

# NEFRIC

## Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

March 2015

### Council Aids Fernandina Beach to Prioritize One, Three And Five Year Goals

The Council assisted our partner, the City of Fernandina Beach, by facilitating a day long workshop in February. During the goal setting workshop, the City Commission described a vision for Fernandina Beach that revolves around six core themes: waterfront, diversity, 8th Street entry, beaches, island-wide police/fire and 'green' sustainability. The workshop did not



end with only laudable goals; the Commission spelled out and prioritized doable goals to achieve within one, three and five year horizons. Fernandina Beach, with a population of 11,995 or 16% of the total County population, operates under a \$102 million dollar budget to meet the needs of its residents. Next steps for the City include assigning metrics and funding sources to the prioritized goals. For more information about this workshop or conducting your own strategy session, contact Brian Teeple at [bteeple@nefrc.org](mailto:bteeple@nefrc.org).

### Putnam County Solid Waste Committee Recommends: Maintain Landfill as Public Asset

The Putnam County Board of County Commissioners created the Putnam County Solid Waste Advisory Board (PCSWAB) to address the future of solid waste management in the county. Council CEO, Brian Teeple facilitated the advisory board deliberations to help the County leaders devise a plan for the public landfill. The committee was charged with examining if the County should retain public operation of the land fill or convert to an alternative method of solid waste management. After 11 meetings in six months involving extensive discussions, expert presentations, public involvement and prioritization exercises, the advisory board identified recommendations that will provide opportunities to reduce the solid waste assessment passed on to Putnam County residents. The 10 recommendations are split between short/near term and long term horizons. The next step will be to present the findings to the County Commission for action. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at [bteeple@nefrc.org](mailto:bteeple@nefrc.org).

### Putnam County Hosts Program Day 3 of the 2015 Regional Leadership Academy

The Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) is a program of the Council that nurtures and cultivates a commitment to Regionalism using 'a regional walkabout' as a mobile classroom. Hosted by member governments and private industry, participants learn through onsite seminars to gain a situational learning experience as well as apply their talents in the Region. For March, Putnam County was the backdrop destination to address 'Success for All' – the third program day curriculum topic. Participants met with Charles Rudd, Main Street Manager for the City of Palatka, joined by Mayor Hill for a guided inspection of the wa-



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terfront revitalization underway for one of the oldest riverfront towns along the St. Johns River. Participants strolled through the Ravine Gardens State Park to arrive at the Water Works Environmental Education Center – learning about the State Park history that created the park during the Great Depression, and what necessitated the construction of the water works plant facility in the late 1880s. The guided city tour and walk through the park set the stage for the afternoon scenario exercise using the United Way Report – ALICE: asset limited income constrained employed – to identify attainable strategies sufficient to mitigate the income constraints that hamper regional prosperity. Local experts Cheryl Lynch and Marge Cirrilo with Small Business Development joined the class during the exercise to provide insight into suggested strategies. For more information on the Regional Leadership Academy, including program materials and the 2015 schedule, please visit <http://www.nefrla.com/>.

### **Vital Regional Economic Development Project: Maritime Management Plan**

The Florida Inland Navigation District has provided funding to Duval County to develop a Maritime Management Plan. This will allow the county and its municipalities to promote and maximize the public benefit of waterways, while identifying and prioritizing the waterway access needs of the community. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) supports the study and recommends building upon it with other counties to achieve a regional strategy. The team of NEFRC, UNF and JU will work on the plan. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).

### **Regional Emergency Managers Evaluate Tsunami Risk along Coastal Northeast Florida**

The Tsunami Workshop was hosted at the St. Johns Emergency Operations Center by the National Weather Service, Jacksonville. It was an initial gathering of agencies to discuss the perceived vulnerability from an Atlantic Ocean tsunami (which is very different than massive tsunamis experienced in the Pacific and Indian Oceans) as well as protective actions that would be necessary in the event that Northeast Florida received a tsunami watch or warning. There were over 25 in attendance, including representatives from the Coast Guard, Fish and Wildlife, FDOT, Ocean Rescue from the coastal communities, and emergency management. Future meetings are planned as the group identifies how to plan for this type of low probability, high impact hazard. For more information, contact Beth Payne at [epayne@nefrc.org](mailto:epayne@nefrc.org).

### **Council Convenes Healthcare Leaders in Orange Park, Clay County**

The first general membership meeting was held for the NEFLHCC on March 18th, 2015 at the Thrasher Horne Conference Center in Orange Park. This meeting brought together various organizations in the healthcare field, both public and private, from around Northeast Florida. The goal was to educate the participants on the Coalition, its mission and services. There were over 40 participants from across the region that heard presentations on the federal and state initiatives of Healthcare Coalitions as well as on the 2014-15 NEFLHCC Risk and Vulnerability Assessment. Communications Training for Healthcare Agencies followed the general membership meeting. For more information, contact Beth Payne at [epayne@nefrc.org](mailto:epayne@nefrc.org).



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### **Veteran Transportation Director Joins Clay County as Planning Director**

After accumulating almost three decades of service to the Region, Mr. Edward Lehman joined Clay County as Planning Director in March. Mr. Lehman began his tenure as a regional planner with the Northeast Florida Regional Council in 1991. He built a consistent reputation for Development of Regional Impact transportation expertise for the Region in addition to advancing improvements to extend the impact of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program. The Council bids farewell to their colleague after 26 years of service and looks forward to working with him in his new role with one of the member local governments.



#### **Did you know...**

The Region includes one Florida's three certified commercial spaceports? Cecil Spaceport located on the Westside of Jacksonville is certified by the Federal Aviation Administration to operate a commercial space program using horizontal launches. This is an adaptive economic reuse of the former Navy base.

*Source: Todd Lindner, Jacksonville Aviation Authority; [www.spaceflorida.gov](http://www.spaceflorida.gov)*