



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Board of Directors Meeting

November 5, 2009

MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Northeast Florida Regional Council was held on Thursday, November 5, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida, 32216.

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

BAKER	Hugh Fish Michael Griffis Darryl Register
CLAY	Wendell Davis Robert Page Kenneth Smallwood Chereese Stewart
DUVAL	Elaine Brown
FLAGLER	Catherine Robinson
NASSAU	Shirley Graham Bob Spaeth
PUTNAM	Wes Larson Nancy Harris Mary Lawson-Brown Chip Laibl
ST. JOHNS	Ken Bryan Don Crichlow Jane Miller Karen Stern Cyndi Stevenson
EX-OFFICIO	Danita Andrews Jeff Cole Larry Parks Greg Strong

Excused: Michael Boyle, Bill Bishop, Milissa Holland, Jon Netts, Bob Sgroi, Craig Thompson, Carol Vallencourt and Larry Williams

Absent: Paul Parsons

Others Present: Steve Fitzgibbons, Tony Robbins, Sarah Langieri, Kerry Laughlin, Geoff Sample, Dave Tillis and other members of the public

Staff Present: Michael Calhoun, Jennifer Hewett-Apperson, Ed Lehman, Margo Moehring, Guy Parola, Elizabeth Payne, Ameera Sayeed, Donna Starling, Brian Teeple, Mario Taylor and Sheron Forde

President Griffis welcomed everyone and asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. The Invocation and Pledge was led by **Mr. Smallwood** of Clay County.

*Approval of Minutes

Mr. Register moved approval of the October 1, 2009, meeting's minutes; seconded by Commissioner Harris; motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

*Consent Agenda

President Griffis asked if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda. There being none, **Commissioner Harris moved approval of the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mrs. Stern; motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion Agenda

*Resolution 2009-08 American Heritage Rivers Initiative

Mr. Teeple provided background information on how the creation of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative (AHRI), its successes in preserving river heritage and developing cooperation among local community programs in conjunction with government and private industry. He stated that this resolution supports the conversion of the AHRI from an initiative to a program, which would allow for funding.

Mayor Robinson moved approval of Resolution 2009-08 the American Heritage Rivers Initiative; seconded by Vice Mayor Lawson-Brown; motion unanimously.

*State Growth Management Delegation Pilot Proposal

Mr. Teeple stated that this proposal is being brought before the full Board for consideration after being vetted through the Legislative Committee. He provided some background information regarding the passing of the Local Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Act in which the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has had final say and authority over comprehensive plans and comprehensive plan amendments. Mr. Teeple stated that this Council has gone on record several times over the past 20 years suggesting that, as a jury of peers, perhaps this Council was in a better position to review comprehensive plans and other growth management issues and would be a more appropriate place to have final decisions and authority. Mr. Teeple added that during a recent Florida Regional Council Association (FRCA) meeting Commissioner Boyle and Mr. Larry Williams, both of whom sit on the FRCA Policy Board, heard from our representative in Tallahassee that should any Council decide they want to do a pilot program, this might be a year with reasonable opportunity of receiving such delegation. Mr. Teeple added that he was directed by the previous Council President, Commissioner Boyle, to begin work on this and to take it to the Legislative Committee. Mr. Teeple then reviewed each of the suggestions listed in the Framework for Growth Management Delegation white paper. He reviewed the pros and cons associated with the proposal, which is also listed in the memo attached to the white paper. Mr. Teeple stated that he recommends that the Council support the concept of a pilot program delegation of growth management responsibilities.

Commissioner Bryan - It is a very interesting concept and I have listened very intently and taken a number of notes. One of my first notes was the Opt Out provision, but would like to know what the

process would be and how long it would take. This provides some legitimacy for our existence because sometimes I've wondered also. The current process seems like an exercise that we're just going through without really putting full consideration into some of the things that we're doing and this proposal does point the finger back to us, if you will; which I don't have a problem with that. As far as the relationships that we as a Board and as professionals have had, I don't see any much difference from that than the Boards that we have within our respective counties as far as County Commissioners and whatever because in those venues we also have to agree to disagree and continue to function as professionals. So in that respect, I see a lot of value in this and I will yield for other comments.

Commissioner Harris – Will we be the only Regional Council doing this pilot program?

