

Minutes of the
NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
October 6, 2005

The monthly meeting of the Northeast Florida Regional Council was held on Thursday, October 6, 2005, at 10:00 a.m., at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, FL 32216.

President Stern called the meeting to order with the following members present representing a quorum:

CLAY	Glenn Lassiter Harold Rutledge Ms. Vallencourt Deidra Franklin
DUVAL	Mary Louise Dungey Rea Fleckenstein Jerry Holland Elaine Brown
FLAGLER	Blair Kanbar Bob Sgroi Joann King
NASSAU	Bob Spaeth
PUTNAM	Chip Laibl Linda Myers
ST. JOHNS	Bruce Maguire Karen Stern Harry Maxwell Don Crichlow Clare Berry
EX-OFFICIO	Larry Parks Linda Burnette Wes Larson Bill Green

Excused Absence: Ginger Barber, Gordon Crews, Hugh Fish, Charles Prachar, Ansley Acree, Paul Parsons, Tom Branan, Brad Purcell, Mary Lawson-Brown

Others: Valerie Britt, Mary Billotti, Lindsay Haga, Crystal Markley, Steve Schnell, Charles Baldwin, Imran Ghani, Debra Harris, Don Smith, and other members of the public.

Staff Present: Brian Teeple, Mario Taylor, Barbara Rovedo, Ed Lehman, Mike Brown, Stephen Jones, Mike Hadden, Tobin Lilly, Chris Bono, Ed Preston, Amanda Smith, Audrey Smith, Barbara Craven, Carol Brady, Karen Smithson, Rhonda Brown, and Peggy Conrad

President Kanbar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Approval of Minutes

Mr. Sgroi moved approval of the September 1, 2005, meeting's minutes; seconded by Supervisor Holland; motion unanimously carried.

Installation of Officers

President Kanbar handed the gavel over to incoming **President, Karen Stern**. **President Stern** then thanked **Commissioner Kanbar** and presented him with a plaque in appreciation of his outstanding service to the Council.

President's Report

Announcement of Committee Assignments **President Stern** called attention to the Committee Assignments contained in the Board packet then stated that she would like to assemble a committee on Affordable Housing, also known as Workforce Housing, and for interested members to please contact her or Mr. Teeple. **Mr. Spaeth** stated this was already slated to be the next item for consideration by the Identifying Regional Issues and Solutions (IRIS) Committee.

President Stern stated that the December meeting will be moved to **December 8, 2005**, due to conflicts by attendees.

Staff Recognition Staff member, Karen Smithson, who works with Hold out the Lifeline, was recognized for her work with Project Moses, then she was presented with a gift certificate.

*Consent Agenda

President Stern asked if any items needed to be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Discussion Agenda. There were no items to be moved. **Mr. Laibl moved approval of the Consent Agenda; seconded by Ms. Vallencourt; motion unanimously carried.**

Discussion Agenda

Introduction of Mr. Charles Baldwin, District Two Secretary, FDOT

Mr. Teeple introduced Mr. Baldwin highlighting his career history. Mr. Baldwin stated that he was born and raised in South Florida and having witnessed the tremendous growth in that area, and now seeing the growth explosion in Northeast Florida, he is convinced that a regional approach to transportation has become a necessity.

St. Johns River Crossing Corridor Study Update

Mr. Teeple then introduced Mr. Imran Ghani, with FDOT, who distributed information regarding public meetings to be held in relation to the River Crossing Study on November 1, 2005, and November 3, 2005. Presentations will be at various times throughout those days. Mr. Ghani then gave a Power Point presentation calling attention to the four proposed corridors. Two of the proposed corridors cross the St. Johns River next to the existing Shands Bridge and two cross north of Green Cove Springs in Clay County crossing to St. Johns County at an area called Popo Point. Mr. Ghani highlighted the population growth in the study areas and the projected level of service on existing roads stating that Hurricane Evacuation was also a factor for the proposed study.

Mr. Ghani stated that additional information is available at www.sjrbridge.com.

A discussion followed regarding the existing Shands Bridge, tolls, and the cost of the project.

Medicaid Waiver Update

Ms. Brady called attention to the information highlighting the proposed changes to Medicaid as a result of the Medicaid Waiver. From a Healthy Start perspective, the population is relatively protected during the pilot project phase. The problem is that as these Healthy Start recipients age, they then become uninsured. This creates a huge impact on local governments since they contribute to Medicaid and there is potential for an increase in people qualifying for uncompensated care. As part of the evaluation of the pilot programs in Duval and Broward counties, a request has been made that they monitor the impact on increases in non-compensated cases.

