To: Council Members                              AGENDA ITEM 5D

From: Staff

Date: January 20, 2012 Council Meeting

Subject: Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review
         Draft Amendments to the Town of Orchid Comprehensive Plan
         Amendment No. 12-1ER

Introduction

The Community Planning Act, Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, requires that the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) review local government comprehensive plan amendments prior to their adoption. TCRPC comments are limited to adverse effects on regional resources and facilities identified in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) and extrajurisdictional impacts that would be inconsistent with the comprehensive plan of any local government within the Region. TCRPC must provide any comments to the local government within 30 days of the receipt of the proposed amendments and must also send a copy of any comments to the State Land Planning Agency.

Background

The Town of Orchid is proposing text amendments to all elements of the Town Comprehensive Plan.

Evaluation

The proposed amendments are pursuant to an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) adopted by the Town on June 22, 2010 and found sufficient by the Department of Community Affairs on November 23, 2010.

During the EAR process, annexation was the only major issue identified. Since 1988, the Town has not considered any possible annexations. However, while participating in the Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement process with the County and other municipalities within the County, the Town has begun to consider potential future annexation. The Town has included in the proposed amendments policies that will guide future annexations to be consistent with the Town’s unique character.
Other proposed changes include:

1. several modifications to the Goals, Objectives and Policies of all the elements within the comprehensive plan to delete references to deadline dates and indicate, where applicable, the implementation of several Town policies, procedures and plans;

2. deletion of outdated references to agencies and plans that no longer exist; and

3. the addition of an objective and supporting policies to ensure adequate water supplies are in place and available to serve new development.

Extrajurisdictional Impacts

Under the informal agreement facilitated by the TCRPC, local governments in the northern three counties of the region are to provide copies of amendment materials to other local governments and agencies that have expressed an interest in receiving such materials. On December 6, 2011, the TCRPC requested comments from these local governments and organizations regarding any conflicts with the proposed amendments. As of the date of the preparation of this report, no correspondence has been received.

Effects on Significant Regional Resources and Facilities

No adverse effects on significant regional resources and facilities have been identified.

Conclusion

The proposed amendments are not in conflict or inconsistent with the SRPP.

Recommendation

Council should approve this report and authorize its transmittal to the Town of Orchid and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.