MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members
From: Staff
Date: September 20, 2013 Council Meeting
Subject: Minutes – July 19, 2013

Introduction

The Minutes of the July 19, 2013 Council meeting were posted to Council’s website on September 6, 2013 at http://www.tcrpc.org/council_meetings/2013/SEPT13/SeptAgenda.html.

Recommendation

Council should approve the Minutes of the July 19, 2013 Council meeting.

Attachment
Chairman O’Bryan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He led the pledge of allegiance and requested roll call.

The following members and alternates were present:

Indian River County: Commissioner O’Bryan
Council Member Adams
Mayor Fletcher (Alternate)

Martin County: Commissioner Fielding
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Haddox (Alternate)
Commissioner Krauskopf

St. Lucie County: Commissioner Dzadovsky

Palm Beach County: Commissioner Burdick
Commissioner Valeche
Mayor Ferreri
Mayor Golonka
Councilmember Brinkman
Vice Mayor Pro Tem Andel
Commissioner Szerdi (Alternate)
Mayor DuBois (Alternate)
Vice Mayor Hmara

Gubernatorial Appointees: Michael Davis
Kevin Foley
Reece Parrish
Peter Sachs

Ex-Officios: Lynda Westin, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
Ann Benedetti, St. Johns River Water Management District
Kathy LaMartina, South Florida Water Management District

Council Staff: Kate Boer
Michael Busha
Phyllis Castro
Anthea Gianniotes
Liz Gulick
Stephanie Heidt
Dana Little
Peter Merritt
Eloine Sabol
The Executive Director announced a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Alexandria Larson asked if there was a place on the agenda to address non-agenda items. Chairman O’Bryan responded that in the interest of completing Council business, comments should be limited to agenda items. He suggested if a member of the public would like to have a particular issue added to the agenda, they should contact Council staff prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

Mayor Ferreri moved approval of the Agenda. Councilmember Parrish seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Parrish moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.


PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014

Chairman O’Bryan reported that the Budget/Personnel Committee met in July to review the proposed budget. He said there were two major items addressed by the Committee. First, the Committee is recommending there be a one-time 3 percent cost of living adjustment added to staff salaries. This recommendation is being made because the Committee felt the staff needed to be compensated for their hard work; however the Committee did not want to add any re-occurring costs to the budget. The payment will be determined by the Executive Director and be based on staff performance evaluations. He noted that this would only apply to staff, and not the Executive Director. The second item was that in order to present to Council a balanced budget, there is currently a revenue shortfall reflected in the proposed budget. As has been done in the past, the budget does not reflect any pending contracts. Chairman O’Bryan noted that it is the practice of Council to review the budget halfway through the year and do an amended budget that will reflect any contracts that have been secured. Mr. Busha noted the staff payment will not occur if the pending contracts are not executed.
Councilmember Davis asked if it was consistent with other regional planning councils that the executive director would be excluded from the one-time payment. Chairman O’Bryan noted that the executive director is evaluated every year in December. He stated that at that time the Committee determined his salary would not be adjusted. He stated it is not a reflection of the executive director’s performance, but rather the Committee recognizing the constrained economic times. He stated the executive director agreed with the Committee recommendation.

Commissioner Dzadovsky asked if there is a Council policy to maintain a certain percentage of the budget in reserves to ensure the viability of the regional planning council in case of emergency. Mr. Busha indicated there is no formal policy, but there is always enough money in the reserves for the regional planning council to operate for an 18-month period. Chairman O’Bryan noted that since a majority of Council’s funding is from grants and contracts, which can fluctuate from year to year, he also felt that a strong fund balance would be appropriate. He stated this would be reviewed by the Committee at its next meeting and a recommendation would be brought back to Council.

Commissioner Szerdi asked what the difference is between the proposed payment to staff and the value of the pending contracts. Mr. Busha indicated the payment to staff would be approximately $28,000 and the value of the pending contracts was around $940,000.

Commissioner Krauskopf asked if the 18 months of reserves included accumulated liabilities such as sick leave, vacation time, and leases. Mr. Busha indicated all those were included, as well as reserves for cash flow.

