

NEFLRIC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

February 2010

Regional Achievements Recognized at Annual Elected Officials Reception and Regional Leadership Awards Ceremony

On February 24th, nearly 150 elected officials, Regional leaders and award winners gathered at the University of North Florida for the 9th Annual Northeast Florida Elected Officials Reception and 2009 Regional Leadership Awards. WJCT President and CEO Michael Boylan was the evening's master of ceremonies and recognized each of the evening's award winners. This years honorees are listed below.



Regional Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing

Accepted by Dana Moore, St. Johns County Homeownership Programs Coordinator



Harry Waldron Award

Accepted by Peter Rummell



Regional Award for Excellence in Economic Development and Tourism

Accepted by Ryan Detta on behalf of the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division



Regional Award for Excellence in Transportation

Accepted by John Youell on behalf of the Palatka Municipal Airport Terminal Area Improvements



Regional Award for Excellence in Education

Accepted by John Edwards on behalf of the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency Family Self Sufficiency Program



Regional Quality of Life Award

Accepted by Susan Holden-Dodge on behalf of the Barnabas Center, Inc.



Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship

Accepted by Joe Stephenson on behalf of St. Johns County Fleet Management Biodiesel Project



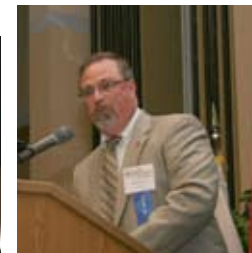
Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship

Accepted by Michael Sweat on behalf of St. Mary's Shoals Park



The Northeast Florida Regional Council Special Achievement Award

Accepted by Theresa Smith on behalf of Wayne and Delores Weaver and the Jacksonville Jaguars



Regional Award for Excellence in Planning and Growth Management

Accepted by Rob Palmer on behalf of Reality Check First Coast



Regional Award for Excellence in Public Safety

Accepted by Chief Robert Musco on behalf of the City of Green Cove Springs Police Department Teen Summit

This evening would not have been complete without the generous support of the following sponsors:

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NEFRC Co-Sponsors Randall Arendt Workshop

St. Johns County, the local chapters of FPZA and APA and others sponsored a workshop on February 8, 2010, featuring legendary planner and author Randall Arendt at the new St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center. Approximately 125 people learned about cutting-edge thinking and techniques in planning for commercial corridors and rural development that could be used in Northeast Florida. The workshop concluded with a hands-on rural design exercise for the participants. For more information, please contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org, or 279-0880.

Governor Crist Appoints Teeple

Florida Governor Charlie Crist appointed NEFRC CEO Brian Teeple to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). The 23-member SERC Board, along with the State's 11 Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) are charged with the implementation of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act in the State of Florida. The SERC also acts as a technical advisor and information clearinghouse for state and federal hazardous materials programs. The NEFRC is also staff to the District 4 LEPC. For more information, please contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org, or 279-0880, or Jason Taylor at jtaylor@nefrc.org.

Teeple Participates in Panel Discussion at First Coast APA Power Breakfast

On February 24th, NEFRC CEO Brian Teeple participated in a panel discussion on Regional Transportation Initiatives that was organized by the First Coast Section of the American Planning Association. Panelists included Florida House Representative Jennifer Carroll (Dist. 13), Florida House Representative Michael Weinstein (Dist. 19), Brad Thoburn of FDOT, Jeff Sheffield of the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization and Brian Teeple. Topics addressed included the First Coast Outer Beltway, commuter rail, mobility fees, the State Transportation Plan update, transportation infrastructure findings from Reality Check First Coast, and the Regional Transportation Authority Study. For more information on this panel discussion, please contact Brian Teeple at teeple@nefrc.org, or 279-0880.

NEFRC Staff Attends Emergency Management Institute Course with Putnam County Emergency Operations Staff

NEFRC's Jeff Alexander and Jason Taylor, along with members of the Putnam County's Emergency Operations Center team, recently attended a week long training course at the National Emergency Training Center's campus at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Nearly fifty participants took part in the Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) from February 1st through 5th. The course combined traditional classroom instruction with an exercise that simulated a realistic emergency incident. Several speakers from around the country and several disciplines delivered lessons on the various roles and responsibilities that comprise an Emergency Operations Center team, as well as the interaction between all of those different elements.

The exercise was designed to assess the ability of the group to coordinate the County's initial response capabilities and to be able to transition into the recovery phase. Emphasis was also placed on the risks associated with incident management throughout the training exercise, which was tailor-made specifically for Putnam County. A public policy group served as the decision makers during the exercise while course participants were able to work together in their respective roles, all within a safe learning environment.

Apart from the formal instruction, participants also had the opportunity to interact socially outside of class. The benefits of this team building really showed through as later on in the week record snowfall and icy conditions in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area made for a longer-than-expected trip as airports closed and highways were deemed unsafe for travel. The staff at EMI was extremely helpful and accommodated the Putnam County group throughout their stay. The training received during the course was put to good use during the latter part of the week until everyone returned safely home to Northeast Florida. For more information, contact Jason Taylor at jtaylor@nefrc.org, or 279-0885 x136.



Left: Members of the Putnam County EOC team and NEFRC staff at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland.



Record snowfall in the mid-Atlantic region postponed the group's return to Northeast Florida.