

MINUTES

BROWARD COUNTY PLANNING COUNCIL

May 28, 2015

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PRESENT: Andy Maurodis, Legal Counsel
Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Broward County Environmental Planning and
Community Resilience Division
Dennis Mele, Esquire
Robert Annenberg, Resident
Jim Koeth, Planner, City of Fort Lauderdale
Nancy Cavender, The Laws Group

A meeting of the Broward County Planning Council, Broward County, Florida, was held in Room 422 of the Government Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 28, 2015.

(The following is a near-verbatim transcript of the meeting.)

giving us the idea of what they were doing, and it was -- we thought, the ad hoc steering committee thought it was very well done.

So we were very excited about that and -- and to see it come. So we're going to continue the outreach. They're starting to draft, as we said, all the different pieces and, over time, that'll start filtering through, and then the real discussions will start again. So I have also been meeting with the Board of County Commissioners, one at a time, just encouraging them again to be aware of Broward Next, to make sure their staffs are aware of Broward Next, so when we get to the debate part, they go, gee, I didn't know.

I haven't gotten to Vice Mayor Kiar, yet, because he sits here, so I'm saving him for the end. And there's probably a sunshine law thing that'll probably apply to me, anyway, so I probably won't even be able to get to sit with him. But, having said that, just so you know, we're, again, still doing multi communications to multiple stakeholders to try to move this along but make it successful and as inclusive as possible. Does anybody have any questions about Broward Next or anything else? Or any comments?

PUBLIC HEARING

AGENDA ITEM PH-1 - RECERTIFICATION PCR 15-10

AGENDA ITEM PH-3 - AMENDMENT PC 15-10

AGENDA ITEM PH-4 - AMENDMENT PC 15-11

CHAIR CASTRO: Okay. Now we're on to the Public Hearing Agenda, PH-1 through 6. And you mentioned you have speakers for 2, 5, and 6?

MS. BLAKE BOY: Correct.

MAYOR STERMER: Move PH-1, 3, and 4.

CHAIR CASTRO: Do I have a second?

VICE MAYOR KIAR: Second.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Second.

CHAIR CASTRO: Commissioner Gomez or Vice Mayor Kiar, pick one. All in favor. Any opposed? Seeing none --

VOTE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM PH-5 - AMENDMENT PCT 15-3

AGENDA ITEM PH-6 - AMENDMENT PCNRM 15-2

MAYOR STERMER: Madam Chair, I'd ask that you take PH-5 and 6 before PH-2.

CHAIR CASTRO: We could do that.

MS. BLAKE BOY: Items PH-5 and 6, if it's okay with you, I'm just going to talk about quickly both of these items together. We have one speaker from the public. These items were heard by the Land Use Trafficways Committee at this morning's 9:00 o'clock meeting.

And basically one item, the Item 5 is a text amendment and Item 6 is an amendment to an existing natural resource map series for priority planning areas to Adaptation Action Areas. So the text amendment, when the climate change policies were implemented in the plan a couple years back, it was always with the idea that they would change and evolve. As sustainability and resiliency ideas and strategies changed, these policies would also change and evolve.

So what we're seeing with this text amendment is the evolution of that, the addition of the Adaptation Action Area language. And basically, the amendment provides for a procedure to add Adaptation Action Areas to the natural resource map series priority planning area map, and then also if they've kind of fulfilled their life cycle for sustainability planning and for resiliency planning, and also a procedure to de-designate them off of that map. So that's the first piece, is the text amendment.

And then the second piece is the natural resource map series amendment. And the priority planning area map, when it was adopted in 2012, was adopted to show the potential 60 -- 2060 sea level rise for two feet. So those are -- when you look at maps -- Map 1, that's how it was adopted in 2012-2013. And so this amendment does two things. It updates that map to include the likely scenario. So right now it's 75 percent to a hundred percent likeliness scenario, but it adds the 25 percent to 74.9 percent scenario overlay, which adds a few more identifiable areas for priority planning area purposes.

And the second piece of it is to add the Adaptation Action Area at Port Everglades for the sand bypass area. And really, the idea behind adding an adaption action area is to kind of fulfill this idea behind the regional significance of the project, providing for the -- I just want to make sure the wording right. Hang on one second. Sorry. To -- providing for the regional sediment strategy for -- for south of port -- Port Everglades. So it's a -- it's a -- it's a planning tool. And it doesn't prohibit municipalities from doing other -- implementing other strategies that they may have for their areas, but this is the first Adaptation Action Area that's proposed. There were two comments received during the municipal review period, one from the City of Lauderdale Lakes stating no objection to either the text or map amendment, and then a second letter received from the City of Fort Lauderdale that they object to the proposal and they suggested some alternatives.

The County planning staff and resiliency planning staff offered a return comment. And then, when staff was making our recommendation, our recommendation was for approval, because we felt like this was something of regional significance, and a very strong planning tool for collaboration and for the future of the -- of the coastal area. We

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have one speaker on the item, Mr. Jim Koeth, from the City of Fort Lauderdale, and then the County staff are available if there's any specific questions that I did not cover.

CHAIR CASTRO: Okay. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. KOETH: Good morning --

CHAIR CASTRO: Good morning.

MR. KOETH: -- Chair, Council. I'm Jim Koeth. I'm a Planner with the City of Fort Lauderdale. And first I'd just to -- like to begin with that we are wholeheartedly in favor of the concept of adaption action areas. And we call them Triple A's. In fact, we just completed a very successful pilot project in collaboration with Broward County in which we were able to incorporate Triple A policies into our Comprehensive Plan -- actually, our coastal management element.

And a great portion of that success is directly related to Broward County staff's participation, specifically Dr. Jurado and Jill Horowitz. With that, and it's in your backup, what we are recommending is that in lieu of Broward County coordinating with local municipalities for designation of Triple A of regional significance, that Broward County gain support from those local municipalities, and specifically something in the form of an official action from the electeds. For example, a resolution of support from the Council or City Commission. Also, with regard to the sand bypass project in your backup --

CHAIR CASTRO: I'm sorry, Mr. Koeth --

MR. KOETH: Yes.