Commissioner Fielding noted that Council may eventually be responsible for maintaining the data warehouse that the Seven50 project has been accumulating. Mr. Busha noted that there is a well-populated data warehouse being constructed and maintained as part of the Seven50 planning process. He stated this is a database that is available, at no charge, to all who wish to access it. He stated that there has been discussion of developing a memorandum of understanding on how to maintain and update that data warehouse when the grant is completed, because there will no longer be a funding source for this work. Commissioner Fielding indicated there is enormous value to the database.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to direct staff to prepare information to be presented at the next Budget/Personnel Committee meeting with respect to developing a reserve fund policy. Mayor Ferreri seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Smith noted that Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) is also in the process of developing an economic development model that is robust with information. He suggested there should be a conversation with them to possibly integrate the information to one central location. Mr. Busha noted that Donald Kiselewski of FPL is on the Seven50 executive committee so that could be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Mayor Ferreri moved approval of the proposed budget and the recommendations of the Budget/Personnel Committee. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
Marcela Camblor-Cutsaimanis made a presentation describing a proposed resolution to support installation of fiber optic cable for public use along the Florida East Coast (FEC) rail corridor. She explained that fiber optic technology allows the transmission of vast amounts of information very quickly through pulses of light in a fiber optic cable. She stated this is an important tool for our region to enhance job creation and economic development for uses in healthcare, education, and research. She noted that the resolution had been unanimously adopted by the Seven50 Executive Committee.

Commissioner Fielding stated that this is an opportunity for enormous public benefit if this can be coordinated with the All Aboard Florida project, because it will allow for the fiber optic cable to be laid concurrent with infrastructure related to the railway. To illustrate how important this capacity is to the region, he noted that recently the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute in St. Lucie County was not able to secure a research group that they had sought very diligently, because they did not have the required network capacity. He stated this project will allow for very strong connections for all the local governments between Orange and Miami-Dade counties. He stated it is very important to have this infrastructure in place to allow us to become competitive.

Commissioner Dzadovksy stated he has been in conversations with the school district in St. Lucie County with respect to developing this technology. He stated that the City Port St. Lucie has proprietary fiber optic technology and asked if Commissioner Fielding had discussed the use of that with the City. Commissioner Fielding stated there have been efforts to work with the City.

Councilmember Foley asked if Florida East Coast Industries (FECI) is receptive to having their corridor used for this public use in their right-of-way. Commissioner Fielding stated that the initial hurdle for the project was getting permission from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). FDOT has given permission to proceed, but has indicated they will not fund the project. He indicated he has spoken with Mr. Rodon, the executive vice president of FECI, and there will be more discussions with their subsidiary that performs these types of fiber optic installations. He noted that he has also had discussions with Gray Swoope and Governor Scott. He indicated that the attorney for FECI was present to answer questions. Commissioner Fielding stated that the cost for the hardware and cable will be approximately $10 million. In addition, it will cost about $5 million for the installation to be done concurrently with FECI. He stated that although initially this will be an expense, the long-term public benefit will be enormous.

Commissioner Valeche asked how the local networks will connect to the system and if there will be enough capacity. Commissioner Fielding indicated that cables will carry enough capacity to service all the electronic needs in the near term.

Mayor Ferreri stated it is important to request from FECI a perpetual easement so that there is access to the cables as technology changes. He stated the first step it to get the transportation right of way to install the cable, but it is important to have the ability to upgrade over time. He stated it will be a significant savings if this can be done in conjunction with the digging and placement of cable that will be done by FECI for the proposed rail service. Chairman O’Bryan suggested a memorandum of understanding with FECI to allow for maintenance and upgrades.
Commissioner Krauskopf asked what the costs would be to the local governments and institutions to connect to the fiber optic cables. Commissioner Fielding stated that this is a public benefit project, which means it would be free. Mayor Golonka asked if the term public benefit project guaranteed it would be free. Commissioner Fielding stated that in his discussions it has been determined that the counties will take the lead on this project. He stated there would be a charge, but not to everyone that uses it. He stated what he is attempting to establish with this resolution is a backbone that will give access to everyone.

Councilmember Davis asked if Florida Atlantic University had been contacted. Staff indicated they have been involved.

Commissioner Szerdi asked for clarification of what Council support of the resolution would mean. Chairman O’Bryan indicated the resolution is to support the installation of fiber optic cable in the FEC rail corridor for public use. He stated it does not go beyond that support and does not commit Council or any of the local governments to pay anything.

