



MEMORANDUM

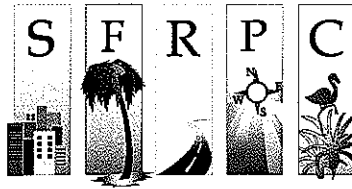
AGENDA ITEM #11

DATE: OCTOBER 4, 2010
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Attached are brief descriptions of activities in which the Council has been involved since the August 2, 2010 Executive Committee meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



Highlights of Council Activities

October 2010

South Florida Regional Planning Council Revolving Loan Fund Marketing Update

The South Florida Regional Planning Council Revolving Loan Programs (SFRPC-RLF, SFRPC-RLF II and RESCUE-RLF) are designed to meet the needs of businesses in our Region that are not entirely served by conventional lenders. Funds are available to all small and medium sized businesses within Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties as well as designated communities within Miami-Dade County. The Revolving Loan Program also provides technical assistance to new and existing borrowers that will assist them with the growth of their business.

Council Staff presented the Revolving Loan program and the Miami-Dade Renovation for Energy Efficiency Loan program at several workshops during the month of September including Opa-Locka Mayor, Joseph Kelley's Business Assistance Workshop. This forum was held on September 23, 2010.

Council staff will be working with the City of Fort Lauderdale Energy Manager and necessary staff to develop, manage and implement a revolving loan fund as part of the City's "Smart Watts" financial incentive program.

Each year Council Staff participates, as a committee member, by hosting the Annual Minority Enterprise Development Week (MEDWeek) Conference. This year's conference will be held on October 7-8, 2010, at the Hilton Hotel in Miami. Staff is also a participating committee member with the City of Hollywood Economic Lenders Partnership (HELP). This partnership is comprised of several representatives from financial institutions and other non-conventional lenders who have joined forces to streamline access to capital for local businesses located in the City of Hollywood.

The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2010.

For more information regarding the RLF visit our website at www.sfrpc.com/rlf.htm or, please contact Cheryl Cook or Joyce Hall at (954) 985-4416 or email at rlf@sfrpc.com.

Regional Domestic Security Task Force Activities

The Southeast Regional Domestic Security Task Force (SERDSTF) is one of Florida's seven Regions funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to help prevent or respond to terrorism events in the State. The SERDSTF, which is Region 7, includes Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

Council staff is assisting the Florida Division of Emergency Management to coordinate training and exercise opportunities in the Region through the State's Training and Exercise Program (T&EP). Starting in September, staff will participate in a series of webinars and meetings with regional emergency management officials to plan for and coordinate the collection of information related to training and exercise needs in the Region. The information will be used to prioritize and maximize funding.

For additional information, contact Manny Cela (celam@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

South Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

The State of Florida is divided into 11 Local Emergency Planning Committee Districts whose broad duties include preparing regional hazardous materials emergency plans, performing outreach functions to increase awareness and understanding of hazardous substances and providing free training to public sector hazardous material response employees. Since 1988, the Council has served as staff to the South Florida LEPC District 11 (SoFlaLEPC), which encompasses Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties. For more information on the SoFlaLEPC and its activities in the Region, please visit its website at <http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc.htm>.

The South Florida LEPC, through its Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) training grant, continues to offer discipline-specific courses to first responders and others in the hazmat community. Since September was the last month of the HMEP fiscal year, two additional classes were conducted. On September 28, a HAZWOPER Refresher class was offered at the Tamiami Campus of Florida International University. Attendance was mostly personnel from the University's Environmental Health and Safety Department as well as the U.S. Coast Guard. On September 30, a second HazMat Awareness class was offered in Monroe County. The geographic characteristics of the Florida Keys make it important for training to be made available in different locations in order to minimize driving distances. The first HazMat Awareness class took place in April at the Sheriff's facility in Marathon. The September class was offered at the Florida Keys Community College Institute of Criminal Justice in Key West. Attendance consisted mostly of Sheriff Deputies and utilities personnel.

For information on upcoming training courses, please visit our training webpage located at <http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/training.htm>.

Information on upcoming meeting dates, agendas for upcoming meetings and minutes from previous meetings is always available from <http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/meetings.htm>.

For additional information, contact the SoFlaLEPC Coordinator Manny Cela (celam@sfrpc.com).

Southeast Florida Regional Partnership Seeks Funding to Support Development of the 2060 Southeast Florida Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

The South Florida Regional Planning Council, in partnership with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, submitted an application to the U.S. HUD Sustainable Community Planning Grant Program for a \$5,000,000 Category 1 Planning Grant on behalf of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership (Partnership) on August 23.

The Partnership is a broad-based group of stakeholders representing the diverse population, interests and geography of the seven-county region from Monroe through Indian River Counties. Almost 200 public, private, civic and nonprofit organizations have pledged to work collaboratively with each other to develop and implement a joint vision and 2060 Southeast Florida Regional Plan for Sustainable Development.

Southeast Florida is home to 6.2 million people (one-third of Florida's total population) that, combined, represent the fifth largest region in the country. It is also a region in transition and a "learning laboratory" for the rest of the nation. The decisions and investments, which are made now and in the future, will determine whether Southeast Florida will have a prosperous, sustainable future or fail to maximize its potential as an international region.

