

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

COLLIER	LEE	CHARLOTTE	HENDRY
Marco Island Naples Everglades City	Ft. Myers Cape Coral Estero Bonita Springs Ft. Myers Beach Sanibel	Punta Gorda	LaBelle

Representatives from the 11 incorporated municipalities in four counties meet every other month (usually the third Thursday, mid-day, sometimes with lunch, recently on Zoom only), typically in a centrally located city such as Estero or Ft. Myers.

Agendas vary, but usually consist of (a) understanding how state laws or other programs could affect us, and (b) discussing the current situation on the ground in each community. Examples of ideas that have emerged for Marco Island:

1. Regional program that aids high school girls who might not be able to afford to attend college, by matching their earnings and then making outright contributions depending on their grades in college and their degree progress. Gave the details, etc., to MIA.
2. State guidelines on medicinal marijuana, including field trip to Miami and discussions with the legislative and administrative officials. Brought the information back to Council.

The SWFLOC has an Executive Director, a former Mayor of Punta Gorda. She is the only paid staff. Not every municipality sends a representative – for example, Everglades City has never attended, and Ft. Myers Beach is spotty. Sometimes the representative brings as a guest the City Manager. To say that the organization is a bit informal would be accurate.

Interaction with councilors and mayors from these cities helps put our own situation and problems into context. On a grander level, the league discusses legislative issues of importance to municipalities, and members conduct lobbying visits to Tallahassee on occasion. (Such trips are at the expense of the participating municipalities, not the league.)