Commissioner Burdick stated that she is a big supporter of this project. She stated this has so many opportunities for our region and encouraged Council member support of the resolution. She noted that in Palm Beach County they have been looking at this type of technology.

Commissioner Dzadovsky stated that it is important for all Council members to understand the economic benefits of this project. He stated that Martin County has installed fiber optic and are realizing substantial economic benefits and financial savings. Commissioner Fielding indicated Martin County realized an initial savings of $1.1 million and is now collecting annual fees approaching $1.3 million. Mr. Busha noted that the schools in Martin County have connected and are saving money by utilizing the County network.

Vice Mayor Pro Tem Andel asked what the next steps will be if Council should approve support of the resolution. Commissioner Fielding stated that the resolution would be forwarded to state agencies such as the Governor’s office, the Department of Economic Opportunity, and Enterprise Florida as well as FECI and federal agencies. He stated the goal is not to just accomplish approval, but to identify funding sources. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Andel asked who is expending the time and money to move this resolution forward. Commissioner Fielding indicated he has been the main proponent, but believes that his efforts are so important that other concerned individuals will become involved.

Mayor Ferreri noted that the private sector company at which he is a partner has offices in other states and another country. He stated that as an architectural firm they use a tremendous amount of bandwidth, and they could not be competitive without this type of technology. He stated that businesses will be willing to pay to connect if it is available.

Mayor Ferreri moved approval of Council support for the resolution and forwarding it to the appropriate agencies. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Councilmember Foley stated that this is only support of the concept, and there still needs to be a lot of work done to determine the benefits and how this will be funded.
Mayor DuBois suggested that it would good to request companion resolutions from the local governments in the region. Chairman O’Bryan indicated Council staff could do this.

Councilmember Davis asked that the motion be revised to include sending the resolution to the Governor and each of the universities in the region. Mayor Ferreri and Commissioner Smith agreed to this revision. A vote on the motion carried unanimously.

**WATER RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND UPDATE FOR THE TREASURE COAST REGION**

Staff presented an overview outlining the importance of water resources in the region, and illustrating the important water connections.

Charles Jacoby, Environmental Scientist with the St. Johns River Water Management District, presented an update on the Indian River Lagoon. He noted that the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program are joining forces to refocus efforts through the Indian River Lagoon Protection Initiative. This initiative will focus internally through the District’s functions, and externally to concerned stakeholders through understanding, investigating and recommending strategies to ameliorate algal blooms and facilitate seagrass growth and expansion. Dr. Jacoby noted that Council can help this effort by understanding the issues, participating in the Indian River Lagoon Protection Initiative, and joining stakeholders and research providers by identifying knowledge gaps and how to fill them, and helping to identify funding sources.

Chairman O’Bryan asked if a model has been done to determine how much fresh water is needed to maintain a healthy lagoon, and where does the lagoon and sea grass beds rank for the uses of that fresh water. As an example, he noted that it has been reported that there have not been releases from C-54 for four to five years and the oyster farmers are seeing boring sponges migrating up through the St. Sebastian River and decimating the oyster populations.

Dr. Jacoby noted that fresh water inflows are addressed as part of the total maximum daily load process in terms of their nutrient loadings, but there is also a minimum flows and levels approach that addresses the amount of fresh water. He stated it is difficult to determine how much is the proper amount, particularly with unknown variables such as long-term droughts.

Chairman O’Bryan stated his concern is that over the years permanent inlets have formed and the water that is flowing into the lagoon has become more brackish. He stated he believes that the problem with fresh water input into the lagoon is the quality and timing. He indicated we need to clean the water and then have a consistent flow. He said there is a high demand for potable water further upstream and he is concerned that those potable demands are going to draw the fresh water away and there will not be enough flowing into the lagoon to keep it a diverse estuary.

Dr. Jacoby agreed that the quality and timing of fresh water flows to the lagoon is definitely a concern that needs to be considered. He indicated that in the past there have been quick fixes implemented for the lagoon, but they did not define the problems broadly enough. He stated there needs to be more detailed focus on the individual problems.
Commissioner Fielding noted there is currently a project being considered on NASA property in Brevard County that will clear 200 pristine acres and develop a launch pad for private use. He stated this will cause extensive damage to the lagoon. He noted concern that the current process of total maximum daily loads may not be aggressive enough. He stated instead of allowing pollution to continue on a measured basis, we need to focus on where the problems are and identifying the solutions.

