

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** LCIR Members  
**FROM:** Rip Colvin  
**RE:** Minutes for the LCIR Meeting April 4, 2005 in Tallahassee, Florida  
**DATE:** June 6, 2005

---

Senator Dennis Jones, LCIR Alternating Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. A quorum was present. The attendance of the committee members was as follows:

PRESENT

Representative Hasner  
Senator Jones  
Senator Constantine  
Senator Lynn  
Representative Taylor  
Representative Williams  
Commissioner Bullard  
Mr. Greer  
Councilwoman Starace (via telephone)  
Commissioner Welch

ABSENT

Representative Brutus  
Commissioner Palmer  
Senator Klein

**Opening Comments**

Senator Jones welcomed members to the committee meeting. He said Representative Hasner had a delay in his flight to Tallahassee and would arrive during the meeting.

Senator Jones introduced the new Executive Director of the LCIR, Rip Colvin, and welcomed him to the Committee. He asked Mr. Colvin if he would like to say a few words.

Mr. Colvin shared his enthusiasm with his new position. He complimented the staff and expressed that he is looking forward to working with the Committee.

Senator Jones noted that Councilwoman Starace is listening to the meeting via teleconference.

He also added that John Cherry, Staff Analyst, would not be attending the meeting due to a death in his family.

He asked the Committee members to mark their calendars for June 13 for the next LCIR meeting. He said the meeting is being held in Delray Beach, the Chair's district. He added that Staff will send additional information concerning the meeting as soon as details are confirmed.

**Minutes of February 7, 2005, LCIR Meeting**

The minutes of the February 7, 2005 LCIR Meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Staff Presentation on Local Government Fiscal Capacity**

Steven O’Cain, Legislative Analyst, began his presentation by providing the Committee with a brief overview of the continuing interim project on local government fiscal capacity. Furthermore, he discussed the historical trends in reported statewide expenditures and revenues of Florida’s county and municipal governments and provided the Committee with summaries of realized and unrealized tax revenues for several local revenue sources.

Commissioner Welch asked if staff had looked into the potential revenues to county governments resulting from the indexing of local option fuel taxes. Mr. O’Cain responded that the LCIR staff had not attempted to estimate the revenue potential of such a proposal; however, he acknowledged that the issue was under consideration by the Legislature and, as such, the revenue potential would be addressed by the Consensus Estimating Conference. Mr. O’Cain stated that he would check on the issue and report back to the Commissioner.

Representative Hasner arrived and Senator Jones turned the meeting over to him.

### **Update on Natural Disaster Preparedness Interim Project**

Carolyn Horwich, staff attorney, stood in for John Cherry, the project’s Team Leader, and presented an update on staff’s report on “Natural Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery.” Ms. Horwich told the committee that the two main goals of the project were to assist the Legislature in developing strategies to improve intergovernmental coordination before, during and after natural disaster and to provide a compendium of best practices for emergency management personnel at all governmental levels.

Ms. Horwich listed some of the substantive areas that would be addressed in the report, including communications, persons with special needs, shelters, schools, FEMA, and post-disaster matters such as housing and price-gouging. She then mentioned some of the entities with whom staff have already met or are planning to meet with, such as the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, the Humane Society, the Red Cross, the Association of Counties, the League of Cities, federal officials, and local governments. In addition to attending various national and statewide conferences on disaster preparedness, staff will be surveying local governments and other officials on topics relevant to the project, and may conduct workshops around the state to solicit public testimony and augment staff findings. Finally, if directed by the committee, staff will prepare draft legislation.

Upon the conclusion of Ms. Horwich’s presentation, Senator Lynn inquired if the need for more generators is being addressed. Ms. Horwich responded that there are currently bills pending regarding generators and discussion on the subject will be included in the report.

### **Staff Presentation on Federal Funds to Florida**

Steven O’Cain, Legislative Analyst, provided the Committee with a brief overview of federal funding to Florida in fiscal year 2003 in order to illustrate the magnitude of financial assistance provided by the federal government. Mr. O’Cain mentioned that the staff has conducted an annual review of federal funding to Florida since 1996 and noted that Florida’s rankings in terms of total federal grant expenditures to states improved from 7<sup>th</sup> in 1996 to 4<sup>th</sup> in 2003. Additionally, Florida’s per capita federal grant expenditure rankings improved from 48<sup>th</sup> in 1996 to 45<sup>th</sup> in 2003.