CHAIR CASTRO: -- before you move on that, and I -- and -- for disclosure, I'm a lawyer, so I understand the wording. I get it. But I'm just trying to figure out what Fort Lauderdale's point is, because my understanding is even if the County designates an area of regional impact, it doesn't -- it doesn't do anything. I mean, it doesn't require anything. It doesn't prohibit the city from doing anything. So I'm trying to figure out what's the concern if the County comes in and says this is a regional area, meaning across cities. And it's not they're coming into Fort Lauderdale and saying this acre's a problem. They're talking about in an area across cities. Why is that an issue?

MR. KOETH: Well, the thought process is if it is an official action in support from our electeds, that oftentimes local municipality staff can collaborate with Broward County staff and actually have those relationships with the -- with the neighborhoods and the neighbors -- what we call neighbors, our residents. And we thought that would further that as far as a priority for our Commission and those local municipalities.

CHAIR CASTRO: But let's rephrase a little bit. I'm in Dania Beach. We have a common boundary. And there's a problem there. And Fort Lauderdale decides they don't want to approve it. They don't care. It's not -- you know, it's affecting more Dania

Beach, even though it might even be coming from a Fort Lauderdale side of the house. Who then would resolve that issue?

MR. KOETH: I couldn't speak to that.

CHAIR CASTRO: Okay.

MR. KOETH: I'm just telling you the thought process --

CHAIR CASTRO: And I'm here (inaudible).

MR. KOETH: -- (inaudible) --

CHAIR CASTRO: No, I got you. I got you. No, no, I -- everybody likes to be king. We have 29 cities, and I agree with it. I used to kind of be in charge of one, so I'm with it. But I'm looking at it from a resident standpoint now, and what I don't want to do is necessarily have one city pitted against the other. That's why I think this Planning Council's so relative. And I have this discussion with people every day. And I just wanted to find out if there was something that I was missing that Fort Lauderdale had homed in on. And so that's why I'm pushing a little hard. So, forgive me. I'm just trying to understand it.

MAYOR RYAN: Madam --

CHAIR CASTRO: So thank you. With that (Inaudible) --

MAYOR RYAN: -- Madam Chair, when you have an opportunity, I also have some questions.

CHAIR CASTRO: Thank you.

MR. KOETH: We were thinking in the positive how we were --

CHAIR CASTRO: Okay.

MR. KOETH: -- you know, on the ground. Okay.

CHAIR CASTRO: Yes.

MR. KOETH: With regard to the sand bypass project, also in your backup, you'll find a - an opposition resolution from our City Commission. And so that's why, in the backup, we -- we object to that as a Triple A of regional significance. And I'll be happy to answer any questions.

And I'd just concur that I've worked with Broward County Planning Council staff for many, many years, actually with different hats, and they're just outstanding. And Ms.

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Blake Boy is just superb.

CHAIR CASTRO: Thank you. Okay. First, Mayor Ryan, followed by Vice Mayor Kiar.

MAYOR RYAN: First of all, thank you for your support of the regional concept. As a city that is as -- about as far away from you as any other city with the exception of my learned colleague, Mr. Stermer, we take very seriously your views on these issues, not as a matter of deferral, but as a matter of partnership, because we recognize the decisions made along the coastline impact us.

And so I want to first thank you for support of the regional concept and of staff. Second, I want to tell you that I take to heart and did not take lightly the objection from the City of Fort Lauderdale because of your role and your importance in this process. I did have some confusion, though, as to how this would play out in reality, some of which Madam Chair has addressed.

But, as I understood it from your presentation, the idea would be that the County would wait until there was support as demonstrated by the official body of some number of cities; is that right?

MR. KOETH: Those cities that are included within the boundary of the proposed Triple A of regional significance; correct.

MAYOR RYAN: So that it would require a response of a hundred percent of those cities, one way or the other? So they have to get a hundred percent support? Or was that something Fort Lauderdale hadn't -- hadn't really had the opportunity to think through, pragmatically, as to how this would play out?

MR. KOETH: I mean, that -- that was the intention, yes, because you would have -- it would be a collaborative effort, everyone in support.

MAYOR RYAN: Well, let me just change that, because there can be collaboration through consensus, or there could be collaboration with veto. I'm trying to understand pragmatically how this plays out. Does it require a hundred percent support of all of those within the Triple A? Was that the proposal?

MR. KOETH: I think that was the intention, yes.

MAYOR RYAN: All right. And do you see the mischief that can be created from one withholding support, perhaps related to the merits, perhaps not?

MR. KOETH: I don't know if I'd characterize it as mischief if we were practicing what our elected officials had directed us to.

CHAIR CASTRO: That was (inaudible).

MR. KOETH: We'd be following what the constituents in our particular jurisdiction --

MAYOR RYAN: Correct.

MR. KOETH: -- directed us.

MAYOR RYAN: But you would -- you've lived here a long time, I take it.

MR. KOETH: I have.

MAYOR RYAN: And you've worked within the system of both electeds and staff; correct?

MR. KOETH: I have, yes.

MAYOR RYAN: So from time-to-time, a city may, for whatever reason, because it only requires a majority vote, withhold support for some item. You may hope that it is always done on the merits, but there may be other factors that are at play, and it could be very parochial. Do you -- under that scenario, do you see the mischief that could be created by a system that requires a hundred percent support from all electeds?

MR. KOETH: I -- I'd answer it the same way I did previously. It's not really something that I can really weigh in on.

MAYOR RYAN: It would undermine --

MR. KOETH: (Inaudible) those --

MAYOR RYAN: -- it would undermine the --

MR. KOETH: -- (inaudible) those --

MAYOR RYAN: -- it would undermine the regional concept.

MR. KOETH: -- many variables that could occur.

MAYOR RYAN: Right. And it would undermine the regional concept if, for one reason or another, one municipality within the Triple A either withholds support or simply doesn't vote on it. Is that -- you agree with that?

MR. KOETH: Can you restate that?

MAYOR RYAN: Sure. If the idea here is to achieve what Fort Lauderdale and we all support, which is a regional approach to these issues, if one single municipality, no matter how big or small, within the Triple A decides either not to show support, vote against, or do nothing, that would undermine the regional effort.