Mr. Teeple stated that there are other Councils talking about it and that at one point in time the thought was that you would have a rural Council somewhere, a highly urbanized council somewhere and a "tweener" Council. This might be an interesting way to look at it. His suspicion is that that won't happen, other Councils won't want to do this and it may be harder to do. This Council, to some degree, is uniquely positioned, and if any Council has the ability to have this happen it's this council. He stated that the NEFRC is well thought of throughout the State and has the reputation of fair dealing, being objective, being business-minded and doing good work. This Council is also well thought of by the same interests that will oppose us.

Commissioner Harris stated that she thinks it's a great idea. She likes the saying, "one size doesn't fit all," and would rather be judged by the people that knew who we were and had an idea of what we were all about, by my peers than to have it go to a state agency where they just don't have an idea sometimes. It would be a lot fairer and I would rather put my decisions in the Council's hands than an agency in Tallahassee.

Mr. Smallwood stated that DCA has a long history of sitting on high in Tallahassee with a textbook in their hand and an arrogance that their textbook rules over common sense on the ground decisions that are made by the local people who know what is going on. For instance, back in the early '90s when the Town of Orange Park first submitted their comprehensive plan to DCA for a finding of consistency; their plan was found inconsistent by DCA for one critical issue. The Town of Orange Park's plan had no language for protecting the manatees. The Town of Orange Park has no jurisdiction over any waterway that has a manatee, but DCA didn't know that. Back to the arrogance, Clay County just submitted their Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) to Tallahassee this year. They also submitted a plan to make that EAR amendment effective; in other words, a way to create jobs. Part of their plan was to change some of the land uses that were residential because Clay County has more residential than much of the other Counties, they have very little industrial commercial property; the County was responding to the needs that they have. DCA was going to find Clay County's plan inconsistent, so they had a group of people go over to DCA and one of the leaders of DCA said, I did not hear this but was told this, "Why should we let you have this? We gave you the Brannan Field Plan four or five years ago. We gave you the Lake Asbury Plan a few years ago. We've already given you industrial, why do you want to come to us?" The response from our Committee was, "You didn't give us anything, we run that County." So that's the arrogance that's there. Now, the jury of your peers, that's the effect of this body. On the cons, I agree. The State funding could be a risk, but if the State Legislature passes a five-year pilot program, I have yet to hear of them un-funding a pilot program. Is there a risk that it could happen; yes. On the floating a trial balloon, I have been on this Board for approximately seven to eight months and have seen pressure within this group looking at individual counties' applications and transmittals to see if they've made sense, if they've fit with the Regional Plan. I've not seen anyone in this group float a trial balloon that I'm aware of. It looked like everything was an honest attempt to do what was good for your voters. I will disagree, respectfully, with Mr. Teeple. Developers, all they ever want is to know what the rules are and to know who runs

the rules. Developers would gladly have this body as their decision makers because we have to go to each individual county, if we go to the County and we agree with the rules and the standards and the demands, then when you bring it to this Board, we know that this Board will look at it favorably. I have one requested change to the framework, in paragraph 4 under programs specifically delegated are the State Land Planning Agency responsibilities; our responsibilities would be that we have to comply with the Regional Plan. Regional plans do have needs for change occasionally, as we have seen. The one thing we don't want to happen is that DCA be the final authority of us changing our Regional Plan. If we're going to have a Regional Plan, it should be passed by this body subject to denial by either a majority of the Florida Cabinet or by the Legislature. It should not be allowed that DCA can determine what our Regional Plan is; we should be able to do that. Also, I would really like to see a clear definition of what a significant impact to a state resource is; perhaps there is one, but I've just not seen it.

Mr. Spaeth stated that he had two questions. First, you gave us a very compelling argument why this plan may not work or be approved. Therefore what chance of success do you figure? Secondly, if this structure is not implemented, what's the future of the Regional Council vis-a-vis SB 360, Amendment 4 and all these other things?

Mr. Teeple stated that with regard to the change of final review authority by the Legislature, he cannot do this alone; it's going to require, if you choose to go this route, a commitment on all your parts. What will be required is:

- 1) You have to go talk to your local legislators,
- 2) Talk to your Chambers of Commerce,
- 3) Talk to the Northeast Florida Builders Association and any interest groups that you can think of who might have a dog in this fight and get their verbal and written support.

Without that we're dead. The other thing that is needed is to work on your respective local government associations. Mr. Teeple apologized to Mr. Smallwood because he may not have been clear when he spoke; he's not suggesting that individual developers here in Northeast Florida might opposed to this, but the associations that represent the developers and real estate communities in Tallahassee are the ones that he's certain about, the Association of Florida Community Developers, Florida Homebuilders Association, the Florida Association of Realtors, Associated Florida Industries and others.

