

# NEFRC

## Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

July 2011

### Regional Leadership Academy

The Regional Leadership Academy Class of 2011 had their final class on July 13. They used a "Regional Apprentice" format to address the problem of defining and implementing regionalism. They did a great job of coming up with creative approaches, and Mr. Grump (aka NEFRC CEO Brian Teeple), who decided which team to "hire", noted that their ideas might be worked together into an overall strategy. While all ideas and presentations were excellent, he ultimately "hired" the Legacy of Leadership Team. Here is an overview of each Team's ideas:

#### Time to Redefine

Team Redefine noticed the number of regional organizations working in silos, and developed a strategy to gather their expertise and inject energy and pride into a "motherhood structure" that includes them all, where the steady force and convener is the Regional Council.

#### I am the Region

The Legacy of Leadership Team recommended starting now to harness the benefits of education and activism to enhance regional prosperity. Their showcase strategy was a TV and web-based campaign using residents of the Region who tell the viewer who they are, and diverse as they may be, proclaim "I am the Region".

#### Wired In

Team Wired In proposed an information platform that would allow educational material related to regional sustainability to be vetted through a group of people that genuinely represent the Region. This "seal of approval" would allow people and groups from various policy perspectives to know where information is coming from, and trust that it has been reviewed consistently and fairly before being shared.

For more information contact Margo Moehring at 904.279.0885 x161.

### Visioning Day in Palatka

Council staff joined leaders and elected officials from throughout the county, including Florida Rep. Charles Van Zant, on July 11, 2011 during the Palatka Visioning Day held at the Palatka Municipal Golf Course. Following a tour of Palatka the group then participated in a workshop on city and county needs, and how the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) may help with loans and grants.

For questions, please contact Ameera F. Sayeed at 904.279.0885 x151.



Mayor Myers speaking during the bus tour



Mayor Myers, Richard Macheke (USDA), Vice Mayor Mary Lawson-Brown

## **Concurrency – Where do we go from Here?**

With transportation concurrency now being optional the question is, "Where do we go from here?" NEFRC hosted a transportation concurrency brainstorming session on July 6, 2011. This session brought together the Region's expert planning representatives; these planners know the Comprehensive Plans of their respective jurisdictions and bear the burden of providing sound recommendations. Brian Teeple facilitated the session with a series of questions, and the floor was then open to all jurisdictions to express their concerns, ideas, and issues moving forward. The general sentiment was to keep concurrency in the Comprehensive Plans, but not necessarily in the form it is today. A copy of the brainstorming session presentation is available on the NEFRC main webpage @ [www.nefrc.org](http://www.nefrc.org).

If you have questions, please contact Ameera F. Sayeed at 904.279.0885 x151.

## **Northeast Florida: "Operation Communicate Freedom"**

The Northeast Florida Regional Council hosted, on behalf of Region 3 Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) and the Division of Emergency Management a regional interoperable communications functional exercise. NEFRC designed and implemented this event that was held at Camp Blanding on June 29 and 30, 2011.

The need for improved regional emergency communications led to the creation of Operation Communicate Freedom. This exercise established a learning environment to exercise response plans, policies and procedures as they pertain to interoperable communications. Capabilities-base planning was used to focus on operating under uncertainty, to identify gaps in current capabilities and to focus on identifying priorities of capabilities and tasks of communication needed in time of emergency.

The exercise included nearly 150 participants from the Duval County Sheriff's Office, Nassau County Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Fire/Rescue, Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville, Putnam County Emergency Management, Clay County Sheriff's Office, Clay County Fire/Rescue, Marion County Sheriff's Office, ARES and HAM operators, Alachua County Sheriff's Office, Alachua County Fire/Rescue, Alachua County Department of Public Safety, Alachua County Department of Health, Florida Highway Patrol, and the National Guard.

For more information contact Traci Hochhalter at 904.279.0885 x155.

## **St. Johns County Hurricane Exercise**

A very successful table top exercise was held on Tuesday, July 26th at the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with over 125 people in attendance. This type of exercise is held annually during Hurricane Season. Staff of the Northeast Florida Regional Council worked with the County's Emergency Management staff to design the full day of activities as well as the exercise. The main focus of the exercise was on recovery from "Hurricane Julia", modules included discussion on Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Points of Distribution, debris removal, the set up of a base camp and temporary housing. County staff worked internally on tasks designed to exercise their current plans in place and what steps they would need to take to implement their plans. St. Johns County Commissioner Mark Miner attended the exercise in its entirety to observe the internal decision making processes within the County.

For more information contact Beth Payne at 904.279.0885 x151.

### **Convening for Transformation**

Based on connections made at the HUD-supported "Investing in Community Transformation" symposium for non-profits and faith based organizations on June 27 and 28, NEFRC staff were asked to convene a meeting among stakeholders interested in Eureka Gardens, a housing development in Jacksonville, to get them started on work on a HUD Choice Neighborhoods Grant. The group met on July 11 as a kickoff to a "Transformation Team", to work with the community on a plan for its future. NEFRC staff and volunteers facilitated a good start to this process.

For more information, contact Margo Moehring at 904.279.0885 x161.

### **City of Jacksonville Mobility Plan wins State Award**

The City of Jacksonville has been notified that their Mobility Plan has been selected by APA Florida to receive the Award of Excellence for Best Practices. The award will be presented at APA Florida's Annual Conference in September. Council President Elaine Brown wrote a letter of support for the Plan's nomination. The NEFRC had previously honored the Mobility Plan with its Regional Award for Excellence in Transportation at its Annual Awards program in January, 2011.

For more information contact Margo Moehring at 904.279.0885 x161.