MR. KOETH: Just -- just to go back to what was stated earlier with whether -- what kind of weight does a Triple A of regional significance have with that of what that -- what that weight actually is, I think it is a positive if you have a hundred percent buy-in.

And I think that's an important part of the efforts, and especially at the local level, where if -- if we have the buy-in, we can collaborate and actually be out there, like I kind of mentioned a little bit earlier, and have those discussions with the neighbors and -- and be part of the effort.

MAYOR RYAN: What if it's 90 percent buy-in? Under your -- under the proposal from Fort Lauderdale, that would not -- that would not qualify as support of all municipalities.

MR. KOETH: Well, I guess I would defer that to Broward County staff on what the weight is of a Triple A of regional significance.

MAYOR RYAN: All right. Well, I was just relying on the language proposed by Fort Lauderdale. I support your concept of encouraging coordination. I raised this this morning, that I believe that the words that are proposed by staff, in coordination with its local, should be taken to heart, and not as a parenthetical, but as a predicate.

And that coordination should include listening to the voices, both those for and against, and those who have a view. So I'm comfortable with staff's language, and I think it can achieve ultimately what Fort Lauderdale wants. And I appreciate the fact that Fort Lauderdale continues to drive us all towards the idea of collaboration. Thank you.

MR. KOETH: Thank you.

CHAIR CASTRO: And, Mr. Koeth, just on the record, I was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, so please don't think I'm anti Fort Lauderdale. I'm a native. And Jack Seiler graduated a couple years behind me at Cardinal Gibbons. Great guy. We talk a lot, and he's good.

And I want to say personally, and I mean this sincerely, you're doing a phenomenal job of standing in the well and taking this, because it's a difficult subject, and you've got about half a dozen attorneys, half a dozen environmentalists and other very smart people who are well learned about this issue and these issues, and so you're doing great. And we have Vice Mayor Kiar, followed by Commissioner Castillo, followed by Mr. Grosso.

VICE MAYOR KIAR: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thanks for your testimony. I have -- I have a question. I was looking at the resolution in the back, and it was adopted on the 6th day of January 2009, and signed by Mayor Jim Naugle. So my question is has the City of Fort Lauderdale updated this and had a more current resolution by the -- done by the new Commission with Mayor Seiler as the Mayor?

MR. KOETH: No, we haven't.

VICE MAYOR KIAR: And have they taken an official position that this is still the City of Fort Lauderdale's position? I know when you adopt a resolution it's technically a position, but that changes at times with new Commissions.

MR. KOETH: Based on staff -- my discussions with staff that are more intimate with the sand bypass project, it has not been revisited.

VICE MAYOR KIAR: So the current City Commission, including Mayor Seiler, haven't been fully briefed on this matter?

MR. KOETH: I don't know if they've been fully briefed, but they haven't revisited it in an official capacity.

VICE MAYOR KIAR: And so that's important to me. I mean, I take the City of, you know, Fort Lauderdale, very seriously. And what Mayor Ryan indicated, I -- I agree with, as well. You know, we are a huge County. We have, you know, 1.8 million people. We have more people than 12 states, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. Territories except Puerto Rico. But, at the same time, we're still a small community. You can get from one side to the other in -- in 30 minutes if -- if you want to drive really fast. And --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

VICE MAYOR KIAR: -- trust me.

CHAIR CASTRO: That's right. The lights are synchronized.

VICE MAYOR KIAR: The lights are synchronized, depending on the roads you're taking. And, you know, what happens in Fort Lauderdale affects the folks in Sunrise and in Weston and in Davie, where I live. And what happens in Sunrise affects Fort Lauderdale. And I just think it -- to me, it's incredibly important that the City of Fort Lauderdale, the current Commission, take a position on this. And I would like to hear their thoughts on it.

And the other thing I have -- and I actually think that -- you know, I appreciate what Fort Lauderdale wants to do. It wants to have buy-in. And I agree. I don't believe in a top down approach, the County telling the cities what they can and what they can't do. I don't like that. I think it needs to be more of a partnership. And so I definitely agree with that. And -- but I think that the proposed language from Fort Lauderdale may have the impact of taking voices away from some municipalities, like, for example, Sunrise or Weston or Plantation, because unless I'm reading this wrong -- please tell me if I'm wrong, Ms. -- Ms. Boy -- the way the County wants to -- to add this is basically that Broward County shall, in coordination with its local municipalities, designate adaption action areas.

It doesn't say affected in there. So basically, all 31 cities, including Lazy Lake, has a say in the matter if they want. The way that Fort Lauderdale has -- indicates is that Fort

Lauderdale recommends that Policy A-3 be revised to read as follows: Broward County shall, with the support of all municipalities included within the proposed Adaptation Action Area of regional significant boundaries -- and it took out, in coordination with its local. And so I believe that I understand what Fort Lauderdale wants to do, but wouldn't Fort Lauderdale want all cities to be able to have a voice in this matter, and not just those affected solely within that -- that area?

MR. KOETH: Sure.

VICE MAYOR KIAR: Excellent.

MR. KOETH: Yes, when -- when that was written, that wasn't the intention.

VICE MAYOR KIAR: Oh, okay. Good. That -- that, to me, is very important.

MR. KOETH: But it was very important, though, that the ones that will be directly affected with the impacts have the buy-in. I think that was the thought process.

VICE MAYOR KIAR: Excellent. Well, I guess, just -- so the last thing's -- and thank you, also, for -- for staying up there and taking this. But I do want to just add, I -- you know, I appreciate Fort Lauderdale's position, and I definitely support the concept. You know, I believe that things work much better in our County when we have a collaborative, collegial process. I don't believe that the County is more powerful than the cities, and I don't think the cities are more powerful than the County.

And I think as we continue to review this, at least for myself, if it's okay, I would like -- I would like -- and I'm just one person -- for the city staff to go back and seek guidance from the current City Commission, including Mayor Seiler, in a formal action. And also, I guess as we continue this as well, I think that -- and I want this to be on the record, that if this does get through, and I'm going to tell this to my colleagues on the County Commission, that I believe, as we undertake this, or as things like this pass, that it must be done in coordination with the local municipalities. It has to be done in a partnership, rather than a top down approach. That's my long-winded answer. Thank you for being here.

