

MINUTES OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 24, 2010

MPO & VCOG CONFERENCE ROOM
2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BLVD., SUITE 120
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Greg Northrup
Mayor Robert F. Apgar
Commissioner Herb Zischkau
Mayor Mike Thomas
Mayor Bob Garcia
Mayor Roland Via
Mayor Buddy Snowden
Mayor Adam Barringer
Mayor Harley Strickland
Mayor Fredrick Costello
Mayor James Sowell
Mayor Tony Goudie
Mayor Allen Green
Mayor Ron Clifton
School Board Chair Candace Lankford
Michael Mellon

REPRESENTING

Daytona Beach Shores
DeLand
Mayor Mulder, Deltona
Edgewater
DeBary
Holly Hill
Lake Helen
New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Pierson
Ponce Inlet
Port Orange
South Daytona
Volusia County School Board
Emergency Medical Foundation/EVAC

Members Absent: Commissioner Reynolds, Daytona Beach; Mayor Lauer, Oak Hill; County Chair Bruno, Volusia County

VCOG STAFF PRESENT

Mary Swiderski, VCOG Executive Director
Brenda Stevens Rockwell, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

At 5:00 p.m., VCOG Chair, Mayor Robert Apgar called to order the May 24, 2010, regular meeting of the VCOG Governing Board.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The roll was called and a quorum was declared present. Mayor Apgar led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION

None

PRESENTATIONS

UPDATE ON EDUCATION LEGISLATION – CANDACE LANKFORD, CHAIR OF VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

County School Board Chair Lankford gave a briefing of:

- Volusia County School Board supports Florida's Classroom size reduction amendment; however, the teachers' union does not. In the school board's opinion, it gives them the ability to exercise more control, adjusting class size at the school level, not the classroom level. It would be extraordinarily difficult to implement on a class by class basis. The classroom size would remain the same (18), plus an average of up to three students. This amendment will have to be implemented in August.

- Fair districting amendments 5 & 6 are also on the table, to stop the gerrymandering of districts. The house and senate were not pleased with this; these amendments give the voters a choice instead of the legislators choosing their voters, so now there is a proposed amendment 7 which would negate amendments 5 & 6.
- New High School requirements are going to be very stringent. As of 2010-2011, all students must have an algebra I credit; the year after that (2011-2012) they must have geometry; in 2012-2013 they must have algebra II. The new requirements are rigorous; County School Board Chair Lankford expressed concern that not all students will be able to achieve this. High school students must already have three science credits; they must now have one in Biology with an end of course exam, and by 2013-2014, also one course in either Physics or Chemistry (or the equivalent).
- GED diplomas will no longer be counted in graduation rates, children graduating after five years will not be counted in graduation rates. School Board Chair Lankford is concerned that the graduation numbers will start looking very different; the calculations will be based on different criteria.
- School Board Chair Lankford is very happy that Governor Crist vetoed Senate bill 6, also known by most as the "teacher merit pay plan" and the teacher tenure bill. What was overlooked was the fact that it was actually a \$900 million unfunded mandate. Opposing this bill put them at odds with the teachers unions. Crist put together a "Race to the Top" work group committee. School Board Chair Lankford was chosen to be on this committee of twelve, along with the President of the Florida Chamber, the President of the PTA, two superintendents (from Miami-Dade and Orange counties), the President of the Teacher's union, two legislators, and the teacher of the year. Inside of 12 hours, they put together a graduated model that the teachers agreed to.
- Corporate vouchers amount, also known corporate scholarships was raised from \$118 million to \$140 million. McKay scholarships have never been challenged, but the child has to be in the school district for one year to be assessed. Now, if the child has a sibling they do not have to be assessed.
- The Volusia County School Board has a \$35 million dollar deficit this year. They have identified cuts of \$17 million. Previously, they have cut administrative costs 20 per cent in the past two years; they will be cut an additional 5%. She indicated that the next \$17 million in cuts will be very painful. Due to continuing declining student enrollment, it will be difficult; they are paid on a per student basis. Don't be surprised to see combined classes if necessary.
- Sandra Day O'Connor civics law passed, requiring civics in the sixth grade this year.
- The county will be looking for laypersons to teach at the schools for one period a day. Several board members asked about the requirements of persons who would be interested in this.
- Legislature did pass to do a new study on the new district cost differential; it must be conducted by an out-of-state firm.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/RECOGNITION

