

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

October 2012

Legislators Visit Northeast Florida Regional Council



(L to R) Senator John Thrasher & Representative Lake Ray

Two members of the Northeast Florida Legislative Delegation addressed the NEFRC Board of Directors at the October meeting. District 8 Senator John Thrasher, Chair of the Senate Rules Committee thanked the Council for their good work. The Senator noted that he and Representative Lake Ray support the idea of a Regional Delegation meeting to bring all of the Legislators from this Region together. District 17 Representative Lake Ray, Vice-Chair of the Finance and Tax Committee concurred with Senator Thrasher's comments. Representative Ray addressed issues of economic development, logistics, trade, and transportation. He noted that he was working closely with the Florida Department of Transportation as they develop Florida's Freight Mobility and Trade Plan. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at: bteeple@nefrc.org.

SRPP Completes Public Input Meetings

The Northeast Florida Regional Council concluded the initial public input phase for the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). The closing activity was a series of seven public meetings (one in each county). As always, these meetings would not be a success without our volunteers. Pictured are the volunteers Tony Robbins, Doug McDowell, and Peter King from the Nassau County Meeting on October 13, 2012. There's still time to get your comments in by going to the NEFRC website and following the links. The public comment period for this phase of the draft plan ends October 31, 2012. For more information contact Margo Moehring at: mmoehring@nefrc.org



(L to R) Volunteers Tony Robbins, Doug McDowell, and Peter King from the Nassau County Meeting

Regional Community Institute Kicks off Policy Work on Sea Level Rise

On November 8, 2012 at 3:30 p.m., the Regional Community Institute (RCI) will hold a kickoff meeting to inform the Region about plans to review the vulnerability of Northeast Florida to sea level rise. RCI will form a committee to review vulnerability and if appropriate, determine assumptions to use to evaluate the resiliency of local communities. They will approach local governments to assist them with assessing their resiliency using best practices. The lessons learned from that experience will drive policy recommendations to the Northeast Florida Regional Council by September, 2013. Interested in attending the November 8th kickoff meeting? Call the NEFRC receptionist, Angie Carnley at (904) 279.0880 and let her know you are coming. We hope to see you there! For more information contact Margo Moehring at: mmoehring@nefrc.org.



The Northeast Florida Regional Council is on Facebook



Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

Rhodes Delivers Ernest R. Bartley Memorial Lecture

Bob Rhodes, immediate past chair of the Regional Community Institute, recently delivered the 5th Annual Ernest R. Bartley Memorial Lecture on the Campus of the University of Florida. The lecture entitled, Growth Management: Certain Change, Uncertain Reform, dealt with Florida's Growth Management System in light of the creation of the Community Planning Act. Mr. Rhodes suggested that regionalism is key to the planning arena for the future. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at: bteeple@nefrc.org.

RDSTF 2012 Interoperable Communication Exercise - C.A.R.S.

On October 17, 2012, more than seventy-five people representing federal agencies: the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, state agencies: Florida Highway Patrol, Department of Health, Forest Service, Department of Law Enforcement, and representatives from various county and municipal agencies participated in the exercise for Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) – Communicating Across Regions and States (C.A.R.S.). This critical communication exercise was fully designed, orchestrated, and facilitated by Northeast Florida Regional Council staff. The exercise involved participants stationed at Lake City Gateway Airport, which served as the Central Command; at Ichetucknee Springs in Fort White; at a site at the Baker County Fairgrounds and based at numerous dispatch centers. The exercise focused on communications to ensure that the agencies were able to communicate with each other using several radio systems, antennae, and other communication tools guaranteeing compatibility through the use of interoperability technology. The exercise scenario also included a slow-speed car chase through numerous counties to test communication between dispatch centers and their vehicular counterparts as the fleeing car was "handed off" to deputies of each county.



The catalyst for the exercise was a 2011 investigation in which three Lake City Police officers were shot and seriously wounded while approaching a home during a criminal investigation. As law enforcement personnel from other county, state, and federal agencies responded to the scene, communications were severely limited due to incompatible communication efforts. For more information contact Jeff Alexander at: jalexander@nefrc.org.

Hazardous Waste Workshops

The Northeast Florida Regional Council partnered with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Small Quantity Generator (SQG) programs from Baker, Duval, and Nassau Counties to offer three (3) Hazardous Waste Workshops. A day and evening class was offered at the Regional Council and a day class was offered at the Nassau County Emergency Operations Center in Yulee. In total, the three workshops had over one hundred attendees. Workshop topics covered subjects that apply to most types of businesses that generate potentially hazardous waste. Attendees learned useful information on how to manage their hazardous waste in a cost-effective and legal manner. Common regulated wastes include: used oil and filters, anti-freeze, solvents, rags, paint wastes, lead-acid batteries, dentist amalgams, fluorescent tubes, and light bulbs containing mercury. The Regional Council will continue to partner with FDEP and SQG partners to offer more Hazardous Waste workshops in the future. For more information, contact Eric Anderson at: eanderson@nefrc.org.

Did you know?

Through a revolving loan fund portfolio composed of state and federal funds, **regional planning councils have loaned \$38.6 million over the past ten years, resulting in the creation of over 1,800 jobs** by growing small businesses.

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