CHAIR CASTRO: We have Commissioner Castillo, followed by Mr. Grosso, Mayor Stermer, and Commissioner Blattner.

COMMISSIONER CASTILLO: Thank you very much. Very briefly, you've done a great job, and you've laid out your point of view. I'm open to the possibility, having served a fair number of years, that sometimes the discussion that we're having isn't the discussion we're having. It's really about something else.

And I don't know whether or not, you know, this conversation is -- is getting mixed up with other issues that involve concerns between counties and cities. And, you know, sometimes that gets -- that gets muddled up. And yet what's clear to me is that there are

indeed some regional issues. And while -- while I have great respect for the coastal cities and the ownership that they have with respect to beaches, beaches in Broward County is pretty much near the top of the food chain.

And if the beaches in Broward County are not hopeful and successful, it affects the entire community. That is about as close to a regional asset definition as one can get to. Now, for better or for worse, and I say that with, frankly, a great deal of respect for Broward County, although some think it's for worse, we have a regional government, and there are regional issues that they are supposed to be managing. And while it's true that, you know, sometimes there can be difficulties at the County, sometimes cities are no bargain, either. And I say that as someone who represents a city.

And so I think that we have to cut through all of that and get to what the smarter answer is. And one is that whether you believe -- and we mentioned this during the -- during the -- the pre-meeting, the traffic committee meeting -- whether you believe in the global warming theory or not, the theory doesn't require your belief. It -- either the climate is warming and the seas are rising, or they're not. They don't really ask us to believe in it. They sort of operate independently of that.

And what we have to do is we have to look at the signs to see whether or not it's a -- it's actually true. We have seen the -- the oceans rising around our coastal areas for quite some time. We've spent many millions of dollars on beach renourishment only to have that millions of dollars sort of swept back into the sea.

And I mention that because I think that if we're going to go in the direction of making a designation on a regional level, then you have to ascribe some seriousness to it. It can't just be a designation saying these particular areas are susceptible to this kind of water intrusion.

Now it almost requires you to do something about it. Otherwise, I believe that folks would make property arguments about -- about the suitability or the potentially, heaven forbid, the value of these lands. So what I'm more interested in is leaping over whatever these disagreements -- and I -- and I agree with Vice Mayor that maybe a more contemporary statement from your City Commission is due in an issue of this magnitude.

But I'm -- I'm more interested in what comes after this. I mean, is it -- are we just going to designate it and then go back to this sort of intellectual tennis as to whether or not the issue's even real, or are we going to actually put together an action plan that, you know, ascribes some seriousness to preparing ourselves against what is potentially a catastrophic eventuality for the County?

So I'm going to support the item, hope -- hoping that we can open the door to a larger sort of discussion in that direction. But I'm more interested in an action plan coming out of this, rather than just a designation.

CHAIR CASTRO: Commissioner Castillo, when we're done with Mr. Koeth, I'm going to ask Dr. Jurado, who's here today, to step up and answer that question that you just asked. And then, quickly, just to staff, too, and this is to, you know, everybody, obviously, if we do anything on a map or anything of a regional nature, there's all sorts of notifications that go out to cities and to -- and especially those that are affected, is my understanding that's the way the process has been working. None of that's changing; correct?

MS. BLAKE BOY: Correct.

CHAIR CASTRO: Okay.

MS. BLAKE BOY: (Inaudible) was distributed to all the municipalities in late February, with a reminder in March and --

CHAIR CASTRO: But if you actually went to designate an area, regional area of adaptation or something, you would involve those municipalities --

MS. BLAKE BOY: Yes.

CHAIR CASTRO: -- automatically, because that's the way the processes typically work. You give notice --

MS. BLAKE BOY: Yes.

CHAIR CASTRO: -- you have public meetings, and, basically, that's a CYA. Every government does it, and I expect Broward County does it with the best of them. So, okay. We have Mr. Grosso, followed by Mayor Stermer, followed by Commissioner Blattner.

MR. GROSSO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Koeth, I -- the work I've done on climate and sea level rise the last few years has given me enormous respect for the City of Fort Lauderdale's expertise and perspectives on this. So I'd like to ask you on the merits, the substance of the sand bypass project, is there some objection, concern on the merits as to why it's a -- not a good project?

MR. KOETH: I can only speak to -- and it's in your backup -- is the resolution. And it goes through the different issues of why there is an opposition resolution. I can't really add anything to what's literally written in there. I apologize.

MR. GROSSO: Perhaps -- Madam Chair, thank you. Perhaps one of our staff people could give us 30 seconds on the substance of it. That would be useful, to me, at least.

CHAIR CASTRO: Well, and Fort Lauderdale knows the Points of America or whatever is in support of this now; correct?

CHAIR CASTRO: Yes. Okay. Because that used to be the big drawback is they would

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complain and we'd fold our pup tents and move on. So I just wanted you to know that pillar is standing right now, apparently, on this go-round. Does anybody else, staff, want to answer?

MS. BLAKE BOY: Answer from the prospective of the Adaptation Action Areas?

CHAIR CASTRO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE BOY: So it's my understanding, and we do have County staff here, I would actually --

CHAIR CASTRO: Defer to them?

MS. BLAKE BOY: -- I would defer to them --

CHAIR CASTRO: Okay.

MS. BLAKE BOY: -- just for a more detailed --

CHAIR CASTRO: We'll hold Dr. Jurado to both of those questions, then. So, if you don't mind, Mr. Grosso, we're going to move on, and when she comes up, she'll answer your question, as well. Mayor Stermer, followed by Commissioner Blattner.

MAYOR STERMER: And - thank you for standing there. Not easy sometimes, especially when you're the messenger and you're carrying the city's water. But I think it's important, and I think we had this conversation at the Trafficways plan with the Vice Mayor present, and I -- it follows what Mayor Ryan was saying in that if one were to look at Fort Lauderdale's position as more a Home Rule position, saying it doesn't want the County to tell it, within its jurisdictional boundaries, what certain things should be, I understand that.