Mr. Smallwood stated that he understood.

Mr. Teeple stated that is the kind of commitment that will be needed. He can go to Tallahassee and work this, but without the Council Members' support and without the support of those key folks, it's like going into battle without ammunition. As for the future without the delegation ability, this Board has been around for a little over 30 years and we do a lot of good work within our communities; we help moderate what local governments do and keep them from doing some incredibly ill advised things on occasion, we help moderate what DCA does to you, we try to keep things on a smooth and even keel, we initiate programs and projects such as the Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and we are looking to participate in the brownfields on a regional basis, working with the Environmental Protection Agency. We have initiatives that we believe brings value. Our goals in the Growth Management scheme, who knows where that goes. He's not afraid of Amendment 4 from a process perspective. Careful reading of the language, Amendment 4 says that it is after the process occurs that it goes to the voters. We will still be doing the same sort of things and making the same sort of decisions. It's just no longer going to be the local government's governing body that makes those vital decisions; it will ultimately be the voters of the jurisdiction, if Amendment 4 passes. He is not concerned about that from that particular perspective. We'll keep on, you'll find your staff will be creative and inventive and we'll have fun.

Commissioner Laibl – inquired as far as the SRPP and this proposal, the relationship, does it change it with any regard?

Mr. Teeple stated that it does not. He stated that the SRPP is the Council's document for decision making to discharge your regional responsibilities in the various areas of Growth Management, Chapter 163 and 380. It is the responsibility of this Board to pass that and decide what's in it. The legislation requiring the SRPP invests the authority for approval with this Board and the authority for approval and review with the Executive Office of the Governor (EOG) and not DCA. The EOG's track record isn't that good because we, like local governments, have to do an evaluation and appraisal report on our SRPP. We submitted this report in 2001 and are still waiting for a response. That being said, we're suggesting that those goals and responsibilities continue; we don't want to lose them. What we're suggesting is that your staff will take the amendments and the DRIs from our jurisdictions and apply the standards and structures of State Law, and use those litmus tests for the determination, along with what we found in our regional review, of compliance or not in compliance for Comprehensive Plans, or for the purposes of taking appeals on Developments of Regional Impact. Mr. Teeple stated that he's suggesting, in this case, complete delegation but with some oversight by DCA. He stated that in response to the request for a definition of what is an impact of significant resources; it is his hope that if this was to happen, DCA would finally make a determination of compelling state interests.

Mr. Register stated that just the mere fact the Mr. Teeple has said that most, if not all, of the special interest groups would oppose this; to me is a great reason to support it. Like Commissioner Harris, being from a small rural county where more than half of our working population is forced to leave the County every day to go to their jobs and when we go to DCA trying to get land use changes so that we can create good jobs and they tell us that we really don't need them, that it's urban sprawl, all those other things that one size fits all. Our State regulators are not in touch with what the local communities need and want. He stated that even though this discussion may not be nearing an end and there may be other comments; he would like to make a motion.

Mr. Register moved to approve the concept of a pilot program delegation of growth management and allow staff to begin to work it through the Legislative process; seconded by Mr. Larson.

President Griffis noted that there was a motion and a second and asked for any further comments.

Mr. Teeple stated that if they go down this road, he highly recommend that in the process we don't belittle DCA. If you lose, you still have to work with them, think about it. There's no advantage in bashing the Department; frankly, the Legislature is going to have their fair share of doing that this year. He doesn't think it's a negative reflection on DCA. It's his view that we're just simply offering an alternative, in the maturation of the Growth Management process in the State of Florida, to take a Council that is prepared and ready to do this as a natural evolution of the process. He stated that we've all had stories about DCA; but he's telling them that, as their chief staff person and a professional planner abiding by his code of ethics, we're going to make recommendations to you that you may not like. Mr. Teeple suggested that they insert his name where they've talked about DCA because Council staff will bring forward professional planning recommendations that are consistent with the law and rule and the Council Members are not going like all of them.

President Griffis stated that we have a motion and a second, but would like to hear from Commissioner Stevenson, Mr. Fish and Mr. Smallwood. He added that all the comments have been positive so far, so after Mr. Smallwood, unless someone has something against this idea then we will conclude with the comments.

