Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He led the pledge of allegiance. Staff called roll. The Executive Director announced a quorum was present.

The following members and alternates were present:

Indian River County:  
Commissioner O’Bryan  
Commissioner Adams  
Councilman Auwaerter

Martin County:  
Commissioner Smith  
Commissioner Jenkins, Alternate  
Vice Mayor Bruner, Alternate

St. Lucie County:  
Commissioner Townsend  
Commissioner Bonna  
Councilman Carvelli

Palm Beach County:  
Commissioner Valeche  
Vice Mayor Bernard  
Mayor Gerwig  
Councilman Hmara  
Commissioner Ryan, Alternate  
Mayor Marino, Alternate  
Commissioner Hardy, Alternate

Gubernatorial Appointees:  
Michael Davis  
Michael Houston  
Tobin Overdorf  
Reece Parrish  
Peter Sachs

Ex-Officios:  
Kathy LaMartina, South Florida Water Management District

Council Staff:  
Michael Busha  
Phyllis Castro  
Kim DeLaney  
Liz Gulick  
Stephanie Heidt  
Tom Lanahan

Council Attorney:  
Keith Davis
AGENDA

Commissioner Smith from Martin County moved approval of the Agenda. Councilmember Overdorf, Gubernatorial Appointee from Martin County, seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

There being no public comment on Consent Agenda Items, Commissioner Smith moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Ryan from City of West Palm Beach seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Items on the Consent Agenda were: 4B1, Financial Report – May 31, 2018; 4B2, Minutes – June 15, 2018; 4B3, City of Fort Pierce Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 18-1ESR; 4B4, City of Palm Beach Gardens Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 18-1ESR; 4B5, City of Palm Beach Gardens Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 18-2ESR; 4B6, City of Palm Beach Gardens Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 18-3ESR; 4B7, City of Sebastian Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 18-1ESR; 4B8, City of Sebastian Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 18-2ESR; and 4B9, Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Log

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S LETTER OF EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner O’Bryan from Indian River County noted the Budget and Personnel Committee met to review a proposed contract for the position of executive director with Thomas Lanahan. He indicated as part of the overall backup for the proposed letter of employment, the salaries and compensation of the other 9 state regional planning council executive directors was considered. Additionally, there were some revisions to Mr. Lanahan’s current salary, discussion of his past job performance, and what will be expected of him in the position of executive director. Commissioner O’Bryan noted that the proposed letter of employment results in a net reduction of $25,000 from the compensation of the current executive director. He stated the Budget and Personnel Committee voted to recommend Council approve the proposed letter of employment.

Commissioner Smith moved approval of the Executive Director’s Letter of Employment. Mayor Marino from the City of Palm Beach Gardens seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

Staff indicated this item is the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, which will begin on October 1, 2018. Staff stated the proposed budget reflects a 12.2 percent decrease from the prior year’s budget, highlighting several changes made to the budget. Staff indicated the Budget and Personnel Committee met on July 2, 2018 to review the proposed budget and is recommending approval. Commissioner O’Bryan moved approval of the Committee recommendation. Councilmember Sachs, Gubernatorial Appointee from Palm Beach County, seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR HUMAN WASTEWATER BIOSOLIDS – RESOLUTION

Staff indicated the proposed resolution is an outgrowth of the June Regional Biosolids Symposium Council co-sponsored with the Indian River Lagoon Council. Staff explained the resolution is
intended to mark the time when we start to work together as a region and as a state to increase awareness of current and future biosolids management. It is intended to serve as a beginning of efforts to better address potential water quality impacts from our current practices, explore new wastewater treatment technologies that will improve biosolids resource recovery capabilities and capacity, and expand the products that can be offered, such as energy and water, as well as nitrogen and phosphorus products in the form of liquid ammonium and phosphorus ash. Staff indicated the resolution encourages our state agencies and local governments to: 1) prioritize the reduction and eventual elimination of land application of human wastewater biosolids or sludge as we currently practice it today; and 2) establish a Pilot Projects Program for funding local utilities to implement new state of the art technologies and improve the recovery and afford more efficient use of human wastewater biosolids. Staff stated the recommendation presented to the board is for Council to approve the resolution and authorize its distribution to local government associations and involved state agencies.