Those of us that sit in local governments, including the one building we're sitting in today, because it, too, is a local government, needs to be done in coordination. And the question is we looked at some of the language in the -- in the specific text language about what does Broward County shall, in coordination with its local governments, mean. If Broward County thinks coordination is invite people to a meeting; listen to what they say; and then tell them, figuratively, to go pound sand, that's not coordination.

CHAIR CASTRO: No pun intended.

MAYOR STERMER: That is not what the 31 equal partners in this County believe. And I know Commissioner -- Vice Mayor Kiar believes that. Sometimes it's difficult to figure out what his eight colleagues believe, knowing one of them's sitting in the back of the room. So the question is is coordination true coordination, or is this top down government? And if Fort Lauderdale's concern is that this is top down government, I agree with Fort Lauderdale.

If this is more just a this is in our jurisdictional boundaries and we want to say it, and it's a regional issue, I have more of an issue with that because when we need to look at regional issues like this board does, like the MPO does, we lose, and should lose, where jurisdictional boundaries are and what's the best for the entirety of the community.

I think that's one of the beauties of how this group works. Now, this map series and the text amendment will be part of the Broward Next project, so presuming whatever gets passed here today, and presuming the language of the Broward Next project says what it should say, because I am confident that it will, that we are all equals in government, even though currently it provides for Broward County to have land use authority, I think we're moving in the right direction.

If that's what Fort Lauderdale's objective is, I just want to clearly put out there that if this is a Home Rule and we're not happy, or Fort Lauderdale's not happy being told certain things in their jurisdictional boundaries are getting designated, I got that. I respect that. I think every elected official sitting up here would and does.

But there are times where we need to move past the municipal boundary issue and look at the bigger regional issue. And whether it's the sand bypass issue, whether it's an issue on the beach in Hallandale Beach or an issue in Lighthouse Point, the coast is the coast.

And one of the things we talked about at the Trafficways is -- Trafficways meeting is how do we create a working group, for lack of a better phrase, among all of the coastal cities to say, hey, let's, as a group, instead of one city fighting over another city for a project, come up with a strategy that works for everybody, and include the County.

Because my belief is together we are stronger. Together we can go pull down the money. Together we can enlist all of our State Legislators, our federal Legislators for pots of money when they see a coordinated effort being done as compared to one city fighting against another city or fighting against the County over who controls something. So I think if we look at it on that basis -- and I know Mayor Seiler well, and we've done a lot of things together, and all of the cities have. I think we are entering a new dawn and a new day of collaboration between the cities and the County. It's a function of actually 31 of us do it really well right now. The question is whether 32 of us do.

And it's my belief, knowing on some of the people who sit on this dais on -- every Tuesday, or almost every Tuesday, there's a desire to do so. The proof will be in the pudding. But I think -- I understand Fort Lauderdale's objective, but I think sometimes we need to look past the municipal boundary and look at the bigger regional issue. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR CASTRO: Commissioner Stermer -- excuse me, Commissioner Blattner. Thank you, Mayor Stermer.

COMMISSIONER BLATTNER: Well, I -- I'm not as articulate as Mayor Stermer or -- or Mayor Ryan, or many of the others of you here today, so I won't attempt to be. But this is a case where size doesn't matter. And just because Fort Lauderdale is the biggest city in Broward County, to me, doesn't give it the right to try and impose its will on the other 30-some cities in the County. I met with -- our Mayor and I met with the Fort Lauderdale Commission when Mayor Naugle was here, and we were humiliated by the -- by the City Commission of Fort Lauderdale and the residents who opposed the sand bypass because it wasn't in their parochial best interest to do that. And I'm still stunned when, as the Chair pointed out, the biggest stakeholder, in a sense, Point of Americas, has now said, we don't object to this project, that the City Commission hasn't said, well, neither do we.

Actually, they did say that, and then they said, but we're not sure. So I join in commending you for standing there and delivering the message, but you have to deliver the message back to the City of Fort Lauderdale that we want you to be a partner, willingly, and not be dragged into this because you -- for whatever reason, you think that you're being forced into something that you're not comfortable with. And maybe it does go back to the point that the County -- the City Commission needs to make -- to update its thinking by way of resolution for support of this concept. So, in conclusion, I'm -- I am disappointed. I think that we don't need to get into a place where, for example, Hollywood, Dania Beach, Hallandale, and Fort Lauderdale have to 100 percent or more approve sand bypass, when everybody recognizes that the coastal communities are the economic engine of Broward County, and we each -- we have an equal stake in it. So those are my comments. But, again, size does not matter.

CHAIR CASTRO: Anybody else? Oh, Ms. Graham.

MS. GRAHAM: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. Just real quick, and I'm going to ask a question. I just want it on the record. And I'm looking at the graphics that they've attached, and I'm reading the resolution, and back in 2009, when we had the prior Mayor, I don't know what the decision was on the port channel being dredged and the deepening of the port, but I'm going to presume someone's looking at that, as well, and how that's going to affect the sand bypass if, in fact, we have those Army Corps of Engineer permits or approvals or whatever, because moving stuff around when there's ocean currents and tides, I mean, I think we've seen what's happened when Mother Nature takes her course.

So this could all get approved today and fly through, but when they start dredging that channel going east/west to get out to wherever they've got to get to deepen it and bring it in and they're moving all that on the seabed in Port Everglades, I mean, I'm not a structure -- or a civil engineer, but I hope someone's looking at that. Thank you.

CHAIR CASTRO: In the Trafficways plan, that was discussed. They are reviewing it. We had both Planning Council and we had the coastal engineer present at the time, and some of the members even recommended, you know, should the product that is taken out of the port dredge fill be determined beach worthy, that it also obviously be reverted

back to the beaches, so that you don't have to go buy sand elsewhere and truck it in, which is typically what Broward County's done. And, as they'll tell you, those -- those suppliers are drying up, no pun intended. So that's becoming more of a challenge. So that is being done, and it -- and they discussed that. And staff could probably address that, too. When Dr. Jurado comes up, we'll just have them hit everything.

