



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 4, 2007**

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**MINUTES**

The monthly meeting of the Northeast Florida Regional Council was held on Thursday, October 4, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., at the Thrasher-Horne Conference Center, 283 College Drive, Orange Park, Florida, 32065.

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

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| BAKER      | Hugh Fish<br>Darryl Register  |
| CLAY       | Paul Bue<br>Harold Rutledge<br>Chereese Stewart                               |
| DUVAL      | Mary Louise Dungey  |
| FLAGLER    | Joann King<br>Bob Sgroi   |
| NASSAU     | Michael Boyle<br>Bob Spaeth<br>Larry Williams                                 |
| PUTNAM     | Nancy Harris<br>Chip Laibl<br>Mary Lawson-Brown<br>Tom Williams               |
| ST. JOHNS  | Don Crichlow<br>Tom Manuel<br>Harry Maxwell<br>Karen Stern<br>Cyndi Stevenson |
| EX-OFFICIO | Linda Burnette<br>Bill Green (Greg Strong)<br>Larry Parks                     |

Excused: Ginger Barber, Mike Griffis, Deidra Franklin, Carol Vallencourt, Richard Clark, James Fletcher, Milissa Holland, Jim O'Connell

Absent: Bill Leeper

Others: Ken Venables, Geoff Sample, Steve Fitzgibbons and other members of the public.

Staff: Brian Teeple, Mario Taylor, Ed Lehman, Donna Starling, Michael Hadden, Michael Hill, Jeanie Palmer, Sheron Forde and Angela Giles.

**Mr. Maxwell** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

\*Approval of Minutes

**Mr. Fish moved approval of the September 6, 2007, meeting's minutes; seconded by Mr. Larry Williams; motion unanimously carried.**

President's Report

**President Laibl** stated that with great pleasure, the gavel was being passed to **Commissioner Rutledge** today. **President Laibl** thanked everyone on the Board and the NEFRC Staff, recognizing Brian, Mario, Mike, Ed, Guy and Angi, for making everything easy. **President Laibl** expounded on the accomplishments of the Council over the past year, including increased legislative appropriations for planning, secured a statewide contract for hurricane evacuation studies, undertook complete responsibilities for the Regional Leadership Academy, completed a total reorganization of Council operations, and completed a smooth transition for Healthy Start Coalition independence. **President Laibl** then passed the gavel to **President Rutledge**.

**President Rutledge** presented a plaque of appreciation to **President Laibl** for his outstanding leadership as President 2006/2007. **President Rutledge** thanked the Council, and stated what an honor it is to serve as president. He told the Council of some of the things that he would like to see happen in course of his tenure as Council President. Including a Council Evaluation and Strategic Planning Process, to complete the building refinance, foster dialogue among the jurisdictions at the Council table, seek increased input from our ex-officio members, restructure the Business Development Corporation and kick-off a Regional Visioning plan. President Rutledge stated that he appreciates the support from the Board, and he looks forward to continuing to move forward regionally.

Public Comment

None.

\*Consent Agenda

**President Rutledge** asked if any items needed to be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Discussion Agenda. As there were no items to be pulled, **Commissioner Boyle moved approval of the Consent Agenda; seconded by Commissioner Laibl; motion unanimously carried.**

Discussion Agenda

\*St. Johns County Adopted Amendment 07-1

Mr. Lehman stated that the St. Johns County Adopted Amendment 07-1 came before the Board as a transmitted amendment in December 2006. The Planning & Growth Management Committee (G&G) reviewed the Adopted Amendment package, and agreed with Staff recommendation that it is consistent with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). Mr. Lehman stated that the amendment changes 80.78 acres from Rural Silviculture to Residential B, and that the policy amendment spreads out capping 813 dwelling units on the parcel and an adjacent parcel, therefore overall units does not increase for this amendment. The P&G Committee adopted unanimously staff recommendation. **Commissioner Manuel moved approval of staff recommendation that St. Johns County Adopted Amendment 07-1 is consistent with the SRPP; seconded by Mr. Maxwell; motion**

**carried unanimously.**

\*Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Local Coordinating Board (LCB) New Member Representatives