Commissioner Smith noted that while the three pilot programs presented at the symposium took different approaches, they all had the same result of separating the good from the bad and making a product that was either sellable or useable. He noted the programs were all scalable, ranging from a small village to a very large cattle production facility. He suggested having pilot projects in three different types of communities - very urban, very rural and mid-sized. He stated there should also be efforts made to involve the federal government. He moved approval of proposed resolution. Commissioner Adams from Indian River County seconded the motion.

Mayor Gerwig from the Village of Wellington noted they dry their sludge, ending up with a product called Welorganite, which is similar to milorganite that is then sold very inexpensively by the ton. She asked if this is not the solution they should be using. Staff noted that is the best current technology. However, in the future we need to have more refined products, because the nitrogen and phosphorus are locked in that product, and not all places need additional phosphorus or nitrogen. Staff indicated the technologies that are now being developed that will produce a more refined product that separates out the nitrogen and phosphorus. Mayor Gerwig noted they are searching for more uses for the water byproduct, which is currently being used for irrigation.

Commissioner O’Bryan explained that when a hauler finds a rancher or farmer that is willing to take the sludge, they develop a nutrient management plan for the site using what is called a P index, where they look at things such as soil types and the water table. He explained that the nutrient plan is based upon the nitrogen requirements, which becomes the de facto best management practices. However, they do not look at the phosphorus load. Therefore, when the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) tests the nitrogen, they are found in compliance if they are within the requirements of the plan. He noted at the biosolids symposium it was shown that if you have phosphorus already in the soil, there is no benefit to adding more. He stated he supports the resolution, because when we look at the legacy loads of phosphorus in the lands and water, adding this much more is insane, even though it is considered to be in compliance with the best management practices. He stated Indian River County has instituted a 6 month moratorium on the dumping of Class B biosolids. He indicated as we receive more data on this, hopefully the legislature will get involved and look at this as a statewide issue. He commended the ranchers and farmers in the county who have voluntarily agreed to comply with the moratorium, stating they are not the bad guys in this situation.

Councilman Hmara from the Village of Royal Palm Beach asked how Council can go about reaching out to the federal government on this issue. Commissioner Smith suggested using the fact that this
will eventually lead into the Indian River Lagoon South and affect Everglades Restoration. He stated this will undoubtedly end up in the Water Resources Development Act, because there are multiple components. He indicated they have gotten the federal government involved in a significant way with the coral reef disease issue, noting all of these pieces add up to another part of the story we should be telling our Congressional Delegation. He stated the message needs to stay consistent and unified in order to get something accomplished in terms of policy. He noted one of the companies that presented at the symposium has a piece of equipment that deals with equestrian and cattle industry waste. Staff suggested another action that can be taken is to challenge FDEP and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to make an agency budget request to test a few pilot projects around the state.

Councilmember Overdorf noted Wellington is one of several municipalities that have taken on a huge expense and embraced technology to come up with a product that is being sold nationwide as Class AA Biosolids to be used as fertilizer. He stated the problem is that people applying it to their lawns don’t necessarily follow the guidelines as would the commercial applicators. He stated he would not be able to support a blanket statement across the board that does not consider the class of the biosolids. He stated he believes 110% that Class B, and even Class A, biosolids spreading on fields is not something Council should support. He suggested Smart Farming should be looked at as an alternative. He explained this technology measures the conductivity of the soil and gives information regarding phosphorus, nitrogen, and other elements. As the farmer does the application, they can turn off nozzles as they go across the field, only applying what is needed. He suggested inserting language into the resolution to ask for the reduction and eventual elimination of “Class B and Class A” human wastewater biosolids resources.

