

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

June 2013

Northeast Florida Named Six Pillars™ Community

The NEFRC, along with Florida's ten other Regional Councils, was honored by the Florida Chamber Foundation at the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) annual conference on June 28, 2013. All eleven Regional Council regions were named Six Pillar™ Communities for updating their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies to be consistent with and further the goals of the Foundation's organizing framework.

The leadership of the Florida Chamber and Foundation recognized the accomplishments of the Regional Councils in a press release that preceded the FAC conference. "The RPCs partnership with the business community is fundamental for Florida's economic success," said Bentina Terry, Vice President at Gulf Power and Chair of the Florida Chamber Foundation. "The Foundation looks forward to working with the RPCs," said Tony Carvajal, Executive Vice President of the Florida Chamber Foundation. "Every community and corner of the state now has a strong partner and friend working to ensure they grow and prosper." "I congratulate the RPCs on the completion of their CEDS plans focused on the Six Pillars of Florida's future," said Mark Wilson, President & CEO of the Florida Chamber. "Not only does this show the power of the Six Pillars at the state level, but the federal level will be able to see the good work taking place in Florida through the RPCs." For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org.



(Back Row L to R) – Hugh Harling, ECFRPC, Michael Busha, TCRPC, Manny Pumariega, TBRPC, Jim Murley, SFRPC, Charles Blume, ARPC, Brian Teeple, NEFRC

(Front Row L to R) – Terry Joseph, WFRPC, Scott Koons, NCFRPC, Tony Carvajal, Florida Chamber Foundation, Margaret Wuerstle, SWFRPC, Pat Steed, CFRPC

NEFRC Helps State set Training and Exercise Priorities

Each year the State of Florida develops Training and Exercise Plan (TEP) based on the needs and requirements of local responders across the State. For the past 6 years NEFRC staff has provided facilitation in the data collection and development of the final plan. One of the key steps in developing the statewide plan is to conduct local, regional, and then the statewide data collection and prioritization workshops. This year the Regional Councils across the State helped facilitate these workshops.

Workshops facilitated by NEFRC staff included 2 counties, 2 Regional, and the statewide workshop. The Statewide Workshop was held in Safety Harbor, Florida June 5, 2013. Over 100 representatives from across the State met to create the statewide plan and establish statewide priorities for the coming year. The TEP is a multi-year plan that not only sets the priorities for next year but also incorporates long term training needs for the next two years. This allows for long term planning of major exercises and improved coordination in offering training classes to ensure the maximum number of students can be served in each course. The final TEP is expected to be released in July. For more information, contact Jeff Alexander at jalexander@nefrc.org.

Regional Leadership Academy Class Program 6 Held in St. Augustine

The Regional Leadership Academy's (RLA) Class of 2013 held their sixth program day on June 12th in St. Augustine at the St. Johns County School District offices. The two topics addressed in Program 6 were education and housing. The morning session consisted of a panel discussion that addresses a number of regional education issues facing Northeast Florida. The panel consisted of Ms. Paula Chaon with the St. Johns County School District, Dr. Jason Rose, Director of Data and Policy for the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, and Deborah Gianoulis, President and CEO of the Schultz Center.

(Continue on back page)



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Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

(Continued from front page)

The afternoon session also consisted of a panel discussion addressing affordable housing issues in Northeast Florida. The panel featured a variety of speakers with different backgrounds who offered their own unique perspective on the housing issues facing Northeast Florida and why there continues to be an affordable housing issue even though housing costs have gone down since the housing bubble burst. The panel consisted of Ed Preston (RLA Class of 2012), the Planning Director for Baker County, Nancy Stanton (current RLA Class member), AARP Florida, Thomas Stauffacher, St. Johns County Partnership, Anne Ray, the Data Clearinghouse Manager for the UF Shimberg Center, and Paul Ausley, with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. For more information, contact Ed Lehman at elehman@nefrc.org.

Area Planner Receives Top Planning Award

Thad Crowe, AICP, City of Palatka Planning Director, received the George W. Simmons, Jr Award from the Florida Planning and Zoning Association at their annual conference in Daytona Beach on June 7, 2013. In making the nomination and presenting Mr. Crowe with the award, NEFRC CEO, Brian Teeple, noted that Thad's "... long professional career is not only rock solid but has produced numerous contributions that have had a significant, lasting and measurable impact on the communities he has touched." Thad's work has been recognized by numerous National, State, Regional and Local Awards. The announcement of the Simon's Award was attended by NEFRC Member and Palatka Mayor Vernon Myers and other City officials. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org.



(Left to Right) Michael Czymbor, FPZA President Paula McMichael, Jonathan Griffith, Mayor Vernon Myers, Thad Crowe, Anita Hoppenstand

Clay LMS Highlights

On June 11, 2013 a quarterly meeting of the Clay County Local Mitigation Strategy Task Force took place at the Clay County Emergency Operations Center. The task force is made up of a cross-section of public and private sector employees, such as civil engineers, public works staff, emergency management staff and others. At the meeting on the 11th, the project list, which the task force is charged with keeping up to date, was revised because the South Lake Dam project was completed. A presentation was given on the completion of the South Dam project. This project was completely funded by the Lake Asbury Municipal Services Benefit District. This project increased the dam breach failure limit to a 500 year storm, reduced seepage through the earthen core, and improved the slope stability and the safety factor. In addition, updates were provided on projects which are using Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds. The next scheduled Clay LMS meeting will be on September 10,, 2013. The NEFRC staffs the Task Force. For more information, contact Michael Epstein at mepstein@nefrc.org.

JEA "Back to Basics" Exercise

NEFRC was contracted to design and facilitate an exercise for employees of JEA tailored toward better equipping them in a disaster situation. Classes were structured to provide information on preparation of Situation Reports; obtaining FEMA reimbursement; Requesting resources from the City of Jacksonville; How JEA fits into the overall National and Local Response during a disaster; and also touched on public relations for JEA employees, as well as how they should personally prepare themselves and their families for a disaster. Guest speakers included retired Meteorologist in Charge of the Jacksonville National Weather Service office, Steve Letro, and Action News Meteorologist, Mike Buresch. The City of Jacksonville was well represented by speakers Marty Senterfitt, William Estep, and Bruce Scott. Over 125 JEA employees attended the one-day session and their response to the workshop was extremely positive. Due to the ongoing and successful relationship between JEA and the Council, other exercises are scheduled for later this year. For more information, contact Jeff Alexander at jalexander@nefrc.org.



Steve Letro, Retired Meteorologist in Charge, Jacksonville National Weather Service.

MAPPS Workshop

On June 23, 2013 an active assailant workshop, titled Multi-Agency Partnership to Protect our Society (MAPPS), designed and implemented by the NEFRC, was held in St. Augustine. Over 130 participants gathered to create a strategic approach to active assailants. Workshop attendees from multiple Regional disciplines: educators, firefighters, law enforcement, and health departments assembled to address various planning approaches and develop a Regional strategy for planning in the areas of preparedness, response and recovery from an active assailant whether from a shooter, an explosion or biological attack. The purpose of the workshop, which was collaboration between the NEFRC, Duval County Emergency Operations Center, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and all counties and private facility owners in Regional Domestic Security Task Force Region III, was to develop a template outline of best practices to enable Regional participants to assist and mesh with responders from outside their respective jurisdictions. Attendees viewed the workshop as a positive way to interact and glean knowledge from participants in other disciplines. For more information, contact Jeff Alexander at jalexander@nefrc.org.

Did you know

Last year the NEFRC provided Emergency Preparedness Exercises and Training to over 1300 participants