

NEFLRIC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

November 2014

Rural Summit Held in The Region at The World Golf Village

The North Florida Economic Development Partnership hosted the 2014 Rural Summit at the World Golf Village in St. Johns County. Florida Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Gray Swoope, attended to share the State Economic Development Report Card with attendees. The three day conference included other sessions by Regional Leaders such as Putnam County Economic Director, Alex McCoy and JaxUSA Partnership Director, Melanie Moore. Because Northeast Florida is recognizably both urban and rural, hosting events that address the specific elements and requirements to fostering economic development in the rural areas is key to Regional resiliency. The Northeast Florida Regional Council is a member of the Economic Development Partnership including two key member governments: Baker and Putnam Counties. For more information about the North Florida Economic Development Partnership or the 2014 Rural Summit, please contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org.



Investing in our Communities

All Regional Planning Councils in Florida were represented at a meeting held November 13th at the Innovation Hub in Gainesville (see photo of the building lobby). This was an opportunity for staff from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Atlanta Regional Office to provide an overview of their process and priorities to the 11 Economic Development Districts that RPCs represent. It was also an opportunity for RPC staff working on economic development to meet each other and exchange ideas. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.

Regional Partner Planning

The Northeast Florida Regional Council is a member of the JaxUSA Partnership. The JaxUSA Partnership aids the Council to reach economic development goals and other public policy initiatives to bring about a thriving environment for area residents and businesses. An annual regional partner retreat is held to advance the mission for the seven county region of Northeast Florida and outline the upcoming business plan for the year. To do this, each representative provides local trend data and reports on activity in each county. Council staff participated by providing the regional overview. Representatives from Florida Power and Light and the Jacksonville Electric Authority also attended to share information relating to infrastructure needs, improvements in energy efficiency and incentives for business expansions. The JaxUSA Partnership has been invited to speak to the Council Board of Directors. Look for announcements in 2015 for this presentation. For more information, contact Lindsay Haga at lhaga@nefrc.org.



Innovation Hub; Gainesville Florida

Council Hosts Small Quantity Generator Workshop November 5

The Northeast Florida Regional Council partnered with the Duval County Hazardous Waste program and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to offer two "How to Comply" classes regarding regulations associated to hazardous wastes. This is the third annual set of classes to be offered at the Regional Council as part of this partnership. A total of 80 people attended the two classes. The classes covered materials such as determining if you have a hazardous waste, proper

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Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

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waste storage, record keeping, and disposal. Attendees learned about managing hazardous wastes in a cost-effective and legal manner. Some common regulated wastes are used oil and filters, anti-freeze, solvents, rags, paint wastes, lead-acid batteries, dentist amalgam, fluorescent tubes and light bulbs containing mercury. For any questions about the SQG program, please contact Eric Anderson at eanderson@nefrc.org.

Council Partners with St Johns County and Flagler College to Train 130 Students

Council staff lent their tabletop exercise expertise to assist in a weekend event training 130 students of the Flagler College Public Administration Program. Working with Flagler College and the St. Johns County Emergency Management Department, the Council participated in an emergency preparation drill reacting to a landfall hurricane combined with the outbreak of a mysterious illness. The exercise supports a Fall 2014 semester course in Emergency Management which covers the evolution of emergency management within the United States. Partnering with the Regional education facilities not only enhances the learning environment for the talent supply, but also provides training to the local responders to maintain the quality of life for the Region. For more information about requesting an exercise or about this specific event, contact Eric Anderson at eanderson@nefrc.org.



St. Johns County E.O.C. Tabletop Exercise

Meeting the Affordable Housing Needs in Baker and Putnam Counties

Safe and affordable housing is provided in the Region through a variety of private, non-profit, and public programs. The Council participates in meeting the need for affordable housing by administering the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (S.H.I.P.) program for Baker and Putnam Counties. The SHIP program uses monies allocated from the State of Florida to address housing rehabilitation, repair or purchase for residents in the very low, low, and moderate income levels. A majority of each Fiscal Year's funding allocation goes to home repairs split between emergency and rehabilitation construction. Each local government adopts a Local Housing Assistance Plan that builds upon the State requirements; so the requirements for Baker and Putnam Counties differ slightly for each program. For example, Baker County requires contractor and owner 'walk throughs' prior to bid submission. This field trip connects the contractor to the home proposed for repair and more importantly allows the resident to meet the potential contractor that will address the safety needs in their home. For Putnam County, staff supports the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee – a committee of residents representing each County Commission district in the housing and finance sectors. The Committee evaluates policy matters but also specifically issues recommendations to the County Commission to consider allocating public dollars to eligible applicants. For more information, contact Ed Lehman at elehman@nefrc.org.

Elected Officials Luncheon and Regional Awards Ceremony

Thirty five (35) projects, people, and programs were nominated for recognition under the 2014 Regional Leadership Awards Program. Of these submittals, eleven (11) were selected; making for a diverse field of Regionalists. Join your colleagues on December 4, 2014 to learn about and celebrate these achievements in the Region. The Elected Officials luncheon will be held at 12 noon to 2:30 PM at the University of North Florida, Adam W Herbert Center, 12000 Alumni Drive, Jacksonville.

Partner Opportunity

Beyond professional services in subject areas like resiliency, emergency preparedness, transportation and housing, the Council is able to meet your graphic design needs. In house designers provide the layout and expertise to create logos, organizational documents, promotional materials like banners, signs, and pennants and marketing materials such as flyers and brochures. The service includes design, outsourced printing and sharing the digital version of the item. Contact Michael Calhoun at mcalhoun@nefrc.org to discuss this opportunity.

Did you know...

For Fiscal Year 13/14, the Northeast Florida Regional Council provided 8 emergency preparedness/hazardous materials training courses, educated 281 Regional residents, and hosted 3,680 hours of HazMat Training.

Source: NEFRC