

**Climate Change Task Force Meeting
Thursday, February 20, 2014 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM**

**Government Center. Room 430
115 S. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

SUMMARY MINUTES

Members Present

Adornato, John
Braun, Rod
Bush, Lois
Cavros, George
Fleischer, Randy A.
Grandwilliams, Harrison D.
Grosso, Richard J.
Heimlich, Barry
Hines, Gary S.
Jacobs, Kristin
Kaltman, Adrienne
Kornahrens, Robert
Lambert, Julie L.
Larson, Dylan
Miakisz, Joseph A.
Minnet, Roseann
Murley, James F.
Perrin, Scott J.
Samaro, Hector
Sifuentes, Dorothy F.

County Staff

Carrie Kashar
Maribel Feliciano
Michael Owens
Natasha Herne
Donald Burgess
Jason Liechty

Members Absent

Gleason, Patrick (Excused)
Hutka, Thomas
Linares, Armando

I. *Welcome*

The February 20, 2014 meeting of the Broward County Climate Change Task Force was called to order at 1:50 pm by task force Chair Kristin Jacobs, who introduced new task

force members Dr. Dorothy Sifuentes; Mr. Randy Fleisher, Mr. Harrison Grandwilliams, and Mr. Richard Grosso and gave a farewell to Ms. Roseann Minnet, the vice-chair.

II. Roll Call

Natasha Herne, NRPMD, took the roll call. Eighteen members were present and three (3) were absent. A quorum was present.

III. Approval of minutes of November 21, 2013

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the November 21, 2013 meeting .

IV. Discussion Items

Community Energy Strategic Plan -- Proposed Goals, Objectives and Policies to Serve as the Basis for the Energy Profile - Carrie Kashar, Broward County's Natural Resources Planning and Management Division (NRPMD)

The Community Energy Strategic Plan is a program of the department of Energy. Broward County was chosen to participate in the pilot program, because of its leadership and because the commission passed a resolution that supports the Presidential Climate Change Action Plan and the 20% by 2020. The plan will take into account the Broward County Energy Profile developed in 2011 that indicates the energy consumption in the county. The plan wants to create the projects that will help the county reach the 20% by 2020 goal Workshops will be in March, April and May and will focus on transportation, renewable energy and energy efficiency. The first workshop will create the vision, the second will develop smart objectives and goals and prioritize and the third to develop the projects further and strategize financing options. All projects will have an outreach component.

A task force member requested to include the concept of buildings as 70% of energy is used in buildings. The Chair mentioned that at her visit for the Presidential Climate Action Plan in California the mayor proudly stated that in California with the increase in population of a million people there was not increase in energy consumption and the chair stated that Broward County can get there with goals, the help of staff but also with the guidance and the direction of the Commission.

V. Presentations

Activating Public Consensus – Katherine Carpenter, Project Director, Yale Cultural Cognition Project.

NOTES: The Cultural Cognition Project at Yale has found that polarizing issues have the ability to derail the law making process. The polarization in Florida regarding Climate Change mirrors the Country's. The compact model created by the four counties in Southeast Florida are replicable around the country. Presenter reflected on the ability of (former) Major Kristin Jacobs to diffuse polarization, giving the example at the open forum at the Compact Summit where the mayor highlighted the importance of working all together when Tom Hudson tried to polarize the conversation. The presenter explain perception of risk based on political right and left. The Cultural Cognition Project is trying to activate consensus. Presenter stated also that more information does not solve the problem. The public division about climate change, sea level rise and the role

governments should play in addressing mitigation and adaptation is not improved by more information. Reducing polarization reduces gridlocks. The projects is trying to find out how come difficult pieces of legislation like the Clean Water Act passed but issues like climate change will not pass easily. Florida initially is a concerned state until the scientific information becomes more and more available and the polarization becomes more evident. The project is trying to find out what causes the shift. In Florida, people want to protect the lifestyle, there is agreement that government should take action, Communication activates consensus. The project second phase is to test methods and materials for outreach from the compact. A task force member mentions the difference between the words mitigation and adaptation. Presenter suggests that is better to start with adaptation conversation and follow with mitigation. Chair concluded presentation by emphasizing that however unmotivated some people are to respond to the hazards of climate change or how unwillingly they are to support preparations for issues that may arise 10, 20 or 30 years in the future the role of the government is to act.

South Florida Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation - James Cromar, Director of Planning, Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Broward MPO works in coordination with neighbors to present sources of information and analysis to allow the different political jurisdictions do what is needed. The approach of MPO to climate change is to act on the problems that are already being faced by some infrastructure. MPO deals with the effects no matter where the problem comes from. For the science, MPO is building on what other groups have already done and look at the effects of sea level rise in transportation infrastructure. The main outputs of this project will be strategies and tools that different MPO's can use to prioritize the funding and investment of the transportation network. This will be the model for the national level. The project is a 5-task process. 1. Asset inventory 2. Mapping 3. Determining Adaptive capacity of transportation system 4. Likelihood and risk. 5. Strategies.

