



## **Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials Meeting Minutes March 9, 2020**

### **CALL TO ORDER - 12 p.m.**

The Dennis McGee Room of Daytona Beach International Airport (DBIA), 700 Catalina Drive, Daytona Beach, Florida.

Those attending included the following Roundtable members: Roundtable Chair and DeLand Mayor Bob Apgar; Roundtable Vice Chair and Volusia County Council Chair Ed Kelley; Daytona Beach Mayor Derrick Henry; Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Nancy Miller; DeBary Mayor Karen Chasez; Deltona Mayor Heidi Herzberg; Edgewater District 1 Council Member Christine Power; Holly Hill Mayor Chris Via; Lake Helen Mayor Daisy Raisler; Oak Hill Mayor Douglas Gibson; Orange City Mayor Gary Blair; Pierson Town Council Chairman Samuel Bennett; Ponce Inlet City Council Member Lois Paritsky; Port Orange Mayor Don Burnette; South Daytona Mayor Bill Hall; and Volusia County School Board Vice Chair Ida Wright.

Others attending included Jim Chisholm, City Manager, Daytona Beach; Michael Booker, City Manager, Daytona Beach Shores; Carmen Rosamonda, City Manager, DeBary; Michael Pleus, City Manager, DeLand; Marc-Antonie Cooper, Interim City Manager, Deltona; Glenn Irby, City Manager, Edgewater; Joe Forte, City Manager, Holly Hill; Becky Witte, Town Administrator, Lake Helen; Khalid Resheidat, City Manager, New Smyrna Beach; Kohn Evans, City Administrator, Oak Hill; Dale Arrington, City Manager, Orange City; Joyce Shanahan, City Manager, Ormond Beach; Jake Johansson, City Manager, Port Orange; Les Gillis, City Manager, South Daytona; George Recktenwald, County Manager, Volusia County; Suzanne Konchan, Deputy County Manager, Volusia County; Ben Johnson, Volusia County Council Member, At-Large; Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2; Deb Denys, Volusia County Council Member, District 3; Lisa Lewis, Supervisor of Elections, Volusia County; Laura Roth, Clerk of Circuit Court, Volusia County; Jim Judge, Director, Volusia County Emergency Management; Dona Butler, Director, Volusia County Community Services; Kevin Captain, Interim Director, Volusia County Community Information Division; Brian Rothwell, Activity Project Manager, Volusia County; Phyllis Butlien, DeBary City Council, Seat 4; Allen Rosen, Assistant City Manager, Port Orange; Jamie Miller, Administrative Services Director, City of Port Orange; Patricia Boswell, Administrator, Volusia County Department of Health; Holly Smith, Communications Manager, Volusia County Department of Health; Annabell Cryan, Flood Coalition, Outreach Associate; Dr. Alec Bogdanoff, Flood Coalition, Florida Lead; Anne Baker, Flood Coalition, Coalition Outreach Manager; Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce; Ernie Audino, Office of Congressman Mike Waltz; Brianni Rossi, Office of Representative Fetterhoff, Florida House District 26; Lois Bollenback, Executive Director, River to Sea TPO (Transportation Planning Organization); Big John, Holly Hill; Jeff Crumbley, Photography Specialist, Volusia County Community Information Division; Gary Daniels, Production Coordinator, Volusia County Community Information Division; and Kathie Kardos, Administrative Aide, County Manager's Office. Taking minutes was Debbie Kelley, Administrative Aide, County Manager's Office.

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Roundtable Chairman Bob Apgar welcomed those attending. After standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

#### **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PRESENTATION**

**Patricia Boswell**, Administrator, Volusia County Health Department, provided an update on the coronavirus, *COVID-19*. It is a new disease, which is rapidly evolving and expanding. To date, Volusia County has one presumptive positive case. The Volusia County Health Department has been preparing its response since January. The Health Department's goal is to detect the virus, reduce the spread and the impact of it. The department is part of Florida's integrated public health system, with an incident management team, to focus on the rapidly changing environment.

As of March 1, when the first two cases were reported in Hillsborough and Manatee counties; the Governor issued *Executive Order 20-51*, directing a *Public Health Emergency* and the State Surgeon General issued a *Declaration of Public Health Emergency* for the State of Florida. The first confirmed Florida case, was a Hillsborough County resident, who had traveled to Italy within the last month. As of this morning, Florida has twelve Florida residents that are considered positive. This includes a Volusia County resident. Five Florida residents who tested positive are outside of the state. One non-Florida resident within the state has tested positive. Two Florida deaths have been attributed to *COVID-19*. So far, in the state of Florida, there have been 140 negative test results. There are 115 pending testing results. Currently, in the state of Florida, 1104 people have been tested. Of those 1104 people, 302 people are being monitored.

