

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING  
BRADENTON AREA CONVENTION CENTER, LONGBOAT KEY ROOM  
ONE HABEN BOULEVARD  
BRADENTON, FLORIDA  
JANUARY 5, 2016**

Present were:

Vanessa Baugh, Chairman  
John R. Chappie, First Vice-Chairman  
Robin DiSabatino, Second Vice-Chairman  
Charles B. Smith, Third Vice Chairman  
Betsy Benac  
Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr.  
Carol Whitmore

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator  
Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney  
Robin Toth, Board Clerk, Clerk of Circuit Court

Introductions were given.



**AGENDA AND SIGN-IN SHEETS**

BC20160105DOC007

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Chairman Baugh called the Council of Governments meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.



2. **2016 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW**

Nicholas Azzara, Information Outreach Manager, gave an overview of the 2015 legislative session and unfinished business. Much uncertainty remains facing the State for 2016.

The House and Senate agreed on Comprehensive Water Policy legislative changes for springs, water management plans near Lake Okeechobee, and surrounding farming areas, but the changes did not make it to final approval. Both the House and Senate align on legislation regarding people with disabilities, changes to entice state agencies to hire people with disabilities, expanding educational opportunities, creation of a financial literacy program, and programs to recognize businesses that hire people with disabilities.

Mr. Azzara stated Governor Rick Scott proposed \$1 billion worth of tax reductions by eliminating the corporate income tax, reducing commercial lease sales tax by one percent over a period of six years, and endorsement of the traditional school sales tax holiday. The Senate has suggested only \$250 million of tax reductions. House proposals have not yet come forth.

Another point of discord during the 2015 session was economic development. Legislature is being asked to expand Enterprise Florida by \$250 million to create additional incentives to recruit economic development projects.

The Utility Line Relocation Bill was addressed, requiring local governments to reimburse private utilities if they are required to be moved. The legislation was amended to make it palatable to local governments. Where local governments had to reimburse for right-of-way, now it can only address public works projects that encroach into public easements. There has been no discussion to modify Amendment 1 spending legislation this year.

Competitive priorities will be addressed.

Mr. Azzara, stated that he, and Commissioners’ Baugh, Whitmore and Smith, will travel to Tallahassee next week to support the priorities of the Manatee County Commission.



Bradenton Beach Mayor William Shearon voiced concern of local government losing home rule authority with each passing legislative session.

Discussion ensued regarding the Florida League of Cities legislative agenda, School District’s request for assistance, and better communication is needed among the municipalities on legislative priorities.



Palmetto Mayor Shirley Bryant addressed the sharing of information among the cities and reiterated comments by Bradenton Beach Mayor Shearon.



3. **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITY PLANNING-ANNUAL REVIEW**

Diana Greene, School Board Superintendent, advised that the presentation is deferred.

BC20160115DOC008

4. **OPIOID EPIDEMIC UPDATE BY THE ADDICTION CRISIS TASKFORCE**



Dr. Jessica Spencer, Manatee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Addiction Crisis Taskforce (ACT), utilized a slide presentation on the overdose deaths in Manatee County from Heroin and Fentanyl occurrences; Narcan Usage 2015, children that are sheltered because of exposure to substance misuse by their caregiver; what ACT is doing to educate the public; Deterra Pilot Program of a biodegradable, medication deactivation destructive pouch system; supporting changes to Marchman Act for Law Enforcement; what elected officials can do to help; and, public awareness campaign.



Discussion ensued as to whether Narcan is being distributed by Law Enforcement; grants are available if any of the cities want to explore this, other treatment protocol, and, training on drug disposal.



Chief Jeff Hoyle, Cedar Hammock Fire District, stated a grant was applied for to administer the product. Narcan drug can be obtained by individual caregivers through prescription.

Discussion continued regarding distributing the Deterra Pilot packets to Tidewell Hospice to neutralize drugs effectively, ACT group partnership agreement to combat the issue, jails are providing Good Samaritan Act information to departing inmates, educating physicians and the public on addiction and prevention, eliminating pill mills, drug prevention awareness event on January 29, 2015, EMS demographic data is available, and, educate both the school and college student population.

BC20160105DOC009



5. **FORT HAMER BRIDGE UPDATE**

Ron Schulhofer, Public Works Director, introduced Jeff Streitmatter, Project Management Division Manager.



Trudy Gerena, Community Outreach, distributed a summary project sheet and used a slide presentation to review the Fort Hamer Bridge project. The bridge project commenced in March 2015; construction cost is \$32.5 million for three projects tied together: Fort Hamer Bridge, Upper Manatee River Road, and Fort Hamer Road.

Ms. Gerena addressed progress to date and stated further improvements to the new, two-lane bridge include bike lanes, a sidewalk, and a scenic overlook halfway across the bridge. Improvements on Fort Hamer Road will be completed in March 2016, and a traffic signal will be added at the southern approach on Upper Manatee River Road. The project has a website at [www.forthamerbridge.com](http://www.forthamerbridge.com), and Ms. Gerena offered her contact information. Overall construction of the bridge is now 20 percent complete, with completion slated for May-June 2017.

 Chief Byron Teates questioned the height of the bridge and the depth of the water at the center span.

Mr. Schulhofer stated the bridge is 26 feet high at the center span, but would check documents to confirm the water depth.

Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney, stated this project is the first test of a standard construction contract that he personally drafted, and it is working well. There is no impact on Camp Flying Eagle, crosswalks and crossing guards will be at Williams Elementary School; and law enforcement will be on site at the School every day during the construction project.

BC20160105DOC010

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

 Mitchell Palmer, County Attorney, announced that Judge Lakin entered a summary judgment in favor of Manatee County regarding the Longbar Point lawsuit and agreed with the County on every issue. This dismisses an \$18 million dollar lawsuit and saves Sarasota Bay from development. He congratulated County Commissioners on not modifying the Comprehensive Plan for the developer and thanked Attorney's Christopher DiCarlo, Bill Clague, and Anne Morris, who represented the County.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

 Chairman Baugh stated she has asked the County Attorney to revise the Board's rules and procedures for Commission meetings so that comments on future agenda items would be moved to the end of the meeting.

Mr. Palmer stated he will present the rules at the January 27th Board meeting.

 Upon inquiry by Commissioner Smith as to the need for more affordable flights at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport, Frederick Piccolo, Sarasota-Manatee Airport Authority, offered to make a presentation to the County Commissioners at a later date.

6. **OTHER COMMENTS**

 Palmetto Mayor Shirley Bryant requested an update report on the Manatee Traffic Corridor Study at the next Council of Governments meeting, and that the group generate ideas regarding traffic.

Mayor Bryant also noted the recent press coverage on recreational spending and the need for a community pool north of the river.

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING**

Chairman Baugh stated the next Council of Governments meeting is scheduled April 5, 2016.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Baugh adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.  
Minutes Approved: February 9, 2016