Commissioner Stevenson stated that she concurs with Mr. Register's comments. At least if we disagree with Mr. Teeple, we'll know what happened and we will be able to have a real discussion. It won't be something far off and away that leaves us all shrugging our shoulders and wondering what we're supposed to do next. She stated that she has had that experience, but don't think that it is necessary a fault, but a state agency looking at a state. Whereas a regional group, Brian and his staff, can easily go down and look like we do when we have a land use issue, we drive out and look at it. Over time, we've spent time in everybody's county and actually put our eyes on things, not just what things look like on a map. Therefore, she thinks it is a worthy undertaking and will be an interesting challenge because Mr. Teeple's observation about the entrenched interests is very real.

Mr. Fish stated that he's always enjoyed a good fight. We've always been able to step back and blame it on DCA. I'm in favor of doing this, but it's with the recognition that we are the ones who will be blamed with it, it won't go to DCA. We are the ones then that would be making that decision. I was Chairman of the DRI Committee a lot of years ago when we had 13 DRIs in one year. What that required was a lot of hard work by the members of this Board, not just the DRI Committee. If we do this, it's going to require a greater level of participation and preparation by every member of this Board. I'll tell you why. It's not just to sit here and listen to a recommendation from staff, which is nice sometimes. But when we become the deciding body, we're going to be lobbied by the developers, the conservation groups, by groups that you really don't know what their interest is in this fight. When that happens, you also have a greater ethical consideration to watch out for; is this a free dinner or am I getting lobbied or what is happening here because every member of this Board then becomes a final vote. We are DCA. Like I said, I enjoy a good fight, I agree with Mr. Smallwood especially on one point because I've represented through land use law a lot of developers, 'Just tell me what the rules are. If I know what the rules are, I can design my development to fit those rules.' What a developer hates is a moving target. Right now a developer has a moving target in Florida because he's going local, he's going regional, he's going DCA, which may change everyday this week and so he has a moving target. What we had to do that year we had 13 DRIs is we set a hard, non-changing, set of rules that as we stepped from one DRI to the next DRI to the next one, everybody knew what we had just done the week before and that's the only way we could get through there without playing favorites to one and not another and everything else, we had to stay constant. That's what we're going to have to do here. When he says he's going to give us some recommendations that we're not going to like, I can assure you that he's going to give us some recommendations that we're not going to like. I just about quote what some of those are going to be on occasion. What I'm saying is that I'm in favor of this too, I enjoy a good fight. I don't mind sitting here with a developer and saying, 'No, and here's why.' But when we accept that responsibility with a positive vote on this motion, every member of this Board has to be willing to accept this, the enhanced responsibility for participation and preparation.

Mr. Teeple stated that it would be fairly evident that our meetings will take longer; plan on setting aside the first Thursday of the month all day. We will have enhanced public participation. We will not be holding all our meetings here. There will be the need for special meetings in order to meet statutory deadlines. So there will be enhanced requirements of your time, not only in, as Mr. Fish suggests, in preparation but in actual meeting times. We won't be able to dispose of your typical comprehensive plan amendments in mere minutes or your typical DRI in an hour or two.

Mr. Smallwood quoted the philosopher Pogo who said that when we do this, the enemy will be us. But I would rather have an enemy that I know that I can get close to than an enemy that I don't know and I can't get close to, which is what we have with the current regimen. Ladies and gentlemen, this is a radical, radical departure from doing it the way we've always done it. It will not go unnoticed or unchallenged. There is no better year than right now. Just for your edification, let me share with you what happened since the Legislative Session ended back in May. The Senate Chairman of the DCA

Committee sent a letter to the Secretary of the DCA advising him that his interpretation of SB 360 was not consistent with the intent of the legislation that was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. The Secretary, respectfully responded and said, "well you know, you're job is to pass legislation, it's my job to interpret the legislation." So we don't much care what you think Legislature, that's our interpretation and we're going to stand by it. He would send an additional letter that said, you know, maybe you don't understand, we think you've done it wrongly. So there may be another copy of that letter sent to the Secretary with a draft amendment that would basically unfund DCA. I don't think that's going to happen, but it's a possibility because they also don't like the arrogance coming from the Department. If there's ever a chance to get the Legislature to really consider a pilot to see what can be done to rein in an out of control agency, this might be it. So the only recommendations I'd make to the proposal is that we urgently and strongly encourage passage of this issue.

