



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Board of Directors Meeting

January 7, 2010

MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Northeast Florida Regional Council was held on Thursday, January 7, 2010, 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	Bill Bishop Elaine Brown Paul Parsons
FLAGLER	Milissa Holland Jon Netts Catherine Robinson Bob Sgroi
NASSAU	Michael Boyle Shirley Graham Bob Spaeth Larry Williams
PUTNAM	Kenny Eubanks Wes Larson
ST. JOHNS	Ken Bryan Don Crichlow Jane Miller Cyndi Stevenson
EX-OFFICIO	Danita Andrews Jeff Cole James Bennett for Larry Parks Jodi Conway for Greg Strong

Excused: Craig Thompson, Carol Vallencourt, Nancy Harris, Mary Lawson-Brown and Karen Stern

Others Present: Steve Fitzgibbons, Sarah Langieri, Dan Camp, Dan Chitwood, Susan Fraser, Mike Kloehn, Sung-Man Kim, Geoff Sample, and other members of the public

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

President Griffis introduced Commissioner Kenny Eubanks of Putnam County who is replacing Commissioner Chip Laibl. President Griffis welcomed everyone and asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. The Invocation and Pledge was led by **Commissioner Parsons** of the City of Atlantic Beach.

*Approval of Minutes

President Griffis called for a motion. Commissioner Holland moved approval of the November 5, 2009, meeting's minutes; seconded by Mr. Register. 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 Boyle moved approval of the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. Fish. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

St. Johns River Water Management District Presentation

Mr. Teeple introduced Ms. Susan Hughes, the new Chairperson of the St. Johns River Water Management District (WMD) Board stating that Ms. Hughes was appointed to the WMD by the Governor both in 2003 and reappointed in 2006. Ms. Hughes has been the Chairperson since 2008. Ms. Hughes thanked everyone for allowing her to come before the Board and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the water crisis in the WMD and the State of Florida. She also provided some insight into the water withdrawal issue to which Seminole County was awarded a permit to withdraw water from the St. Johns River. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Boyle inquired, based on Ms. Hughes' presentation stating that the financing for withdrawal projects being placed on hold this fiscal year, does that mean that Seminole County would not be withdrawing water. Ms. Hughes stated that she believes that Seminole will not be withdrawing water at this time. She added that Central Florida has a Central Florida Coordinating Area, which is capped at 2013 ground water withdrawal levels. Therefore they must find alternative water supplies and the WMD will help in some of those, primarily in the consulting work to identify and do some design work and could also partner on some of the infrastructure projects on alternative water supply, some of which could be on the river. So they are in a holding pattern on any funding going towards actual facilities.

Mayor Netts stated that there seems to be a contradiction with the fact that a few years back the City of Palm Coast had level two water restrictions that were more stringent than the WMD and the WMD required them to change their ordinance to make them less restrictive. Ms. Hughes stated, while she is not a lawyer, based on some of the current water laws, the district has the authority and should be managing and directing the levels of protection and there needs to be some recognition of that. Ms. Hughes stated that she agrees with Mayor Netts that it does seem conflicting, but hopes they can figure out a way to get beyond that. Mr. Cole stated that in addition to the preemptive authority the WMD has

over the consumptive use of water, if you put more restrictive measures in place, the concern is that those would not be legally defensible if you have a challenge within your community. Because the WMD has the exclusive authority under Florida law, the challenge would not stand up in court. Therefore, the community may be setting themselves up for defeat.

Commissioner Boyle stated that growth is the big issue and agrees with Ms. Hughes that it should be done smarter and more conservation oriented and inquired if the WMD is sending a message backing that statement when the WMD says, 'go ahead, take water out of the St. Johns?' How does that tell developers in the Central part of the State that they need to do more conservation and do smarter work, but we'll give you water from the St. Johns in the meantime? Ms. Hughes stated that they had to do a quite a bit before they were approved for the permit such as an \$80 million dollar retrofit. She added that there is a different hydrologic regime in Central Florida with other constrictions that causes them to have to look at alternative water supplies that this area does not have.

