

NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

April 2012

NEFRC Wins National Planning Award and Staff Presents at Annual Conference

Brian Teeple and Margo Moehring attended the American Planning Association (APA) Conference in Los Angeles in mid-April. Margo presented a session on public input, and Brian accepted, on behalf of all Florida Regional Planning Councils, the APA Annual Award for Best Practices in Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning for the Florida Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program, a project that was coordinated by NEFRC. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org or Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org.



Award Photo Identification (L to R.) Marie York FAICP, APA Awards Jury Co-Chair; Brian Teeple AICP, NEFRC; Ann Bagley FAICP, APA Awards Jury Co-Chair

Innovate Northeast Florida Released/JAX Boldest Winners Announced

The Region's new economic development initiative, Innovate Northeast Florida, a joint project between JAXUSA Partnership and the Northeast Florida Regional Council was unveiled on April 19th at an event at the Cummer Museum of Arts and Gardens. Study Steering Committee Co-Chairs Elaine Johnson and Bob Rhodes kicked off the evening's events. Results of the study can be found at www.innovatenortheastflorida.com. Also at the event the winners of the JAX Boldest contest were announced and honored. Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown help present the JAX Boldest awards to the boldest companies, non-profits and projects in the Region for 2011. The winners are presented at www.jaxboldest.com. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org.



Innovate Northeast Florida Consulting Team (L to R): Amy Holloway, Avalanche Consulting; Ed McCallum, McCallum Sweeney Consulting; Joel Simon, Council for Adult & Experiential Learning; Chris Engle, Avalanche Consulting

Regional Leadership Academy at NAS Jacksonville

The current class of the Regional Leadership Academy toured Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville environmental and energy projects on April 11th. NAS Jax Executive Officer Capt. Roy Undersander welcomed the group at Heritage Park and emphasized the successes that NAS Jax has had in executing major construction projects that are environmentally sustainable and energy efficient. After that, NAS Jax Environmental Director Kevin Gartland hosted a comprehensive tour of Jax NAS and a first-hand view of the many successful and innovative ways that the Navy is building efficient, cost effective facilities and implementing sustainable programs.

After the tour, NEFRC Director of Policy Margo Moerhing said, "We in Northeast Florida need to continue to recognize the strong regional partner we have in the Navy, celebrate their ethic of stewardship, and use the wide variety of innovative ways that they are building efficient, cost effective facilities and implementing sustainable programs as models to learn from. We often bring Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy candidates to tour NAS Jacksonville because of the inspiration that the good environmental, financial and community stewardship of the base, and its people, provides. It reminds regional leaders of what is possible."



NAS Jacksonville Executive Officer Capt. Roy Undersander with candidates for the Regional Leadership Academy Class of 2012

In the afternoon, there was an informative and enlightening panel discussion about sustainability in Northeast Florida. Allen Tilley, who leads the Regional Planning and Development Team of the U.S. Green Building Council, Lisa Rinaman, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, and Sarah Boren, the Executive Director of the U.S. Green Building Council North Florida Chapter, provided their views on the environmental challenges facing Northeast Florida and how we can respond to those challenges. The Regional Leadership Academy is a program of the Northeast Florida Regional Council. For more information, contact Ed Lehman at elehman@nefrc.org.

Nassau Council on Aging Selected to Continue Transportation Disadvantaged Services

On April 12th, NEFRC staffer Ed Lehman appeared before the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged at their meeting in Ocala to offer the resolution from the NEFRC Board that the Nassau County Council on Aging (COA) be retained as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Nassau County. The NEFRC Board approved the resolution by unanimous vote at its April 5th meeting. Based upon this resolution, by unanimous vote the Commission approved the recommendation that the COA be retained as the Community Transportation Coordinator. For more information, contact Ed Lehman at elehman@nefrc.org.

Putnam County GeoSem 2012 Exercise

NEFRC staff designed, implemented and staffed the GeoSem 2012 Exercise that was held in Putnam County on Wednesday, April 4th. The exercise opened with a morning tabletop session in the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), in which the County is under the threat of a hurricane with a forecasted path directly through the County. This scenario addresses issues related to the development and execution of the evacuation of a significant portion of the population, with a clearance time of 18 hours and an evacuation population of some 40,000 residents.

The afternoon session was a full scale exercise, with the EOC supporting a field response at both Georgia Pacific and Seminole Electric. These sites were exercising rescue and response due to high winds generated from the impending hurricane, which included high angle rescues at both facilities. The Putnam County Medical Center also participated and receiving the injured victims from both sites.

Overall, the exercise was very successful, with over 60 participants. The Putnam County GeoSem 2012 Exercise was designed to establish a learning environment for players to exercise their plans and procedures and for an evacuation as well as supporting field operations and rescues. For more information, contact Beth Payne at bpayne@nefrc.org.

Putnam County
GeoSem 2012
Exercise