



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Board of Directors Meeting
October 2, 2008

MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Northeast Florida Regional Council was held on Thursday, October 2, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida, 32216.

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

BAKER	Hugh Fish Michael Griffis Darryl Register
CLAY	Robert Page Chereese Stewart Harold Rutledge Carol Vallencourt
DUVAL	Bill Bishop Art Graham Paul Parsons
FLAGLER	Jon Netts Jim O'Connell Catherine Robinson Bob Sgroi
NASSAU	Michael Boyle Bob Spaeth Larry Williams
PUTNAM	Nancy Harris Chip Laibl Mary Lawson-Brown Tom Williams
ST. JOHNS	Cyndi Stevenson
EX-OFFICIO	Jeff Cole Wes Larson Larry Parks Greg Strong

Excused: Mary Louise Dungey, Shirley Graham, Don Crichlow, Tom Manuel, Harry Maxwell, Karen Stern

Others: Dan Chitwood, Steve Fitzgibbons, Valerie Britt, CJ Thompson, Beth Weatherford, Melissa Long, Barbara Goodman, Doug McDowell and other members of the public.

Staff: Brian Teeple, Mario Taylor, Ed Lehman, Donna Starling, Michael Hadden, Margo Moehring, Guy Parola, Jeanie Palmer, Ameera Sayeed, Anna Shepherd, Jonathan Goyings and Angela Giles.

President Rutledge asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, offered by **President-Elect Boyle** of Nassau County.

*Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Laibl moved approval of the September 4, 2008, meeting's minutes; seconded by Mr. Larry Williams; motion unanimously carried.

President Rutledge introduced and welcomed new Board Member **Commissioner Paul Parsons** of Atlantic Beach, serving as a municipal representative for Duval County.

Passing of the Gavel

President Rutledge passed the gavel to **President-Elect Boyle**, as the incoming President for 2008/2009. **President Boyle** thanked everyone for their confidence in him. **President Boyle** presented a ceremonial plaque to **Past President Rutledge** and thanked him for his service and leadership as President of the Board for the past year. **Past President Rutledge** stated that he has enjoyed and appreciated his tenure as president and board member. **President Rutledge** stated that the staff at the Council is second to none.

Public Comment

None.

*Consent Agenda

President Boyle asked if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda. There being no items to be pulled from the Consent Agenda, **Mr. Larry Williams moved approval of the Consent Agenda; Commissioner Laibl seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion Agenda

Clay County Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) LCB Representative

Ms. Palmer stated that the NEFRC serves as the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA) for the TD program in Clay County, and is responsible for membership appointments to the TD program's Local Coordinating Board (LCB). Ms. Palmer informed the Board that Ms. Maria McNair is the proposed appointment for the Clay County LCB, and asked that the Board approve staff recommendation of Ms. McNair's appointment to the Clay County TD LCB. **Commissioner Harris moved approval of Ms. McNair's appointment to the Clay County TD LCB; Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.**

Proposed Resolution 2008-14 to support limiting Medicaid travel expenses

Ms. Palmer informed the Board Members that the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) contracts with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) to provide its non-emergency transportation (NET) services. The Commission then contracts with Community Transportation Coordinators (CTCs) in each county for these services. The contract has a provision making the CTCs responsible for Medicaid non-emergency travel for riders with an approved medical order for treatment out of the county. This requirement includes paying for the patient's cost of transportation, meals, and lodging for such a trip. The expenses for one lengthy out-of-county stay for a NET Medicaid client and attendant could deplete the entire CTC's Medicaid allocation. Recently,

situations as stated above have arisen several times with CTCs in Northeast Florida causing a hardship with their Medicaid NET funding. This requirement has the potential for devastating consequences for CTCs unless something can be done to take the provision out of the CTCs contracts. Staff recommends that the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board approves the resolution supporting the limitation of Medicaid non-emergency travel expenses for Community Transportation Coordinators. **Commissioner O'Connell moved approval of Resolution 2008-14; seconded by Mr. Larry Williams; motion carried unanimously.**

Committee Assignments

President Boyle asked the Board Members to review their Committee Assignments and asked that if anyone had any concerns over appointments to please speak to him or Mr. Teeple. Mr. Teeple clarified the Duval County appointments of Councilman Art Graham and Commissioner Paul Parsons. Councilman Graham is a County appointee and Commissioner Parsons is a new Municipal appointee for Duval County.

