

NEFRIC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

March 2014

2013 Annual Report: Key Accomplishments And Regional ROI

Northeast Florida Regional Council 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



The year culminated with the Annual Elected Officials and Regional Leadership Awards reception to recognize outstanding regional leaders. 2013 was no exception to the quality of people, programs, and communities making a difference. Key contributions to our regional community include implementation of Innovate Northeast Florida, redesign of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, education through the Regional Community Institute, protection of public safety through emergency preparedness and hazardous materials training, completion of the Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study and participation in the Florida Energy Assurance Study. View the 2013 Annual Report on our website www.nefrc.org under the Resource Library tab. Contact Brian Teeple, AICP, bteeple@nefrc.org.

Clay County Learns Of Value Of Regional Council

Highlighting the County's participation with the Regional Council, the Clay County Board of County Commissioners was presented with "Certificates of Ownership" symbolizing the County's equity interest in the Council. Commissioners also heard about the Regional Council's activities in the areas of economic development, emergency preparedness and planning and development. For more information, contact Brian Teeple, AICP, bteeple@nefrc.org.



Economic Development Planning Is A Regionally Driven Process

Dr. Perry Bechtle, Mayo Clinic and RCI member, has been named as Chair of the Council's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. The Committee is the foundation for the Council, a certified Economic Development District under the U.S. Economic Development Administration, and will analyze the economic strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats present in the Region. The result of this analysis will be a Five Year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The committee kicked off the regional process March 27th at the Mayo Clinic, with an investigation into the economic development situation as a back drop to the committee's work plan. Read more about the kickoff meeting in the Jacksonville Daily Record, www.jaxdailyrecord.com. Contact Lindsay Haga, AICP, lhaga@nefrc.org.

Councils' Coalition Membership Turns The Tide In Congress

Many of the unintended consequences of the Biggert-Waters Act, an overhaul to the National Flood Insurance Program, have been eliminated by the passage of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act ("Act"). The Act makes permanent changes to Biggert-Waters by incrementally increasing the cost of homeowners insurance to market rates, reinstating grandfathering of compliant structures, and removing the property sales trigger of market rates. The Flood Insurance Affordability Act was recently signed by the President. The Council is a member of the Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance, a nationwide group of communities and organizations. The membership supports our regional citizens by stabilizing the real estate market and easing the transition for risk premiums. For status updates regarding the Act, contact Brian Teeple, AICP, bteeple@nefrc.org.



The Northeast Florida Regional Council is on Facebook





Council Links The St. Johns River Ferry To The A1a Ocean Islands Trail

The City of Jacksonville continues to be assisted by recent Council efforts to establish the A1A Ocean Islands Trail. The continued support by the NEFRC Board, led by Elaine Brown, for the St. Johns River Ferry, with help from Council staff, has been rewarded with a NHA operational grant – a 2 year schedule that will support Ferry service and offset local funding requirements. Concurrently with this funding pursuit, Council staff charted the A1A Ocean Islands Trail Scenic Highway corridor. The A1A Ocean Islands Scenic Highway hinges on the St. Johns River Ferry as the mobile link to cross the St. Johns River. For details, please contact Margo Moehring, AICP, mmoehring@nefrc.org.

Council Aids Lower St. Johns River Technical Advisory Committee

The Lower St. Johns River Technical Advisory Committee requested NEFRC staff to speak about Regional Coordination on Sea Level Rise during their March meeting. The Committee meets quarterly to present scientific and management information about water quality and habitat in the Lower St. Johns River Watershed. The March meeting provided the forum with access to the Regional Action Plan recommended by the Regional Community Institute Emergency Preparedness Committee. The Regional Community Institute's report, *Dipping our Toes in Rising Waters*, includes actionable items including engaging the community to begin education on sea level rise. Contact Margo Moehring, AICP, about educational opportunities or collaborative initiatives, mmoehring@nefrc.org.

Maximizing Shelter Space

NEFRC staff, joined by Andrew Sussman, Hurricane Planning Manager for the Florida Division of Emergency Management, met with the International Red Cross during March to review policy decisions for shelter analysis. The International Red Cross may change their standing policies regarding shelter placement during hurricane evacuation because of the Council's scenario based decision making model. The model refines previous broad applications and shows that some shelters may be used for vulnerable populations that had previously been thought to be unavailable. The effect of this model will save lives and money; it is in use in New York State and near full implementation in Texas. For more information about the scenario based decision making, please contact Jeffrey Alexander, jalexander@nefrc.org.

Placemaking Through Local Land Development Regulations

Council staff began work for the Town of Pomona Park, facilitating public workshops with the Town Council in February and March. The workshops are one part of the first phase of revising the local land development regulations to identify critical issues for the Town and its property owners and incorporate changes from the newly adopted 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The project is expected to run through the summer with public hearings targeted for winter 2014/2015. For more information, contact Lindsay Haga, AICP at lhaga@nefrc.org for details.



Participant polling - Town Council members prioritize results of the evaluation exercise.

Council Hosts Group Of Six Statewide Partnership

In recognition of the Council's interest in the success of small and micro businesses in the Region, the "Group of Six" met at the NEFRC on March 14, 2014. The six statewide partners include the Florida Advisory Council on Small and Minority Business Development, Florida Association of Minority Business Enterprise Officials, Florida Coalition for MicroEnterprise Development, Florida Consortium of Black Business, Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida (HBIF), and the Southern Florida Minority Supplier Development Council. Several representatives of Enterprise Florida attended, as they are interested in the input of this group and its partners, which were also represented at the meeting. For more information, contact Margo Moehring, AICP, mmoehring@nefrc.org.

ULI Examines Jacksonville's North Bank

As part of the Urban Land Institute's Building Healthy Places initiative, an Expert Panel, including NEFRC CEO Brian Teeple, was created to hear presentations from property owners and developers regarding current and future plans and how they intend to incorporate healthy places principles. The panel then made specific recommendations to enhance health and the built environment. AIA Jacksonville partnered with ULI North Florida to bring this program to our community. For more information, please contact Brian Teeple, AICP, bteeple@nefrc.org.

Did you know

The Region is served by ten airports? Jacksonville International Airport (JIA) is the only international airport in the Region. The other aviation facilities in the Region are Craig Municipal Airport, Cecil Field, Fernandina Beach Municipal Airport, Flagler County Airport, Herlong Airport, Kay Larkin Airport/ Palatka Municipal Airport, Keystone Airpark (A portion is in Bradford County), Hilliard Airport and the Northeast Florida Regional Airport.

Source: Northeast Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2009-2014.