Mr. O’Cain mentioned the four staff recommendations, three of which are embodied in the LCIR’s continuing interim project to survey state agencies on the receipt of federal funds. The final

recommendation suggested a renewed effort to conduct federal/state summits on a regular basis to facilitate discussions of federal issues of important state interest and efforts to increase Florida's receipt of federal funds.

Senator Jones asked how Florida's Medicaid reimbursement, relative to other states, could be improved. Mr. O'Cain stated that he did not know the answer, but would research it further.

### **Staff Update on Survey of State Agencies on Receipt of Federal Funds**

Cris Martinez, LCIR Staff Attorney, updated LCIR on the progress of the Federal Funds Survey of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), a summary of which could be found at Tab 5 of the meeting docket book. She informed Committee members that consistent with LCIR's continuing interest in developing a comprehensive strategy to assist the Legislature and Governor in efforts to increase Florida's share of federal funds, staff developed a survey to solicit state agency input on available federal grant programs. The purpose of the survey is to use state agency expertise to determine if there are factors, in either state or federal laws or policies, that if changed would improve Florida's receipt of federal funds. This information would then be passed on to Florida's Congressional Delegation and implemented.

Ms. Martinez stated that in Fall 2004, LCIR staff selected DEP to field test the survey. DEP responded to LCIR's federal funds survey and provided LCIR staff with detailed information regarding at least 51 federal programs in which the agency participates, as well as a general response identifying the agency's top federal priorities. Responses were then sent to LCIR's federal consultant, Vic Miller, for his comments. Currently LCIR staff is in the process of compiling and analyzing the information received from both DEP and Mr. Miller.

Once the information is compiled, LCIR staff will meet with DEP to review the results. It is expected that this joint evaluation will yield findings and recommendations which will serve as the foundation for a strategy to draw down more federal environmental funds for Florida. Upon completion of the analysis, a presentation will be made to the Committee and at that time, LCIR should determine whether the other state agencies should be surveyed as well.

### **Legislation Being Tracked by LCIR Staff**

Representative Hasner asked Rip Colvin to discuss this item. Mr. Colvin said the docket books include a four page spreadsheet of the legislation which staff is tracking. He touched on the major issues being tracked by staff: Hurricane Preparation and Funding; Local Government Taxes and Fees; Medicaid; Prison Industry Task Force; Interlocal Service Boundary Agreements and Municipal Annexation Act; and others.

Representative Hasner thanked staff for preparing the list and tracking this legislation.

Commissioner Welch asked a question concerning SB 202. Carolyn Horwich is the analyst monitoring this bill and told him she would get the information and forward it to him after the meeting.

### **Interim Projects for 2005-2006**

Representative Hasner called on Mr. Colvin to discuss this item. Mr. Colvin said that the list in the notebooks included projects currently underway, projects being monitored for consideration and annual projects. He added that the list of 12 projects being monitored for consideration are suggestions recently

made by LCIR members. He noted that Senator Jones submitted an additional project for consideration concerning a Pilot Program of Medicaid Dental Managed Care in Miami-Dade County.

Representative Taylor wanted us to add port commissions to the project concerning docks and marina permitting. Mr. Colvin commented that it would be considered as a part of that project.

Mr. Colvin added that we will make a final decision on the suggested projects after session and we see what happens during Session. He said since there are so many projects, the Committee will take a vote on them and we will choose accordingly.

Senator Lynn said several years ago when we talked about Florida not getting its share of federal money it didn't appear to make a difference. She said the Committee needs to go after the federal dollars.

Representative Hasner said we (state and local governments) need to do a better job of lobbying the federal government. The first step in this process in being proactive is the Survey that we addressed earlier. This issue emanated from a member asking a similar question previously, "We've recognized the problem, what are we doing about it." By taking a proactive step, picking one agency, specifically DEP, and determining what is DEP doing right and what they doing that causes money to be left on the table. Once we have this information we can hopefully apply it to other agencies and do a better part of communicating our needs.

He indicated that we are 4<sup>th</sup> in a lot of areas in drawing down federal funds, but in terms of federal funds per capita, we are trailing significantly in so many areas. He added that we need to interact more with the congressional delegation.

Commissioner Bullard asked if staff can make an attempt to quantify intergovernmental impacts due to legislation. Representative Hasner said that the Committee would attempt to address this issue as a part of our interim projects.

Representative Hasner also added that we would be meeting on June 13 in Delray Beach. Also, he indicated that additional information would be forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05.