

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by MPO Vice-Chair/City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter.

The roll was called and recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Commissioner Kevin Ruane; City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Michael Miller; Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember John R. King; and Village of Estero Mayor Jon McLain. Others in attendance included a City of Cape Coral Police Department Officer; Victoria Peters with FDOT; Chris Kessler and Matt Finelli with CLA; Katie Habgood with PGA; and MPO staff Don Scott and Calandra Barraco. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

New Business

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments Taken at Each Item

Mayor Gunter noted public comments would be taken at each agenda item.

Agenda Item #2 - *Review and Approval of the January 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Councilmember John R. King made the motion to approve the January 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Kevin Ruane and Mayor Jon McLain seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - *Review of the Year End Audit for FY 2022/2023

Mr. Don Scott introduced the staff from Clifton Larson Allen (CLA). Mr. Chris Kessler introduced himself and Mr. Matthew Finelli, both from CLA and worked on this audit. Mr. Kessler then presented this agenda item for the review of the Year End Audit for FY 2022/2023. The audit was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Mr. Kessler reviewed the audit documents, highlighted the changes that had been made to accounting policies regarding long term contract obligations, mentioned the financial statement, and pointed out the single audit opinion of grant compliance. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Mayor Gunter asked if there were any committee or public comments. There were none.

Councilmember John R. King made the motion to accept the MPO Year End Audit for FY 2022/2023. Commissioner Kevin Ruane seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 - *Approve the Safe Streets for All Consultant Selection and Authorize Staff to Negotiate Contract

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to approve the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Consultant Selection and Authorize Staff to Negotiate a Contract. He reviewed the information that was included in the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#) and also provided information on the selection committee and final rankings of the firms that applied. The final rankings can be found at the following link: [SS4A Rankings](#) Mayor Gunter asked if there was any discussion on this item. The committee briefly discussed the scoring sheet. There was no public comment. Mayor Gunter asked for a motion.

Mayor Jon McLain made the motion to approve the SS4A Selection and authorize staff to negotiate a contract with the highest ranked firm, Stantec. Commissioner Kevin Ruane seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - Update on Transportation Related Legislation

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on Transportation Related Legislation. He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [Transportation Legislation](#). The committee discussed sending a letter to the legislators similar to what Collier MPO sent, discussion at Sanibel meeting, contents of letter, current coordination, lack of funding for study, example of study done in Pinellas area, absorbing Collier MPO into Lee County MPO due to size, Federal guidance for MPO Board membership based on population, potential cost of study, window for legislative session, history of joint meetings, MPO Board members discussing bills with legislators while in Tallahassee, current MPO Board membership for Lee and Collier, cap of 25 on MPO Board membership, ensuring all Lee and Collier municipalities are represented, some municipalities over-represented and some underrepresented if regulations call for membership based on population, difficulty of holding a meeting and finding a meeting place with 25 members, Lee County having majority of votes due to larger population, asking for funding for study, Pinellas doing study in-house with MPO staff but including prior study done by consultant, staff bias if study is done in-house by Lee MPO staff, watching to see progress of bill, current differences between presentation in House and Senate, possibility of combining all transportation bills into one larger bill, making it known that funding is being requested if study passes, staff researching possible cost estimates for study and bringing back to next meeting, impact of Hurricane Ian and recovery efforts creating lack of funding for extra items, increase in prep time for meetings if combined due to larger area and more projects, increase in meeting length due to doubled agenda items if combined, lack of knowledge of other areas, governance less effective, example of CR 951, development, needs in the southern areas of Lee County, issues in past, possible dilution of power, ease of coordination with Charlotte County, lack of funding for expensive CR 951 project as reason for not moving it forward, Collier position against merging, fight for home rule, disadvantages of Lee making decisions for Collier, lack of ability to stop House and Senate if they are in agreement, efficiency as a topic, and assistance related to Hurricane Ian.

Commissioner Kevin Ruane made a motion for staff to compose and send a letter to the legislators regarding MPO Board acceptance of a possible feasibility study with a request for funding to complete the study if the bill passes. Mayor Jon McLain seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Information on the Current Project Cost Estimates

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the Current Project Cost Estimates. He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [Project Cost Estimates](#). Mr. Scott asked if there were any comments. There were none. Mayor Gunter asked if there were any committee or public comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #7 - Overview of the Joint February 16, 2024 MPO Board Agenda

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an overview of the Joint Charlotte – Punta Gorda/Lee County MPO Board Agenda. He mentioned there was an upcoming public meeting regarding Burnt Store Road on Thursday. He then reviewed the Joint agenda items including Burnt Store Road, regional agreement, rail passenger study, and next joint meeting date. Mayor Gunter asked if there were any committee or public comments. There were none.

Other Business

Agenda Item #8 - Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #9 – Announcements

Mr. Scott again mentioned the February 16th Joint MPO Board meeting.

Agenda Item #10 - Information/Distribution Items

There were no information and/or distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: [MEC Audio February 7, 2024](#)

* Action Items + May Require Action

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