FY 2007/2008 Attendance Roster

Mr. Teeple informed the Board that an attendance record for the past fiscal year is included for their review. Mr. Teeple asked the members to review for accuracy, as by standing direction of the Council, the attendance roster is given to the appropriate appointing authorities at the end of each fiscal year after it has been vetted through the members.

Recommended Contract Award for NEFRC Roof Replacement

Personnel, Budget & Finance (PBF) Committee Chair Sgroi stated that the PBF Committee reviewed the proposal for the new roof. **Chair Sgroi** stated that Joyce Rhodes and Mario Taylor were very instrumental in the making sure the process of the RFP and negotiations went well. **Chair Sgroi** informed the members that the PBF Committee had voted unanimously to approve the Contract for the Roof Replacement, and gave the floor to Mr. Teeple. Mr. Teeple stated that the contract would be awarded to Design Build Systems, in an amount not to exceed \$465,000. Mr. Teeple congratulated Joyce Rhodes for the great work she did in shepherding the Council through the RFP process. Mr. Teeple also congratulated Mr. Taylor for his negotiation skills. Two options were presented to the Board members – 1) offering a drain spout to the parking lot for \$460,000 and 2) offering a drain spout directly to the retention pond for \$465,000. Commissioner O'Connell stated that he would prefer the 2nd option regarding draining into the retention pond. Discussion followed. **Ms. Vallencourt moved approval of the contract award; seconded by Mr. Sgroi; motion carried unanimously.**

***Councilman Graham** arrived at 10:20 am and was added to the quorum.

Georgia Pacific Pipeline Presentation

Mr. Greg Strong, Northeast District Director, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), gave a brief presentation to the members regarding the Georgia-Pacific proposed pipeline into the St. Johns River. The proposed pipeline will relocate GP discharge from Rice Creek, and place it into the St. Johns River. Mr. Strong stated that this is not a new discharge. The FDEP believes that this will benefit Rice Creek, and is not environmentally detrimental to the St. Johns River. Discussion followed.

***Commissioner Stevenson** arrived at 10:45 am and was added to the quorum.

TMDL BMAP

Ms. Melissa Long, Water Facilities Administrator, FDEP, spoke briefly regarding the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which has already been approved, and the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP),

which is under review now. The BMAP will be a comprehensive road map to address the nutrient impairment in the St. Johns River. The BMAP will include ambient monitoring. Ms. Long stated that Georgia Pacific is already meeting the lower nitrogen levels required.

Mr. Teeple stated that the FDEP has the right to set the TMDL, and FDEP chose to use input from involved parties. Mr. Teeple stated that the FDEP has gone above and beyond what they were required to do, and that the TMDL is a model for development of public water policy.

Regional Visioning Update

Ms. Moehring stated that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is under way. Economic partners are being contacted, and recommendations on the CEDS Strategy Committee should be well under way in November. Reality Check First Coast (RCFC) is moving right along, and there are about 60 community volunteers and more staff involved. A press conference is being planned, possibly for November 19th. The RCFC Speakers Bureau will be ready to go in November, and will be making presentations to any and all who wish to learn more about reality check. Ms. Moehring stated that any input from the Board Members would be appreciated. Discussion followed.

Century Commission 2008 Water Congress Meeting Report

Mr. Teeple stated that he had attended the Water Congress that was hosted by the Century Commission on September 25 and 26. Mr. Teeple and Mr. Strong were delegates, and Ms. Moehring was a facilitator. Mr. Teeple gave the members the preliminary delegate recommendations as a handout. Mr. Teeple stated that in the final analysis, the consensus is that there should be: 1) annual funding 2) Regional Partnerships – Water Supply Authorities 3) Conservation 4) Conservation rates. Mr. Teeple stated that the logistics of the Water Congress were difficult, but that it was a good first step. The Century Commission will consider the consensus statements, and report out to the Government for possible legislative or policy action. The Century Commission will meet again in November. **Mayor Netts** stated that Palm Coast is proud to lead the Coquina Coast Cooperators, looking for a Regional Solution to the water issues. Discussion followed.