President Griffis stated that although he said Mr. Smallwood would be last, as this will probably be one of the most important decisions this Board will make, he would like to hear from Mr. Larson.

Mr. Larson stated that in 25 years of observing DCA and the application of their rules and regulations for rural Florida, he can't recall one instance where they had ever come close to recognizing that the issues and problems and needs of rural Florida are not the same as those of Tampa or Miami. Anything that would move us toward the point where somebody in Tallahassee is forced to recognize that we are different and require different interpretations of one size fits all, I support. I can't imagine any situation where they can do more damage to us that they've already done. So if there is retaliation, it's not going to make it any bit worse for us than it already is.

Mr. Teeple stated that if you vote this route, he hopes that it is with a personal commitment that you will work this issue in the areas that he has described; the Chambers, Local Governments, Associations, your developer friends here in Northeast Florida, etc., because without it you are sending me out to be slaughtered. This is a big decision and Mr. Fish has described some of the aspects involved. Mr. Teeple stated that for the purpose of full disclosure, with regard to SB 360, Tom Pelham is right because that's what the law says. The law that's so terribly written that he's sorry for the Legislators who thought they said what they meant, but they didn't say what they meant. He added that he's fine with the change in SB 360 that might come up in a Special Session and thinks local government should be concerned with regard to concurrency. If the State were to come down and pre-empt local government's ability to have a concurrency program, and if he were a local government with home rule authority, he would be a little squeamish about that. Mr. Teeple stated that he agrees with Secretary Tom Pelham's interpretation of SB 360 and, as he understands it, the Secretary has already agreed to assist Senator Bennett in rewriting SB 360, it wouldn't take much to make it say what they really meant. Mr. Teeple pointed out, to make sure that it's really clear for the Members, you're not going to like everything I have to say, you're not going to agree with everything I bring before you. You are going to get my staff's best professional planning recommendation.

Mayor Robinson inquired how Mr. Teeple perceived the process of all this? Are we going to the Legislature and they are going to vote this year on this?

Mr. Teeple stated that his next step is two or threefold. You are going to go back and start talking with people. I will be meeting, very shortly, with Secretary Pelham to let him know that this is happening. I'll also be meeting with the Florida Regional Councils Association lobbyist to let them know that you are considering a pilot program. We will begin to draft legislative language. It is my hope to be able to bring back to you at the next meeting draft bill language. Once that's done, once you have that in hand, I will need you then to go and meet with your legislators, we need to get somebody to sponsor it, get somebody to co-sponsor. We'll lay out a process for you.

Mr. Taylor stated that the draft language will come back to you through your Legislative Committee structure.

Ms. Brown stated that there are a couple of things and that she had the same question as to the process. I would still like to have it clarified a little bit because to me there would be some concurrent stages in selling or lobbying this, if you would, and so the next step that you actually have would be to come back to this body with draft legislation. A plan on how this will proceed through local government, the Builders Associations, everyone that certainly has a buy-in, I think that needs to be established also. I think that we have to have a program that we're all speaking from the very same hymnal and that as we proceed with this it becomes more of a, 'you should get on board because...' I kind of agree that it's always been us and them and didn't have a clue in Tallahassee what was happening in some of our smaller areas and certainly in some of the larger as to how we operate. So I feel as though it is a battle ahead of us. It may fail first time, but I think that right now it's not clear in my head dollar-wise, DCA would forget that function, it would come down to us regionally and would that be a bonafide savings to the DCA's budget? I don't know, I have no idea, but I think this is something that we could use, if you would, as ammunition. The other thing I'm going to say, the opt out, you guys remember what happened when you could opt out for schools to have uniforms? Once you can opt out, it goes away. So I would like to see you explore as you go forward, not having that language unless you can tell us why you feel strongly that it should be. I don't think that it should be there. Those are just some observations, savings of dollars, how we're going to proceed with actually laying this out for people who would have a dog in the fight. Then when you get to the dollars, if there is a savings to be had on the legislative level, I think that it could certainly fall in our favor.

Mrs. Stern stated that she agrees with Ms. Brown's comments and also with so many of the statements that have been made. However, it is her opinion, and it would be very helpful to her, Mario, because this is such an important move and step and decision and kind of journey that we're embarking on, it involves all of us and the statement has been made that, Brian said it very well, if we do follow through on this, if this does occur and we become that deciding body, then there is going to be much more burden placed on us as Council members than has been in the past. Because of that she believes it would be very helpful if all were a part of the legislative decision making. In other words, the discussion that would be taken to the Legislative Committee, we could all have it rather than going to that committee and then coming back to the full Board. It just makes sense. It is a very important decision.

