

# NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

February 2015

## Board of Directors Welcomes New Members from Baker and St. Johns Counties

The Board of Directors welcomed three members during the February meeting: Commissioner James Bennett, Baker County; Michael Griffis, Baker County; and Commissioner Bill McClure, St. Johns County. In addition to filling geographic representation for the Region, the members represent private industry and elected officials. 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](mailto:bteeple@nefrc.org).



*Commissioner James Bennett,  
Baker County*



*Michael Griffis,  
Baker County*



*Commissioner Bill McClure,  
St. Johns County*

## CEDS Progress Update: Alternative Fuels

Identified as a Vital Project in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Alternative Fuels falls within our Innovation and Economic Development Sector of the Plan. The Council's Transportation Planner, Ed Lehman selected this vital project to implement because of connections with the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization and Regional Transportation Commission. Charged with advancing the Region's role in Alternative Fuels arena, staff promotes plans, meetings, and events dealing with Alternative Fuels. The most recent event, the First Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Public Access Station opened February 26, 2015 in Northeast Florida in Jacksonville's Southside Industrial Park. The aim is to supply CNG to existing trucking fleets as well as attract more CNG – fueled trucks to northern Florida as part of nationwide system of stations. The opening advances the use of CNG for semi-trailers as well as brands Northeast Florida as the transportation and logistics hub of America. Contact Ed Lehman at [elehman@nefrc.org](mailto:elehman@nefrc.org) for more general information.

## NEFRC Shares Insights At UF/IFAS Extension In-Service Training

NEFRC staff was invited to participate in UF/IFAS staff training in St. Petersburg on February 23rd and 24th because of the unique approach Northeast Florida has taken to its work on sea level rise. Leadership by the private sector as a first approach is not the direction taken in most regions, so there is interest in learning about the Public/Private Regional Resiliency (P2R2) committee and its progress. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).



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*Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda*

## Council Hosts National Resiliency Stakeholder Meeting

Duval County and Northeast Florida may have the opportunity for funding for resiliency projects under this national competition. The State of Florida is eligible, and projects can be located in areas that can demonstrate that they have unmet needs related to disasters over the past few years. Projects are recommended to address many goals of communities and regions. NEFRC has partnered with the City of Jacksonville as is helping to solicit project ideas from the region. The State will submit its application in late March. For more information, contact Beth Payne at [epayne@nefrc.org](mailto:epayne@nefrc.org) or Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).

## Council Facilitates District 4 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting

The Local Emergency Planning Committee met on February 11, 2015 at the offices of the Regional Council. The meeting was highlighted by three presentations.



### St. Johns County:

Brian Mitzel of the St. Johns County Fire/Rescue Department gave an overview of the Multi-Agency Hazardous Materials Response Drill conducted in St. Johns County on December 11th. The exercise scenario was based around a terrorism event involving manipulation of valves on an anhydrous ammonia railcar. Members of the St. Johns County Fire/Rescue, Clay County Fire/Rescue, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, St. Augustine Fire Department, St. Augustine Police Department, FBI, FEC Railway, and the National Guard's 44th Civil Support Team worked together for an integrated multi-agency response to the criminal and HazMat related problems initiated by the terror cell.

### City of Jacksonville:

Terry Carr from the City of Jacksonville provided an overview of a recent enforcement action at a closed plating facility. The facility had been closed for several years but all of the chemicals used in plating processes remaining on-site and stored in poor conditions. Mr. Carr discussed issues related to safety. There was a school within proximity of the plating factory that would have been within a chemical plume if anything were to happen at the plating facility. He also spoke on the regulatory processes that have since been initiated due to the poor storage conditions. An EPA enforcement action is expected from this derelict Plating facility.

### Region:

Staff of the LEPC presented a new LEPC structure and framework. Three subcommittees have been developed to better address the three core LEPC functions of Training, Hazards Analysis, and Public Outreach. These groups have been given specific goals to accomplish in 2015, and work is commencing.

Contact Eric Anderson at [eanderson@nefrc.org](mailto:eanderson@nefrc.org) for more general information.

## Regional Leadership Academy 2015 Series Picks Up Steam With Tour of @JAXPORT

Program Day 2 for the 2015 Regional Leadership Series connected the class with @JAXPORT and Jacksonville University to explore examples of Regional Advancement. The port tour, led by David Kaufman, Senior Director of Planning & Commercial Development and Nancy Rubin, Senior Director of Communications, highlighted activities underway for the 4th fastest growing containerized import port in the nation to demonstrate what is needed to "take it to the next level". Achieving regional advancement requires investment as well as public policy to respond to community needs. The class also met with Rick Mullaney, Director of the Jacksonville University Public Policy Institute, for an introduction into how to get things done. The Public Policy Institute works within academic, policy and community areas to examine the consequences of public policy and solve community problems. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).



David Kaufman Tallyrand Port Tour



Tallyrand Crane and Sanderson Steel



Tallyrand Container Crane



Blount Island Terminal Car Export

### Did you know...

In FY 2013, Florida's 15 deepwater seaports moved 105.1 million tons of cargo and handled over 3.2 million 20-foot equivalent container units. Within the Region, JAXPORT operates 30 booms per hour for the crane loading/off-loading operations, exceeding the average pace of 20 booms per hour for the California ports!

*Source: Florida Transportation Trends and Conditions, 2014, Office of Policy Planning, FDOT; and February 2015 tour presentation, Regional Leadership Academy.*