

NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

September 2012

International Dialogue

The Open World Leadership Center and Global Jax sponsored a delegation of professionals from Serbia. Like their American counterparts, the visitors showed a tremendous interest in Economic Development and how we make it happen in this Region. NEFRC hosted the delegation on September 13, 2012 and convened a roundtable discussion with the visitors, Margo Moehring and Ed Lehman from NEFRC staff, Darryl Register, NEFRC Board Member and Baker County Chamber of Commerce President, and C.J. Thompson, former NEFRC Board Member and County Manager for Baker County. There was a lively dialogue across the regions and nations. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at: mmoehring@nefrc.org.



Northeast Florida Regional Council Elects New Board Officials

The NEFRC serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties is pleased to announce the new officers for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Officers will be installed at the October 4, 2012 meeting of the Board of Directors. They are from left to right:



President, Mr. Larry Williams, Gubernatorial Appointee, representing Nassau County; **First Vice Chair, Mr. Wendell Davis**, Clay County Commissioner, Clay County; **Second Vice Chair, Mr. Vernon Myers**, Mayor, City of Palatka, Putnam County; **Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Hugh Fish, Jr.**, Municipal Representative, City of Macclenny, Baker County. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at: bteeple@nefrc.org.

First Coast Consortium and North Florida Land Trust Stakeholder Meeting

The First Coast Consortium was invited by the North Florida Land Trust to provide input into the conservation priorities of the Trust. This was a new use of the Consortium to provide input to organizations and individuals that care about Northeast Florida and may be potential partners in the future. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at: bteeple@nefrc.org.



The Northeast Florida Regional Council is on Facebook



Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

Regional Community Institute Receives Grassroots Award for First Coast Vision

The Regional Community Institute (RCI) is a non-profit entity created to do policy work for the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC). RCI created First Coast Vision, a vision for growth and development in the seven county Northeast Florida Region for the next 50 years to engage communities about the future. Most visioning efforts require significant funding. Northeast Florida began its efforts with the visioning exercise Reality Check First Coast in 2009, but was unable to do significant fundraising after that time because of the recession. Rather than lose momentum, RCI members and other Northeast Floridians volunteered their efforts. After hundreds of hours of volunteer time and with the input of thousands of residents, First Coast Vision was presented to the NEFRC Board in October 2011. The award recognizes these grassroots efforts by RCI and Northeast Florida. The Award of Merit for First Coast Vision was given by the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association and was accepted by Ms. Teresa Bishop, Long Range Planning Director for St. Johns County and member of the Regional Community Institute. First Coast Vision is available at www.firstcoastvision.com. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.



Seven of twelve graduating members from left to right: John Irvin, David Richardson, Beth Payne, Robert Bennett, Linda Levin, Lara Diettrich, and Ed Preston

Regional Leadership Academy Class of 2012

The Regional Leadership Academy (RLA), under the direction of the Northeast Florida Regional Council, has graduated six classes of regional leaders since its inception in 2005, and graduated its seventh class at the September 27th meeting of the Northeast Florida Regional Community Institute, Inc. (RCI). The Academy's mission is to build a strong, diverse regional network of leaders with a shared commitment to collaboration and connecting communities to make Northeast Florida a better place to live and work. The program covers regional history, demographics, growth management, equity, environment, resources

and the full range of issues affecting the Region. Twelve regional leaders graduated on September 27th 2012. For more information, contact: Ed Lehman at elehman@nefrc.org.

Regional Community Institute, Inc. Annual Meeting

Following the RLA Graduation, the Regional Community Institute, Inc. (RCI) convened for its annual board meeting on September 27, 2012. RCI studies and recommends policy direction on regional issues. The Northeast Florida Regional Council has asked the RCI to consider Sea Level Rise and its potential to impact Northeast Florida. If they determine the Region is vulnerable, they are asked to create working assumptions for level of rise and planning timeframe to assist local government assessments of resiliency and to recommend regional strategies where appropriate. For more information, contact: Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.

Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association

The Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association announced new officers at its annual conference in Naples, Florida. Named as President for the term ending September, 2014, was Northeast Florida Regional Council Chief Executive Officer Brian Teeple, AICP. The American Planning Association - Florida Chapter, provides statewide leadership in the development of sustainable communities by advocating excellence in planning, providing professional development for its members, and working to protect and enhance the natural and built environments. The Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association represents over 2,600 planning professionals throughout Florida. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at: bteeple@nefrc.org.

Presentation to Florida Transportation Commission

In response to the Florida Transportation Commission's (FTC) project to examine regional governance and boundaries, NEFRC CEO Brian Teeple, along with two other Regional Planning Council Executive Directors, made a presentation at the FTC Workshop on September 19, 2012. Presentations were also made by members of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Advisory Council and several Florida Department of Transportation District Secretaries. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at: bteeple@nefrc.org.

Did you know?

Through regional planning councils, from January 2003 to August 2010 the U.S. Economic Development Administration invested \$66 million in 60 projects in Florida to create/retain 13,700 jobs and leverage \$1 billion in private capital investment.

(Source: Florida Regional Councils Assoc., 2011-2012 Annual Report & Directory)