

NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

July 2014

Governor Appoints Members to the Regional Council



Mr. Aaron Bell and Mr. Harlan Mason

The Council welcomed two new gubernatorial appointments and two reappointments during the July Board meeting. The new members include Mr. Aaron Bell, Nassau County and Mr. Harlan Mason, St. Johns County. Returning members include Ms. Elaine Brown, Jacksonville and Mr. Bob Sgroi, Flagler County. In addition to the geographic representation within the Region, the new members represent the science and health industry sectors, respectively. The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) is a dynamic network of local governance, serving seven counties – Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, Nassau, and St. Johns – and their 27 municipalities and welcomes the new and returning leaders to continue its mission of bringing communities together. For more information, contact Brian Teeple, at bteeple@nefrc.org.

Departing Board Member Resolutions

The Council Board of Directors recognized the contributions of Councilman Matt Schellenberg and Mr. Larry Williams for their service to the Council during the July board meeting. Councilman Schellenberg, Jacksonville, was appointed by the City in 2011, serving on the Planning & Growth Management Policy Committee and the Personal, Budget and Finance Committee. Mr. Larry Williams, Nassau County, was appointed in 2007 by the Governor, serving as chair of two committees and as Council President from October 2012 to September 2013. Darryl Register, Baker County will step into Mr. Williams's position as the Region's representative on the Florida Regional Council Association. For more information, contact Brian Teeple, at bteeple@nefrc.org.



Councilman Matt Schellenberg and Mr. Larry Williams

Award: NEFRC is the 2014 Planning Agency of the Year, Designated by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

The Council has been named the 2014 Designated Official Planning Agency of the Year by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged is a gubernatorial commission established to ensure the availability of efficient, cost-effective, and quality transportation services for transportation disadvantaged persons. The Council was nominated by the St. Johns County Community Transportation Coordinator for achievements in successfully staffing the local coordinating boards, constantly interfacing with local governments in the provision of services, and fostering public awareness of regional issues affecting the TD program. For more information, contact Ed Lehman, at elehman@nefrc.org.



The National Association of Development Organizations Selects NEFRC as a 2014 Innovation Award Winner

The Regional Action Plan for Sea Level Rise, created by the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, the non-profit policy arm of the Council, was selected as one out of 98 projects from 27 states as an Innovation Award Winner! The National Association of Development Organization (NADO) Annual Innovation Award program honors members who have made significant and positive impacts in their regions through innovative approaches to problem solving and program de-

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livery. The program is long standing – occurring annually for the last 28 years. To date, the Council has been recognized three times by NADO: receiving the Trailblazer and Innovation awards in 2011 for the Statewide Regional Evacuation Program and the Innovation award in 2013 for the Florida Energy Assurance Study. For more information about the Regional Action Plan, contact Margo Moehring, at mmoehring@nefrc.org.

Council Assists Local Coordinating Boards Struggling with Medicaid Managed Care



Council staff attended the Putnam County Finance Committee in July to discuss ways to help solve problems created by Medicaid Managed Care on the Transportation Disadvantaged program. These impacts include diminished coordination between riders and new providers, increased

red tape, and eroding relationships between patients and drivers. For more information, contact Ed Lehman, at elehman@nefrc.org.

The St. Johns River is a Regional Asset – Water Supply and Quality Update

The Council will implement a key strategy identified during the Water Supply Workshop held at Stetson University in February by launching the Water Academy. Brian Teeple, CEO, facilitated the workshop that included elected officials, representatives and utility providers from 12 of 13 counties along the St. Johns River. The Council with its partners the St. Johns River Alliance, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, and the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board, will hold three two-day Water Academies in 2015. The Water Academy aims to bolster leadership among elected officials to address concerns about the St. Johns River Basin, Floridan aquifer, health of springs, and water supply plans for the Central and Northeast Florida Regions. For more information, please contact Brian Teeple, at bteeple@nefrc.org.

Dave Mathews (#DMB-Jacksonville) and the R2 Challenge (#R2Challenge)

Advancing regional resiliency means connecting with urban impact entrepreneurs to solve urban problems like access to healthy food and creating sustainable communities through recent programs like Gotta Eat, Gotta Grow and Dipping our Toes in Rising Waters. Building organic relationships



is time intensive, and more than ever, attracting busy folks to standard public meetings won't get the job done. The Council linked up again with First Coast Fresh to participate in the Eco-Festival prior to the sold out Dave Mathews Band concert on July 15th, reaching out to over 15,000 folks to promote regional resiliency! For more information, contact Margo Moehring, at mmoehring@nefrc.org.

Transit Capacity & Quality of Service Manual

The Council partnered with the Jacksonville Transit Authority (JTA) by hosting a seminar designed to provide continuing education for transportation planners, managers and directors, exploring modes and levels of services for transit found in the Region including: bus, ferry, & rail. The seminar also provided info on route and station capacity. More than 25 experts attended the 4 hour workshop. For more information, contact Ed Lehman, at elehman@nefrc.org.



Regional Presence on the State Emergency Response Commission

Regional representation on Florida's State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) is provided by Council CEO Brian Teeple. The SERC is responsible for implementing federal provisions of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act in Florida and serves as a technical advisor for the series of hazardous materials programs in the state. Members are appointed by the Governor and represent a variety of interests in state and local government, emergency services, industry and the environment – four key cross sections affected by the use and regulation of hazardous materials. Application of these programs is executed through the 11 Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) which align with the boundaries of the 11 Regional Councils. The LEPCs provide training for emergency planners and first responders and conduct exercises in preparation for real incidents. In addition to preparation tools, model ordinances are available to assist local governments in minimizing the impact of disaster recovery costs. For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, at eanderson@nefrc.org.



Did you know

The Region's four coastal counties support 6% of all artificial reefs created in Florida? That's 169 individual reefs out of a total 2,700 that are located in state and federal waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico!

Source: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), www.myfwc.com