

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
May 16, 2024, MEETING**

The virtual zoom meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council’s Executive Board was held on May 16, 2024. City of Fort Myers Councilman and Council Vice-Chair, Mr. Fred Burson called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. There was a quorum of the Executive Committee present.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlotte County: Mr. Don McCormick – Chair (zoom),
Councilwoman Dr. Debi Lux – City of Punta Gorda

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

Glades County: Commissioner Tim Stanley

Hendry County: None

Lee County: Councilman Fred Burson – City of Fort Myers

Sarasota County: Councilman Ron Smith – City of Venice (zoom)

Ex-Officio Members: Mr. Phil Flood, SFWMD

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Margaret Wuerstle - Executive Director, SWFRPC

Ms. Rebekah Harp – SWFRPC

Mr. Jeff Tuscan – CPA Auditor, Tuscan & Company, PA

Zoom:

Ms. Katelyn Kubasik – SWFRPC (zoom)

Ms. Asmaa Odeh – SWFRPC (zoom)

**AGENDA ITEM #6
NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that at the last council meeting Mr. McCormick asked to do the vote for the new executive committee appointments. Ms. Wuerstle continued to explain that typically elections are made by each seat moving up. For example, the vice-chair goes to chair, etc. However, this can be done any way the board agrees to.

Discussion ensues between the Commissioner McDaniel and Councilman Burson regarding the chair position. Councilman Burson agrees to nominate Commissioner McDaniel as the Chair.

Councilman Fred Burson offered a motion to elect Commissioner Bill McDaniel as Chair. A vote was taken to approve Commissioner Bill McDaniel as Chair. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner McDaniel asks to now go over and approve the remaining executive board members. Commissioner McDaniel states that Councilman Burson is the Vice-Chair and Councilman Ron Smith is Treasurer. Ms. Wuerstle asks if Mr. Phil Flood would want to be the secretary. Mr. Flood responded that he would love to, but he believes he cannot since he is an ex-officio member. Discussion ensues regarding the vacancy for secretary. Councilwoman Dr. Debi Lux agrees to the position of Secretary.

Councilman Ron Smith offered a nominating motion to elect the Councilwoman Dr. Debi Lux as Secretary. Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to elect Councilwoman Dr. Debi Lux as Secretary. The motion was approved unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #7(a)
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2024, COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Councilman Fred Burson offered a motion to approve the April 18, 2024, meeting minutes. Councilman Ron Smith seconded the motion to approve the April 18, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #8(a)
FINANCIALS: Audit Report FY 2022-2023**

Ms. Wuerstle introduced Mr. Jeff Tuscan as our audit is now completed. Mr. Jeff Tuscan of Tuscan & Company presented the fiscal year 2022-2023 audit report.

Commissioner Bill McDaniel offered a motion to approve the FY2022-2023 Audit Report. Councilwoman Debi Lux seconded the motion to approve the FY2022-2023 Audit Report. The motion was approved unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #9
CONSENT AGENDA**

There were no Consent Items on the agenda

**AGENDA ITEM #10
DIRECTORS REPORT**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the MPO ICAR Agreement that was discussed at the previous meeting was distributed to all the county attorneys. The MPO has decided that all 7 parties will remain part of the existing agreement.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that she has not heard anything back from the Governor, however Ms. Wuerstle did speak with the Governor's Chief of Staff, Justin Domer and explained the entire situation. Ms. Wuerstle expressed that he was surprised that this was happening. Mr. Domer explained that this is complicated and that he didn't have any answers, but he would look into it and assess it and get back to us.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that at the next council meeting on June 20th we have the Directors from other RPCs and their attorneys coming to talk to us about what we can and cannot do, make recommendations and give insight. At the last meeting we accepted their offer to come talk to us.

There was consensus to have the RPC Directors and their attorney's present at the July 18th meeting and to cancel the June 20th meeting.

Commissioner McDaniel would like to know who is coming from the other RPCs and would also not only like to hear their opinion of what we can and cannot do, but also their opinion of a merger of our RPC. Commissioner McDaniel would like to have several plans in place in case we cannot get to a resolution in time. Plan A being an adjust of our bylaws, constitution and membership and their compensation, which is Commissioner McDaniels preference. However, we need plan B and C in place.

Councilman Smith commented that when the auditor spoke he said, by law they have to belong and they are assessed and their could be some action by us to force them to pay. He wanted to know if that been explored and has that been decided in the past not to do that? Is that the advice or the advice we are going to get from the meeting in July from the other RPCs?

Discussion ensued regarding the history and current issues relating to litigation, membership, relevancy and moving forward.

Discussion continued to decide on top relevancy issues.

The following four relevancy issues were decided by the Executive Board to focus on immediately and to distribute to all members in a letter following the council meeting.

1. Beach Renourishment and Resiliency
2. Water Supply Quantity
3. Water Quality
4. Regional Transportation

Direction was given to staff to send a invite letter for the July meeting.

Councilman Smith explained that as a reporter he posted a video regarding the issues of this RPC which got him an invitation to speak at an organization that deals with regional planning and growth. Councilman Smith explained that he was asked to speak regarding his experience with his participation on this Regional Planning Council.

**AGENDA ITEM #10(a)
Government Fund History (Informational)**

**AGENDA ITEM #10(b)
Grant activity Sheet (Informational)**

**AGENDA ITEM #11
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No Committee Reports were given.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(a)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

There was no update given.

**AGENDA ITEM #11(b)
QUALITY OF LIFE & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

There was no update given.

**AGENDA ITEM #12
NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

**AGENDA ITEM #13
STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS**

No state agency comments were given.

**AGENDA ITEM #14
COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #15
ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.
Full audio is available: [May 16, 2024 Zoom](#)



Councilwoman Debi Lux, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the May 9, 2024, issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 50, Number 94.

**Technical issues with audio during meeting. Audio was not heard by members in the room and from members on zoom.*