Mr. Davis - I would like to wear three different hats for a moment. As an individual, Wendell Davis, I have long time supported local control, support the entire discussion and do not need to be redundant on the last 30 minutes. Second, as a County Commissioner, touched on by Ms. Brown and Mayor Robinson and a couple others, in order to go back to the local group and share the plan and the support, and this early, you understand, you had to get a motion passed first before you go to work, but there needs to be some steps in the process because there are different steps for different levels. The Legislative draft going to Tallahassee will travel down one path, what we do back with our cities and our counties would be similar, but would be a little different path. There may be some other thoughts to other agencies, get it to the Department of Transportation or whomever other agencies that will be involved and/or need to be involved here. So there are separate paths of thoughts or processes that would need to be developed over the next 30 to 60 days kind of thing. Third, I should disclose, because you don't know, that I'm President-elect of the Florida Association of Realtors and will take office January 1st as the State President. So we might have a little influence with the Realtors. We have the good fortune of having a very reputable, recognized strong lobbying staff in Tallahassee, who will need to do whatever the Board of Directors approve. It's too early to have an idea of how this thing may unfold. Realtors are strong on quality of life and this is certainly a quality of life issue. My gut would say the northern half of the State would be on board fairly early and fairly easily. The southeastern part of the State might be where we would see some resistance because the

Regional Councils in those parts of the State do not have the reputation of this Regional Council of being fair and consistent. So some of those folks may have greater concern of it being at the Regional Council than they do at the DCA. I only give you that as background and disclosure of potential alliances of folks who may be for and against and effects that we may have with those groups.

President Griffis stated that there is a motion and a second on the floor to allow Brian and his staff to proceed with the framework for growth management delegation and called for vote. On voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Institute of Sustainable Living

Mr. Teeple stated that Mayor Netts had requested he provide the members with information on the Institute of Sustainable Living (ISL). He stated that the concept of this Institute was also contained in the Council's CEDS. The concept of the institute is being forwarded as a research triangle, research and development initiative focusing on developing, implementing, evaluating sustainable living principles and technologies. The development of the Institute is guided by a Steering Committee and Subcommittees. He stated that he is providing this information today at the request of Mayor Netts, who is the Chairman of the Elected Official Committee and asked that Mr. Teeple present this today to inform you of what is going on in the creation of this institute. Mr. Teeple directed the Members' attention to the draft Strategic Plan that is being put together. The goal is to identify a campus in which all of the institutions in North Florida can cooperate in this kind of endeavor to train a workforce in advanced research specializing in sustainable living styles, technology and training, conducting research through real world community based demonstration projects and implementing incentives that guide and encourage surrounding communities to serve as training and demonstration methods. He stated that this is an opportunity that is in its very infant stages to begin to try to pull together a research institute that might have spinoff in the development and technical realm. He added that Mayor Netts may be asking some of the Members to get involved with this. No discussion followed.

Regional Visioning Update

Ms. Moehring stated that Mr. Teeple has been invited by WJCT to participate in their radio program, First Coast Connect. She stated that December 2nd is being considered for the release of the report for Reality Check First Coast. Staff will be in touch with the Members via email to inform them of date. Ms. Moehring provided an update on the County Checks stating they have been great. She thanked the Members for sending emails and making phone calls to assist with getting folks involved. She stated that response has been very good. She provided the remaining County Check dates; Nassau County this evening, St. Johns County on November 10th and Putnam County on November 16th. Ms. Moehring stated that Generation Check will be held on Saturday, January 30th that will essentially be Reality Check with approximately the same number of people, except that it will be young people. The exercise would incorporate two age groups, 14 thru 17 years old and 18 thru 22 year olds. Ms. Moehring stated that the goal is 200 in the 14 to 17 age group and to assist with ones who need assistance getting to the venue, a group service provider in each county is being sought. She asked for assistance from the Members regarding the recommendations on youth organizations. The next meeting of the RCI Board will be December 3rd following the NEFRC Board meeting at 2 pm. A brief discussion followed.

Mrs. Stern asked, for the Generation Check, how she wants the Members to get recommendations to her. Ms. Moehring said they can provide her with an email or phone call and she will follow up.

