

NEFLRIC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

November 2012

Welcome New Board Members!



Frank Meeker
Flagler County
Commissioner



Rachael L. Bennett
St. Johns County
Commissioner



Cyndi Stevenson
St. Johns County
Commissioner

The Northeast Florida Regional Council is happy to welcome three new Board members to its ranks!

Regional Community Institute (RCI) Kicks Off Work on Sea Level Rise

On November 8, 2012, RCI Chair Bob Page of Green Cove Springs welcomed many interested RCI members and guests to a meeting to discuss the 2013 RCI work program to review the vulnerability of Northeast Florida's coastal and riverfront communities to sea level rise. RCI will be convening a committee, chaired by RCI Board Member David Reed of Jacksonville, to determine the initial assumptions to use in considering vulnerability. Next, RCI will offer to assist local governments with vulnerability assessments, and will make recommendations on regional policies and initiatives based on lessons learned from the assessments. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at: mmoehring@nefrc.org

Regional Transportation Study Commission Completes Work

The Regional Transportation Study Commission (RTSC) has completed its work on examining the potential for creating an entity to implement a regional approach to transportation. The RTSC voted to forward to the Florida Legislature their report recommending the creation of a Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), pending receiving support from a critical minimum number of Northeast Florida counties. In addition, the RTSC agreed upon the wording of proposed legislation to establish the RTC. County participation in the RTC will be voluntary and the RTC will sunset in five years, unless it develops new sources of funding to accomplish its mission. The Northeast Florida Regional Council was represented on the RTSC by Ms. Elaine Brown. For additional details on the RTSC and its recommendations please go to www.northfloridartsc.com. 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

Update to the Florida Field Operations Guide (FOG) Completed

NEFRC worked with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) to update the Field Operations Guide for the State. The first edition of Florida's FOG (an all-risk emergency response field operations guide) was published in 2003 and updated in 2006 and 2012. With today's rapidly evolving world of emergency response, such a document must be maintained with the most current information. The FOG was the first in the nation to incorporate all facets of Florida's emergency response program. Florida remains the national leader in developing an Operations Guide used for all hazards encountered by any jurisdiction in the State.

The FOG provides guidance and serves coordination and command personnel assigned to a response. The document guides the user to the appropriate Incident Command Systems (ICS) and helps them to understand their role and their primary responsibilities in a response and designates who to report to. In October 2012, the FOG was reviewed and approved by the Domestic Security Oversight Council (DSOC). Print and digital versions of the FOG were provided to FDEM in November. For more information, contact Beth Payne at: epayne@nefrc.org.

Raising the Bar on Economic Development

In November 2012, anticipating next year's update to the Northeast Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, NEFRC staffers Ameera Sayeed and Margo Moehring successfully completed the Basic Economic Development Course given by the University of South Florida. In addition to learning about the tools and methods of economic development, contacts were made with economic developers from around the country and throughout Florida. A highlight of the course was a tour of the Port of Tampa. For information on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update, contact Margo Moehring at: mmoehring@nefrc.org



NEFRC Presents

NEFRC CEO Brian Teeple made a presentation about "Regional Leadership" at Leadership St. John's Business and Government Day on November 19, 2012 in the St. Johns County Commission Chambers. Also, the Comcast public access program, "First Coast Forum" featured a segment focused on the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy which aired the week of November 11, 2012. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at: bteeple@nefrc.org.

Florida Planning & Zoning Association (FPZA) Awards

The annual FPZA awards reception was held at Epping Forest on November 15, 2012. The annual event recognizes projects and planning and zoning professionals for exemplary work for the year. NEFRC staffer, Ed Lehman served as the master of ceremonies for this year's event. The award winners included:

- City of Jacksonville for the Betz Tiger Point Preserve
- Jacksonville Economic Development Commission for the Friendship Park and Fountain Restoration
- City of Palatka for the Downtown Riverfront Revitalization Project
- City of Green Cove Springs for the Tomorrow Vision Plan Implementation Measures
- City of Jacksonville for Commemorate 450.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Focus Award to Thad Crowe, Planning Director for the City of Palatka. The Focus Award recognizes the individual who best exemplifies and espouses the purposes of FPZA. For more information, contact: Ed Lehman at elehman@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)