

NEFRC



**LEGISLATIVE POLICY
COMMITTEE**

Meeting

February 3, 2012

**Immediately Following Board
Meeting**

**Northeast Florida Regional Council
6850 Belfort Oaks Place
Jacksonville, FL 32216**




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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 2012

TO: NEFRC LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

THRU: Brian Teeple, Chief Executive Officer 

FROM: Mario Taylor, Deputy CEO 

RE: **MARCH 1, 2012 COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the **Legislative Policy Committee** will be held on **Thursday, March 1, 2012**. The meeting takes place immediately following the Board of Directors Meeting in the Manatee Conference Room at the **Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida, 32216**.

Northeast Florida Regional Council

**LEGISLATIVE
POLICY COMMITTEE**

A G E N D A

**Northeast Florida Regional Council
6850 Belfort Oaks Place
Jacksonville, FL 32216**

**Friday, February 3, 2012
Immediately following the Full Board Meeting**

(ADDED OR MODIFIED ITEMS IN BOLD)

TAB

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions – Chair Eubanks
- * 2. Approval of January 5, 2012 Meeting’s Minutes – Chair Eubanks1
3. Legislative Update – Brian Teeple
4. Public Comment – limited to 3 minutes per speaker
5. Next Meeting Date and Location: **Thursday, March 1, 2012**
Northeast Florida Regional Council
6850 Belfort Oaks Place
Jacksonville, Florida 32216
6. Adjournment

***Denotes Action Item**

Agenda

Item

Tab 1

Tab 1

Tab 1

Tab 1

Tab 1



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Legislative Policy Committee

January 5, 2012

MINUTES

A meeting of the NEFRC Legislative Policy Committee was held on Thursday, January 5, 2012, at 11:45 a.m., in the Manatee Conference Room at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, FL 32216. Chair Eubanks called the meeting to order with the following members present representing a quorum:

Elaine Brown	Ken Bryan	Kenny Eubanks
Milissa Holland	Jon Netts	Darryl Register

Excused: Chereese Stewart, Bill Leary and Larry Williams

Staff: Brian Teeple, Mario Taylor and Sheron Forde

*Approval of Minutes

Chair Eubanks called for a motion on the November 3, 2011 meeting minutes. Mr. Register moved approval, seconded by Ms. Brown; motion passed unanimously.

State Associations 2012 Legislative Priorities

Mr. Taylor stated that staff was directed to compile a list of the legislative priorities for the State Associations that is before the Committee today. Mr. Taylor then provided an overview of the State Associations' 2012 Legislative Priorities as follows: the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association, who continues to advocate for the Regional Councils; the Florida Association of Counties, who also advocate the support of Regional Councils as well as protection of the water supply.

Commissioner Eubanks stated that Brevard County's reservation for local preference is gone. Mr. Taylor stated that the Council has kept information from the Council's Water Summit on its website under the RegionalH2O.com icon. This was also kept as a standing Board agenda item for some time to keep the Members updated, but was requested to be removed by the Water Management District (WMD) representative, Mr. Cole. **Commissioner Bryan** stated that he spoke with the WMD on this topic and they were very vague. He added that this will be a very vocal issue in St. Johns County. **Mr. Register** stated that many communities west of the Regional Council are having public meetings regarding the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Mr. Taylor continued with his highlights with the Small Counties Coalition, who remain consistent; the Florida League of Cities, who have recently changed their Legislative Director to Mr. Scott Dudley; and the Florida Sheriffs Association, who are opposed to gaming. Mr. Taylor stated that staff was unable to locate the MPOAC's priorities as they have not yet met to approve their priorities, staff will provide these, if available, after they meet. Also not provided were the Florida Chamber's priorities as they no longer put out their list of priorities in a Legislation Position format. Mr. Teeple stated that, regarding Internet Booking, the Florida Chamber of Commerce has commented that online travel companies should be left alone. The AIF have taken the opposite stance. A brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Holland stated that a letter was sent by the Flagler Chamber to the Florida Chamber to try and get them to change their stance.

2012 Legislative Session Informational Materials

Mr. Taylor provided the Committee with a copy of a memo from Speaker Cannon of the Florida House in which he states that the “2012 Session will have a collateral impact on the timing and sequence of their work in the House.” The Speaker also stated that he anticipates significantly less time spend on the Floor, that subcommittees will meet through the first four weeks in formal Session and that committees will continue to meet through week seven of the Session. In line with that, Mr. Taylor provided the members with a list of important Legislative dates for both the House and the Senate. A brief discussion followed.

The Committee requested, in lieu of hard copy legislative updates, that they be electronically provided updates via the respective House or Senate websites. Mr. Taylor informed the Committee that both the House and Senate have changed their websites so everything will look different.

Mr. Taylor stated that staff will compile information packets of the NEFRC and the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) for possible visits to Tallahassee.

Legislative Update and Session Preparation

Mr. Teeple stated that the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) will meet January 12th and 13th. The Internet Booking issue will be on the Policy Board and Executive Director’s meeting agenda.

Commissioner Holland stated that it is important to get everyone on the same page to ensure a better understanding of the issue. There are resources that could be tapped into, for example, attorney’s in Miami are very impressed with the NEFRC and would like to garner support from the Councils around the State to help their lawsuit in March of this year.

Mr. Teeple proposed a similar visit to Tallahassee as was done for last year’s Session; in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida League of Cities. He encouraged the Members to speak with Representative Thrasher in an effort to gain his support. Mr. Taylor stated that additional 2012 NEFRC Legislative Priorities and Palm Cards are available for distribution.

Ms. Brown and **Commissioner Bryan** both volunteered to speak with Representative Thrasher.

Commissioner Eubanks stated that the Council was unfunded this year, but still did the required work. He inquired of staff how long will this be continued? Mr. Teeple stated that the Council will finish its obligations this year. **Commissioner Eubanks** stated that it is important to contact the Governor’s office this year as this was not the case last year.

Discussion continued on strategies for obtaining State funding for the Regional Councils.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 3, 2012 at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, FL 32216.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.