Commissioner Harris asked if during a County Check, do the people who attend actually play with the Legos again or is it just a review of what has already been done? Ms. Moehring stated that they start by reviewing the results of Reality Check First Coast followed by the rules of the game and then they play.

President Griffis stated that one of the things that staff has done is, at the end, all the Legos are removed except for the County that they are in and they take a picture of that because at the end of the day, people are going to work their county, which is the most important one to them. He added that he would like to see, at the end of this project, in a compilation of all the counties, what it says per county. Ms. Moehring stated that that is the new data that is being collecting; how many jobs and people are being placed in each County.

SRPP Part II – Affordable Housing Presentation

Mr. Lehman provided an overview of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, Element II - Affordable Housing. He stated each of the Goals have been compiled and some of the policies. He stated that many of the policies do not apply to this Board as the SRPP is a plan for the Region. Therefore, the ones that will be covered directly applies either to this Board in their decision making for comprehensive plan amendments or DRI approval or something that is a staff initiative if staff should carry on a regional effort. Mr. Lehman stated that these goals and policies were adopted on July 10, 1997 and that some things have changed. However, although recommendations from the Evaluation and Appraisal report were submitted to the Governor's office in 2001 indicating there were changes that should be made; no changes have been made because there was no response from the Governor's office. This presentation will be posted on the Council's web site following the meeting.

A brief discussion followed regarding the federal government's \$8K incentive program for first-time home buyers.

President Griffis inquired of the other members how the federal governments' \$8K tax incentive program is going in their counties. He stated that there has been only two in Baker County who have qualified; many apply, but they don't qualify. Therefore, it has not been successfully in Baker County.

Commissioner Bryan commented that the banks just aren't releasing any funds.

Commissioner Davis mentioned that Statewide 144,000 people have utilized the program. Unfortunately, he does have a breakout for what areas of the State they are located. He added that the Senate and the House is expected to agree on expanding and extending the program through June 30th of next year with some additions, such as one does not have to be a first-time buyer. He stated that early on the money was very hard to get as it was not yet available. Maybe the additional six months will help the flow and increase the success.

Ms. Brown stated that she has been asked by Mr. Rhodes to Chair the Affordable Housing component and encourages all of the members to volunteer, if they can, to serve on this committee. She said that one of the goals is to get experts from each county to state what the goals were, what was met, what the status is for Affordable Housing, then look at what fell between the cracks. What can we effect, essentially? Even if you don't serve on the Committee, take an active part when your county is on the panel and listen.

Continuity of Government Presentation

Ms. Elizabeth Payne introduced herself and proceeded to provide an overview of Continuity of Government (COG), a new project the Emergency Preparedness Department is currently working on. She stated that this is a planning document that helps to define procedures, allowing governments or governmental agencies to continue their essential functions in case of a catastrophic event, manmade or natural, which support enduring constitutional governments. She stated that with an effective plan, it will provide the leadership to provide public safety, reduce disruption to an essential function,

achieve a timely and orderly recovery from an emergency and, reduce the loss of life and minimize losses and damages. This project is slated to be completed in May 2010. This presentation will be posted on the Council's web site following the meeting. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. Fish inquired whether or not the Council did something along this line with Mr. Alexander through hurricane preparedness several years ago. Mr. Teeple stated that staff has assisted a number of our local governments in their coop and cog planning. Since we were recognized as having done this throughout the State, the State has contracted with us to create a template for the rest of the State to follow, which is the program that Ms. Payne has spoken about. Mr. Fish noted that once again, we're leading the State and receiving recognition for that.

Regional Leadership Academy

Ms. Jennifer Hewett-Apperson directed the Members' attention to the 2010 Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) application form. She stated that this information is also available on the RLA's web site www.nefrla.com. The upcoming Leadership Series is scheduled to begin on January 13, 2010, and will provide a path to becoming a graduate of the RLA and subsequently a member of the Regional Community Institute. All are encouraged to become a graduate and pass it on to those who they feel would be a good candidate for the Regional Leadership Series. No discussion followed.