By working collaboratively to develop a comprehensive "vision" and strategy, Southeast Florida will create a more sustainable future through the creation of economically competitive, healthy, environmentally sustainable, and opportunity rich communities. This will be the first comprehensive effort to develop a regional plan that spans the existing jurisdictions of two Regional Planning Councils, multiple state agency sub-districts, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, numerous special districts, seven counties, over 100 municipalities, and a diverse mix of business, social and community-based organizations.

Because Southeast Florida is on the cutting edge of global issues such as international immigration, trade, communication, and climate change, regional solutions developed in Southeast Florida will provide a model for other regions. Please support the Partnership and its effort to create a 2060 Southeast Florida Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. Development of regional consensus around shared priorities, challenges and opportunities will enable Southeast Florida to become more economically competitive through the creation and implementation of strategies and action plans to achieve Southeast Florida's desired future.

New members to the Partnership are welcome! Additional information is available at the Partnership's webpage. The webpage can be accessed at www.sfrpc.com or www.tcrpc.org by clicking on the Partnership logo. Please contact Isabel Cosio Carballo (isabelc@sfrpc.com) of Council staff at 954-985-4416 for additional information or assistance.

Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee

Council staff attended the September 10, 2010 Planners' Technical Committee (PTC) meeting, which was held at the City of Hialeah City Hall. Mark Woerner, Chief of the Metropolitan Planning Division for Miami-Dade County, gave a detailed update of the County's 2011 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) process to date. The following discussion focused on how local municipalities should approach their next EAR and what data may be of use to them from the County EAR.

Council staff gave a brief overview of recent Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) changes to Rule 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code, which establishes the procedures for the submittal and review of Comprehensive Plans and amendments. Council staff also apprised members of Council activities including the Brownfield Program, Legacy Initiatives, and the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Grants. Updates were given on local Gold Coast APA activities.

The PTC is comprised of planners from local governments and private industry in Miami-Dade County. The PTC generally meets on the first Friday of each month. Council staff provides support for the PTC. For more information, please visit the Local Government Planners' Meetings Section of the Council's website at www.sfrpc.com.ptc.htm or contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

The Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade

Council staff belongs to two of the Consortium's committees: (1) Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and (2) Health and the Built Environment. Staff attended the respective committee meetings in September to discuss how past planning practices have made it difficult for South Florida residents to be active and access healthy food sources. Staff also described the Legacy Green Initiatives efforts to promote community empowerment and economic and community development through its culinary arts and community garden training in low-income communities. Council staff is also involved in the Health and Built Environment's Nutrition and Built Environment Working Group. The working group will develop nutrition and food related policies within the committee's work plan.

The Consortium is an initiative of the Miami-Dade County Health Department and was established in 2003 to respond to increasing rates of chronic diseases in the County. The Consortium is comprised of approximately 125 members representing non-profits, educators, businesses and governmental organizations. Please contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) or Rachel M. Kalin (rkalin@sfrpc.com) of Council Staff for additional information about this project.

South Florida Brownfields Partnership

Council staff held a South Florida Brownfields Partnership meeting on September 24, 2010. Kim Walker, at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in Tallahassee, apprised attendees of statewide Brownfield policies, programs and activities. Art Torvela, the Brownfields Coordinator for the Palm Beach DEP office, gave an update on local projects. Michael Goldstein, Brownfield attorney with Akerman Senterfit, gave a brief presentation on renewable energy reuse options for Brownfield sites. Council staff gave an update on the Pilot Brownfield Revolving Loans and discussed the various Brownfield funding opportunities available for FY 2011. Grant proposal strategies were also discussed.

For additional information about the Brownfield Partnership, contact Council Staff, Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) or Cheryl Cook (ccook@sfrpc.com).

Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Grant Opportunities

Council staff has identified the following three funding opportunities related to Brownfields: *Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund*, *Brownfields Assessment Grant*, and *Brownfields Clean-up Grant*.

The Council will be applying to the *Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund* and *Assessment Grant* programs. The *Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund* grant would allow the Council to recapitalize its revolving fund and make loans for cleanup activities. The *Brownfields Assessment Grant* would provide funds to inventory, characterize, assess and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites.

The *Brownfields Cleanup Grant* provides funds to carry out cleanup activities at a specific brownfield site, owned by the applicant. Funds may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. The Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely cleanup, and sustainably reuse Brownfields. To be eligible, applicants must be the sole owner of the site at the time of grant submission and cannot have caused the contamination. Up to \$200,000 in funding may be requested for each site for a total of three sites. A 20 percent cost share is required but EPA will consider hardship waiver requests. Although the Council will not be applying for cleanup funds, Council staff will be available to provide technical assistance for *Brownfield Clean-up Grant* applicants. The application deadline for this grant is October 15, 2010.

A brownfield site is defined as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products, or is mine-scarred land.

For additional information about these grant opportunities visit the EPA's website <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicant.htm> to view the Brownfields Grant guidelines or contact Council Staff, Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) or Cheryl Cook (ccook@sfrpc.com).