Public Comment

None.

Members/Ex-Officio Members Reports

Vice-Mayor Lawson Brown stated that she was on the Executive Committee of the Florida League of Cities, and would keep the NEFRC Board informed of FLC items.

Commissioner Stevenson stated that she would also be a conduit of information for the Florida Association of Counties, and also spoke of Regional Jails. Mr. Teeple gave a brief follow up of the Regional Jails meeting that was held at the Council recently.

Commissioner Harris asked for input from Members regarding moratoriums on impact fees.

President Boyle stated that moratoriums did not have the desired effect in Nassau County.

Mr. Parks, FDOT – gave an update on the I-10 variance in Baker County, from Level of Service (LOS) B to LOS C. Mr. Parks stated that the FDOT is working with the County in development of a long-term concurrency system to enforce the terms of the variance. He also stated that this would help the goal of increased economic development in Baker County. **Commissioner Griffis** recognized **Mr.**

Register and **Mr. Parks** for their hard work in making this happen, and help start the right kind of development in the right kind of way.

Mr. Cole, SJRWMD – gave an update on the Technical Symposium that was held on September 16 and 17, stating that it was the end of Phase 1 of a 3-year study. He also informed the members that the Seminole County Administrative Hearing started yesterday.

President's Report

President Boyle informed the members that he would call on them by name, rather than title. He stated it was his eyesight, rather than a lack of respect (he cannot always see the nameplates very well!) The **President** also stated that he would like to continue the Invocation and asked for volunteers – all faiths welcome! He noted that he wants the invocation to be all inclusive, and he stated that we can use the guidance of a higher power in these times. **President Boyle** stated that he felt as if the Council has a great staff, and we can rely on them, but that does not mean that recommendations cannot be questioned. He stated that his goal is to treat everyone with dignity and respect. He informed the members that he would not tolerate or allow personal attacks. He encouraged debate and different points of view. He stated that this Board has a wide range of backgrounds which should be utilized, but in a collegial atmosphere. The **President** stated that it is a high honor to be the President of this organization, and he owes a debt of gratitude to his predecessors, **Chip Laibl** and **Harold Rutledge** for their previous service. The President looks forward to a productive year.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Teeple spoke to the members regarding the possibility of the Council's contract with DCA being cut yet again. Mr. Teeple also informed everyone that he still does not have any information regarding the gubernatorial appointments. Mr. Teeple recognized Ms. Barbara Goodman, a graduate of the Regional Leadership Academy. Mr. Teeple stated that Ms. Goodman is the Superintendent at Ft. Caroline National Memorial, and that she is very involved in the community. Mr. Teeple called the Members' attention to the Highlights in the front of the Members' binders and upcoming events of interest. Mr. Teeple pointed out that the Elected Officials Reception/Regional Leadership Awards will be in November, and asked the members to provide nominations and assistance with fundraising. Mr. Teeple also pointed out the regional news articles, which have several interesting stories included this month, on the front table.

President Boyle asked the Members to check on the Legislative Priorities in their counties. He also noted that the Board will only be successful with full participation – knowledge is only half the battle. **President Boyle** asked that everyone come prepared for the meeting by reviewing their materials ahead of time.

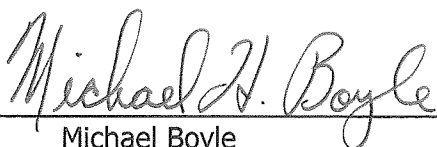
Next Meeting Date

The next Council Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 2, 2008** at 10:00 a.m. at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, FL 32216. **Please note that the Planning & Growth Management Committee will meet at 8:30 am next month, due to the Governors Park DRI review.**

Mr. Larry Williams thanked **Commissioner Rutledge** for his service as President, and stated that he was excited about President Boyle's leadership.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.



Michael Boyle
President



Brian Teeple
Chief Executive Officer