

NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

May 2014



Council Welcomes Mayor Tony Brown, Keystone Heights

Newly elected Mayor Tony Brown, Keystone Heights is welcomed as a new member of the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board. Mayor Brown took local office in April and he will serve as the Clay County representative, filling the vacancy by Mayor Steve Howard, Orange Park. Mayor Howard served his full term on the Council (2011-2014). Mayor Brown is also a member of the Planning & Growth Committee. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org.

Council Board Of Directors Advocates For The NEFRC's Legislative Priorities

The NEFRC 2014 Legislative Priorities for each of the Region's member governments were advocated for during the Legislative Session. Of the 44 total priorities, progress was achieved in the chief areas of potable water and wastewater facilities funding, State Housing Initiatives Partnership funding, and port dredging. A more detailed legislative overview will be presented at the July 10th Board meeting. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org.

Regional Community Institute Past Subcommittee Chairman Wins Green Hero Award

Allen Tilley, past Chairman of a Regional Community Institute policy subcommittee, was presented the Green Hero Award by the North Florida Chapter of the US Green Building Council. Dr. Tilley was nominated by the Council for his contributions to the regional policy work on Sea Level Rise. Dr. Tilley chaired the public outreach and education subcommittee. Dr. Tilley is a 2011 graduate of the Regional Leadership Academy and has addressed RLA class members on sea level rise during the Academy's natural resources training. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.



Council Recruitment Begins For Private/Public Partnership In Regional Resiliency (P2R2)

Building on the momentum of the Regional Action Plan gained during the One Spark initiative educating people about sea level rise and the importance of regional resiliency, the Council will now recruit private sector allies through the P2R2 campaign. The P2R2 campaign has two main goals: connect with influential private sector leaders and utilize their business acumen to develop a regional strategy that will incentivize settlement outside of vulnerable areas. Representatives from the homebuilding, finance/banking, risk management, engineering, & commerce industries are involved. For more information or to join or provide a nomination, contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.

Council CEO Moderates Panel Discussion "Not Growing-Growing: The Implications"

The Region continues its recovery from the Great Recession (2007-2009). With lingering effects remaining, communities are struggling to meet increasing demands for infrastructure and services. Coupled with emerging trends of an aging population, child & adult health issues like obesity, and infrastructure stressors on water and transportation capacity, policy dialogue is critical. Council CEO, Brian Teeple, facilitated a start-up discussion between regional leaders Dr. Dawn Emerick, Health Planning Council, Ms. Jeanne Miller-Laffy, Esq, Executive Director, Jacksonville Civic Council and Mr. Michael Saylor, Planning Consultant and Downtown Investment Authority member on May 6th. Sponsored by Commercial Real Estate Women Jacksonville, the event supports progress toward the Florida Chamber Foundation's pillar of Infrastructure & Growth Leadership. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org.



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Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

RCI Member Presents Issues Of Regional Significance At The National Planning Conference

Wiatt Bowers, AICP, Regional Leadership Academy Graduate, RCI member and planner with Atkins North America in Jacksonville presented at the National Planning Conference in Atlanta at the end of April. He and colleagues discussed "Creating Places from Platted Lands", with a focus on Lehigh Acres in Lee County. The session was well attended and has implications for platted but largely unbuilt sites through the state, including Northeast Florida. For more information, contact Margo at mmoehring@nefrc.org.

Council Strengthens Alliance With Partners In Transportation

The NEFRC, as a leader in Regional Transportation issues, strengthens connections with the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission and welcomes Joe Stephenson as the Executive Director for the Commission. Aligning transportation improvements is essential to developing a high performance economy in the Region. On average, the Florida Department of Transportation District 2, spends \$1 million dollars/day in the Region creating, maintaining and improving the transportation infrastructure to support freight and logistics. For more information, please contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org or Edward Lehman at elehman@nefrc.org.



Regional Experts Speak During Governor's Hurricane Conference

Council experts, Jeffrey Alexander, Elizabeth Payne and Calvin Williams, presented during the 28th Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference held May 11-16 in Orlando. The conference theme, #RethinkRisk, delved into the areas of complacency brought about by eight years without a land-falling hurricane impact to Florida. With challenges to the emergency management system, leaders seek to leverage opportunities to create resilient communities. Council staff spoke on the current innovations to the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program, as incorporated into the newest 2013 Northeast Florida Regional Evacuation Study. Future innovations, including directional based decision making were reviewed as well. For more information, contact Beth Payne at epayne@nefrc.org.

Council Partners With Baker County To Add Second Homeownership Program In Region

The Council is assisting Baker County to serve as their State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program administrator. With this addition, the Council will now operate two housing programs – one in Putnam County and one in Baker County– to assist very low, low and moderate income families. Baker County is projected to receive \$350,000 in funding from the State for FY2014/2015; the minimum entitlement allocation. SHIP funds, established by the passage of the 1992 William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act, are distributed on an entitlement basis to all 67 counties and 53 Community Development Block Grant entitlement cities in Florida. Funds are allocated to local governments each month on a population-based formula, derived from the collection of documentary stamp tax revenues, which are deposited into the Local Government Housing Trust Fund. For more information, contact Edward Lehman at elehman@nefrc.org.

Veteran Emergency Preparedness Director Joins St. Johns County As Deputy Director

After accumulating almost three decades of service to the Region, Mr. Jeffrey Alexander will join St. Johns County as Deputy Emergency Management Director in June. Mr. Alexander began his expertise as a regional planner with the Northeast Florida Regional Council in 1987. Completing his master's degree in public administration, Jeff built an emergency preparedness program for the Region – advancing methodologies in hurricane evacuation planning and hazardous materials analysis. The Council bids farewell to their colleague after 27 years of service and looks forward to working with him in his new role with one of the member local governments.



Did You Know

Florida is an international hub for trade? The State's strategic geographic location along the Eastern coast of the United States coupled with multiple high-tech seaports supports \$60 Billion dollars annually from Florida originated exports.

Source: Enterprise Florida.