The coronavirus, *COVID-19*, risk is dependent upon exposure; it is spread from person to person. The best way to prevent the illness is to avoid being exposed to it. Most often, it is spread person to person, among close contacts that are within six feet of each other. It is thought that the virus occurs mainly through the respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how the flu and other respiratory diseases are spread. Symptoms are mild to severe and may appear within two-fourteen days after exposure. At the present time, there is no vaccine to protect against *COVID-19* and there is no medication approved to treat it. If a person becomes infected with *COVID-19*, the Health Department recommends that they receive supportive care to relieve any symptoms. As of this morning, there are commercial labs in Volusia County that can perform testing.

The Health Department's efforts are on containing the virus. Older adults and persons with underlying health conditions are the most vulnerable. Ways to help prevent the spread of the virus are:

- Washing hands for at least twenty seconds with soap and water, constantly throughout the day
- Use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol, if soap and water is not available
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Staying home if you are sick
- Stay home if you are sick with the new onset of a medical condition
- Stay home if you have chronic diseases such as asthma
- Cover your nose when sneezing, cover your mouth when coughing
- Use household cleaners to clean and disinfect objects/surfaces that are frequently touched

Travel advisories are changing with other impacted countries. The Department of Health has determined that all international travel will be monitored. When the Health Department is conducting monitoring the following happens:

- Information is received from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) about people returning from impacted areas
- Staff works with those individuals doing testing, monitoring for illness, isolating, making sure contact tracing is being done

The Health Department uses guidance that comes from the CDC. The Department has excellent materials posted. Currently, in Florida, the risk of contracting the virus is low. The Health Department is following CDC guidelines. Helpful resources can be found at:

- Florida Department of Health website – [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov)
- COVID-19 Call Center (24/7) 1-866-779-6121
- email: [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov)
- CDC website – [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

A lengthy discussion ensued between Ms. Boswell, Elected Official Roundtable Members, City Managers and others.

### **FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE IN VOLUSIA COUNTY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION**

**Anna Baker**, Outreach Manager, *American Flood Coalition*, thanked everyone for having them provide a presentation. The organization is looking forward to working with the County of Volusia and the municipalities. She introduced two members of the coalition: Lois Paritsky, Council Member, Town of Ponce Inlet and Jake Johannson, City Manager, City of Port Orange. They are thrilled at the opportunity to present information about the *American Flood Coalition* and about the topics of flooding and rising sea levels.

The *American Flood Coalition* is a 501(c)(3) national non-profit organization; a coalition with a range of different member types which includes:

- Cities and towns
- Elected officials at local, state and federal levels
- Business leaders
- Military leaders
- Civic and academic organizations

All of these groups have come together regarding the important issues of flooding and sea level rise. They are trying to help identify solutions to these issues, especially common solutions at the national level.

**Dr. Alec Bogdanoff**, Florida Lead, *American Flood Coalition*, said his job is to work with the members in Florida. There are eleven federal champions from Florida that are members; they are members of Congress. Florida Congressman Michael Waltz is a member of the coalition. In Florida, there are fifty-eight cities and counties that are members. Florida has the largest membership base. That is due partly because Florida has over 1300 miles of coastline, which makes it high risk. Local businesses and organizations are also involved.

There are three large drivers that affect Florida. They are:

1. Sea level rise – There has been approximately five inches of sea level rise since 2000.
2. Heavy rainfall – More intense rain storms in a shorter amount of time.
3. Stronger storms – There will be more Category 4 and Category 5 hurricanes.

This creates infrastructure, political, policy and economic challenges. Flooding and rising sea levels affect Florida's economy. The sales tax revenue will be affected by a threat to the tourism industry. Agriculture is the state second largest industry. In certain parts of the state there are risks due to rising groundwater

levels and changes in rainfall patterns. Close to 40% of small businesses do not reopen after a flooding disaster. Property values become at risk. In the past fifteen years, Florida homes have collectively lost \$5.42 billion due to flooding. Which in turn affects local government revenues. Bond ratings will be affected and will create growing negative factors.

Most of Volusia County is in a flood zone. It is not just the eastern part of the County that is affected by storm surge. Volusia County is mainly flat, so inland areas are at risk of flooding. There was a combined total of over \$760 million of damage from Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. In May 2009, a severe rainstorm caused many Volusia County properties to be in two feet of water, which caused \$69 million in damages. In the future, there is an increased risk of hurricanes and tropical storm events. It is predicted, that by 2040, there will be approximately ten inches of sea level rise. The risks to Volusia County, within the 100-year floodplain, included 122 critical facilities, \$17 billion dollars in property value, and 30.9% of all parcels, which is equal to 41,928 structures will be affected.

