



MEMORANDUM

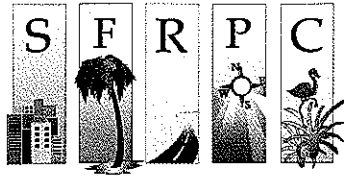
AGENDA ITEM #11

DATE: MARCH 3, 2008
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Attached are brief descriptions of activities in which the Council has been involved since February 4, 2008 Council meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



Highlights of Council Activities

March 2008

Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership

Staff continues to work with local governments in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties on brownfields redevelopment efforts. Staff hosted the quarterly meeting of the Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership on January 23, 2008. The meeting was a joint meeting with the Broward County Brownfields Redevelopment Task Force and focused on how to improve outreach efforts to municipalities and others interested in brownfields redevelopment. The next meeting of the Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership is scheduled for April 23, 2008. The meeting will focus on how to utilize the benefits available for brownfields redevelopment from the State of Florida. Staff is also planning a one-day workshop on brownfields redevelopment with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). The workshop is targeting assistance to small local governments and non-profit agencies and is being planned for late April 2008. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the brownfields section of the Council's website, at <http://www.sfrpc.com/brwnflds.htm>. For additional information on brownfields, please see the Council's website or contact Terry Manning (terryman@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

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 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.

South Florida Regional Planning Council was chosen to staff the Business Providers Consortium (BPC). The BCP is a collaborative of public/private professionals who offer technical assistance to businesses at all development levels. It serves as a clearinghouse and economic catalyst for businesses in the South Florida region. The BCP budget sub-committee met in February to discuss funding sources and costs for the development of a website.

The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2008.

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.

As part of the Council's Regional Domestic Security Program, staff is coordinating two training courses on the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP). The HSEEP program incorporates planning, guidance and best practices for DHS-funded training exercises. The courses were developed by DHS using input from federal partners, subject matter experts and state/local representatives. Individuals involved in exercise programs and/or exercise design, development, conduct, control, evaluation and improvement planning are encouraged to attend.

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

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

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

The Training Subcommittee of the LEPC met on January 29, 2008 at the Council offices in Hollywood to review a list of potential training courses to offer in the coming year. The selection was narrowed down to five classes and Council staff was instructed to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hazardous materials training vendors. The classes will be made available to first responders and other professionals engaged in hazardous materials activities in the district. For more information on these courses, please visit www.sfrpc.com/lepc/training.htm.

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

Miami-Dade Public School Facility Planning Interlocal Agreement Update

In 2005, the Florida State Legislature mandated that all local governments and school boards adopt school concurrency. The 2005 Growth Management Legislation required localities to adopt public school facilities elements into their comprehensive plans and to update interlocal agreements (ILAs) with the school board to reflect the new mandates. In Miami-Dade County an ILA was developed in 2007 through a collaborative approach that was led by the School Board Concurrency Task Force. To date the ILA has been approved by the Miami-Dade School Board and 17 municipalities. Upon review of the proposed Public Education Facilities Element of the County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan the Board of County Commissioners recommended a substitute ILA. The Commission met in February 2008 and discussed the substitute ILA with the Chair and staff representatives of the School Board at a public meeting. It is anticipated that the School Board will review the substitute ILA at an upcoming meeting. Council staff has participated throughout the process and will continue to work with all parties involved as discussions continue.

Copies of Miami-Dade County's proposed substitute ILA are available at <http://www.miamidade.gov/govaction/matter.asp?matter=073627&file=true&yearFolder=Y2007>.

For additional information about the Miami-Dade School Concurrency please contact Karen Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) or Bob Daniels (bobd@sfrpc.com) at (954) 985-4416.

Broward Planners' Technical Committee

At its recent monthly meeting, the Broward Planners' Technical Committee (PTC) discussed implementation of new comprehensive plan requirements, including water supply planning. The PTC also reviewed the Department of Community Affairs' proposed "Citizen's Planning Bill of Rights" and other proposed growth management legislation.