Commissioner Page inquired of Ms. Hughes what the vision is for keeping the "Tyranny of the Majority" of the population in the south of voting to take all our water. Ms. Hughes cited the case with Atlanta and Arizona for example and stated that with water becoming such a driver that people in powerful places might have ways that they think they can do something like that. Ms. Hughes stated that right now, Local Sources First requires that if water will be moved beyond a county, all the water supply sources within the local area must be exhausted first.

President Griffis commented that people will go where there is water, and water will probably be the main determining factor in how our State grows and it is important that we all protect ourselves.

Ms. Andrews stated that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is looking at the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the numeric nutrient criteria levels that are going on now that are going to make growth and development in this State overall much more expensive. We're not only looking at what we use concerning water, but what goes back into the water, rivers and streams. Ms. Andrews added that a Rule is expected to be handed down sometime soon (Jan 14) for the State, but asks that the other side of the issue be addressed as well and, therefore, suggests that maybe someone from DEP could come before the Board to speak about this. The State of Florida has been aggressive in looking at the Maximum Daily Load levels and setting standards there, but it is anticipated that the US EPA will be requiring those levels to be much more stringent than they currently are.

Mayor Graham left at 11:00 am.

NEFRC FY 2008/2009 Audit

Ms. MaryAnn Magers of Magers & Associates presented the findings of the Council's FY 2008/2009 Audit Report. Ms. Magers indicated that there were no exceptions taken to the report, making it an unqualified opinion, which is the highest rating an audit can receive. She highlighted the components of the report, methods used in the audit and the legal requirements of the program areas. It was noted that the Audit was conducted with no other component units included. Ms. Magers thanked staff for their support and assistance throughout the auditing process. There was no discussion.

President Griffis called for a motion. Commissioner Boyle moved approval of the NEFRC FY 2008/2009 Audit; seconded by Mr. Fish. Motion carried unanimously.

Clay County Adopted Amendment 09-1MI

Mr. Parola provided an overview of the Clay County Adopted Amendment 09-1MI, which is a military text amendment. He stated that this item is being brought before the full Board as more information has

become available since the transmittal of the original amendment, has resulted in an increased size of the area subject to the amendment. Mr. Parola mentioned that Mr. Mike Kloehn, Clay County Planning Director, is present and is available to respond to any questions the Members may have. Mr. Parola stated that this item was approved in the Planning & Growth Management Committee and asks that the full Board also finds it consistent with the SRPP. There was no discussion.

President Griffis called for a motion. Commissioner Boyle moved approval of the Clay County Adopted Amendment 09-1MI; seconded by Mr. Williams. Motion carried unanimously.

*Resolution 2010-03 Commissioner Chip Laibl

Mr. Teeple stated that he recently received notice from Commissioner Laibl of his resignation from the Board. Mr. Teeple presented proposed Resolution 2010-03 honoring Commissioner Chip Laibl for his years of service to the Northeast Florida Regional Council.

President Griffis called for a motion. Mr. Larson moved approval of Resolution 2010-03 honoring Commissioner Chip Laibl; seconded by Commissioner Boyle. Motion carried unanimously.

*Resolution 2010-01 Supporting the 2010 Census

Mr. Teeple introduced Resolution 2010-01 supporting the 2010 goals and ideas of the 2010 Census and encouraging the Region to participate and increase awareness of the 2010 Census.

President Griffis called for a motion. Ms. Brown moved approval of Resolution 2010-01 supporting the 2010 Census; seconded by Mayor Netts. Motion carried unanimously.

*Resolution 2010-02 Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

Mr. Teeple introduced proposed Resolution 2010-02 supporting Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. He mentioned that the Council staffs the Local Emergency Planning Committee for NE Florida along with a number of other programs relating to hazardous materials. He stated that the Hazardous Materials Awareness week is scheduled for February 14 -20, 2010 with a focus on chemistry in schools.

President Griffis called for a motion. Mayor Netts moved approval of Resolution 2010-02 supporting Hazardous Materials Awareness Week; seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Motion carried unanimously.

