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AI- 20585

13.

Broward County Commission Regular Meeting

Meeting Date: 11/03/2015

Director's Name: Cynthia Chambers

Department: Environmental Protection

Division:

Environ. Planning & Comm. Resilience

Information

Requested Action

MOTION TO ADOPT Resolution No. 2015-535 supporting the establishment of a collaborative partnership between the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact and the Florida Climate Institute to better align university research with public agency information needs and adaptation planning and improve the competitiveness of the region for climate-related funding; and providing for transmission of the Resolution and an effective date.

ACTION: (T-10:12 AM) Approved.

VOTE: 8-0. Commissioner Sharief was not present.

ACTION: (T-10:30 AM) Through Mayor Ryan, Commissioner Sharief requested being shown voting in the affirmative. (Refer to minutes for full discussion.)

VOTE: 9-0.

Why Action is Necessary

Action of the Board of County Commissioners is required to adopt Resolutions.

What Action Accomplishes

Supports the establishment of a collaborative partnership between the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact and the Florida Climate Institute.

Is this Action Goal Related



Established Commission Goal

Previous Action Taken

None.

Summary Explanation/Background

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE DIVISION RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE MOTION.

This item supports the Commission's Vision of "A Pristine, Healthy Environment," Goal 1: "To protect and enhance the environment with collaborative partners," by supporting a collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach to climate resiliency planning, research and communications.

Approval of this item encourages a collaborative partnership between partners in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (Compact) and academic institutions as part of the Florida Climate Institute for the purpose of better aligning academic research with regional climate resiliency planning efforts and the goal of improving the region's competitive position for external funding to support climate-related research, planning, and projects.

The Compact was formalized in early 2010 as a voluntary collaboration among Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties in furtherance of shared climate mitigation and adaptation objectives. Over the years, the collaboration has expanded to include municipal collaborations, the participation of the South Florida Water Management District and the South Florida Regional Council and the engagement of additional partners supporting various Compact work groups and projects.

Concurrent with the Compact process, the Florida Climate Institute (FCI) was formed in 2010 by Florida State University and the University of Florida to advance national and international research and engagement on climate variability and change. Today, FCI has expanded to include nine member universities, including Florida A&M, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida International University, the University of Central Florida, the University of Miami, and the University of South Florida. Over 200 affiliates have joined FCI, representing researchers, government and industry.


Since the Compact was created, academic partners have made notable contributions to the Compact's initiatives, serving as valuable technical resources in the development of the Compact's Unified Sea Level Rise Projection (2012) and the subsequent 2015 Update and as contributors in the successful hosting of the South Florida Resilient Redesign Workshop in 2014. However, engagement had not been consistent and not only were there several lost opportunities for collaboration on federal research and planning grants, but unnecessary competition among regional partners for limited grant dollars, as well as general underutilization of the academic talent in southeast Florida in the area of climate research and resiliency planning.

Recognizing the diverse benefits to be gained with a more established collaborative process for both academic and Compact partners, in 2014, FCI and Compact staff began to explore opportunities for a more direct and continuous partnership in climate planning and research activities. This led to the drafting of an informal "Partnership Agreement on Regional Coordination between the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact and the Florida Climate Institute" which was presented as a deliverable at the 6th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit in 2014, and a commitment to work to prepare a more formal agreement for ratification by the respect Compact partners and University Principals.

During the next several months, Compact staff and FCI representatives worked to develop "Operational Guidelines" for the partnership, which was finalized on March 16, 2015, and endorsed by the Compact Staff Steering Committee on March 27, 2015 (see Resolution, exhibit 'A'). Subsequently, Compact Staff drafted the subject Resolution to provide for transmittal of these documents and endorsement of the proposed collaboration by respective Compact and FCI partners. In the meantime, FCI and Compact collaboration has continued to produce benefits, with FCI serving as the host for the Compact's 2nd Annual Southeast Florida Resilient Redesign Workshop in August 2015, a recent FCI/Compact collaboration on a NOAA coastal resilience funding application, and a climate resilience and decision-support modeling project involving a partnership with the Compact and the RAND Corporation.

With joint approval of this Resolution, Broward County seeks to build on these early collaborative efforts, and supports establishment of a consistent collaborative partnership between the Compact and the FCI, encourages the FCI to organize a hub to plan and coordinate FCI-Compact joint efforts, and supports a collaborative process detailed in the FCI-Compact Operational Guidance Document for the purpose of furthering climate research, planning, projects, and outreach efforts in southeast Florida.

Source of Additional Information

Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division, 954-519-1464 

Fiscal Impact

Fiscal Impact/Cost Summary:

There is no fiscal impact associated with approval of this item. Collaborative activities will be supported with existing staff resources.

Attachments

[Exhibit 1 - Resolution](#)