

# NEFRC

## Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

December 2007

### THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL'S LIST OF "2008 New Years Resolutions"

It is that time of year when everyone is busy creating New Years Resolutions lists. Some will be achieved, others may be delayed and some may get passed over for other priorities. The Northeast Florida Regional Council would like to present our list for some of our planned undertakings in the New Year in this same spirit!

**Regional Water Supply Summit** - Potable water supplies are running low in Central Florida. The Council, as "Convener of the Region" will host a water Supply Summit as an initial step in elevating the dialogue in looking at the future of the St. Johns River and the issue of water supply.

**NEFRC Council Evaluation** - With assistance from the University of Georgia's Southeast Regional Director's Institute we will evaluate all aspects of the Council's activities from both an internal and external perspective

**Regional Visioning** - Through the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida the Council, in conjunction with the Jacksonville District of the Urban Land Institute will launch a regional visioning effort. This process will begin with a ULI developed process called "Reality Check".

**Strategic Regional Policy Plan Update** - *Strategic Directions*, the Council's Strategic Regional Policy Plan will, following the development of a Regional Vision, begin a transformation process to incorporate the outcomes of the Regional Vision and to add additional policy considerations, particularly in the arena of Energy.

**Regional Fair-Share Affordable Housing Plan** - Following up on the work of the Affordable Workforce Housing Task Force the Council will develop a plan to identify the annual affordable housing needs in each of our communities and to work with those jurisdictions to provide for strategies to produce that housing.

**Launch the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida** - This 501 C 3 that was created by the Council will begin operations in earnest in 2008. All three core components of the Institute (Regional Visioning, Regional Indicators and Benchmarks, and Regional Leadership Academy) will be positioned under its umbrella.

**Business Development Corporation Reorganization** - Our small business loan program will be reorganized in 2008 to comply with recent guidance from the Small Business Administration. This reorganization coupled with staff enhancements will position BDC to serve the capital needs of our small business community with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

**Local Government Revenue Options Strategy** - In the era of local government property tax constraints the Council will be working with all of our local governments to develop strategies to meet the needs of our citizens in this new reality. We will begin with a forum for Local Government Chief Administrative Officers and Budget Directors in early spring.

**Other** - The council will continue other activities and initiatives that are too numerous to mention. Moreover, we stand ready to tackle any issue of importance to our Regional Community in fulfilling our service motto of "Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda."

HAPPY 2008

**Everyone at the Northeast Florida Regional Council  
wishes you a happy, healthy and prosperous NEW YEAR!**