



# Lake County Alliance

## Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2012

1. Meeting called to order at 12:14pm by Mike Bucher
2. Pledge of Allegiance to U.S. Flag
3. Invocation: Don Marx
4. **In Attendance:** Mike Bucher, Shananne Cain, Robert Chandler, Deb Dyer, TJ Fish, Steve Jennelle, Judi Phillips Jones, Greg Malanczuk, Susan Martin, Don Marx, Colleen McGinley, Jim Miller, Nancy Muenzmay, Matt Newby, Ray San Fratello, and Jan Zacharchuck.

**Visitors:** Nathan Cook, TW Squared; Sean Parks

5. **Introductions:** None
6. **Minutes of January's meeting:** Quorum of delegates not present, no vote – to be voted electronically  
Following corrections noted: Montverde is one word, spelling of Commissioner Campione, clarification of financials, to correctly indicate 2012 Lake County Days did not result in a negative budget
7. **Financial Report:** Steve Jennelle presented financials from January 2012, Quorum not present, no vote – to be voted electronically. Not all financials from Lake County Days completed

### **Presentation**

Nathan Cook reported on 2012 Lake County Days

Theme/Purpose/Execution – Advocacy for Lake County priorities

Provided increased time with legislators over previous years

Follow-up Lake County Days needs to be a year long process, follow-up – take actions; did any efforts make it into policy/bill/law?

Should be a statement to all of how Lake County business community and local government can come together to affect change

Forward feedback to Nathan

### **Old Business**

#### **1. Lake County Days 2012**

Colleen McGinley – Environmental/Public Health Policy, Dotty Keddy (group lead)

Tuesday – met with Representative Robert Shane, Representative Baxley, Representative Brian Nelson

Wednesday – appropriations committee and met with two Senator Aides

Lake County's opposition to the state-wide inspection of septic tank program; all representatives seemed receptive to the groups concerns.

Reclaimed water being subject to regulatory action by the water management district: Eustis City Manager, Paul Berg, was passionate about both these issues.

Health Department issues met with little to no response, looks as if legislation currently on the floor will greatly reduce the funds from the state, and turn over more responsibility to the counties, directly affecting our county's most vulnerable citizens.

She strongly encourage all chambers to follow-up, as she plans to do for the Tavares Chamber

Colleen volunteered to put into writing each group's lead report, if they were to send it to her and forward to all chambers.

Jim Miller – Education: Emphasized too many school laws to follow; presenting current Florida Book of Laws for schools to accentuate this point.

Lake County is faring better than some other counties, losing 4-5% over last year.

PECO funds has been eliminated, and most likely not to return

One hour with Frank Brogan, the Chancellor of Education

Forty-five minutes with Gerard Robinson, Commissioner of Education

Provided excellent opportunity to network with other attendee on the bus ride and in Tallahassee

Emphasized aides sometimes have better source of information than the Representative, due to their longevity of being on staff

Accolades to Nathan and TW Squared for great job of coordinating the event

TJ Fish – Transportation: Reported on how legislators move funds around to benefit their priorities.

Questioned legislators about State Economic Expansion and Development Grants – how to get portions appropriated to Lake County.

Don Marx - Essay Competition: Students attended several advocacy group meetings

Contestants answered one of two questions: 1) What would you do to change the apparent apathy toward political involvement amongst today's youth, 2) Should politicians be held to a higher ethical standard than an average citizen?

Representatives came from South, Central and Northern Lake County.

Chaperoned by parents

Toured Supreme Court with 23-25 Lake County Day attendees

Toured Old and New Capitol

Met with Senator Hayes and Representative Metz

Sponsors: Leadership Lake, Republican and Democratic Parties of Lake County

Daily Commercial to publish all three winning essays

Mike Bucher – Thank you letters need to go out to all sponsors of this year's Lake County Days

### **General Discussion**

Group Leaders asked to prepare synopsis of visit

Talking points will be printed for each group to use and leave with legislator

Groups may mention other priorities, but emphasis should be talking points presented

Sue Brooks: Only counties with springs of “first magnitude” affected by the “septic tank replacement issue; Lake County has no first magnitude springs

Until signed by Governor Scott, it is still an issue of interest to Lake County

Kelly Pisciotta: Thank you to all sponsors, will not be in the red, thanks to sponsors this year