75% Recycling Goal Final Report Update

Mr. Teeple provided an update of the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) findings on the 75% Recycling Goal Program. He reminded the Members that DEP was charged with the responsibility of coming up with recommendations to the Legislature to boost the recycling percentage in State of Florida from 23 percent up to a 75 percent goal. This report has recently been submitted to the Speaker, President and the Governor. Mr. Teeple highlighted the recommendations that affected the local governments in the Northeast Florida Region, which is provided in his memo to the Board. He added that the Legislature will be considering these findings this year and provides this update for their information.

Mr. Teeple reminded the Members that the Council has a compact florescent bulb recycling station and has recently began a collection site for used batteries; and invites them to bring these items with them when they visit the Council and they will be disposed of appropriately. A brief discussion followed.

Mayor Netts mentioned that there is a company that the City of Palm Coast uses that provides boxes and polypropylene bags. You bag the batteries individually and place them in the box; there is a mailer company that takes them at no cost to the community and you get 100% recycling of your batteries. If anyone is interested, please call the City of Palm Coast for more information.

Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) Part III – Economic Development

Mr. Parola provided an overview of the Economic Development Element of the SRPP in which he focused on some of the more prevalent goals and policies that the Council has either participated in or have recently acted upon; the SRPP's role in economic development as the Board considers updating the SRPP; and demonstrated that the SRPP isn't just a comparison tool for local governments' comprehensive plans, but that it has a broader application. This presentation will be posted on the Council's web site following the meeting. A brief discussion followed.

Regional Awards and Leadership Series Update

Ms. Hewett-Apperson directed the Members attention to their binder pockets, which contained a 'save the date' card for the Elected Officials Reception and Regional Leadership Awards Ceremony on February 24, 2010 at 6pm. The event will be held at the University of North Florida's University Center. Ms. Hewett-Apperson stated that invitations will be going out in a few weeks. She added that the Regional Leadership Series will begin January 13th and invites any Members who wish to attend.

Regional Visioning Update

Ms. Moehring provided an update for Reality Check First Coast; the final report has been released and is currently posted on the Council's website at www.realitycheckfirstcoast.com. Generation Check, the youth only exercise, is scheduled for January 30th at the St. Augustine High School beginning at 9:00am. Ms. Moehring asked for the Members' assistance in identifying organizations that provide services for youth 14 to 22 years old who would be willing to assist with transportation and monitoring of these youth. Staff is also looking at fund raising opportunities as well but in order to achieve these goals, assistance from the Members is key. Regarding the Regional Community Institute, meeting dates for five of the six Committees have been established and begins in January with the sixth committee to be announced once a Chair has been identified. Regarding the CEDS document, staff still has not received an approval on the document as yet, but has heard very positive comments. A brief discussion followed in which Ms. Moehring offered to send Mr. Larson a summary of her report.

Mr. Teeple reiterated Ms. Moehring's plea for assistance from County Members with Generation Check and asked that they contact Ms. Moehring to help make Generation Check as robust as possible.

JTA/FDOT Regional Transportation Authority Study Update

Mr. Teeple provided an update on the JTA/FDOT Regional Transportation Authority Study stating that it is ongoing. While he was not able to attend this past meeting, Mr. Lehman and some of the Members of the Board did attend. Mr. Teeple stated that this was the last substantive meeting of the group, which dealt with financing and concluded that utilizing all the special untapped sources of funds, would provide approximately \$200 million per year in revenue. Mr. Teeple observed that approximately \$200 million per year, collectively, is being provided from the currently tapped sources; however, when talking about a Regional Transportation Authority that is funded at \$200 million per year, going forward funding resources will be important.

Commissioner Holland agreed with Mr. Teeple's summary and urged the elected officials to voice their concerns because if this report does get passed and the Legislature deems it necessary for us to work with JTA, no disrespect, the problems that may arise are the possible unfunded mandates. She also suggest that other Counties request one-on-one meetings to voice their concerns and alert their staff that this conversation should happen and needs to happen.