- Mayor Apgar informed the board of his appointment of Mayor Barringer to the Executive Committee to fill the spot left by the late Mayor O'Neal.
- Mayor Apgar reported on his attendance at the City & County managers meeting.
 - He updated them on his meeting with Morgan Gilreath, and mentioned that Mayor Strickland and his city manager also met with him. The managers group had asked VCOG to send a letter to ask Morgan to meet with a city he would be inclined to cite with any trim notices so they can deal with any inaccuracies. The VCOG board advised Mayor Apgar to meet with him instead.
 - City Managers were asked to analyze the role of their respective cities with Smart Growth.
 - Mayor Apgar again asked the managers to work cooperatively to save money and work more efficiently. DeLand's city manager took the leading role in coordinating this effort.
- The meeting was the first time a chairman of VCOG had met with them (that they could remember). Mayor Apgar suggested that perhaps VCOG could try to meet with them more often. They appreciated the information and the feedback.

VCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Mary Swiderski gave a briefing of:

- April groundwater report – Mary met with the Water Advisory Committee on Friday.
 - Following the West Volusia study, a peer review is now being scheduled. East Volusia cities are being asked to participate like West side cities in order to lend more credibility to the data being given to the St. John's River Water Management District.
 - Mayor Costello requested information about what the groundwater levels were 50-60 years ago compared with today. Mary indicated that the groundwater report is not based on actual levels of groundwater, but based on a count of manatees of Blue Springs, and this is a point of contention with the West side cities. Mayor Strickland states that the St. John's River Water Management District has a report with those figures in it.
 - Mayor Clifton mentioned a Joe Delrasa who has years of historical information on water in Florida.
 - Mayor Garcia mentioned that at a water meeting in Deltona, St. John's River Water Management District was asked "are we in a critical situation right now?", and they could not answer. He stated that the cities need to know this if it is the case so they can act appropriately; it is hard to convince citizens that there is a shortage of water, and they need to pay five times more for it.
 - Mayor Green indicated that the Orange City bottling company (started circa World's fair 1939) should be an indicator that that city should be able to judge the quality of water.
 - Mayor Strickland stated that what their wells indicate disagrees with St. John's water management. There is not enough food in the St. John's river to support the manatees they have now. Only those users in the Blue Springs water basin, at least 1400 wells, are pumping water with no restrictions at all from St. John's.
 - Mayor Costello would like the Executive committee to look further into this.
 - Mayor Goudie wants to present a governmental regional front with respect to the validity of the water report.
 - Commissioner Zischkau questioned the logic of the county being asked to pay to purify dirty water coming from the river when millions of gallons of groundwater are allowed to pump directly into the river. He recommended a special subcommittee to address this issue.
 - Mayor Via stated that we have a unique situation with a Florida aquifer on top of a Volusia aquifer. He had asked Kirby Green, head of St. John's River Water Management District, to show scientific data that indicates we are in danger of running out of water. Mr. Green was unable to produce the data. Mayor Via believes it is up to the discretion of their engineers with no data to support the claim.
 - School Board Chair Lankford indicated that the next thing to be tackled by Congress of Regional Leaders is water (now that the Sun Rail / transportation issue is done). She stated that the three governing water entities in the state do not use the same criteria, which is causing frustration.
 - Mary Swiderski said that the west side study was costly; VCOG cannot demand that the East side cities do the same thing. She suggested that the advisory committee submit the peer report in order to request that the East side cities participate, so like data can be compared.
 - Mary Swiderski also suggested that the Water conservation committee needs a task since their active membership is dwindling.
 - Mayor Apgar stated that when WAV disbanded, VCOG agreed to take over; next quarterly report is in June. If attendance is dwindling, we need to encourage the other members to come back.
 - Mary Swiderski indicated that Engineers from East side analyzing the flooding are not able to give the Water Advisory Committee updates on their findings.
 - Mayor Apgar suggested that the Executive committee can discuss this issue further.
 - Mayor Strickland indicated that St. John's finally recognized Orange City's request for a program of using reused/reclaimed water.
- Mary Swiderski reminded the board that the Volusia League of Cities annual distinguished awards dinner is Thursday, May 27, 2010. Mayor Apgar suggested it may make sense to carpool.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 26, 2010

