

APPROVED March 6 2025

<u><i>SWFLC Voting Members</i></u>
President Vice Mayor Joanne Ribble Estero
Vice President Mayor John Gunter Cape Coral
Secretary Teresa Watkins Brown Fort Myers
Past President Councilwoman Holly D. Smith Sanibel
Mayor Julie Wilkins LaBelle
Vice Mayor Greg Julian Punta Gorda
<u><i>SWFLC/FLC Staff</i></u>
Executive Director Rachel Keesling
FMIT Chaz Smith Risk & Safety Consultant
FMIT Jessica Burt
FMIT Lyndsey Johannesen
<u><i>Other elected officials</i></u>
Fort Myers Mayor Kevin Anderson Sanibel Vice Mayor Mike Miller
LaBelle Commissioner Hugo Vargas (alt)
Cape Coral Councilmember Jennifer Lastra
Cape Coral Councilmember Rachel Kaduk
Cape Coral Councilmember Laurie Lehman
Cape Coral Councilmember Joe Kilraine
Estero Councilmember Raphael Lopez
<u><i>Sponsors/Associate Members</i></u>
Premier Sponsor FPL Charlotte Miller
Signature Sponsor Woodard & Curran Peter Simmons
Woodard & Curran Justin deMello
Woodard & Curran Ryan Watson
Associate Member Lee County School Board D3 Bill Ribble
Associate Member Brandon Miller 239 Lifestyles
CAP Government Luis Perez Codina
Guest Jeri Julian Guest Greg Thompson

President Joanne Ribble called the meeting to order and announced that it is being recorded.

She gave a short welcome and asked Vice President John Gunter, Mayor Cape Coral to conduct the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. President Ribble asked Executive Director Rachel Keesling to conduct the roll call of the voting members, and a quorum was established. President Ribble gave her opening comments which included a summary of the Lee county Delegation meeting. Topics were mosquito control & water districts merging, single member districts for Lee County Commissioners, and she urged all members to stand on home rule during the upcoming legislative session.

President Ribble introduced the first time attendees to the meeting. President Ribble then introduced the voting members business session and asked for any discussion on the minutes from 11/21/24. No discussion was brought forth, but Secretary Watkins Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Past President Smith, the motion carried unanimously.

President Ribble brought forth the financial reports and asked for discussion, there was none. Past President Smith moved approval, seconded by Vice President Gunter and the motion carried unanimously. President Ribble invited FLC announcements FLC First Vice President Holly Smith to address the chapter. She introduced the FMIT staff and then went into her comments. She spoke on Ashley Moody being appointed Senator, immigration policies and video she would provide the for SWFLC website, Rebecca OHara presenting at committee meeting regarding pre emption. Past President Smith told the group that FLC has hired a federal lobbyist Omar Franco. to please urge your city to fill out the citystats surveys. She urged members to get back to her as your Florida league of cities representative with any legislative issues. She urged members to attend Legislative Action Days, March 24th and 25th in Tallahassee.

An announcement was made to visit lunch buffet and the meeting, along with the presentation, will begin once everyone had their food.

The meeting resumed and President Ribble introduced Former Bonita Springs Mayor Peter Simmons of Woodard and Curran to come up and introduce the presentation by Justin deMello. Justin began a powerpoint titled "**Securing Grant Funds for Critical Water Projects and Environmental Infrastructure**".

The presentation highlighted the case study of Woodard & Curran's work with the City of LaBelle and how they used multiple strategies to secure funding for water, community development and operations of utilities. Design of wastewater, operating their treatment plants, and helping design the utility extension projects. Mayor Wilkins gave a timeline of how all the projects came to fruition with the commission and how they secured the grant funding to soften the rate increases that will be involved with expansions.

A short question and answer session took place, and President Ribble thanked the Woodard & Curran representatives for their comprehensive presentation.

President Ribble called on the voting member representatives to give their quick reports.

Vice Mayor Mike Miller of Sanibel commented on beach renourishments that is going on the island and damage to the vegetation on the shorelines.

Mayor Kevin Anderson of Fort Myers mentioned bonds that support park and recreation. He also described the home building project and how the first owner has moved in the house. He also commented that Councilwoman Watkins Brown is the chair of the CRA and Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor John Gunter of Cape Coral has begun their budget discussions and will have a retreat with the 5 new councilmembers.

Vice Mayor Greg Julian spoke on Punta Gorda's recovery in the parks, the marinas and FEMA lagging with funds. He also mentioned they are looking for a city manager and reviewing the city attorney position.

Vice Mayor Joanne Ribble of Estero told the members that Estero Fest is to be held March 15th. A concert and many festivities will take place that day in her city.

Lee County School Board Member Bill Ribble spoke on their visit to Tallahassee and how they are trying to solve the transportation issues with drivers and routes. He also discussed the cell phone ban in the schools and how they are trying to get that enacted.

Executive Director Keesling introduced Brandon Miller, website developer, and he announced he will be starting with Lumos Fiber.

Mayor Julie Wilkins of LaBelle announced their Centennial and the Swamp Cabbage Festival parade is February 22, all are invited.

President Ribble announced the next meeting will be March 6th at the DoubleTree.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.