Mr. Teeple stated that one of the problems is that JTA and FDOT have been required to put together a report in a short amount of time and does not suggest that local member governments in Northeast Florida just say they're not interested, but does recommend continued dialogue. Mr. Teeple stated that based upon the superficiality of the study at this point in time, he does not believe it is ready for consideration by the Legislature in the 2010 session. He believes that additional work, dialogue and communication is required in order to build the trust level and identify revenue sources and a structure that would make sense for consideration at a future Legislative Session.

Senate Bill 360

Mr. Teeple directed the Members to the Council website in reference to additional correspondence between Secretary Pelham and Senator Bennett. Mr. Teeple stated that it appears there will be no substantive attempts to fix the 'glitches' in Senate Bill 360. A brief discussion followed in which Mr. Teeple offered to email the Members a copy of the correspondence between Secretary Pelham and Senator Bennett.

State Growth Management Delegation Pilot Update

Mr. Teeple played a clip, stressing the importance of the date and the role of Regional Councils, from a December 8th meeting of the House Governmental Accountability Act Committee, with Secretary Pelham responding to questions primarily asked of him by Representative Kevin Ambler who represents Tampa Bay area and who is a Land Use Attorney. The clip showed Secretary Pelham saying very negative things about Regional Planning Councils. Following the clip, discussion ensued.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Teeple to provide the Members with the context with which Secretary Pelham was before that particular Committee making that testimony. Mr. Teeple stated that a number of substantive committees are holding hearings as the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is going through their second year of sunset review. The Governmental Accountability Act Committee (GAA) is one of those committees, which is the context the Secretary was appearing before them at that point in time.

Mr. Williams inquired if it would be fair to say that the Secretary was attempting to convince the Legislature why DCA should continue and not be sunsetted in that particular committee hearing. Mr. Teeple agreed.

Mr. Smallwood commented on the Regional Council's November meeting minutes and reiterated again his comments at that meeting.

Mr. Teeple continued by providing an update of staff's activities since the Board voted to pursue the Growth Management Delegation Pilot program stating that two days after the Secretary's appearance before the Governmental Accountability Act Committee, staff met with the Secretary, unaware of the Secretary's comments before the GAA Committee at that time. Staff met with the Secretary and explained the intent of the pilot delegation program and that it was for this Region only, that this Council means no disrespect to DCA and that there would be no bashing of the Department on the part of Council staff. Mr. Teeple further stated that he saw this as a natural evolution of the growth management process, particularly when times are tough, the DCA is struggling to do their job, and it was an opportunity to spread that workload around. The Secretary expressed concern and was not pleased that he was not made aware of what this Council was doing in advance, and that he was caught unawares. Mr. Teeple stated that he reminded the Secretary that this was something that had been conceptually discussed with

his staff the month before and that this Council has gone on record as well as many of our stakeholders since 1992. Mr. Teeple stated that back in 1992 a group called the Environmental Land Management Study III (ELMS III) that made recommendations to the Legislature and, according to the transcripts of the ELMS Committee meeting held in Jacksonville, many local stakeholders who addressed the Committee advocated delegating review from DCA to NEFRC. Therefore, it's not a new concept. Mr. Teeple went on to say that the Secretary was concerned with regard to the timing as this could complicate things and that this Council might be taking advantage of the fact that DCA was under sunset review. The Secretary also expressed concern that this might give impetus to the proponents of Amendment 4. The Secretary had reviewed the Council meeting minutes and was displeased with them, particularly with regard to some of the characterizations of the Department. Mr. Teeple stated that the discussions concluded, reminding Members that the date of this meeting was December 10th, with the Secretary reminiscing about an opportunity he had recently before a committee of the Legislature when he was offered the opportunity to throw the Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) under the bus, which he declined to do.