Councilmember Davis stated he hopes everyone appreciates the enormous ecological and economic benefits these eco-systems provide for our regions and our country. Dr. Jacoby indicated the economic impacts are in the billions of dollars.

Commissioner Dzadovsky stated that he is on the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program Advisory Committee. He indicated that St. Lucie County discussed reconnecting the South Florida Water Management District with the St. Johns Water Management District. He stated it is important to encourage the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to stop pumping water into Lake Okeechobee in order to maintain a water source for the sugar farmers. He asked for support in pressuring the ACOE to change how they are managing that system. He noted that in St. Lucie County there is the Ten Mile Creek reservoir, which cost $50 million and is unusable. He indicated that there is currently litigation against the ACOE to have the reservoir properly rebuilt. He stated that the local governments need to start diverting their stormwater and treating it before it gets to the lagoons. When using total maximum daily load to calculate pollutants there needs to be consistent collection to ensure that proper monitoring of the nutrients is being done. This will not happen overnight, but is a long term, on-going project.

Chairman O’Bryan noted that Senator Negron has formed a Senate Select Committee on the Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee to explore solutions to reduce or eliminate harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee. Chairman O’Bryan encouraged everyone to be involved and participate in upcoming meetings, expressing his hope that the state will support getting the ACOE to take positive action. He stated that at the local level, there needs to be a re-education of the public that we live in a swamp and one of the ways to fix the problems in the lagoon is to slow down the movement of water. He noted that the natural movement of water through vegetation, if allowed to occur and not be diverted by man-made drainage, will reduce the nutrient load going into the lagoon. However, the public does not want to be inconvenienced with waiting for the water to subside naturally.

Commissioner Dzadovsky noted that there is an oyster bed restoration project planned at Wildcat Cove on north beach in Fort Pierce. He stated this is very important because it is not just a community clean-up effort, but will involve scientists from Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and other agencies.

Mayor DuBois asked if Dr. Jacoby’s presentation could be made available to Council members. Staff indicated it would be put on Council’s website. Dr. Jacoby noted that there is also a Lagoon website through the district that is regularly updated.

Under public comment, Alexandria Larson thanked Dr. Jacoby for his presentation and bringing up the issue of big sugar. She stated she believes that Disney is polluting the Kissimmee River and
Lake Okeechobee should not be used as a reservoir. She indicated we should not be supporting 700,000 acres of sugar when there is a diabetes crisis. With respect to the nutrient standards, she noted there are only two areas in the entire State that are not over the limits for phosphorus and nitrogen; one just north of Tallahassee and the other was where she lives in Palm Beach County. She stated everyone blames her septic tank for the pollution, but she noted there is more harm being done by pesticides on lawns. She stated we need to reach out to the homeowners’ associations to educate them on these harmful effects. She indicated the tax payers should not be held financially responsible for the cleaning up the mess, and those who have created the pollution should be held accountable for the costs of mitigation.

Rosa Durando stated that the minimum flows and levels, if they have been met at all, are so polluted that it is disgraceful. She stated that government agencies are not doing an adequate job of oversight. She noted Wellington has the dirtiest urban water discharge. She stated there is a lot of water being discharged illegally in different canals, and she asked who had the legal authority to enforce the laws. She indicated the polo fields, although legally approved, are badly engineered. She noted the horse manure was being dumped in the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (LNWR), but that has stopped. She stated the deeper dredging that is being proposed to the port is to accommodate the deep vessels coming from Panama, which produce their own pollution. She indicated that there have been agency engineers that have the talent, but have been successfully muzzled by money and politics.