Mr. Teeple introduced Jeanie Palmer to make the report to the Board. Ms. Palmer stated that the NEFRC serves as the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA) for the TD program in all of the counties in the Northeast region, except Duval, and is responsible for membership appointments to the TD program's LCB's. Membership on the LCB consists of a cross-section of individuals from various State agencies and the local community representing the interests of the elderly, the disabled, the economically disadvantaged, local school boards, County government, and the general citizenry. The following LCB appointments are being recommended to the Council: Baker County LCB, Representing Vocational Rehabilitation, Mr. Francis Dollinger; Clay County LCB, Representing Public Education, Ms. Jerell Knowles and Representing Vocational Rehabilitation, Ms. Lenora Legree; Flagler County LCB, Representing Persons with Disabilities, Ms. Julie Shaw. Ms Palmer stated that Staff recommends that the Council Board approve the appointments of these individuals to Baker, Clay, and Flagler County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards. **Mrs. Stern moved approval of staff recommendations for the LCB's appointments; seconded by Mr. Sgroi; motion carried unanimously.**

2007/2008 NEFRC Committee Assignments

**President Rutledge** called attention to and discussed the list of the new Committee Assignments.

FY 2006/2007 Attendance

Mr. Teeple stated that an attendance matrix was provided to each member for review and correction. Each year this matrix is sent to the appointing authorities by standing direction of the Council. Mr. Teeple informed the Board that this report also goes to the Senate Executive Business Committee as the confirming body for the gubernatorial appointees.

Regional Leadership Awards

Mr. Teeple brought to the Board's attention the Annual Elected Officials Reception and Regional Leadership Awards Ceremony for October 11, 2007, at the St. Johns County Convention Center at the World Golf Village. Mr. Teeple stated that the award nominations were vetted at the staff level, and presented to the Awards Committee via email, and all awards were unanimous save one. The awards and winners are: The Harry Waldron Regional Leadership Award – Skip Cramer, JCCI; The Regional Award for Excellence in Transportation – The Baker County Thoroughfare Master Plan; The Regional Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing – Mrs. Elaine Brown; The Regional Award for Excellence in Economic Development and Tourism – Richard Cox/Fidelity National Finance; The Regional Award for Excellence in Planning & Growth Management – The Jacksonville Economic Development Commission and the City of Jacksonville Planning & Development Department; The Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship; The Regional Award for Excellence in Public Safety – Nancy Freeman; The Regional Award for Excellence in Education – The Florida Youth Challenge Academy; The Regional Quality of Life Award – Kerry Dunlavey

Public Comment

None.

Members Reports

**Ms. Linda Burnette** of the St. Johns River Water Management District introduced Mr. Steve Fitzgibbons, a new planner, and stated that Mr. Geoff Sample has moved into an intergovernmental position.

**Commissioner Manuel** stated that he has concerns over the withdrawal of water from the St. Johns River, and he requested that the NEFRC Board develop a position paper on the withdrawal of water from the St. Johns River, as it clearly impacts all of the counties. He would like to see the Board, and the new President, leave a legacy of a strong water policy. **Commissioner Manuel** stated that this Board, in his opinion, has to take a position on water concurrency. **President Rutledge** stated that as a region, it is important for the Board to develop and pay attention to the water situation. **Mrs. Stern** stated that the water concerns will be addressed as part of the Legislative Priorities for the counties. **Ms. Burnette** stated that it would be appropriate to have a fully developed presentation to the Board on the topic of withdrawal of water from the St. Johns River, as it is a very complex issue. Discussion followed.

**Mr. Larry Williams** informed the Council of Representative Mike Davis's death, and asked to recognize that he was an advocate for affordable housing.

**Commissioner Stevenson** stated that she attended an environmental workshop with Mr. Teeple, and that he did an outstanding job as a speaker.

**Commissioner Boyle** brought up the topic of the newspaper articles that are provided to the Board members, and asked that they not be provided in the binders. General consensus of the Board is that approximately ten copies of the News Articles will be provided for those members that wish to have them, and not place the articles in the binder, to conserve fiscal and natural resources.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Teeple pointed the members to the Regional Directory at each place. Mr. Teeple informed the members that the Healthy Start Coalition separation was a smooth transition, and thanked the staff for their hard work, especially Mario Taylor. Mr. Teeple stated that the next step is to plug the internal approximate \$340,000 loss, which will be partially filled by leasing of space to tenants, and internal budget cuts.

Mr. Teeple also informed the Board of upcoming events and the monthly Highlights. Mr. Taylor expounded upon the Legislative Special Session, and reminded the members that the Legislative Committee would be meeting immediately after the Board Meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The next Council Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 1, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida, 32216.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

  
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Harold Rutledge  
President

  
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Brian Teeple  
Chief Executive Officer