MS. GRAHAM: Again, it's just the best laid plans.

CHAIR CASTRO: Absolutely. No, no. And to your point, and it's valid, that was brought up. They are looking at the whole system, which is good. And so thank you for bringing that up. Mr. Parness.

MR. PARNES: I come from the north, Deerfield Beach. I want to know how my city would be affected. Are we going to be a part of the decisions here? We rely on the beach and tourism. We have a great beach. Are we just going to fix the Fort Lauderdale area, or are we going to do the whole coastline of the -- Broward County? And do we get a say in it?

CHAIR CASTRO: Do you want -- no. I'll address it if --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

CHAIR CASTRO: Okay. The way the text amendment and the proposed language is, all cities would be able to participate in any hearings, discussions, whatever, number one. Number two, this is just a project. There would obviously be -- other projects will be coming down the pike.

And it -- this doesn't prohibit cities from doing their own thing. I know, as he mentioned when he came up, Fort Lauderdale's being very aggressive in the whole sea level -- I mean, A-1-A washed away. They don't have a lot of choice. They've got to get in the game.

Dania Beach has been very aggressive with sea oats and things like that. So none of that is prohibited. And the goal is, again, as everybody was addressing, is try to bring the coastal cities together, but include all the cities in Broward County, because the beach is, to Commissioner Castillo's, a County treasure. It affects all of us. Does that answer your question?

MR. PARNES: Yes, thank you.

CHAIR CASTRO: Perfect. Okay. Mr. de Jesus.

MR. DE JESUS: Thank you, Madam Chair. A point and then a question -- or two points and a question. I would be in support of Fort Lauderdale's position if it wasn't for two points that have come up, both in Trafficways and here on this dais. One, the hundred percent buy-in. Maybe because I'm a realist, but that doesn't happen in government.

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Rarely does it happen --

CHAIR CASTRO: Doesn't happen in life.

MR. DE JESUS: -- in government. So I think that kind of bogs down the whole process for us in subscribing to that theory. The second part -- and, Mayor Kiar, I appreciate you bringing that to our attention, because -- Vice Mayor Kiar -- because I missed it.

VICE MAYOR KIAR: I like the promotion.

CHAIR CASTRO: Yeah, take it.

MR. DE JESUS: I could have called you Property Appraiser, but --

CHAIR CASTRO: Oh.

MR. DE JESUS: -- soon. Anyway, that dated resolution is concerning, because I don't know that -- where the current Commission stands, and things change over time. And I would be much more comfortable knowing where the current body of elected officials stand on the issue from a municipal standpoint.

With that being said, I've heard several of my colleagues ask where they are and what their position is, and if there's any compromise to the city's position based on some of these discussions. So, with that being said, is this a timely issue, or is it something, dare I say defer until we get those responses back from the City of Fort Lauderdale?

MS. BLAKE BOY: I would actually defer to the County staff as far as the timeliness issue. I can let you know from Planning Council's perspective, if a recommendation is made here today, then it would proceed to the County Commission for consideration of transmittal to the state review agencies in late June, and then come back to you for a second Public Hearing in August.

So that's the kind of timeframe, then adoption by the County Commission in September. So if the Planning Council chooses to defer its recommendation today to a later date, pending the receipt of some information, I'm not sure of the -- that we can assure what timeframe that that would actually occur in and how it would affect the end of the -- the cycle.

CHAIR CASTRO: It's coming back to us, though, for a second reading, you said, so we could --

MS. BLAKE BOY: In August.

CHAIR CASTRO: -- move it forward now, and then --

MR. DE JESUS: But --

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CHAIR CASTRO: -- take up more between now and then.

MR. DE JESUS: I got you, yeah.

MAYOR RYAN: And --

MR. DE JESUS: Yes.

MAYOR RYAN: -- but the bigger issue is if we don't move it forward, then the timeline could get --

CHAIR CASTRO: Yes.

MAYOR RYAN: -- extended.

MR. DE JESUS: Yeah, I --

CHAIR CASTRO: Right.

MR. DE JESUS: -- I understand --

CHAIR CASTRO: Out of control.

MR. DE JESUS: -- that. And if -- it's coming back for a -- for a second reading anyway, so I'll -- I'll withdraw that suggestion.

MAYOR RYAN: Although, if I may, Madam Chair, I think the point raised by my colleague is important in that between now and when it comes back, if the City of Fort Lauderdale's position has changed since the 2009 resolution, it would be incredibly helpful to have that for our consideration. So the ball's really in -- in the court of Fort Lauderdale on that one.

CHAIR CASTRO: And, furthermore, I would to County staff that we maybe look at the language again to make sure that the cities that are directly impacted by the regional get specific notice and/or participation. You can't go a hundred percent, but there's probably some language in there to make all the cities feel a little bit better that they will be in -- somewhat involved directly with the process. So maybe there's something that could be worked out. Mr. Grosso, did you have a question before I bring staff up again? No? You're good?

MR. GROSSO: I had -- I did have one question, Madam Chair. Have we heard any input from environmental scientists or environmental advocates about the ecological impact of this, one way or the other?

CHAIR CASTRO: I don't know. I'll let Dr. Jurado handle that. Mr. DiGiorgio. We'll hold that one, too.

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MR. DIGIORGIO: Thank you, Madam Chair. The one concern I had -- and an excellent discussion by the members, and I appreciate that. The one concern I have is really the wording in here where it talks about coordination with the local governments, and I really think there needs to be some meat there, what that really means.

So I think the points that were made about the top down government, it could -- if it's implied that way that we'll have your input, but we're going to do what we're doing, here's how we're mandating to you folks, I think that's a problem. So really put some meat around what that local coordination means. I'd like to see that on the second reading, if there's something that we can do there with that language specifically.

CHAIR CASTRO: Yes.

MAYOR STERMER: And what I would -- since we know this is going to come back for a second time, and I think the City of Fort Lauderdale hears loud and clear the desire of this body to at least hear from that body, and County staff hears that, as well, that I think they could reach out to their counterparts, as well, so it's not all on your shoulders.