Mr. Teeple stated that on December 11th, the Growth Management Stakeholders group, which he is a member, met. Mr. Teeple attended via teleconference and represented the RPCs at this meeting. Mr. Teeple stated that he was asked to introduce this item, and provided the Stakeholders with an overview of some of the concerns and feedback that he had heard. Mr. Teeple stated to the Stakeholders group and the Secretary that in his tenure here at the Council he had not seen a big track record of 'political log rolling' within DCA. The Secretary stated that he had been tremendously disappointed at the actions of this Council over the years. Mr. Teeple stated that there has always been a concern of municipal representation and that the Florida League of Cities has always said that Regional Councils are not constituted well because every municipality is not represented on the Board. However, with the number of Counties and Municipalities, it would be difficult for that type of representation, especially with larger regions. Mr. Teeple went on to say that while not all Cities are represented on our Boards, but with decision making being taken in Tallahassee, there certainly are no Cities represented in the DCA. He said there were concerns with policy and consistent application of policy, but believes that this Council and its staff can be as consistent with application of policies as have been the track record of DCA. Mr. Teeple stated that the Secretary reiterated his concern of being blindsided by this because he did not have advanced knowledge of it; and in the reading of the minutes, the motivations aren't what you like to see to have a good delegation; he opined that the RPCs under our existing authorities could have contributed greatly to the growth management problem and the process throughout the year, but really have never shown any interests in doing so; he does not think that the RPCs are appropriately structured to take on regulatory responsibilities and without a restructuring of the Boards, this is something that DCA could never support. The Secretary further stated that if the State was going to go in a new direction, it should be done comprehensively and not on an Ad Hoc fashion, referring to the Pilot Program. Mr. Teeple stated, when asked how this would be paid for, one of the things that would have to happen would be to ask the Legislature for an appropriation; however, that would be difficult in this kind of context, but based on discussions with Legislative Committee staff, he also mentioned the concept of perhaps having a fee structure for review, which the Secretary thought was not a smart idea; the timing is bad. The Secretary concluded his remarks by saying, "A couple of weeks ago, he resisted a temptation in Committee to throw the RPCs under the bus. He declined at that time, although he now felt liberated to do so."

Mr. Taylor added that the Secretary also stated that, "RPCs and locals have all of the authority and the power that they need right now to do similar things."

Mr. Teeple reminded the Members that when this was voted on, he asked the Members for their support in helping staff by contacting their Legislators. Currently 13 of the 17 have been covered in one form or another, but there are three Legislators that still need to be contacted; Senators Weinstein, Dean and Ulrich still need to be contacted. Mr. Teeple stated that he has received input from one third of the Members, but would like to get more input to determine if this is something they would like to continue to pursue.

Mr. Teeple said that based on discussions with both the House and Senate staff he has been advised that this will probably not happen this year. Therefore, he is asking for the Member's directions on this. He summarized the Secretary's statement as, "I'm going after your authority and I'm going after your money." In addition Mr. Teeple mentioned to the Members that the Florida Regional Councils Associations (FRCA) is meeting next week, and that they are aware of this Council's actions; however, what we do in NEF has statewide implications and we need to be cognizant of that. He will be seeking their input regarding their positions on this issue when faced with potential losses of funding.

Mr. Smallwood motioned to proceed with the pursuit of the five year pilot project. President Griffis recognized the motion and called for a discussion.

Ms. Brown stated that how we pursue it and when we pursue it is very important. She asked Mr. Teeple for his thoughts on this. Mr. Teeple stated that we should continue on building support and refining the concept and aim for the 2011 Legislative Session. He added that since 1992, this is something that this community has wanted for a long time and is not deterred by the struggle.

Commissioner Eubanks inquired if anyone has asked how the Governor feels about the Department. Mr. Teeple stated that the Governor has in the past and believes he will continue to support DCA.