Tony Waterhouse, Assistant Division Director, South Florida Water Management District, presented an overview of the C-51 basin, which is located in Palm Beach County and encompasses 174 square miles that drains into the C-51 canal. The C-51 basin rule was adopted in 1987 due to development pressure and flooding. In 1996, the ACOE was authorized by Congress to modify the C-51 flood control project to act as a stormwater treatment area. The ACOE began construction of Stormwater Treatment Area 1-East (STA-1E) in 2000, which was turned over to the South Florida Water Management District for operation and maintenance in 2005. Mr. Waterhouse provided an overview of how runoff is captured in the C-51 basin and delivered to the STA-1E. He noted there are two additional projects to capture and store more runoff, thereby reducing discharges to the Lake Worth Lagoon. These projects are the existing L-8 reservoir, which can capture, store, and deliver 45,000 acre feet to improve performance of the STA; and the proposed C-51 reservoir, which could capture and store 75,000 acre feet of water from the C-51 basin for regional water supply.

Mayor Ferreri asked if there are data on the reduction of nutrients that are going to tide with respect to cost/benefit. He agreed with Chairman O’Bryan’s statement that there needs to be more education of the public, stating most of the current problems were created trying to control drainage because of the inconvenience, rather than letting it occur naturally. With respect to the natural flow, he noted that he grew up on the west coast of the state and there were natural inlets with different flows depending on the time of the year. Now however, because there are property values and property protection rights, we are limited on how to solve some of the lagoon problems we have created. He stated instead of adding more band-aids, we need to step back and really evaluate how the cost/benefit of how much nutrient reduction is actually occurring through water storage. He asked if there have been any recent studies with respect to the water quality. Mr. Waterhouse indicated he did not have the exact results, but said he had spoken with staff and indicated a more scientific presentation could be done at a future date. He noted that a lot of work is being done by
the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resource Management to initiate projects to improve the water quality in the Lake Worth Lagoon. From a water resource standpoint and its impacts on the lagoon, the amount of fresh water discharge in the lagoon has been identified as a problem from both a salinity balance as well as a nutrient load standpoint. He stated that numeric nutrient standards were recently adopted for the Lake Worth Lagoon. The values that have been collected from the research done by Palm Beach County and the water management district far exceed the standards.

Alexandria Larson stated she does not believe the problem is being dealt with efficiently because the reservoirs are not large enough to properly filter the water and there will always be salt water intrusion. She stated she would like to see Council stay involved in this and obtain as much technical information as possible. She noted that she had initially advised the water management district that modeling would not work. She indicated that the water management district is concerned with water quantity, while the Department of Environmental Protection was concerned with water quality, and that the two needed to be working together, as well as with the ACOE to solve the current problems. She stated she believes the L-8 reservoir is the biggest scam every pulled in Palm Beach County. She indicated she is concerned that the C-51 reservoir will be used to send water down to Broward County and not be available locally. She stated that there is a proposal to build 7,000 units on the Vavrus property in Palm Beach Gardens and she is concerned how that is going to affect C-18 canal and the Loxahatchee River. She asked Council to be preemptive instead of ignoring the problems.

Rosa Durando stated that the only battles that have been won are those by a few people who are willing to do legal challenges, without governmental assistance. She noted that the developers in Wellington were legally permitted to destroy upwards of 10,000 acres of wetlands that periodically would flood and provide habitat to many birds. She had brought a challenge with the U.S. Department of Interior because Wellington was directly discharging into the LNWR through the Acme Drainage District. She stated they were successful in stopping these discharges. She indicated there is now talk of sending surplus water from C-51 basin to Broward County through the refuge’s rim canal. She noted that at a meeting the LNWR director stated she would not allow them to put that dirty water into the refuge. Ms. Durando stated there needs to be better intergovernmental coordination between the South Florida Water Management District, the Lake Worth Drainage District, and the Acme Drainage District.

2013 LOWER EAST COAST WATER SUPPLY PLAN UPDATE – PRESENTATION BY SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Mark Elsner, Section Administrator of Water Supply Development for South Florida Water Management District, provided an overview of the 2013 Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Update. This update addresses the current and future water needs through strategies for a 20-year planning horizon. The plan is updated every five years and local governments are statutorily required to respond with updates to their local water facilities elements within their comprehensive plans. Mr. Elsner provided information with respect to current as well as projected water demands, water source options, and an overview of the regulatory environmental protections. He concluded that the demands of the region can be met with appropriate management, conservation, and implementation of the projects contained in the plan.
Mr. Busha asked when the Upper East Coast Water Supply Plan would be updated. Mr. Elsner indicated it would be in 2016.

