

MEMORANDUM

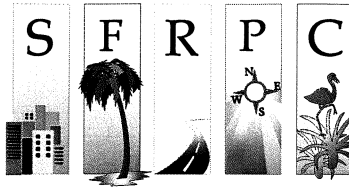
AGENDA ITEM #11

DATE: MARCH 7, 2011
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 February 7, 2011 Council Meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



Highlights of Council Activities

March 2011

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-size businesses within Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties. The Revolving Loan Program also provides technical assistance to new and existing borrowers that will assist them with the growth of their business.

During the first quarter of 2011, Council Staff will be making arrangements with other organization and economic development agencies to obtain their assistance with promoting the Council's Revolving Loan Fund. Council staff met with representatives from Bank of America Fund on February 1, 2011, to discuss additional funding for the Council's Revolving Loan Fund.

The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2011.

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.

Miami-Dade County Office of Sustainability Renovations for Energy Efficiency Loan (REEL) Fund

Council staff is continuing to market the Miami-Dade REEL Program. The Program provides low interest loans up to \$100,000 to businesses in Miami-Dade County to make improvements that reduce energy consumption. One loan application has been processed and scheduled to be reviewed by the REEL Loan Committee on February 28, 2010.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Cook, Bob Cambric, or Rachel Kalin of Council staff at (954) 985-4416 or email at rlf@sfrpc.com. Visit our web site at www.sfrpc.com/reel.htm.

City of Fort Lauderdale Smart Watts Revolving Loan Fund

Council staff is 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. The Interlocal Agreement has been executed between the City and the South Florida Regional Planning Council. Council staff is in the final stage of developing the Smart Watts Revolving Loan Fund application and marketing materials. The Smart Watts RLF will provide loans up to \$10,000, for homeowners to make energy efficiency improvements.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Cook, Bob Cambric, Rachel Kalin or Joyce Hall of Council staff 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 working with emergency management personnel from Region 7 as well as the Florida Division of Emergency Management to collect and prioritize training and exercise needs for the region. DHS requires that States prepare a 3-Year

Training and Exercise Plan (TEP) and update it on a yearly basis. The information collected at the local level will be incorporated into the TEP at a workshop scheduled for April 12-13, 2011 in Orlando. 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, perform outreach functions to increase awareness and understanding of hazardous substances and provide 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>.

Governor Rick Scott designated February 13-19, 2011 as Florida Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. This year's topic is Sheltering-In-Place. The South Florida LEPC celebrated HazMat Awareness Week with Shelter-In-Place presentations and an open discussion forum at its February 16, 2011 meeting in Hollywood. Educational materials and pamphlets were distributed to those in attendance. In addition, staff prepared a webpage featuring information (English and Spanish), documents and brochures for downloading and even a children's section with coloring books and other materials suitable for a younger audience. The webpage can be found in the following location: <http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/sip.htm>.

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).

Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee

Council staff attended the February 4, 2011 Planners Technical Committee (PTC) meeting, which was held at the Town of Surfside's Town Hall. Roger Carlton, the Town Manager gave an overview of development opportunities and challenges. Mr. Carlton also discussed the politics of land use and planning. The Town is in the process of constructing a new community center, which will have Wi-Fi and a Kindle reading room.

Jack Osterholt, Interim Director of the SFRPC, discussed the future of growth management and the Regional Planning Councils. PTC members considered writing a white paper on growth management and the future of planning in Miami-Dade County. Council staff also apprised members of Council programs including the Brownfield Program, Clean Cities Annual Fuel Survey, Sustainable Communities Initiatives, and Renovation of Energy Efficient Loans. Updates were also given on local Gold Coast American Planning Association 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. The next meeting will be held on March 4, 2011, in the City of Coral Gables. 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 for Healthier Miami-Dade (The Consortium) committees: "Health and the Built Environment" and "Health Prevention and Disease Prevention." Staff attends the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention committee meetings monthly and discusses the intersection of health and planning and policies, strategies, and programs that reduce environmental pollution and related diseases. At the February 15, 2011 meeting staff gave a presentation about the history of the SFRPC and its programs

The Health and the Built Environment Committee seeks to "enhance the knowledge of public officials and decision makers about the health impacts of urban planning and transportation decisions, and to actively promote ideas and policies that promote a healthy urban environment through increased walkability, outdoor safety and provisions of adequate green space." Staff attended the February 9, 2011 Committee meeting and discussed strategies to facilitate data sharing, improve data collection on a community level; engage community members in research efforts; model policy language that promotes access to healthy food and opportunities to include policies that promote Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School.

Council staff is also involved in Nutrition Working Group, which is now a joint subgroup of both committees. The working group will promote the importance of assessing the food environment, ensure equitable access to health food options, address zoning laws impeding farmer's markets, create programs that ensure food security and local/regional food system development and incorporate sustainable food systems and nutrition related policies within the Committee's work plan and in local, regional and state planning documents.

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.

Complete Streets with Schools and the Safe Routes to School Program.

Council staff is working with The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Florida Network and other RPCs in the state to identify policies across the state concerning Complete Streets as well as policies requiring connectivity from neighborhoods to schools, providing access to schools, or creating safe conditions for children to travel to school. The Network is creating example policies and reaching out to communities, counties, RPCs, FDOT/MPO/TPOs, DCA, School Boards and FDE through a policy brief to incorporate policies.

The Network seeks to reach local governments through the Regional Planning Councils' Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) as it provides recommendations for the Region. The Network's premise is with statewide consistency including complete street and safe routes to school policies within the Regional Planning Councils, incorporation of these policies, initiatives, and infrastructure could be implemented from the local and regional entities up to the state, instead of top down.