But I think it's also incumbent upon County staff to hear the comments, because the same comments were raised at the Trafficways of exactly what does, in coordination with -- in coordination with, mean. And I don't think it's incumbent upon Mr. Maurodis and Ms. Blake Boy, nor will -- I did ask, but I don't think it's the wisest thing that could have happened was to, on-the-fly, start suggesting language, but that, you know, alternative language be brought back, should it pass today on exactly what in coordination with means, such that everybody has a voice and seat at the table, and it's more than just thank you for coming.

CHAIR CASTRO: Mr. Koeth, I want to leave you with a few comments, and so you understand, position wise, at least where I'm coming from personally. You know, a few months ago, Fort Lauderdale came in to add 5,000 units to the ground in downtown, and I supported that. Why? Because it's not really a regional thing. Some will argue that it is. You're going to have a whole lot more traffic. But here's my deal. I don't live in Fort Lauderdale. I have a choice. I can avoid the area.

And then that's Fort Lauderdale's long term result. If people start moving away because it's too congested, too crowded, if businesses move away because their customers can't get to them, Fort Lauderdale has every right to make that decision, and I support it, even though it is a huge, huge project or undertaking to put 5,000 more units in the downtown area when at night you can't get through the tunnel as it is at 5:00 o'clock.

Having said that, when you're talking about the beach or things that are real regional, meaning if you change the wave action or sand in your beach and it affects three beaches downwind from you, or two beaches upwind from you, that's when it gets a little more serious.

And I don't want to use the word, parochial, because I went to parochial school and I

keep getting confused about that. I think that's when Fort Lauderdale has to be a little bit more of a team player and not just view it as Fort Lauderdale versus the County, but how does Fort Lauderdale manage that relationship with the other cities that it may actually be impacting. And that, unfortunately, is where the County does have a role, like it or not, specifically through this Planning Council.

But it's important that somebody is stepping in there to say, okay, we hear you. We hear you. We hear you. And we're not going to get a hundred percent, but at some point, somebody has to make a decision. So that's where I'm coming from, as far as the whole, you know, sea level rise, beach, the whole, you know, thing, because it is an important issue for the entire County. As some of the western cities said, it -- they rely on that, and they rely on us taking care of it.

And, unfortunately, a burden does fall on the eastern cities, because they're our beaches. So financially, we're usually on the hook. They may come and enjoy them, but, you know, we're the ones who have to kind of care-take them. So please, carry that back to your Commission and your staff, and, hopefully, for the second reading, we can work things out, and make it a little bit clearer and a little bit better for everybody involved. Okay?

MR. KOETH: And if I could just add --

CHAIR CASTRO: Absolutely.

MR. KOETH: -- one quick -- it was mentioned about the Point of Americas, that they had changed their position, county staff met with them and alleviated their concerns. We still do have a -- some -- a group called the South Beach Alliance that still has an outstanding opposition to that project, just as a matter of clarification. And they represent, I believe, three neighborhoods.

CHAIR CASTRO: Okay.

MR. KOETH: That's all. Thank you very much --

CHAIR CASTRO: And --

MR. KOETH: -- for everyone's time.

CHAIR CASTRO: -- to my point, I can bring Dania Beach and Hollywood neighborhoods that would be in favor for it, because they're -- they're not getting their sand. So that's where --

MR. KOETH: No. I was just --

CHAIR CASTRO: Yeah --

MR. KOETH: -- making a clarification --

CHAIR CASTRO: -- I got you. No, I got you.

MR. KOETH: -- of the points where we --

CHAIR CASTRO: But that's kind of where the regional thing comes in. So I would like Dr. Jurado, if she has a few moments, we appreciate her being here. This is one of those top-down things that I found very annoying. When I was an elected official, I got to be on the Water Resource Task Board, I got to be on the Climate Change Task Force, I got to be on the Planning Council.

But as soon as you're not an elected official, and I don't know how many of you know this, and you're just a regular voter, like me now, you're only allowed to serve on one board, which, to me, was the opposite. I thought elected officials should be maybe limited to one board, and the residents of Broward County should be able to serve wherever they want to serve. But it's -- ironically, it's the opposite. So, you know, if you want to talk top-down, it's electeds, residents. I'm not in favor of that, and I've been both. So I'm just bringing that out because it's one of my pet peeves, and I'll bring that up because I miss going to see Dr. Jurado and her team with their incredible information and science and everything else. So, please, if you would address some of the questions that were --

MAYOR RYAN: Madam Chair, just as a matter -- a point of information, do we have any indication when we'll get to PH-2? Because I'm going to need to leave soon. I know that we've been going on, so --

CHAIR CASTRO: As soon as she's finished, we'll call the vote --

MAYOR RYAN: Okay. Fair enough.

CHAIR CASTRO: -- on 5 and 6 and we'll move on.

MAYOR RYAN: Thank you.

DR. JURADO: Okay. Thank you, Chair, members of the commission -- the Board. There was a extensive dialogue, of course, on various aspects of the proposal, I think one relating to the Adaptation Action Area designation process, and then as well to the specific merits of the sand bypass project and the designation of that project itself. I guess I'm going to start with just a little bit of the project history.

We've been, as a County, trying to advance sand bypass -- sand bypass at Port Everglades for decades. We've gone through numerous iterations of project planning. The merits of the project are that we have a jetty on the north side of the channel that disrupts the flow of sand to the south.

As a result, what we refer to as Segment 3, the south reach of our beaches, is severely sediment starved, and it's the most chronic area for needed sand nourishment. And those projects, we're -- you know, we're looking at projects upwards of \$50,000,000 in order to keep sand on beaches as part of these large massive scale projects.

Sand bypass provides a mechanism for reducing, to some degree, the magnitude of these renourishment projects in the future. In fact, we see that sand bypass will reduce the total -- provide cost benefits and reduce future project cost and size by about ten to fifteen percent. It is not going to resolve all of Segment 3, but it will provide significant savings, moving forward, as projects become increasingly challenging. Why do they become challenging? Because we have less sand in the system in order to provide nourishment, and we have sensitive coastal resources that do not respond well to massive scale projects.