Potential Water Resources Legislation

Mr. Teeple provided an overview of this item, which was not available for mail out. Mr. Teeple directed the Members attention to the news article from the October 30th St. Pete Times entitled, State Water Czar Idea Resurfaces; the Florida Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and conservation's interim report 2010-114 related to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, regarding water resources; and the 2003 report of the Florida Council of 100, a business group based in Tampa, regarding Florida's water supply management structure. Mr. Teeple stated that the Senate's interim report makes two key recommendations. The first is that the local sources first policy, embodied in Chapter 373, should be reviewed. That is a local government should exhaust all of their local sources first prior to suggesting that inter-racing transfers, for example, might be an appropriate public policy measure for the supply of water. Second, the interim report talks about the establishment of a central regulatory commission to oversee water resources and supply development. Mr. Teeple stated that this is key, the people of Florida own the water collectively irrespective of regional jurisdiction and a statewide body should govern Florida's water supply accordingly. Mr. Teeple provided background information regarding the outcome of the Council of 100's report. He warned the Members that this is happening again. No discussion followed.

Public Comment

None.

Members/Ex-Officio Members Reports

Mr. Register stated that the 1st Saturday of December the City of Macclenny is having a Craft Day beginning at 9am and concluding with a lighted Christmas parade at dark.

Vice Mayor Lawson-Brown stated that the City of Palatka recently opened a new, state of the art, water plant.

Commissioner Bryan stated that St. Johns County is in the process of working a program with the efforts of Flagler College, the Health Department, St. Johns County as well as the City, of conducting surveys that will address health related issues, particularly in the part of our County that does not

have sewer system. It has been determined that there may be health related issues there, so as a result of the survey being conducting, there is a possibility identify stimulus money to install a \$20M sewer system that would be required in that area. A \$20K grant was received through the Health Department to help conduct the surveys.

Commissioner Stevenson stated that there is an interesting Webinar available from the Florida Association of Counties on the oil drilling discussion with an educational one for, one against and one person the bill as the honest broker. She stated that she will email the information to Mr. Teeple for posting on the Council's website.

Mr. Teeple stated that **Ms. Andrews** asked that he inform the Members that Enterprise Florida will be meeting from November 17th to 19th at the Hyatt Regency in Orlando, Florida to include stakeholder council, working groups and Enterprise Florida Incorporated Board meeting.

Mr. Cole stated that the Water Management District Board will be having a workshop on Monday on water conservation and all are welcomed. A second workshop on water conservation will also be held in December prior to their December Governing Board meeting. He stated that watering restrictions were recently imposed for one day a week and encourage local governments to put ordinances in place that implement the rule or insure that those who already had ordinances to ensure that those are current and updated. There are a variety of public meetings regarding the development of the 2010 water supply plan, working groups and also meetings with Suwannee River Water Management District in coordination on water supply issues across those boarders. The Northern Upper Santé Fe Basin Alternative Water Supply meeting will take place November 10th at 9am in Green Cove Springs. More information can be obtained by visiting their website www.sjrwmd.com.

President's Report

President Griffis stated a list of committee assignments is located on the inside cover of the Members' binders for this year. If anyone has any concerns, please speak with Mr. Teeple or myself so it can be addressed. He added that Baker County recently built a new jail and has capacity, but if any county has a capacity problem they have space in Baker County.

Chief Executive Officer's Report


Mr. Teeple directed the Members' attention to a handout that was provided to him by Commissioner Boyle indicating that there will be a forum relating to SB 360 sponsored by District 17 Representative Lake Ray on November 19th at 1:30pm at the Florida State College at Jacksonville's Downtown Campus, in the Technology Center. Also on the docket is Secretary Pelham, Brad Thoburn of the DOT, Terry Lewis representing special districts, Gary Hunter representing developers, Janet Bowman representing environmental issues and Louis Rotundo representing Cities and Counties interests. If anyone is interested in attending, please RSVP to nicole.runkel@myfloridahouse.gov. Mr. Teeple reminded the Members of next month's Holiday Luncheon that will take place following the Board meeting. All are invited to attend for fellowship with your fellow Board members and staff; however, we do ask that you please RSVP by November 30th. Mr. Teeple stated that Highlights are located in the binder front pocket. He touched on the upcoming events and dates the Council will be closed. Mr. Teeple stated that he will send the Members an email regarding the RLA for distribution in their community and he will be doing in other parts of the region. He stated that November 13th is the deadline, but we may extend the deadline particularly since we're not looking at the Awards ceremony and Elected Officials Reception until later in January 2010 as we're trying to hook a Regional Delegation meeting to it, which might be a good time to have one with some of the statewide issues that are facing us and their implications to North Florida.

Next Meeting Date

The next Council Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 3, 2009** 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 12:10 pm.



Michael W. Griffis
President



Brian D. Teeple
Chief Executive Officer