Council staff will continue to explore the feasibility of incorporating these policies into the SRPP updates and local governments comprehensive plans and identify school siting best practices within the Region. For additional information contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

The South Florida Brownfield Partnership

The South Florida Brownfield Partnership was initiated in February 1997, as the Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership, to return abandoned and underutilized sites in urban areas to productive use. The Partnership was one of the initial 16 National Brownfields Showcase Communities. The original partnership agreements were developed to provide a supportive framework for signatory agencies, organizations, and governments to work in coordination to facilitate the rehabilitation, revitalization and redevelopment of contaminated, abandoned and underused sites in the Region. The Partnership is comprised of local, state, regional and federal agencies; private sector; non-profits and community organizations in Miami-Dade and Broward. The Collaborative nature of the Partnership allows for regional participation in Brownfields redevelopment activities.

Council staff has been working with Partnership member municipalities to assist with Brownfield Area Designations, disposal of tax credits, Request for Proposals (RFP) assistance, and other types of technical assistance. The Partnership will continue to meet quarterly to support and promote Brownfield education, outreach, redevelopment opportunities, job training, funding, and incentives. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 13, 2011. For more information, please visit the Brownfields section of the Council's website at www.sfrpc.com.ptc.htm or contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

Brownfields 2011

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is co-sponsoring a national Brownfields Conference. *Brownfields 2011: Life Liberty and Sustainability* will be held at the Philadelphia Convention Center from April 3-5, 2011. The free conference will address various issues associated with Brownfields redevelopment and revitalization. For additional information visit www.brownfields2011.org or contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Work Officially Commences

On February 18th, the cooperative agreement between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the South Florida Regional Council was executed and funds "obligated." The agreement takes effect Monday, February 21st and marks the official commencement of grant related activities.

One of the four top grant awards in the regional plan development category (Category 1), Southeast Florida's \$4.25 million grant was awarded pursuant to an interagency effort by HUD, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to better align their national funding programs towards sustainable community planning and infrastructure investment. HUD's inaugural grants under this program will support metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that better integrate housing, land use, economic development, community development, social equity, water and environmental protection, transportation, energy conservation, and infrastructure. The South Florida Regional Planning Council, working in partnership with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, is the fiscally responsible grantee entity who will assure that grant requirements are met.

Over the next 24 to 36 months, the grant resources will be used by the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership to develop a shared "Regional Vision and Blueprint for Economic Prosperity." The Regional Blueprint for Economic Prosperity and corresponding infrastructure investment plan will integrate regional planning issues and further the livability principles and equitable outcomes in all communities. The regional visioning effort will illuminate present conditions, trend future, and a preferred alternative future that will emerge as a result of regional discussions. A strategy will be developed to continually integrate the regional visioning effort into the development of the Regional Blueprint for Economic Prosperity planning effort and vice versa so that public input will inform and shape both processes.

The Southeast Florida Regional Partnership (Partnership) is a diverse and growing partnership with more than 200 public, private, non-profit, and civic stakeholders from the seven-county Region of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties. Over time it is expected that the Partnership will continue to grow and serve as a forum for continued regional dialogue, collaboration and action. Additional information about the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership can be found at: <http://www.sfrpc.com/Regional%20Partnership.htm>

For additional information about the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership and the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant, please contact Isabel Cosio Carballo (isabelc@sfrpc.com) or Eric Swanson (eswanson@sfrpc.com) of South Florida Council staff. At the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, contact Michael Busha (mbusha@tcrpc.org), Kim Delaney (kdelaney@tcrpc.org) or Greg Vaday (gvaday@tcrpc.org) at (772) 221-4060.

Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition (GCCCC) Update

The Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition, one of over 90 coalitions around the country, is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's strategy to reduce America's dependence on imported oil. With Hollywood City Commissioner Patty Asseff at the helm, the Coalition's mission is to reduce South Floridians' dependence on imported oil and improve the environment by creating a sustainable, alternative fuel market through the support and promotion of clean fuels. The Coalition serves Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

At its February 18 meeting, attendees learned about Clean Energy Fuel's ability to assist companies in building station infrastructure, adapt vehicle fleets to natural gas, and provide grant writing assistance. P.H.A.T. (Potassium Hydroxide Assist and Transfer) Fuel Systems then presented a hydrogen-based product that can be installed into vehicles that assures significant carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide reductions, and fuel savings. Commissioner Asseff informed the group that the City of Hollywood is planning a regional green technology summit in October 2011 that will build on public and private partnerships. People attending the meeting were advised that the Clean Cities Annual Survey has been emailed to members and stakeholders and that the Coalition's membership drive is underway. The Clean Cities Coalition meets the third Friday of the month, and the next meeting will take place at the SFRPC offices on Friday, March 18.

For more information about the Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition, you may contact Christine Heshmati of Council staff at (954) 985-4416 or email at cheshmati@sfrpc.com.

State Road 7 Collaborative Welcomes new Vice-Chair

The Collaborative Steering Committee has selected Lauderdale Lakes Community Redevelopment Director Gary Rogers as its Vice-Chair. Mr. Rogers will serve with Chair and current West Park Commissioner, Thomas Dorsett. South Florida Regional Planning Council staff continues to provide administrative support to the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative and is working with the Chair to engage the group and reassess on-going objectives to establish technical advisory committees to improve the corridor. Potential marketing strategies are also being considered.

The Collaborative Steering Committee is looking toward the signature event, which will be held on March 24, 2011. Council Staff is in the process of completing the Collaborative's *10 Years Down the Road* publication for release at the signature event. The signature event also will convey real value and stage a platform that engages members with a refocus on transit and redevelopment opportunities along the corridor.

The website for the Collaborative continues to be updated and more information is available at www.sfrpc.com/sr7.htm or by contacting Eric Swanson, of Council staff, at (eswanson@sfrpc.com) or (954) 985-4416.