So to the question about the environmental component, sand bypass has been embraced by environmental interests as a preferential strategy for helping to mitigate for sand starvation in the south, because we can reduce the future size and footprint of projects, and the overall movement of sand within that system.

So it is a project that's gone through a series of evolutions. And in this process, and particularly during the last ten years, we've had intense workshops with community interests, extensive workshops with stakeholders in the community to try to arrive at a project proposal that would be embraced.

And at one point in time, we were talking about blasting as a methodology to create a sand pit on the north side of the jetty in order to serve as a sand trap, and that seemed to be the primary sticking point for why this project was not -- is being met with some community opposition.

We have responded to that, redesigned the project, agreed to dredge in order to create the sand trap, and, with that, we were able to achieve the support of Points of America. So the system, the project was redesigned in response to community sensitivities. Since we received the support from this critical stakeholder group, we did ask that the city would reconsider its position on the project, either with a letter of support or recension of the -- the previous resolution.

And, despite making the request for several years, we have not been able to see formal action taken. In the meantime, we're trying to advance this project, and we have subsequently -- we have submitted the project to the Army Corps of Engineers for permitting. There is an extensive review process that occurs with respect to the existing channel and the compatibility of this project as it relates to the navigation and sand management within -- and navigation within the channel.

Part of that process is called the Section 408 Review. And so that analysis that -- you know, the question about project compatibility is a focus part of that analysis. And we've also reviewed this project relative to the port element of the Comprehensive Plan in

MS. GRAHAM: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Mr. Richard Grosso.

MR. GROSSO: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Vice Mayor Martin Kiar.

VICE MAYOR KIAR: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Commissioner Michael S. Long.

COMMISSIONER LONG: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Vice Mayor Rita Mack.

VICE MAYOR MACK: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Commissioner Shari L. McCartney. Mr. Robert McGolgan.

MR. MCCOLGAN: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Mr. Bernard Parness

MR. PARNES: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Mayor Michael J. Ryan.

MAYOR RYAN: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Mr. Nicholas T. Steffens. Mayor Daniel J. Stermer.

MAYOR STERMER: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Anne Castro, Chair.

CHAIR CASTRO: Yes. And both Fort Lauderdale and the staff understand where we want to try to get to before the second reading comes back; yes?

MS. BLAKE BOY: Yes.

CHAIR CASTRO: Okay. Cool. Thank you.

VOTE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY WITH SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER PATRICIA GOOD OFF THE DAIS.

determination by the end of the year, and ideally would want to move forward with construction of the project within that same time frame. So the only urgency is that we are moving through the review process with the federal government. The designation and the regional treatment of this project as a critical shoreline resiliency strategy, I think has been vital to the process moving -- to moving this project process forward.

CHAIR CASTRO: Thank you so much. And I think you covered all the questions in that. Does anybody have any other quick questions for Dr. Jurado? If not, I'd like a motion to move PH-5 and 6, please.

VICE MAYOR KIAR: So moved.

MR. PARNES: Second.

CHAIR CASTRO: So moved by the Vice Mayor. Mr. Parness second.
Roll call.

THE REPORTER: Commissioner Richard Blattner.

COMMISSIONER BLATTNER: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Commissioner Angelo Castillo.

COMMISSIONER CASTILLO: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Mr. Neal de Jesus.

MR. DE JESUS: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Mr. Thomas DiGiorgio.

MR. DIGIORGIO: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Mr. Michael Friedel.

MR. FRIEDEL: Yes.

THE REPORTER: Commissioner Bill Ganz. Commissioner Michelle J. Gomez.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Yes.

THE REPORTER: School Board Member Patricia Good.

CHAIR CASTRO: She had to step out.

THE REPORTER: Okay. Ms. Mary D. Graham.

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order to ensure compatibility. So in the Section 408 Review, though, it is really critical that the Army Corps of Engineers make a determination in favor of this project. Otherwise, it does not get -- it doesn't get advanced.

And we, again, deem this a critical project to the sustainability of our beaches as an appropriate environmental efficient sand management strategy -- environmentally sensitive. The conversation with the Army Corps of Engineers is one in which we have been able to make significant headway in recognizing that this project is part of our regional shoreline resiliency strategy, that it has been raised as a priority strategy for our community, that it directly relates to recommendations of the recent Presidential Task Force Report on Climate Resiliency and Preparedness.

And the merging of this designation with the Presidential recommendations with the Corps' obligation to consider those is what is allowing this project to move for -- through a very critical review process. And I think that this designation is vital to being able to advance sand bypass -- sand bypass, overall. With respect to the designation as an adaption action area and that process, I will readily admit that we did not go through the same community process as it related to making this designation.

We're not claiming that any of the communities are vulnerable. We're not making a designation that this is vulnerable real estate. What we're saying is that the project is critical, and the project footprint is what is designated as the Adaptation Action Area in order to be able to capture and move sand. And so the process to date has been very inclusive as it relates to sand bypass.

The Adaptation Action Area designation and that verbiage has really been limited to communications with the city staff. And I acknowledge, too, that the collaboration with the city on Adaptation Action Area planning and resiliency initiatives has been incredibly collaborative. It's been very positive. But there has not been a common perspective as it relates to the sand bypass project itself. And our intent would be, as County staff, in any effort to move forward with projects that relate to Adaptation Action Areas and those potential designations to, yes, have conversations about why these projects are important, and how it serves to meet the communities' interest.

But there are a lot of critical resources within the County. It could be the airport. It could be the port. It could be transit facilities, any number of facilities where we might need to organize this designation in order to achieve federal support for projects because they are vital community resiliency strategies where, you know, there -- where there may not be, you know, a common or shared perspective. But this is an area of immense financial liability. We have great exposures of infrastructure in the absence of being able to move forward with beach nourishment, shoreline protection and resilience, and sand bypass is one that has been -- a project that allows for a diversified approach as it relates to a more coordinated process for regional sand management.

And that's how we've arrived at the process that we are today. With regards to the timing, this project is currently in the Section 408 Review process. We're expecting a