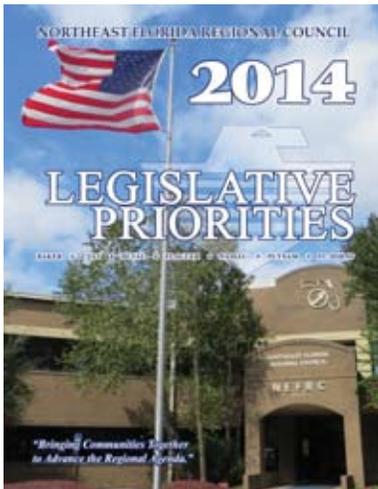


# NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

February 2014



## Council 2014 Legislative Priorities

The 2014 Legislative Priorities for each of the Region's seven counties and 27 municipalities have been assembled. The Region's top three priorities are Water, Local Revenue, and Transportation Funding. Council staff presented the Regional Priorities to the First Coast Delegation on February 18, 2014. Digital copies of the 2014 Legislative Priorities publication are available on line at [www.nefrc.org](http://www.nefrc.org). Contact Mario Taylor at [mtaylor@nefrc.org](mailto:mtaylor@nefrc.org) to receive additional copies of the publication and/or learn about the individual and Regional Priorities.

## Council Co-Sponsors Water Supply Workshop

The Council partnered with the East Central Regional Planning Council and the St. Johns River Alliance to host the St. Johns River Basin Water Supply Workshop, on February 10, 2014 at Stetson University. Panel speakers included NEFRC and Alliance Chair, Commissioner Cyndi Stevenson, St. Johns County, Dr. Abbot of Stetson University, and Mr. Tom Bartol, SJRWMD. Brian Teeple, CEO of the Council, facilitated the workshop. Attendees included elected officials, representatives, and/or utility providers from 12 of the 13 counties along the St. Johns River. The purpose of the workshop is to begin a collaborative dialogue between regions regarding water supply and withdrawals with the goal of reaching an alternative to litigation. With population projection for the St. Johns River Water Management District basin calculated to exceed 7 million in the next 20 years, and that based on current consumption, this region may reach the limit of fresh water, the water supply conversation is critical to determining how we will access fresh water. For more information contact Brian Teeple, AICP at [bteeple@nefrc.org](mailto:bteeple@nefrc.org).

## Council supports FDOT in Corridor Planning for NEFL-Tampa Future Transportation Corridor

Following a presentation to the Board on Florida Future Corridors Initiative. Council staff accompanied the FDOT in stakeholder meetings throughout the Region to present the assessment examining transportation needs to move people and freight for the next 50 years. Long range planning efforts look at 5 corridors within Florida; one of which is the Tampa-to-Jax Corridor: an alternative to the I-4 and I-75 connections in place now. The purpose of the corridor evaluation is to identify infrastructure needed to support economic development between these regions. For more information contact Edward Lehman at [elehman@nefrc.org](mailto:elehman@nefrc.org).

## Thriving Small Business

The Council staffed the Regional Community Institute's Economic Development Committee on February 20, 2014 to solicit input from economic developers of the Region. These experts are key to providing data, insights and guidance to the committee as they work through the policy topic of Thriving Small Businesses. The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee is March 20, 2014, at 2:30pm, NEFRC offices. For more information contact Margo Moehring, AICP at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).

## JAXUSA Partnership Continues

February saw activity on the Council's continued partnership with JaxUSA. The Council built upon the partnership by collaborating to identify post-secondary institutions within 200 miles of Jacksonville using geographic information systems. Within this range, institutions were found as far south as Tampa/St. Pete and as far north as Charleston, South Carolina. The 200 mile range includes 194 institutions with over 183,992 degrees earned annually by college graduates. For more information contact Lindsay Haga, AICP at [lhaga@nefrc.org](mailto:lhaga@nefrc.org).



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



*Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda*

## Hazardous Materials Compliance Workshop

Council staff hosted "Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA): How to Comply" workshops during February. The workshops provided refresher training on the EPCRA Statute requirements for hazardous materials/chemical reporting for 100 participants. The curriculum covered the federal and state guidelines for facilities to report chemicals stored and used on-site. Also covered at the workshop was the state's electronic reporting system known as E-Plan. Council staff guided the attendees through the registration and reporting modules contained within the electronic database. Online reporting of chemical information has significantly increased through the use of E-Plan. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) staffed by the Council, conducts these workshops on an annual basis, prior to the March 1st reporting deadline. For any questions or comments, regarding these workshops or anything LEPC related, please contact Eric Anderson at eanderson@nefrc.org.



*From left to right is: Bryan Koon, Director of FDEM, Eng. George Faucher, Nassau County Fire/Rescue, Eric Anderson, District 4 LEPC Staff & Chief Richard Knoff, District 4 LEPC Chairperson & Clay County Fire/Rescue.*

## Local Emergency Planning Committee Award Winner

LEPC Committee member George Faucher with Nassau County Fire/Rescue, received the Thomas Yatabe Award for outstanding achievement, accomplishment or superior participation in hazardous materials planning or response from the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). Engineer Faucher was the recipient for the District 4 LEPC, which is comprised of the Northeast Florida Region. The award was bestowed on January 22, 2014 at the meeting of the SERC in Daytona Beach. For more information contact Eric Anderson at eanderson@nefrc.org.

## Council Coaches St. Johns County EOC with Software Tutorial

Council staff facilitated a workshop at the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) – 'Using Your ESF Computer'. The workshop focused on the EOC's computer software applications that are vital during an activation. The sessions are designed to provide interactive discussions and hands on practice. Software packages include the EOC Messaging System, Web EOC disaster management system, IRIS Resource Management software and Damage Assessment software. For more information contact Beth Payne, AICP at epayne@nefrc.org.

## Council Assists in Brentwood Health Impact Assessment

Council staff supported recent efforts by the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida by creating thematic maps for the Discovering Brentwood: Health Impact Assessment- a community redevelopment (re-zoning) health impact assessment- and attending the monthly board meeting to collaborate on identifying the best way to leverage funding opportunities offered through The Health Impact Project. For more information contact Lindsay Haga, AICP at lhaga@nefrc.org.

## Council Conducts Freight Train Hazmat Exercise

On February 27th, Council staff conducted a tabletop exercise for 27 first responders, freight operators, and emergency management staff representing ten agencies in St. Augustine. The exercise simulated a train derailment at the intersection of US 1 and SR 16 – two significant regional roadways and evacuation corridors for St. Johns County, St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach. The derailment scenario released a train car full of chlorine, with a south blowing wind over the City of St. Augustine. The objective of the exercise was to test the Local Emergency Planning Committee Response Plan, with a primary focus on public information and warning, on-scene security and protection, environmental response/health, and public health and medical services. Early exercise results show the drill tested agency capabilities, forcing participants to make alternative plans and take actions to adjust to the impacted resources and services closed due to the contaminated environment. For more information contact Eric Anderson at eanderson@nefrc.org.



### Did you know

The Region is connected by 9 bridges and a ferry that cross the St. Johns River? There are roughly 1,251 bridges in the entire Region. That's 10% of all bridges in Florida. Minimum vertical clearance ranges from less than a meter (around 3 feet) to greater than 30 meters (98 feet).

*Source: National Bridge Inventory for the State of Florida, Florida Highway Administration, 2012*