**Ms. Baker** explained that The *American Flood Coalition* is a solutions driven organization. Some of the resources they provide include:

- Best-in-Class educational guides
- Tools for effective communication
- Networks of leaders on flooding
- Competitive local resilience pilots
- Platform for advocacy and education

She briefly discussed each of the above resources; along with the *Coalitions* four pillars for coastal and inland solutions which are:

1. Economy
2. Communities
3. Rebuilding
4. Military

**Annabel Cryan**, Outreach Associate, *American Flood Coalition*, said the *Coalition* provides best practices in adaptation by tracking city and state plans across the country. They have gone deeper with some of the members, looking at their plans to see what they have on the agenda with their stormwater master plans or their comprehensive management plan. Looking at how they can best work with these and think about other adaptation actions that can be sequenced in to make the most efficient use of their time. She briefly discussed *Example Actions to Jump Start Resilience* and *Federal Funding Guide for Small Cities*.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF THE LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

**Lois Bollenback**, Executive Director, River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization, discussed the *River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization* Power Point presentation and the *Connect 2045 – Your Community Transportation Plan* handout. All the municipalities and the County have representation on the *River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization* board.

Transportation Planning Organizations (TPO's) are required by federal and state law for urbanized areas that have a population greater than 50,000. The TPO's purpose is to make sure there is local input in the decision making process for state and federal transportation funding. They ensure expenditures of transportation public funds which are based on a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive planning process. They also provide local input in the prioritization of transportation projects utilizing state and federal funding. The TPO can stop projects from moving forward, if it is felt the project is not in the best interest of a community. That provides an opportunity to slow something down when necessary.

One of the primary planning activities the TPO pursues is the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) which identifies transportation projects for a minimum of 20 years up to 25 years into the future. This is done to try to predict what sort of transportation demands are going to exist then. The TPO tries to forecast transportation and employment. The information is loaded into a sophisticated traffic modeler. It is used to try to estimate where there will be congestion on local roads. They also estimate funding that will be available during that time. They also try to identify the projects that can be built using that fund over time. Federal, state and local funding all work together. Many projects are funded with one, two or all three of those funding sources. Communication is important, we want to be able to leverage those dollars.

There are three primary focus areas. They are:

- Technology – transforms transportation systems and infrastructure
- Resiliency – ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disruptive events
- Funding – provide money for transportation projects from federal, state and local sources

### **ECHO AND VOLUSIA FOREVER UPDATE**

**Ed Kelley**, Volusia County Council Chair, provide a brief update on *ECHO* and *Volusia Forever*. The County Council is moving forward with each of them. The County has contracted with the *Trust for Public Lands* to provide guidance moving forward. Everything should be finalized by the first or second week in April 2020. It seems like a forgone conclusion that both *ECHO* and *Volusia Forever* will be placed on the November 2020 ballot.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

**Kevin Captain**, Interim Director, Volusia County Community Information Department, provided information regarding links on volusia.org to various coronavirus informational websites. He encouraged the municipalities to provide the same information on their websites.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE**

**Dona Butler**, Community Services Director, said at the last County Council Workshop, the Council Members identified the need to have a summit with all the municipalities invited, along with the other partners within Volusia County, to discuss *affordable workforce housing*. The event has been already been scheduled and the City of DeLand is offering to co-sponsor the event. It will be held at the *Sanborn Center* in DeLand, May 13, 2020, from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. The *Sudowsky Fund* was fully funded, which will have a huge impact on Volusia County, Deltona and Daytona.

### **CITY MANAGERS ORGANIZATION**

**Michael Pleus**, City Manager, DeLand, provided updates from the *City Manager's Organization*. The members have been meeting to discuss new gas tax formulas and currently do not have any recommendations. In February, the members met with Congressman Michael Waltz where they discussed FEMA reimbursements. Hopefully there will be more information to present at the May 2020 Roundtable meeting.

### **SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Mayor Apgar** said in the past there were four standing committees, along with some subcommittees. Many of the members of the committees are no longer in office. The committees were:

- Transportation
- Water
- Homelessness
- Beach driving

If anyone has suggestions for new committees, contact Brian Rothwell, County Council Activity Manager.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Keith Chester**, DeLand, discussed the *ECHO* program and whether the grantees have lived up to what they agreed to do. He feels *ECHO* and *Volusia Forever* should be looked at as a complete package. Currently, there are so many different needs such as roads, affordable housing, COVID-19, and flooding issues. He also discussed the continual increase in property taxes.

**Suzanne Shiver**, Ormond Beach, founder of Dream Green Volusia community group. The group works to reduce single-use plastics and plastic pollution County wide. They have completely free solutions the organization presents, they are not selling anything.

**Big John**, Holly Hill, discussed the lack of adequate long-range planning/funding and over development within the County. None of the roads within the LPGA sub study are funded. It is very bad and is going to get worse.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

**Heidi Herzberg**, Mayor, Deltona, discussed the wild fire that happened Saturday along I-4. The County and municipalities need to remind all residents of the current dry and windy conditions.

**Lois Paritsky**, City Council Member, Ponce Inlet, thanked all of today's speakers, especially the American Flood Coalition, for the presentations today.

**Nancy Miller**, Mayor, Daytona Beach Shores, reminded everyone the Census was going to start being mailed out on Thursday, March 12.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Mayor Apgar** said the next meeting would be held in May.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 pm.