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF APRIL 2010**APPROVAL OF 2010 MEMBER ASSESSMENTS**

MOTION by Mayor Garcia and **SECOND** by Mayor Clifton for approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2010, approval of the treasurer's report, and approval of the 2010 Member Assessments, as presented; motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

2010 CENSUS COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Mary Swiderski provided an update comparing the 2000 Census update with the 2010 Census (mail in only). She believes that all the publicity this time is helping to bump up the numbers.
- Wrap up meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, May 25, 2010.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION by Mayor Costello and **SECOND** by Mayor Northrup for approval of Election of Officers, to elect County Chair Bruno as Vice Chair, and Mayor Strickland as Secretary/Treasurer as presented; motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

SMART GROWTH SUMMIT UPDATE

Mary Swiderski gave a briefing of:

- Smart Growth-Sustainability Workshop held May 19, 2010 at the Volusia County Administration building for West side went very well. About 30-40 people were in attendance.
- VCOG's web site is being redeveloped; VCOG's intern from Daytona State College is working on putting the video on the web site. Hope is to get the video chaptered by city.
- Soon there will be a check sheet matrix on the web site, to see who is doing what with regards to green ordinances, etc., with respect to Smart Growth.
- Mayor Apgar indicated there were some participants of the workshop that had concerns about the participatory process. He suggested involving the citizens earlier in the process. With further feedback from the managers, we may get more ideas, but now it is in the hands of the cities.
- DVD copies of the video were distributed so members can watch it at their convenience and share within their own municipalities.
- County School Board Chair Lankford indicated frustration at the inertia of the municipalities to get involved.

NEW BUSINESS

None

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTSSCHOOL BOARD CHAIR CANDACE LANKFORD

- Mentioned she is going to have a President's Retreat in September and wished to complement the VCOG board. She wants to bring VCOG to the executive committee; what they do is extraordinary, she thinks it is a model to the state.

MAYOR FRED COSTELLO, MAYOR TONY GOUDIE, MAYOR JAMES SOWELL, MAYOR BUDDY SNOWDEN, MAYOR MIKE THOMAS, MAYOR HARLEY STRICKLAND AND MAYOR ROLAND VIA

- All expressed appreciation to School Board Chair Candace Lankford for her hard work and offered congratulations for being elected President of the Florida School Boards Association.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL MELLON

- Reported that in their next year's budget, EVAC reduced their financial request from the county by 15.7%, and this year they returned to the county \$1.6 million.

MAYOR ADAM BARRINGER

- New Smyrna Beach had a recent HUD investigation of their housing authority. Some pretty serious allegations arose; he asked all the HUD board members to resign. He solicited advice if any of the VCOG board members had had this type of situation in their cities. No one indicated having the same complications.

MAYOR BOB GARCIA

- Vice Mayor Erickson has highly recommended VCOG since he attended meeting in Mayor Garcia's absence.
- He indicated in spite of the great ideas and good models, he is not getting a good response for smart growth in his city.

MAYOR HARLEY STRICKLAND

- Expressed frustration about citizen involvement struggles, even with respect to charitable events.

MAYOR ROLAND VIA

- Remarked when School Board Chair Candace Lankford speaks at the Congress of Regional Leaders, everyone listens.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business to come before the VCOG Board, Mayor Apgar adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

AS SUBMITTED, THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD WERE APPROVED IN AN OPEN MEETING HELD ON JUNE 28, 2010, IN THE MPO & VCOG CONFERENCE ROOM AT 2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 100, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

VCOG, INC.

Chair

ATTEST:


Recording Secretary