Lous Bush: Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has a 2060 Florida Transportation Plan that addresses climate trends and how to implement transportation in the future. FDOT is leading the development of tools for sea level rise, the challenges of regions. Sea Level rise ranges used for the project are 1, 2 and 3-foot sea level rise without setting time-tables, but what can happen and risk. Southeast Florida compact technical information about sea level rise should be used for the project as it is the long year process of the four counties, NOAA and ACOE.

VI. Status Updates

HUD Sustainable Communities Grant – Seven50 Initiative and Adaptation Action Areas Update - Jim Murley, Executive Director, South Florida Regional Planning Council.

NOTES: Most information is available in the South Florida Regional Planning Council. Presenter requested to share information about the work Miami Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force and the Tri-County Mayors Compact. Explanation of what the Seven50 Initiative is. Presenter explains the structure of the initiative. Projected growth of the area. The drivers of activity: South and Central America. Topics that are tackled by initiative, education, income disparity, and presenter highlighted the importance of including income disparity when addressing projects as it will become a serious issue that can be solved through

opportunity. Presenter highlighted that regional transportation projects are important in alleviating income pressure in middle and lower income classes. Presenter highlighted how implementation for future regional projects can be drawn from the Southeast Climate Change Compact. Presenter mentioned the Seven/50 report website. The grant has 60 days left. Chair requested to review the All-o-Board Project. TriRail service and ridership which has been successful but will need funding for future operation. There will have to be a referendum where all the voter will have to agree to have a penny to be able to pay for this, and Broward County under some scenarios is being to ask up to 60% the costs of future run. The rail will be important in reducing transportation effects on climate change. Projects of this nature will have opposition and concern because of the noise element. Task Force Member mentioned that mitigation projects are costly and taxing certain production of fossil fuel or importation can be sources of funding as well as job engines. Fossil fuels are becoming a declining source of revenue as more efficient cars are coming to the market. Question from task force about return on investment for the near future. All projects that work with energy efficiency and conservation. Regarding the Adaptation Action Areas the SFRPC is trying to build the material and best practices to communicate to other communities around the state. Is a voluntary program. SFRPC issued a report. Types of communication to present the information. Lastly the Miami Dade County Sea Level Rise Task Force, created to guide future investments for preparedness for resilience.

Broward County Energy, Climate and Sustainability Updates – Donald Burgess, NRPMD.

NOTES: The Star Community Rating System awarded a 4 Star to Broward County, the criteria is adapted to fit nationwide and measured the past 3-5 years of sustainability programs. Broward County could not take credit for some sustainability programs because the rating system only evaluated the last 3 years. The sustainability branding of county agencies has 12 projects approved 2 under review and we are pursuing 3-5 more to have 20 projects by the end of the year. Examples of sustainability branding program: Conservation Pays Rebate Program has reimbursed over 450,000 dollars and a savings of 155 M gallons per year. The New court constructions is another sustainability branding example. The Florida Coastal Zone Management Grant continues giving information to coastal communities about sea level rise vulnerability. Finally Municipal Green Initiative Survey initially done in 2011, 41 cities participated and other community partners.

SE FL Regional Climate Compact Update- Jason Liechty, NRPMD.

NOTES: At last meeting there was a request from the Climate Change Task Force to send a letter to the Florida Public Service Commission asking as they go through with their annual process of energy efficiency goals for Florida to position as a leader. The letter was submitted on January 2014 with unanimously support from the Commission. In response to that, Florida Power and Light send a response with concerns that the efficiency goals are arbitrary and will drive up the rates for customers who decide not to participate in the energy efficiency program, and also a concerns that the greenhouse gas inventory emissions calculations use an incorrect methodology and are overstating FPL emissions. The Regional Climate Action Plan RCAP, Palm Beach co. has gone through a different approval process and will bring to a vote in the spring. More adoption of the Mayors Action Pledge, 17 of the county municipalities have adopted the pledge, and Delray Beach and Palm Beach have also adopted the pledge. The Kresge Foundation funding has had some

workshops to implement the RCAP. First workshop in December, takeaway is that Florida could be a solar energy development hotbed, but the state is not ready as there are not supporting policies and utilities are not particularly prepared. Action item that came out of the workshop is the development of a shared solar program. Florida Power and Light was receptive to the idea of creating a new rate class through our regulated systems that can allow for customers to participate in the purchase of renewable energy. Development of a solar group purchasing program. Workshop in April will try to incorporate climate change considerations in the 10 year water supply plans adopted by water utilities, in June a storm water issues workshop, in August an Adaptation Action Areas and legal and insurance issues. In September a TriRail coastal line. Energy and Climate issues for the four counties legislative issues are working at the staff level in the four counties. We are preparing a legislative hearing about Sea Level Rise in Tallahassee with the participation of elected officials as presenters. Presidential Climate Action Task Force preparedness and resilience with Commissioner Jacobs appointed in November to the task force to develop recommendation for the federal government.

VII. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.