011	3,288,138	3,448,360	(160,222)
2012	2,453,411	2,430,302	23,109 ***
2013	2,397,441	2,231,934	165,507
2014	2,145,900	2,105,488	40,412
2015	1,157,034	1,317,493	(160,459) *
2016	2,388,620	2,165,278	223,342 ****
2017	1,025,345	984,746	40,599
2018	1,080,206	1,078,114	2,092
2019	719,149	942,205	(223,056)
2020	821,515	1,024,052	(202,537)
2021	812,304	821,590	(9,286)
2022	923,912	889,926	33,986
2023	701,645	827,221	(125,576)

\* NEP departed 10/1/14  
 \*\*\*\* includes sale of building  
 \*\*\* MPO departed

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## Committee Reports

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Executive Committee

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New Business

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State Agency Comments/  
Reports

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Council Member Comments

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Adjourn

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