Commissioner Boyle reminded the Members that this issue was brought at the last FRCA Board meeting. The State FRCA Board was informed that this was something this Council was interested in doing and received their supported. **Commissioner Boyle** asked that Mr. Teeple have this clip available for viewing by the FRCA Members at next week's meeting. It is important to stress the timing of these events. **Commissioner Boyle** asked his fellow Members to have a strong vote stating that we're not deterred. The Secretary is entitled to his position, but we're not going to bow under. We also want to go to FRCA next week and say, we took the step we told you we'd take last summer and here is the Secretary's reaction, which wasn't based on what he knew we were going to do because he's irate that he didn't have forewarning so his comments, as seen in the clip, were long before he knew about our intent. Therefore, we need a strong voice from this Council so that next week when we go before our colleagues to say we took the step, we're not backing down, we have the support of the NEFRC to move forward. Whether it happens this year or next, we're not backing down. Keep in mind, the Secretary has an agenda for the RPCs.

Councilman Bishop stated that regardless of what the Secretary thinks about Regional Councils, he believes the Secretary is merely trying to save his department. While DCA is not universally loved, it appears the discussion seems to have framed us against them. The real question that we should have an understanding of is what the rest of the State thinks about DCA and what does the Legislature think about DCA because in sessions they came really close to being sunsetted out. Under the previous administration, DCA was not universally supported by the Governor; they were like the orphaned stepchild in a sense. So, while the Governor needs to support DCA because its one of his departments, what does he really think about it? Where do they really stand in the opinion of the rest of the Legislature? The answers to these questions may tell us how and when we may want to move forward. The Department is, by their very nature, a central planning operation and so they want to control everything. We don't want that. So what do these others think?

Commissioner Crichlow stated that it is extremely important that, should we decide to pursue this fight, that we not be viewed as some renegade Council. At the FRCA meeting next week, it is extremely important to obtain the support of the other Councils. We can't go it on our own. He added that if we can't get their support, then we should look at this in a different light. We must be united with the Florida Regional Councils Association in this effort.

Mr. Williams stated that in his experience, the Staff and Agency Directors get extremely agitated when they are blindsided, challenged or questioned their authority as to what it is and who they're actually working for. Once you put the framework into bill language, it's easy to start marshalling forces against or for that particular bit of legislation. However, he agrees that this Council should take the opportunity next week to obtain FRCA's support.

Commissioner Parsons stated that this is an opportunity to take this back to our local governments and our constituents to ensure they're aware of what the State is trying to do.

Commissioner Stevenson asked if Mr. Williams supports this effort with FRCA's support. **Mr. Williams** stated that he does and that he firmly believes that this is a good move. **Commissioner Stevenson** shared her observation about Regional Councils from her observations on the Florida Association of Counties over the years. She also stated that this Council is not saying that DCA does not have a role, they do. The roles need to be clarified; things that are Regional in nature should remain Regional.

Commissioner Boyle added that we do need FRCA's support. He also stated that Commissioner Parsons is correct that elected officials need to go back to their constituents and say, 'if Regional Councils are done away with due to whatever circumstances, you lose local representation.'

Mr. Spaeth inquired what the worse case scenario would be for the Council. Mr. Teeple stated that the worst case scenario is that the Secretary would be successful in convincing the Legislature to strip out any growth management roles of the councils, which includes our role in the review of comp plans and DRIs as well as zero out State funding. However, neither the Legislature nor DCA can do away with this Council as the Regional Planning Councils were created by an Interlocal Agreement; they can take away the growth management authority and funding, but that's all. The Council will still exist.

Councilman Davis stated that it is important to seek the support of FRCA, the Speaker and the President. As for the timing, while it may be too late for this Legislative Session, he suggests this Council aim for the next Legislative Session. He urged the Members to always take the high road, don't get tangled in the mud.

President Griffis stated that it was never this Council's intent to blindside Secretary Pelham and that this effort is suggested as a pilot program. He also stated that he takes exception to the Secretary's statement that this Council does not provide valuable input.

President Griffis stated there was a motion on the floor. Mr. Smallwood restated his earlier motion to continue the pursuit of the five year pilot project; seconded by Commissioner Boyle. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Teeple stated that he will report back to the Members at their next meeting on FRCAs feedback on this effort.