Commissioner O’Bryan noted that with respect to Class AA biosolids and homeowner application, almost every municipality at the table has passed a fertilizer ordinance prohibiting phosphorus application, and by buying the milorganite, they are automatically violating those ordinances. He also noted the municipalities are selling their product cheap, because it is a byproduct they are required to get rid of. Councilmember Overdorf stated he is not concerned with the cost of the materials, he is concerned with the cost of the investments already made by the municipalities. Commissioner O’Bryan noted Councilmember Overdorf made the point that commercial applicators are going to be very careful because of the cost factor, but the point is they are getting it cheap, so they do not care if they dump more than needed. Councilmember Overdorf stated they both run businesses and understand the need to watch every penny. Commissioner O’Bryan stated he is personally opposed to limiting the resolution by adding just Class A and Class B, and we should look at all biosolids as far as changing the technology. He noted there is also the ammonia and phosphate ash that can be derived, which is not eliminated in the Class AA byproducts. He noted Class AA also include things such as hormones and pharmaceuticals.

Mayor Gerwig noted Wellington is not allowed to apply fertilizers within their jurisdiction due to a federal order and a lawsuit with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She said she is not saying we should not move forward with technology to harness and get the most of any product we have. She noted her community is different from cattle, because horses do not digest as well as cattle, so there is a significant amount of straw still in the manure as well as wood from the bedding materials used in the stables. She also noted that since a lot of the horses are performance sport horses, there are pharmaceuticals involved.
Vice Mayor Bruner from the City of Stuart thanked Commissioner O’Bryan for his explanation of the best management practices. She noted her son is a rancher, as well as many of her friends in Indiantown and Okeechobee. She said they do not use any of this fertilizer, because they want to do the right thing for the environment.

Commissioner Smith indicated the products that are being produced today lock up a significant amount of extra nutrients that are not needed, and cannot be absorbed, in agriculture. He noted Dr. Silveira from the University of Florida stated at the symposium that the science now is such that they fully understand the various different soil types and what is needed throughout the state. He stated the direction we are heading is to give the farmers and ranchers what they need, but give them the best product we can without having anything left over, which is why we need to look at the different technologies and have pilot programs. He stated he believes this resolution is a great start and just another component of what is going on with Everglades Restoration and coral reef program.

Councilmember Overdorf stated he agrees we need to be looking at this in different ways, but his concern is this is entering into a conflict with state law, because AA Biosolids is an area the legislature has previously addressed. He stated if this is an attempt to change legislation that is fine. He stated he also agrees we need to be looking at new and emerging technology, as long as that includes Smart Farming. He stated that if we are looking at all technologies and sides of the issue, that is not just the mechanical but the agricultural side as well, then he could support the motion. Commissioner O’Bryan stated he agrees that we need to find more efficient farming and food production.

Commissioner Hardy from the City of Lake Worth stated he believes the way the legislature has addressed the issue of Class AA Biosolids is potentially making the situation worse. He stated this resolution needs to encourage the state to look at all biosolids.

Under public comment, Drew Martin thanked Council for the resolution, because there is strong evidence that biosolids are getting into the lagoon and causing water quality problems. He stated he understands there is a scientist that has been doing a lot of tracking and research with E.coli who originally said the cause was septic tanks. He has now determined that the markings of this E.coli getting into the water is from biosolids. Mr. Martin encouraged Council to move forward with the resolution.

