

NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

January 2013

Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors

In order to provide continued geographic representation among its leadership, the Northeast Florida Regional Council held a special election at its January Board of Directors meeting and announces the election of the following officers:



President, Mr. Larry Williams, Nassau County; First Vice Chair, Commissioner Wendell Davis, Clay County; Second Vice Chair, Mr. Kenny Eubanks, Putnam County; Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Hugh Fish, Jr., Baker County. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at: bteeple@nefrc.org.

Coastal Communities Meet

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) invited planning representatives from coastal communities in Northeast Florida to meet to discuss coastal issues. The meeting was graciously hosted by the City of Atlantic Beach in the Adele Grage Cultural Center on January 17, 2013. Topics ranged from the naming of the barrier island that extends from Vilano Beach north to Mayport, to Scenic Highway designations, and resiliency. For the island, there are competing proposals to name it, so it is unlikely that the US Board on Geographic Names will approve a name at this time. The efforts to extend the designation of AIA Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway in Flagler and St. Johns Counties north to include Duval and Nassau Counties are ongoing. NEFRC Board Member Elaine Brown attended in support of the scenic highway proposal. In addition, the group also discussed the Regional Community Institute's upcoming proposal to assist local governments with community resiliency assessments. For more information, contact: Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.

RCI Kick-off Sea Level Rise Studies – “Dipping Our Toes in Rising Water”

On January 16, 2013, the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida (RCI) held its initial Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting on Sea Level Rise and Community Resiliency at the NEFRC. This meeting kicks off Phase II in this project as the committee seeks out the reasonable assumptions for undertaking assessment of how vulnerable is a coastal community to sea level rise and in what time frame? How may the community mitigate the vulnerability and enhance resiliency? The RCI has an open invitation to coastal and waterfront local governments to participate in sea level rise resiliency assessments during the months of March, April, and May following up with a final phase of developing and presenting policy recommendations in the June to September 2013 time frame. 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



Regional Leadership Academy – 2013 Class Is Off to a Great Start!

Sixteen of the Region's finest attended their first session of this year's Regional Leadership (RLA) Program on January 9, 2013. The first class gives the class an orientation to the Region, "Region 101" so to speak and this year included a panel that discussed Healthy Democracy with the group. Panelists were invited to answer questions around the subject "Why did you run for office?" to give the class unique insights on the process of joining local governance. The panel was also asked to discuss their impressions of the big issues this Region is facing. As you can imagine, it was a lively discussion! This class will have the advantage of traveling around the entire Region as each of the next sessions will be convened in a different county, for a first-hand experience of the Region. If you would like to learn more about the RLA, please contact: Margo Moehring at: mmoehring@nefrc.org or Ed Lehman at lehman@nefrc.org.

Town of Pomona Park Prepares New Leaders

On January 8, 2013, NEFRC Staff made a brief presentation to the Town of Pomona Park on two topics related to government and planning. Ed Lehman provided information on the Florida Sunshine Law and Ameera Sayeed presented an overview of Planning 101. The Town wanted to provide the best possible start for its recently elected Town Council members. Mr. John Bergquist, (a former Council member) was sworn in as the new Mayor of Pomona Park by Mr. Tim Smith who is with the Putnam County Clerk of Courts and is the former Mayor of Palatka. The NEFRC staff had the auspicious opportunity to witness the swearing in of the new Mayor and the newly minted Council members. For more information, contact: Ameera Sayeed at asayeed@nefrc.org.



Did you know?

Over the past ten years, regional planning councils have trained more than 50,000 first responders and other emergency management personnel.

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