

**Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
Highlands County Board of County Commissioners
Regular Meeting – February 18, 2026
MINUTES**

The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee met at 3:30pm on February 18, 2026, at the Highlands County Large Engineering Training Room. Notice of the meeting was publicly announced on January 20, 2026.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tod Schwingel, Bill Stephenson, Matt Griffin, Audrey Ascitutto, Brittany McGuire, Stephanie Von Palesky-Bush, and Donna Doubleday.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jimmie Fuller, Commissioner Kevin Roberts.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Wean, Housing Program Manager, Francoise Gonzales – Housing Specialist II, Lucy Castillo, Executive Director Farmworkers FNPH, Amiramis Desueza, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, Steve Brown, Executive Director of FNPH, Kurt Krahn, Deputy Director FNPH.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tod Schwingel called the meeting to order at 3:30pm and read the meeting announcement sheet into record.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll calls by staff reflected quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- December 17, 2025.

MOTION: Motion made by Matt Griffin, seconded by Bill Stephenson. All members voted Aye, and the motion was carried.

4. SHIP FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

Kim Wean, Housing Program Manager, presented financial information on SHIP Projects 21366, 22366, and 23366, with reports provided to those in attendance. Project 21366 (FY 22.23) - there haven't been any changes since the last AHAC meeting for expenditures. Kim Wean informed the committee members that the housing division will be returning the remaining HHRP funds back to FHFC. Project 21366 revenue was a total of \$380,084.89 as of June 30, 2023. Disaster Assistance has \$416,346.80 in funds to be expended. Project 22366 (FY23.24) has \$956,156.76 that needs to be expended. Project 22366 as a total revenue (Project Income) of \$394,588.15 as of June 30, 2024. For new Project 23366 (FY 24.25) State distribution for this project is \$1,003,336.06. Project 23366 has a total revenue (program income) of \$335,340.66 as of June 30, 2025.

Motion: No motion was made.

5. OLD BUSINESS-

a. **Update on the SHIP 2022-2025 Local Housing Assistance Plan Amendment #2** – Kim Wean, Housing Program Manager reported the status of Amendment #2 was approved by the board and executed by Chairman Elwell on 1/22/26. Final approval by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation was granted on 1/26/26

b. **Update on the AHAC Support Initiative Opportunity through FHC** – Kim Wean, Housing Program Manager reported to the committee members that unfortunately Highlands County was not chosen in this selection round, but they are preparing to offer this Support Initiative again.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Citizens Committee requirements and timetable recommended by FHC** – Kim Wean, Housing Program Manager, shortly discussed the timetable for AHAC provided by FHC.

Motion: No motion Made.

b. **AHAC member Vacancies** – Kim Wean, Housing Program Manager, informed the committee that Tony Cruz did not want to renew his position on AHAC, henceforth there is now a vacancy on the AHAC committee.

Motion: No motion Made.

c. **Confirm meeting dates-** Kim Wean, Housing Program Manager, once again reviewed the AHAC schedule with the members.

Motion: No motion made.

d. **RFA being advertised for non- profit organizations as sub-recipients-** Kim Wean, Housing Program Manager, briefly discussed with the committee members the RFA advertisement. She informed the committee the plan to advertise the RFA in the newspaper in March.

Motion: No motion made.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting scheduled: April 15, 2026, at 3:30pm

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francoise Gonzales, Housing Specialist 2