Commissioner Dzadovsky stated that one of the municipalities in St. Lucie County had indicated they would like to start water farming and would like to have access to the C-23 canal to remove water and place it into the aquifer. He asked if the water management district would approve of this type of project. Mr. Elsner stated that several of these projects have already been approved throughout the district. Commissioner Dzadovsky asked if it would be appropriate, because the water from the C-23 canal is fully nutrient loaded. Mr. Elsner stated the Department of Environmental Protection would do the permitting and ensure that the water would go through some type of treatment process. Commissioner Dzadovsky asked how the water would be maintained in place within the aquifer. Mr. Elsner indicated the concept is to inject the water into a bubble until it is needed, and since the flow is very slow, the bubble remains in place. He stated that this has been done successfully throughout the State. Commissioner Dzadovsky stated he was not convinced this was a good project and would be opposed to taking C-23 nutrient laden water and placing it in the aquifer.

Under public comment, Ms. Larson stated she believes aquifer storage and recovery is the stupidest thing she has ever seen. She stated that you cannot mix brackish water with clean water. She stated it will cause problems to inject dirty water into the fragile ecosystem underground that has been untouched by man. She stated that she believes that if we want to eliminate phosphorus and nitrogen in the water, then it is unreasonable to use reclaimed water for irrigation. She encouraged Council to look at conservation efforts instead.

Ms. Durando stated that even though they are legally separate entities, there needs to be cooperation between the drainage districts. She stated the polo fields in Wellington use as much water as a golf course; however there are times when they are flooded. She stated that when a permit was requested to drain water from the polo fields in Wellington into the refuge, it was forbidden. She indicated that you cannot raise a polo fields or a golf course, and there will be certain weather conditions that will cause flooding, however the real problem is that they were allowed to be built in the first place. She asked that the worst case scenarios be considered before approval when there are applications to extend or change a land use. She stated that she is tired of legal challenges noting a recent challenge involving water storage and contamination. She noted that water storage does not necessarily clean up the water.

Drew Martin stated that the C-51 reservoir project was not worth the billions of dollars it was going to cost the tax payers. He indicated that conservation measures will create far more water than the reservoir, at a much smaller cost. With respect to the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Update, he stated he appreciates the many public meetings and opportunities for the public to comment. He noted that the weakness in the plan is that it does not have enough emphasis on conservation. He said he is a member of the Palm Beach County Soil and Water Conservation District and they utilize a mobile irrigation lab, which is important because irrigation is the biggest waste of drinking water and the existing water supply. He noted several instances when he has observed sprinkler systems, both private and public, operating during a rain storm. He indicated that there needs to be enforcement of rain sensors on sprinkler systems so they will turn off when it is raining. He recommended everyone read Lester Brown’s article on Peak Water.
SEVEN50 SOUTHEAST FLORIDA PROSPERITY PLAN UPDATE

Chairman O’Bryan indicated this agenda item would be postponed due to time constraints. He asked Council members to go to the Seven50 website and complete the online scenario modeler as part of the public input process.

Ms. Camblor-Cutsaimanis stated there are plans to have a joint council meeting with the South Florida Regional planning Council. She indicated Council members would be contacted by the Executive Director with details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor DuBois noted that he attended a recent meeting of the Western Communities Council where the FEMA flood insurance rate maps and the flood insurance study report for Palm Beach County and the incorporated areas were presented. He stated there were several inaccuracies in the maps and asked if there was a role for Council to study or respond to FEMA. Mr. Busha indicated that Council staff would look into this issue and determine if Council has a role in this process.

COUNCIL MEMBER INFORMATION EXCHANGE

None.

STAFF COMMENT

None.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENT

Chairman O’Bryan noted that Indian River County had conducted two workshops, one proposing a 5.6 percent increase in the millage rate to the upcoming budget, and one regarding a proposed fertilizer ordinance. He stated only two members from the general public attended the budget workshop, however 65 individuals attended, and 50 spoke, at the ordinance meeting. He stated this demonstrates how important the issues of the Indian River Lagoon and the water supply are to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman O’Bryan adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m. This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary or a designated nominee of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct Minutes of the July 19, 2013 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

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Date                               Signature