

# NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

April 2013

## Regional Leadership Academy Visits NAS Jax, Clay County Emergency Operations Center

The Regional Leadership Academy's (RLA) Class of 2013 held their fourth program day on April 10th at Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) in the morning and the Clay County Emergency Operations Center in the afternoon. The morning tour of NAS Jax provided the class with an overview of the sustainable efforts by the Navy in reducing the environmental impacts of the navy base. After being welcomed aboard by NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders at Heritage Park, the group viewed the static displays at the park. After a tour of the NAS Jax Flightline, the group visited HSM-72 where AM1 Cheryl Brockhouse, hazardous waste coordinator, discussed the squadron's Hazardous Waste Program. The group also stopped at the Blackpoint Interpretive Center for a brief about natural resources aboard the station by Student Conservation Association volunteer Tina Jackson. As always, the class evaluations included many positive comments on the Navy's sustainability efforts and how those efforts help solidify the importance of the Base as a regional partner in Northeast Florida.

The afternoon session focused on emergency preparedness in Clay County. The class reconvened after lunch at the Emergency Operations Center at the County's Fairgrounds. After a welcome and overview by Fire Chief Lorin Mock, NEFRC staff members Elizabeth Payne and Eric Anderson explained the roles and responsibilities of the NEFRC in emergency preparedness programs. Those presentations were followed by a discussion with County's Division of Emergency Management Deputy Director John Ward, who provided additional insight on Clay County's efforts to be prepared for an emergency event. The program concluded with a tour of the Operations Center. For more information, contact Ed Lehman at [elehman@nefrc.org](mailto:elehman@nefrc.org).



## SRPP Resolutions of Support

As far as we know, NEFRC is the first Regional Council to ask its local governments for resolutions of support of an updated Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). Resolutions are coming in steadily, and it is hoped that sending them to the State with the updated plan will ensure that the State knows how convinced Northeast Florida is of the value of working together as the Region. The current draft of the updated SRPP, Strategic Directions, can be found at our website, [www.nefrc.org](http://www.nefrc.org). For more information, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).

## Work on Sea Level Rise Continues

The Regional Community Institute's Emergency Preparedness Committee continues its work on the public policy issues surrounding sea level rise in Northeast Florida. The Committee has formed subcommittees that are drafting policy recommendations, and is conducting Community Resiliency Assessments with coastal and waterfront communities throughout the Region. To date assessments have been completed for the Cities of Green Cove Springs and Palatka. The Institute's recommendations are likely to be completed in September. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).



**The Northeast Florida Regional Council is on Facebook**



*Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda*

## Public Engagement on a Shoestring

NEFRC Managing Director of Policy and Planning, Margo Moehring, gave a presentation at the American Planning Association's National Planning Conference in Chicago earlier this month. NEFRC staff are becoming experts on "Public Engagement on a Shoestring", given the planning initiatives they have undertaken during the recession. Margo was joined by a planner from Los Angeles and one from New York City, so a broad perspective on frugal but effective strategies was given. The session was well-attended and well-received. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).

## Clay County POD Tabletop Exercise

On Tuesday, April 2, 2013, staff from NEFRC conducted a tabletop exercise at the Clay County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This was a Clay County Emergency Management exercise that was developed around the Florida Health Department in Clay County and their Point of Dispensing Plan (POD). In addition to emergency management and health department staff, 25 representatives from various support agencies including the Red Cross, the Sheriff's Office, and Orange Park Medical Center participated.

The basic scenario that was presented was an unknown virus outbreak surrounding the Easter holiday. Due to the viruses ability to infect quickly, the CDC required the Health Department to inoculate everyone in the County within a 72 hour period. The Emergency Operations Center, Health Department, and support agencies worked through the scenarios at three different levels: after initial symptoms were identified, one week into the outbreak, and after inoculation of the population. All three scenario levels presented agencies personnel with tasks that challenged their current frame of thinking and plans for a mass prophylaxis event. This tabletop exercise was a precursor to a Point of Dispensing (POD) drill that will take place at the Clay County Fairgrounds in early May. For more information, contact Eric Anderson at [eanderson@nefrc.org](mailto:eanderson@nefrc.org).

## Putnam County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan

The NEFRC has assisted Putnam County in identifying operational strategies, and roles & responsibilities for implementation for redevelopment of the community after a disaster. The Putnam Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP) emphasizes opportunities for hazard mitigation and recovery including:

- Business resumption and economic redevelopment
- Housing repair and reconstruction
- Infrastructure restoration and mitigation
- Environmental restoration
- Financial considerations

As disasters often cross geographical boundaries; the County has involved all local municipalities in the development of the PDRP and as a part of the PDRP Executive Committee. The Executive Committee was the key to a successful planning process and ultimate implementation of the Plan.

The PDRP process has created a unique opportunity for Growth Management and Emergency Management leaders. Together the two disciplines started the process to develop a Plan that is clear, organized and with an approach to focus on long-term recovery before a disaster strikes, allowing the County to not just reconstruct what was there, but to redevelop a more sustainable, disaster-resilient community.

All documents relating to the planning process and Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan can be found on the Putnam County website at [http://www.putnam-fl.com/bocc/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=section&id=46&Itemid=173](http://www.putnam-fl.com/bocc/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&id=46&Itemid=173). For more information, contact Ameera Sayeed at [asayeed@nefrc.org](mailto:asayeed@nefrc.org).

## Public Input into the Nassau Recreation Plan

NEFRC staff is assisting Nassau County in the creation of a recreation plan. The NEFRC is responsible for public input survey development and deployment as well as conducting public input workshops. At the workshops maps are available and citizens are provided an opportunity to identify where parks might be located and what they might contain. A separate survey is being used to gather input from citizens, organizations and staff who program activities at parks for organized sports or group activities. For more information, contact Ameera Sayeed at [asayeed@nefrc.org](mailto:asayeed@nefrc.org).

## Did you know?

This past year marked the 50th anniversary of two Regional Planning Councils – the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. These Councils were recognized for providing a forum where leaders can discuss complex regional issues, develop strategic responses, and build consensus for setting and accomplishing regional goals among their local jurisdictions for over half a century.

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