*2010 NEFRC Legislative Priorities

Mr. Taylor directed the Members to the final draft of the 2010 NEFRC Legislative Priorities in their binders. He briefly mentioned the changes from the last draft of the document, noting on page two the addition of Mrs. Stern as a member of the Legislative Committee and the addition of the growth management delegation pilot as a Regional priority. Mr. Taylor asked for the Member's final approval so staff can proceed with publication of the document.

Commissioner Boyle moved approval of the 2010 NEFRC Legislative Priorities; seconded by Mayor Netts. Motion passed unanimously.

Regional Community Institute - Bob Rhodes Presentation

Mr. Teeple introduced Robert "Bob" Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes stated that the Regional Community Institute has launched the Northeast Florida Regional Visioning process entitled First Coast Vision. He stated that this will include a three part vision; 1) Regional quality of life benchmarks, 2) goals and objectives to achieve those benchmarks, and 3) an image of a preferred growth pattern for the seven county Region. He went on to provide an overview of the committees, their make up, mission and the goals that will lead toward assisting this Board in updating the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Other Business

Ms. Brown, Chair of the Planning & Growth Management Policy Committee (P&G), stated that the P&G Committee voted and unanimously approved a motion to bring to the Board and the President to ask that the Board pursue information and discussion on Amendment 4. It was agreed to bring forth, after meeting with staff, speakers on both sides. Ms. Brown stated that the importance of this amendment to the State of Florida, our Region and all of us is something that should be taken on individually, not just at our Commissions, Counties and Councils. Ms. Brown also stated that this is something that we should take on as a group, listen to and make sure we then have a plan on how we get this information distributed within our own communities. She mentioned that it is her understanding that Cornerstone has already began booking speakers and that maybe we could have some of them address this Board. As far as how and where we do it, she would like to come back to the Board on that.

President Griffis mentioned that Baker County has already had a fantastic speaker at their Chamber banquet.

Commissioner Boyle mentioned that if this is going to be voted on, he would like to also take this to FRCA next week, and inform them that this is the position that this Council has taken and try and get that same type of support around the state.

President Griffis asked for a motion on the resolution. Commissioner Boyle motioned approval of a resolution to be involved with Amendment 4 to the point that we will bring in speakers and we will come forth to this body with a format as soon as possible on bringing in speakers and discussion to address Amendment 4 with a goal of a final resolution stating this Board's position on Amendment 4; seconded by Ms. Brown. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Members/Ex-Officio Members Reports

Ms. Andrews, Enterprise Florida, stated that the next Board meeting will be January 26th thru 28th. She added that she will be making a presentation at the next Council meeting.

Ms. Conway, DEP, stated the EPA will be holding three public hearings in Florida to obtain input and comments on the proposed Numeric Nutrients Criteria that are scheduled for February 16th in Tallahassee, February 17th in Orlando and February 18th in West Palm Beach. She added that she will provide the Board information on the Recycling program as she receives it.

Mr. Bennett, DOT, stated that the department has finalized their hearings on their development work program, which has resulted in a few modifications to the work programs. Letters will be going out shortly to the Counties and Municipalities that will be affected by those modifications. The statewide public

hearing on the Department of Transportation's work program has been moved from March 2nd to March 1st. Finally, each county has been contacted and informed of the bill that passed the US House, a Jobs Creation Bill that would provide additional funds for transportation. This bill is still very speculative, but each County is still encouraged to think about potential projects that could be funded by federal funds.

Mr. Cole, SJRWMD, stated that there is \$4 million available for the cost share for Water Conservation to partner with local governments with a deadline of January 31st. He stated that Ms. Hughes mentioned the Water Supply Impact Study, which looks at the potential impacts of surface water withdrawals. This study has been extended to the summer of 2011 to allow more time to interact with peer reviews. A draft of that report should be available sometime this fall to discuss with the public.

President's Report

President Griffis mentioned Mr. Larson's retirement from the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce after 25 years of service. During this time, the Chamber has twice been named the top Chamber for its size in the nation.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Teeple stated that in the interest of time he has nothing further.

Next Meeting Date

The next Council Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 4, 2010** 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 1:15 pm.



Michael W. Griffis
President



Brian D. Teeple
Chief Executive Officer