

NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

December 2012

Elected Officials and Regional Leaders Recognized at Annual Awards Reception

On December 13th, 2012, over 125 elected officials, Regional leaders, and award winners gathered at the University of North Florida for the 12th Annual Northeast Florida Elected Officials Reception and 2012 Regional Leadership Awards. The Host of the evening and master of ceremonies was the newly elected NEFRC President of the Board, Mr. Larry Williams, who enthusiastically recognized each of the evening's award winners. This year's honorees and photos are listed below.



NEFRC Regional Leadership Award
Mr. Bob Rhodes



2012 Regional Award of Special Achievement
Congressman Cliff Stearns,
6th Congressional District



Regional Award for Excellence in Economic Development and Tourism
Steve Rieck, Executive Director,
Nassau County Economic Development Board



Regional Quality of Life Award
Laura Lasko, Executive Director
Girls On the Run



Regional Award for Excellence in Education
Dr. Joseph Joyner,
Superintendent,
St. Johns County School District



Regional Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing
Debra Poczatek, Coordinator,
Helping Hands Neighborhood Network Center, Inc.



Regional Award for Excellence in Public Safety
Chief Quin Romay, Putnam County
Emergency Management Director



Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship Accepted by Ms. Denise Bevens on behalf of the City of Palm Coast, Solid Waste & Recycling Program



Regional Award for Excellence in Transportation
Michael, Blaylock, Jacksonville Transportation Authority,
Regional Mobility Coalition



Regional Award for Excellence in Transportation
Commissioner Doug Conkey,
Clay County



Regional Award for Excellence in Planning & Growth Management
2012 Comprehensive Plan Amendments, Town of Callahan, accepted on behalf of the Town, Mr. Larry Williams



Regional Award for Excellence in Planning & Growth Management
2012 Comprehensive Plan Amendments, Town of Interlachen, accepted by Mayor Ken Larsen



Regional Award for Excellence in Planning & Growth Management
2012 Comprehensive Plan Amendments, City of Keystone Heights, accepted by Mayor Mary Lou Hildreth

The Regional Awards recognition program is anchored by the Regional Leadership Award.

This year's recipient of the NEFRC Regional Leadership Award – Mr. Bob Rhodes is the epitome of a person with a commitment to regionalism. As a visionary, he fosters regional cooperation and coordination. An icon in Florida's planning, growth, and development scene, Mr. Rhodes was key to initiating Regional Council involvement in visioning by fostering a partnership with the Urban Land Institute undertaking Reality Check First Coast. The results of the Reality Check regional visioning process were used to inform the update to the NEFRC Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

This evening would not have been possible without the generous support of these great sponsors:

Gold Level:
NOCATEE Community

Silver Level:
Gunster Law, Intervest Construction, Reynolds,
Smith & Hills, Inc.

Bronze Level:
Clay County Emergency Management, Diettrich
Planning, Florida Power & Light,
Ghyabi & Associates, Inc., & the Greyfield Inn

Council Sets Legislative Priorities

The Northeast Florida Regional Council has released the 2013 Legislative Priorities. Taken from input by the local governments of Northeast Florida, this year's top three priorities are:

1. Protection of Local Revenue
2. Transportation Funding
3. State Aid to Public Libraries and Cooperatives

The priority document also includes the individual legislative priorities for each of the seven counties in Northeast Florida. To see the complete document, go to www.nefrc.org and click on the 2013 Legislative Priorities icon. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org or Mario Taylor at mtaylor@nefrc.org.

Did you know?

Over the past ten years, **regional planning councils have conducted 420 regional economic impact analyses and studies**, often in support of local economic development organizations, helping them compete nationally and globally for investment and skilled jobs.

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