Patrick Cheney with Colvin & Co. LP stated the following quote is from a paper by Dr. Silveira, who presented at the biosolids symposium: The University of Florida conducted studies in 2016 and 2017 regards a nutrient runoff comparing commercial fertilizer application versus biosolids application. Results from this study indicate that biosolids application can supplement or replace commercial fertilizer and Bahia grass pastures. With the added benefit of providing a more continuous supply of nutrients throughout the growing season. However, when Bahia grass received commercial and organic fertilizer larger pulses of nitrogen and phosphorus were observed immediately after fertilizer application. Great nitrous oxide emissions were generally associated receiving commercial fertilizer, particularly the first week’s following the fertilization application. These results indicated that nitrogen and phosphorus losses associated with treatments receiving biosolids can be lower than commercial fertilizer. Mr. Cheney stated Class AA Biosolids are a net benefit to the farmer and the environment and science is telling us that. He said we need to consider Class AA fertilizer made from biosolids as a viable choice for handling biosolids.
Charles Grande with the President’s Council of Hutchinson Island thanked Council for hosting the Biosolids symposium, stating it was well done and this is a very important issue. He noted that none of the Class A production processes remove the human markers from the water, which is part of the reason why we believe it is septic systems that are causing the human marker to show in testing of lagoon waters. He stated they are testing further up the canals and are finding that the percentage of human markers does not decrease outside the urban service areas. He stated that although citrus has reduced, most of it has been replaced by turf or sod farming, where the pelletized Class AA fertilizers are being used. He thanked Commissioner O’Bryan for the research he has done and offered his support to Council, asking that the resolution not differentiate between classes of biosolids.

Delores Johnson, President of the St. Lucie Waterfront Council, noted one can stand on the bridges and see the dark plumes of the fresh, brackish water that has settled in the lagoon. She said she applauds Council for the resolution and Indian River County for what they are doing. She stated we all need to do more, working as a region and a state, to make sure that our water and air quality are improved. She also encouraged Council to start increasing awareness of the problem as soon as possible, as stated in the resolution. She indicated she is a candidate for State House District 84 and supports the improvement of our lagoons and waterways, because it is all tied to the quality and quantity of the lives of the citizens of Florida.

Paul Laura with the Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida commended Council for trying to move forward on a resolution to resolve the bio-waste issues that plague us in Florida. He presented a different view, that this is not an agricultural problem per se. He stated this is Florida’s problem and as we increase the population it will become increasingly a Florida problem. He noted that cyanobacteria are here and will not just disappear. He stated it is becoming a health issue and the primary driver of our nutrient overload. He indicated nutrient overload coming from our watersheds and coming from Lake Okeechobee are due to the Kissimmee River, which comes down from Orlando, and we cannot control cyanobacteria if we do not control the nutrients. He noted that in a recent presentation by the University of Miami it was suggested that cyanobacteria could be creating, on a long term basis, health issues such as Alzheimer’s and Lou Gehrig’s Disease. He thanked Council again for taking the first steps to find alternate solutions to handling human waste.

Councilmember Overdorf stated that he agrees with Mr. Grande’s comments that human markers are an issue. He stated he read a recent study about how on John’s Island they could not understand why there was an increase in sucralose levels, which is a human marker, noting they do not have septic tanks. He stated that in the City of Vero Beach, they have also found sucralose in the sewage system where they receive the treated wastewater to irrigate the golf courses, even though the water has been treated. He stated he applauds Council for looking at increased technology and agrees with Mr. Laura's comments that if we can control the nutrients we will certainly control the dialogue associated with it. He said we also need to control the sediment that has plagued the St. Lucie River, and if we are able to remove some of that sediment then we can actually have vegetation that can take care of the nutrients. Upon being put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY TEN YEAR POWER PLANT SITE PLAN 2018-2027**

Staff summarized the Florida Power and Light (FPL) Ten Year Power Plant Site plan, noting every year utilities are required to update their ten-year plans for meeting electricity demands and submit that to the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC). Staff indicated in its current plan, which
covers 2018-2027, indicates FPL plans to obtain additional electricity through: 1) upgrades to existing facilities; 2) modernization of existing FPL facilities; and 3) construction of new generating units. They also plan to take a considerable amount of older oil and coal-fired capacity out of service. Staff also provided information with respect to fuel blend currently and in the year 2027. Staff noted in 2019 solar will surpass coal and oil as sources of power in FPL’s system.

Staff noted FPL is also committed to meeting demand through new solar production capacity and has indicated all the new plants proposed in our region will be solar. The plan indicates that FPL is proposing that between 2018 and 2027 they will put into service a total of 2,003 megawatts (MW) of photovoltaic solar generation across their entire system. However, no specific sites have been identified. Staff indicated the recommendation in the draft staff report requests FPL continue to work on solar and fuel diversity as this supports sustainability and furtherance of Council’s Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Staff noted Sophia Eccleston with FPL was present to answer any questions. Staff recommended approval of the draft report and its transmission to the FPSC.

