



# Central Florida Regional Planning Council

## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024 | 9:30 a.m.**

Avon Park Community Center  
West Main Street 300  
Avon Park, FL 33825

Chair Nathaniel Birdsong called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Council Attorney Norman White led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Norman White swore in new Council Member Stephanie Madden, City of Lakeland Commissioner.

Roll was called and the following Council Members were in attendance:

Chair Nathaniel Birdsong, City of Winter Haven Mayor  
Vice Chair Donna Howerton, Highlands County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Councilman Keith Keene, City of Arcadia Deputy Mayor  
Commissioner Kelly Owens, Okeechobee County  
Robert "Jeff" Kincart, Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Councilman Noel Chandler, City of Okeechobee  
Commissioner Stephanie Madden, City of Lakeland  
Commissioner Neda Cobb, City of Wauchula Mayor Pro-Tem  
Councilman Harrison Havery, City of Sebring  
Commissioner Don Elwell, Highlands County  
John Bohde, Polk County, Ex-Officio  
Cindy Rodriguez, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Ex-Officio  
Brook Heck, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

A quorum of members was present.

### **1) Opportunity for Public Comments**

No public comments.

### **2) Council Administration**

#### **A) Approval of Minutes**

- A motion was made by: Kelly Owens
- The motion was seconded by: Donna Howerton
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

#### **B) Approval of the December 2023 Financial Report**

- A motion was made by: Keith Keene
- The motion was seconded by: Don Elwell
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

### **3) City of Avon Park Activities Report**

Avon Park City Manager Mark Schrader provided an update on current activities in the City of Avon Park and provided an overview of the city's continued increased development and growth.

**4) Connecting Central Florida Manufacturing and Emergency Preparedness Project Kickoff**

CFRPC Emergency Management and Community Projects Director Curtis Knowles reviewed the Connecting Central Florida Manufacturing and Emergency Preparedness Project funded through a FY 23-24 Florida Commerce Community Planning Technical Assistance grant. Curtis explained the key components of the grant includes partnership and informational materials and the implementation framework “Connex Florida” to be used by FloridaMakes, manufacturers, and the emergency preparedness community to integrate the utilization of disaster response scenarios.

**5) Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) Activities**

CFRPC Transportation Director Marybeth Soderstrom presented information on transportation applications. Marybeth also briefed the Council on the upcoming transportation bills being considered by the Florida Legislature.

**6) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Project Update**

CFRPC Emergency Management and Community Projects Director Curtis Knowles provided an update on the CDBG-MIT grant project which includes a collaborative approach among many six of Florida’s Regional Planning Councils in resilience planning and GIS flood assessment modeling.

**7) Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilient Florida Vulnerability Assessments Grants Update**

This item was moved to a future Council meeting.

**8) Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilience Project Grant**

CFRPC Executive Director Jennifer Codo-Salisbury reviewed the FDEP Resilience Project Grant Scope of Work which will include the identification and verification of regionally significant assets included in the Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea Level Rise Data Set.

Approval to authorize the Executive Director to execute FDEP agreement and administer FDEP Grant.

- A motion was made by: Kelly Owens
- The motion was seconded by: Keith Keene
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**9) Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) and Compatible Use Plan for Avon Park Air Force Range**

CFRPC Executive Director Jennifer Codo-Salisbury gave a brief overview of the MIRR and update on the Compatible Use Plan for Avon Park Air Force Range. The MIRR project kicked off in January and is ongoing. The Council will be briefed as this project continues.

**10) Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) Mission Brief**

Charles “Buck” MacLaughlin, Ret. Lt. Col., USAF, APAFR Range Operations Officer, briefed the Council about the mission of the APAFR and discussed safety protocols for the Tour of the installation immediately following the Council meeting. The APAFR serves all branches of the armed forces.

The APAFR, the largest primary training range east of the Mississippi River, provides:

- World-class training for all branches of the Armed Forces;
- Approximately 106,000 acres as a daytime and nighttime training range;
- Flexible training environment and facilities; and
- Uncontrolled airfield in restricted airspace.

**11) Report on the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) January Policy Board Meeting & FRCA Annual Report**

This item was moved to a future Council meeting.

**12) Executive Director's Report**

This item was moved to a future Council meeting.

**13) Next Meeting and Other Business**

A) Next Meeting: April 10, 2024, 9:30 am, at the Hardee County Commission Chambers, 412 W Orange Street, Room 103, Wauchula, FL 33873.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith Keene, Chair