Broward Planners' Technical Committee has members from all local governments in Broward County and meets monthly at the Council offices (except in months when Broward County holds workshops). For information about upcoming PTC meetings please visit www.sfrpc.com/ptc.htm or contact Jo Sesodia (jsesodia@sfrpc.com) of Council staff at 954 985-4416.

Clean Cities - Alternative Fuel Development

Council Member Patty Asseff and staff participated in an interview and photography shoot with Boca Raton Magazine to promote Sustainability and Alternate Fuels. The interview will be featured in the March/April issue. Contact Larry Allen (lallen@sfrpc.com) of the Council staff for additional information or go to <http://www.bocamag.com>.

Staff is working with a local company to identify and analyze statistical data that will assist in the siting of E-85 gas stations in the Gold Coast Clean Cities Region (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade Counties) Contact Larry Allen (lallen@sfrpc.com) of the Council staff or see <http://www.biodiesel.org/> <http://www.bocamag.com> for additional information.

Transportation Planning

Staff is involved with the 2035 Miami-Dade Long Range Transportation Plan Development committee. Staff attended the February 15, 2007 kick off meeting. Please see <http://www.miamidade.gov/mpo/m10-plans-lrtp.htm>, or contact Larry Allen lallen@sfrpc.com of the Council staff for additional information.

Staff was invited to become a Participating Agency on the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) Project SR 874 Ramp Connector to SW 136th Street. Staff attended the February 7, 2008, kick-off meeting. The purpose of this project is to relieve congestion along SW 120th and SW 152nd Streets and to provide mobility improvements in the area. Information on the MDX may be found at www.mdx-way.com. Contact lallen@sfrpc.com of the Council staff for additional information.

Staff continues to be involved in the University Drive Study Group to determine the future development of the "Wedge area." Staff participated in discussion regarding various transportation facilities and technologies. Contact Larry Allen lallen@sfrpc.com of the Council staff for additional information.

Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC)

The Water Resources Advisory Commission is an advisory body to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board and to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. Made up of a broad range of business, agricultural, environmental, tribal, governmental and public interests, the Commission is a forum for improving public participation and decision-making on water resource issues in south and central Florida. Council staff has been appointed to serve on the WRAC.

The February 7, 2008 WRAC meeting was held in West Palm Beach at the SFWMD headquarters. During the morning WRAC session, District staff provided an update on the development of a Comprehensive Water Conservation Program, with the aim of creating a year-round culture of conservation throughout the district. A draft of the program will be presented to the WRAC prior to the Governing Board in April 2008. During the afternoon session, updates were provided on the Everglades RECOVER System Status Report, and the Environmental Resources Permit Rule development, which will attempt to pass a unified statewide Stormwater Rule and a Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Watersheds Basin Rule by late 2009.

The next WRAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 6, 2008 at the SFWMD headquarters located at 3301 Gun Club Road in West Palm Beach. For additional information, please visit www.sfwmd.gov or contact Rachel Kalin, rkalin@sfrpc.com, of Council staff.

Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team (BBRRCT)

The BBRRCT exists to coordinate implementation of recommendations of the Biscayne Bay Partnership Initiative for the restoration and enhancement of the Bay.

The February 8, 2008 BBRRCT meeting was held in Virginia Key at the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Sciences Center. The majority of the meeting and discussion focused on a presentation by Florida Power and Light (FPL) that detailed the utility's renewable energy pursuits and upcoming projects. The project of concern to the BBRRCT was the proposed update and expansion of the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant in Biscayne Bay, east of Homestead in Miami.

The next BBRRCT meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 14, 2008 at the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Sciences Center located at 75 Virginia Beach Drive in Virginia Key. For additional information, please visit <http://www.sfrestore.org/rrect/bbay/index.htm> or contact Rachel Kalin, rkalin@sfrpc.com, of Council staff.