Councilman Overdorf said he applauds FPL for their efforts to switch over from fossil fuels and move toward a solar base. He also thanked them for accepting the tax break and not passing on the repair costs from Hurricane Irma to their customers.

Mayor Gerwig asked if solar is becoming more durable. Ms. Eccleston indicated the solar panels are pretty durable and there was only minimal damage from the last storm.

Commissioner O’Bryan noted that when you look at the plants FPL is proposing, they are always 74.5 MW, which falls below the 75 MW level that would trigger the very expensive site plan process. He noted in Indian River County FPL has 600 acres reserved for solar, but they are only currently using half of that property for solar panels, which seems like a waste of land. He suggested that in the future if FPL would ever want to initiate having that limit changed by the Florida Legislature, he believes that is something Council should support. Ms. Eccleston stated she will take that back with her. She noted that many times they do not put solar on all the land they have available, because they are required to mitigate for environmental issues.

Commissioner O’Bryan moved approval of the staff report. Councilman Auwaerter from Indian River Shores seconded the motion.

Under public comment, Mr. Martin stated he appreciates that FPL has increased the amount of solar. He encouraged FPL also focus more on net metering and work with individuals and big box stores to put solar on their roofs and so they can feed the excess power back into the grid. He stated Council should encourage local governments to consider putting solar on fire stations. He stated the solar panels that are now being manufactured are very durable and can handle up to 150 mph winds. Upon being put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff noted, after consultation with the Chairman, the August meeting has been canceled.

Staff indicated the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board will be meeting on August 17th in Hollywood. Staff noted the Florida League of Cities will also be meeting at the same location during this time.
Staff asked Council members for consensus on having a joint meeting with the South Florida Regional Planning Council in October. Staff noted last October the two councils met and collaborated on issues such as how to address the coral reef diseases outbreak and legislation related to victims’ rights in the release of autopsy records related to mass murder events. There was consensus to continue to plan a joint meeting.

Staff noted there will be a Public Officials Training Symposium on September 12th that is being held in conjunction with the Florida American Planning Association conference in West Palm Beach. The training will cover law and planning principles and be geared to elected officials and appointed advisory board members. Staff indicated if there are questions they should contact Stephanie Heidt of Council staff.

Staff stated there is planning being done for Council to host a Form Based Code (FBC) class in January or February of 2019. The class will help participants understand how FBCs can be used as part of the land use plan to create predictable, high quality development results. Staff will provide more information as it becomes available.

Staff indicated Kim DeLaney of Council staff has been selected by the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority to serve on the proposal review committee for the development of a hotel at the Boca Raton/Yamato Road Tri-Rail Station.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Chairman Parrish noted he and his family took a Brightline train to Miami on the July 4th holiday. He stated they parked at the station, which costs $6-8 a day, noting you need to have a smart phone. He said the station was beautiful and they really enjoyed the trip, noting they purchased the Select Service.

COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATE

Councilman Hmara from the Village of Royal Palm Beach indicated he is looking for some best management practices for handling aquatic vegetation in canals. He stated they are trying to keep the canals in the village open for recreational purposes and not kill the fish, but have been unsuccessful in managing the vegetation.

Commissioner Smith indicated there has been some success regarding the coral reef issues with the reauthorization of the Coral Reef Act of 2000, which is now called the Coral Reef Act of 2018. He noted there was a recent meeting with FDEP where a technical focus group was formed. He indicated the task force has already produced a series of recommendations. He stated they hope to have all the recommendations in hand when the South Florida Eco Task Force meets next week in Washington D.C. He noted there has also been a meeting with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission who have offered their comments and recommendations for addressing the coral reef issues. He reported Council recently hosted a workshop on the future of retail featuring Bob Gibbs. He stated all the presentations from the cities were great and it was fascinating to see the diversity of the communities in Palm Beach County and how they are approaching their retail challenges.
Councilmember Davis, Gubernatorial Appointee from Palm Beach County, stated he is proud to be part of Council, because of all the discussion regarding water quality, Everglades restoration and biosolids management. He noted that on July 11th we lost a champion of the environment in our region with the passing of Nathaniel Reed.

