



Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council

For January 2003

Summit focuses on quality, supply and development issues

The St. Johns River Summit was held on January 13 - 14 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center in Jacksonville. The purpose of the Summit was to develop a comprehensive, long-term plan for the

St. Johns River identifying projects and issues related to water supply, use, habitat and trail development.

Those attending the Summit included residents and government officials on the local, state and federal levels.

Much of the event's focus concentrated on ways to improve water quality, preserve water supply and develop recreational opportunities.

The Summit attempted to garner citizen involvement, which is essential to the success of any environmental initiative, according to Ernest Frey, Director of the Department of Environmental Protection's northeast district and former Board Member of the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council.

"This river belongs to our community," Frey said. "Citizen participation in a comprehensive restoration effort is a vital component toward balancing the river's environmental importance with its economic value."

The first day of the Summit included sessions on the benefits of establishing a system of trails and blueways along the river. Participants discussed access points and other places of interest along the river.

The second day included sessions on pollution, bacteria, habitat, water supply and restoration efforts. Break out sessions for both days were facilitated by staff of the NEFRPC.

"The St. Johns River is the centerpiece of our city and communities throughout North and East-central Florida," Jacksonville Mayor John Delaney said, "We need to work together to develop a plan to improve the river's health and to allow access for the public to enjoy this beautiful natural resource."

For more information, contact Mike Brown at (904) 279-0885 X 135 or Lindsay Haga at (904) 279-0885 X 151.



Human Resource Management Workshop hosted by RPC

On January 30, 2003, the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council hosted a workshop presentation entitled "*Effective Human Resource Management in the Workplace: Trends and Tactics.*"

The event was geared towards Human Resources professionals in the fields of government and education. The organizations represented at the workshop were: the City of Green Cove Springs; the City of Fernandina Beach; the City of Flagler Beach; Flagler County; the Jacksonville Community Council, Inc.; the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida; the City of Palm Coast; and Florida Community College of Jacksonville.

Workshop topics included: ADA/EEO Update - Personal Liability and Qualified Immunity, Dealing with the Problem Employee: Counseling and Discipline, Diversity - Recognizing Talent and Rewarding Effort, Violence Prevention and Security Issues in the Workplace, Public Records Update and the ABC's of Employment Issues.

For more information, please contact Lee Brown at (904) 279-0885 X 148.

DRI Activity for Northeast Florida

Several proposed changes have been filed for Developments of Regional impact within Northeast Florida. The changes are reviewed by the local government having jurisdiction, the NEFRPC, the Dept. of Community Affairs, and other regulatory agencies to determine if the changes warrant additional DRI review. In addition, the agent for the Durbin Crossings and Aberdeen DRIs located in NW St. Johns County have filed the second sufficiency response for each project. NEFRPC staff will complete the regional recommendation report as required by state law. Please direct questions or comments to Lindsay Haga at (904) 279-0885 X 151 or Ed Lehman at (904) 279-0885 X 130.

Ashton receives Thomas Yatabe Award for 2002

Mr. Ray Ashton, Director of Emergency Services for St. Johns County, was awarded the 2002 Thomas Yatabe Award from the Florida State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) at the quarterly meeting held at Marco Island, Florida, on January 10, 2003, representing District IV in Northeast Florida.

Mr. Ashton, a member of the District IV Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), was nominated for the award by the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council.

He has consistently participated in the efforts to minimize hazardous materials spills through furthering understanding of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA). He has maximized hazardous materials training of personnel through support of courses and exercises. Mr. Ashton has remained an integral energy source in program input and direction for the Northeast Florida region. District IV recognizes this effort and applauds Mr. Ashton's active role in the LEPC since its inception in 1988.

For more information, please contact Kathryn Boer at (904) 279-0885 X 177.

Comprehensive Planning Amendments

Planning staff continues to work with the Town of Interlachen regarding large scale comprehensive plan amendments. The amendment package was recently approved for transmittal by the Town Council at a meeting held in Interlachen on January 14. Suspected impacts from the FDOT road improvement project to widen SR 20 have prompted the land use amendments.

The Town Council will consider adoption of the Land Use Amendment in the Spring of 2003. Contact Lindsay Haga at (904) 279-0885 X 151 for more information.

Healthy Start Coalition names new members for 2003

The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition is pleased to announce the following members for 2003:

2003 Officers for the Coalition:

Kathy Mankinen, Chairman, St. Johns County
Beverly London, MD, Vice-Chairman, Duval County
Herb Johnson, Treasurer, Duval
Mary vonMohr, Secretary, Nassau

New members elected to Coalition:

Rae Davies, St. Johns County
Becky Henderson, Baker, Clay & Nassau
The Hon. Pauline Drayton-Harris, Duval
Lacy Lee, Nassau
Nina Buck, Nassau
Karen Wolfson, Duval
Christine Guarjardo, Duval
Jan Holder, Duval
Cassandra Austin, Duval
Patrick Sabadie, Nassau
Jennifer Wimbley, Duval

New members of Board of Directors:

Herb Johnson, Duval
Tammy Taylor, Baker
Juanita Parker-Trice, Duval

For more information, please contact Carol Brady at (904) 279-0885 X 140.

Phase II - Bicycle Project

RPC staff continues to collect data regarding cycling for roadways identified in the Bikeways of NEFL map series. Phase II of the Bicycle Plan will identify potential areas for improvement for on and off street bicycling facilities.

Please contact Lindsay Haga at (904) 279-0885 X 151 for more information.