## **2. Emergency Operations Center – Cathy Hoescht**

Meeting scheduled, report to follow next month

### **Reports**

#### **• Lake County Alliance Advisory Committee (AAC) (Mike Bucher)**

Committee met Thursday, February 16 for two hours

Priority is revision of Lake County Business Partnership Program

Created new Purpose Statement to sync up with Chamber Alliance Board

Mission Statement, Objective, Purpose Statement, Powers

Advisory Committee is a standing monthly committee, whose purpose is to research complicated issues and provide a resolution or recommendation to the Chamber Alliance Board, needing members interested in public policy issues

Reviewing the Alliance's by-laws

Finalizing the members of the AAC, could use more members

Local Preference Purchasing Policy – defining “Local Vendor” defined as “a business having its primary or significant physical location in Lake County in which employees are located and businesses regularly transacted”. Wants to ensure the business has at least a year of performing transactions in Lake County prior to being defined as a Local Vendor

Requires a Letter of Recommendation of approval from the Alliance Board – to be sent out electronically

- **MPO update (T.J. Fish)**

Focus is on economic development

Wellness Way

Talks in works for years with South Lake for need of major “arterial connection” between Hwy 27 and 42 with emphasis on health and fitness, similar to Medical City on the east side of Orlando

Commissioner Parks is currently working on a future presentation of the concept

Future Economic Development Centers in the works

Potential interchange in Minneola

Mount Dora, Wekiva Pkwy – first section between Apopka and SR-46 open by 2016 (estimated), entire project completed by 2021; employment center planned at Round Lake Road

Leesburg – Florida Energy and Aerospace Technology Park, MPO supports

Railroad Corridor – closest to being reality of any projects currently underway; have right-of-ways, tracks and money. Short line railroad company will operate (not CSX), need customers on north end

Infrastructure needs repaired, and market the fact that Eustis and Tavares has have designated locations for freight

Five customers currently using rail

March 13, Lake County meeting to discuss Rail Initiative

Money available with 25% local match to study possibility of passenger rail service

Currently study underway to putting Wekiva Trail along rail bed to Sanford to connect with West Orange Trail

- **North West Regional Board Advisory (Ray San Fratello)**

March 20-22, at Mission Inn, My Region Summit, “Moving Ideas to Results” ([www.myregion.org](http://www.myregion.org))

Expensive, but may participate ala-cart

Discussing:

Regional transportation

Water

Chronic Homelessness

Open for business - Back to work

- **Lake County School Board (Jim Miller)**

Impact Fees

Impact study valid

Jim feels impact fees can be suspended for 3 more years

Impact fees are used to accommodate new growth

Lake County has remained the same in five years; other counties have lost (student count)

Projected no growth over next five years

Charter school scheduled to open in South Lake in 2013; reducing student population by 1,000

Construction industry is key to Lake County economy

Imposed impact fees restrict future growth

Ad Valorem is yearly income, key to future growth

Limited impact fees remain to remodel older schools

No new buses in three years

- **Commissioner Sean Parks**

Wild Flower Center

Joint meeting with School Board

County Economic Development Department assembling response to proposal for Florida Wild Flower Foundation; looking for a 40 acre tourist center, modeled on the Lady Bird Center in Texas

Submit proposals for location to the Lake County Economic Development and Tourism Department  
Wellness Way Sector Plan  
15,000 acres in South Lake County  
South of Hwy 50, includes the National Training Center  
East of Hwy 27, to almost four corners  
Plan for the community to create jobs focused on health and wellness industry, similar to Lake Nona  
Formal presentation in the future

### **New Business**

Horizon Awards 5<sup>th</sup> year  
Lake-Sumter organization  
Commissioner Don Borges  
Leadership Award – Jennifer Hill  
Regional Partnership Award – Sumter County Chamber and Lake County Chamber Alliance

Mike Bucher – AAC to look at some of the capital projects currently slated for next few years and how to address those issues  
TJ Fish – challenges all municipalities to plan and invest in the future

### **General Discussion**

Community Service Awards  
Due today  
Steve Jennelle – inquired about an organization using the name of “Lake County Chamber of Commerce” - Beware of Lake County Chamber; South Florida individual forming For Profit Chamber of Commerce (illegal in state of Florida) ... it is a illegal scam, stay away  
Until they do something prosecutable, there is nothing the Alliance can do

### **Next Meeting**

- Friday, March 16, 2012

### **Adjourned**

Don Marx moved to adjourn the meeting, Steve Jennelle seconded the motion; motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.