Mayor Gerwig stated she also enjoyed the retail workshop being able to present her community to the group. She noted that the location of the workshop at the closed Macy’s store in CityPlace was very appropriate. She stated one of the retail solutions Amazon has tried is using lockers at other local retail establishments as a place to ship items to customers.

Councilman Auwaerter indicated there has been an explosion of bike and electric scooter sharing around the country, noting the most recent technology is a dockless feature that allows the user to leave the bike or scooter anywhere and lock it. He asked if any other council members are considering or have this type of service in their communities. Commissioner Valeche from Palm Beach County stated he has heard that there have been problems with people leaving the bikes in the middle of the street, speculating that model may not be as successful as the dockable type of bike sharing.

Commissioner Ryan indicated the City of West Palm Beach has had SkyBike for four years and feels that it is outdated. She noted they are looking to expand to scooters and electric bikes as a last mile solution with Brightline and Tri-Rail and have been working with several vendors around the country to determine what will be best for the city. Councilman Auwaerter stated that one of his concerns is that deep pocket lobbyists will convince the State Legislature that these types of services should not be governed at the local level.

Councilman Carvelli from the City of Port St. Lucie indicated the city is continuing to grow, noting he has lived there since there were only 5,000 residents and now there are more than 180,000 residents, making it the 8th largest city in Florida. He stated they have received three offers to purchase the vacant building that was the location of the Vaccine Gene Therapy Institute. The highest of the three offers was $14.5 million from RER, a company out of Arlington, Virginia that has indicated they will continue to use the building for bioscience industry purposes. He also noted the city has agreed to take ownership of 1,223 acres in the Southern Grove Section (located in the southwest area of the city along I-95 on the Martin County border) from the Tradition Land Company. He stated they have already had several proposals from companies and organizations to locate in that area. He said the Council has also considered putting out a request for proposal to locate a vocational and/or technical academy there as a centerpiece to the business park to attract businesses and train employees.

Commissioner Hardy stated a friend of his who is a financial advisor quoted to him from a Forbes article that in the United States we have on average 25 square feet of retail space per capita, and in Europe it is about 2.5 square feet. With respect to the FBC class, he stated that one thing he learned at the CNU conference in Savannah is that FBCs can be tricky, because you need a future land use designation underneath the code that is not too specific.

Commissioner Bonna from St. Lucie County stated he is enjoying being a part of Council.

Commissioner Valeche noted that Palm Beach County has a very extensive comprehensive plan hearing scheduled that includes a very controversial project just outside the city limits of the City of
Atlantis. He stated Atlantis will be using the findings from one of Council’s charrettes as part of the discussion for the agenda item.

Commissioner O’Bryan noted that in Indian River County they have been working for years to sell the City of Vero Beach electric system to FPL. He stated they have received approval from the FPSC, but at the last minute there was a formal appeal of that decision filed by a citizen group opposing the sale. He said he does not think this will kill the deal, but it is a bit of a setback.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Martin with the Sierra Club stated he believes water quality will be the issue this summer, because people are starting to realize how much damage there has been particularly to the seagrasses and reefs. He stated there is not a lot that can be done in terms of releases from Lake Okeechobee, but there are things that can be done locally such as fertilizer ordinances, encouraging people to do septic conversions, and having people limit watering their lawns. He noted his concern about the use of plastics, such as plastic bags from stores and straws in restaurants, that wind up becoming litter on the ground and in our waterways. He encouraged Council to use biodegradable cups rather than Styrofoam when serving coffee.

**STAFF COMMENT**

Chairman Parrish reminded everyone the August meeting has been cancelled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Reece adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.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 20, 2018 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Date

Signature