Mr. Jones gave an update on the transportation component of the changeover of the Medicaid structure. Mr. Jones then called attention to the memorandum giving information regarding provision of transportation for Medicaid recipients around the state and the change to the HMO program.

Commissioner Myers expressed her concern regarding this issue and how it affects rural counties.

Hurricane Update and Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) Evacuation Times

Mr. Preston indicated that at the September board meeting the Council encountered a controversial land use amendment discussing hurricane evacuation times. Mr. Preston gave a Power Point presentation and started by discussing this year's season so far. He then gave

an update on the 2005 study status which should be concluded in November. The study contains analysis of vulnerability, hazards, shelter, and transportation. The purpose of emergency management is primarily to protect lives and property. Mr. Preston then highlighted the three main components of hurricane evacuation clearance times – the mobilization time, the queuing time, and the travel time – all measured from the time the evacuation order is given. Mr. Preston stated that the world of emergency management and the world of growth management intersect at the line drawn for CHHA evacuation.

Mr. Lehman stated that last month there was a policy question regarding the City of Jacksonville comprehensive plan amendment. A recommendation that will be made when other comprehensive plan amendments come before the Council, is that if there is an increase to the population density in the CHHA, then guidance will be sought from the Committee and the Council as to what criteria to meet.

Identifying Regional Issues and Solutions (IRIS) – Public Policy Development Issues

Mr. Teeple called attention to the report from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) stating that the ULI had begun looking at strategies for Regional Cooperation approximately two and a half years ago. Mr. Teeple stated he would like to ask the Chairman of that Committee, Mr. Peter Rummell, or Mr. Bob Rhodes, also on the Committee, to address the NEFRC regarding the ULI recommendations. There are four recommendations directed towards State government. The first recommendation is that the governor should exercise leadership in an ongoing commitment to statewide regional cooperation. The second recommendation was that the state should enable each region to undertake a regional visioning process ensuring that all state agencies should function in a highly responsive and integrated way to foster and monitor regional cooperation for regional initiatives. The fourth recommendation is that the state should encourage and support, on an ongoing basis, each region's effort to make measurable progress towards its vision to continue to improve regional cooperation. Mr. Teeple then stated that Regional Councils are only mentioned twice in this report. Mr. Teeple mentioned that Mr. Robert Grow, Envision Utah, had recently spoken to the Regional Leadership Academy regarding regional visioning and the work and stakeholders involved. Mr. Teeple stated that the information provided by Mr. Grow will be brought to the full Council for discussion.

*Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Appointments

Mr. Jones called attention to the memorandum and the slate of appointments to the TD Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) in Baker, Clay, Flagler, and Nassau Counties. The appointees to St. Johns County will come before the Board at a later date.

Mr. Maxwell moved approval of the appointments; seconded by Mr. Laibl; motion carried unanimously.

*Resolution 2005-11 Honoring Commissioner Paul Parsons, City of Atlantic Beach

Ms. Vallencourt moved approval of Resolution 2005-11; seconded by Commissioner Myers; motion unanimously carried.

Members Reports

None.

Public Comment

None.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Highlights Mr. Teeple called attention to Highlights and the article regarding staff member, Jeffrey Alexander, who was deployed to Harrison County, Mississippi, to assist after Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Alexander is currently in England assisting the Royal Air Force with terrorism training exercises.

Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) Update Mr. Teeple called attention to the OPPAGA survey questionnaire and the answers sent to OPPAGA from the staff.

Board Members' Attendance Mr. Teeple asked for each Board member to take a moment to check their attendance for accuracy especially the gubernatorial appointees.

Elected Officials Reception & Regional Leadership Awards Invitation Mr. Teeple called attention to the Sponsorship Solicitation form for the Elected Officials Reception to assist with defraying the cost. Accommodations are available at the Renaissance Resort at the World Golf Village with a discount available if there are at least ten rooms booked.

Introduction of new Staff Member Ms. Rovedo introduced Ms. Barbara Craven, the new Agency Clerk.

Officers' Portraits Mr. Teeple stated that Mr. Hadden was available in Meeting Room B for any of the Officers or Board members wishing to have a portrait taken. This service will also be available after the next Board meeting.

Newspaper Articles Mr. Teeple stated these are available as usual for perusal.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, FL 32216.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Karen Stern
President

Brian Teeple
Chief Executive Officer