

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

July 2015

Council Hosts 2014-2019 CEDS Annual Strategy Meeting At Mayo Clinic

The Northeast Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee held its annual meeting on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 at Mayo Clinic. The annual strategy meeting is an opportunity to review our progress in implementing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for our region, to think about the projects that will help us achieve success and prosperity, and to ensure that the plan continues to meet the region's needs. Strategy Committee Chair, Dr. Perry Bechtle (pictured below) presented a reminder of how the 2014-2019 CEDS was done, and presented its overall approach of "What if? Why not?"; speaking specifically about education in the region and the importance of good outcomes in K-12 to the success of the entire region.

The committee also heard highlighted projects from David Dinkins, University of Florida and Ashley Smith Juarez, Clinton Health Matters Initiative. Mr. Dinkins addressed the food security and food innovation hub projects, with an emphasis on why they are important and why they are doable. Ms. Smith Juarez provided an overview of the progress of the action items related to the Clinton Health Matters Initiative Northeast Florida Blueprint for Action. The committee added four new projects to the vital project list; Medical Tourism, Brevi Bus, Coastal Modelling, and Fishing Industry. For more information, please contact Lindsay Haga, lhaga@nefrc.org



The Regional Council adds New Board Members

The Northeast Florida Regional Council had four new board members join its ranks. The new members are from St. Johns County, Nassau County and Duval County. We welcome their new ideas and participation in advancing the Regional agenda. For more information, please contact Brian Teeple, bteeple@nefrc.org



St. Johns County Commissioner James Johns was appointed by Governor Rick Scott in April of 2015 to fill a vacancy in the County's northwest district. He is an engineer and president of Solid Rock Engineering Consultants of Jacksonville.



Nassau County Commissioner George Spicer was elected to a four year term, beginning in November 2014 for District 4. His district is the western portion of Nassau County and includes Hilliard, Bryceville, Bouldogne, Kingsferry and Nassau Oaks. He is a retired boilermaker of 40 years.



Councilwoman Katrina Brown was elected to the Jacksonville City Council in May of 2015, representing District 8. Councilwoman Brown serves as Vice President of Business Development for Basic Products, LLC and the Managing Partner of KJB Specialties, Inc.



Councilman Al Ferraro was elected to the Jacksonville City Council in May of 2015, representing District 2. Councilman Ferraro is a long time Jacksonville resident in the Arlington area, with over 30 years of experience in business.

Follow the Northeast Florida Regional Council



Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

P2R2 Committee Launches Action Phase

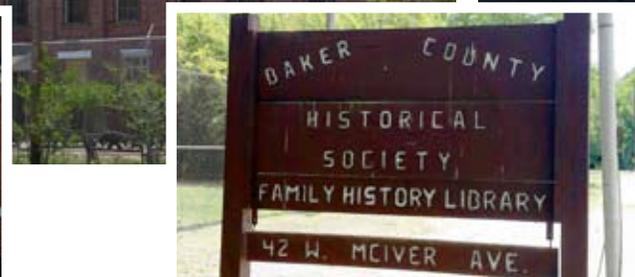
During Regions Resiliency Night on Thursday, July 16, at the Museum of Contemporary Art/Jacksonville, the Northeast Florida Public/Private Regional Resiliency Committee announced the actions it will take to help our region thrive as the world changes. Creation of the Committee was an action item of the Regional Action Plan for Sea Level Rise, adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in November 2013. The Committee aims to engage the business sector in regional resiliency. They found that Northeast Florida is already addressing resiliency, and they committed to action items to capitalize on what is already being done to help Northeast Florida promote sustainable economic growth. Their actions are grouped into the "dimensions" used in the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Program, as the City of Jacksonville has this designation, and efforts should align. Businesses and residents can sign-up to participate or provide input on any action through the Council's webpage at www.nefrc.org. For more information, please contact Margo Moehring, mmoehring@nefrc.org



Speakers discuss Regional actions at Regions Resiliency Night

Grant Awarded

Baker County received a \$35K grant from the State Historic Preservation Office for the Baker County Historic Jail renovation project in Macclenny, Florida. Baker County is one of the seven counties in Northeast Florida and contributes to the vibrancy of the Region with its historic, natural, and economic resources. There are 597 cultural resources listed on the Florida Master Site File in Baker County with the Old County Jail standing out as a living exhibit. The Baker County Jail was built in 1911 by local craftsmen, with expansions and rehabilitation projects completed for continued law enforcement until 1972. The grant award funds window replacement to seal the building and prevent further deterioration, replace and restore metal doors and iron work, and repair historic fireplaces. The grant will also fund exterior repairs to the wood fascia, soffits and gable building ends. The Northeast Florida Regional council wrote the grant application on behalf of Baker County. For more information, please contact Lindsay Haga, lhaga@nefrc.org



*Baker County
Historic Jail*

Business Interests Meet to Share Ideas

The Florida Coalition of Microbusiness Developers (FCMD) met in NEFRC offices on July 22. The group included representatives of Enterprise Florida, Inc., banks and lenders, technical assistance providers, advocacy organizations and small business people. It was an opportunity to share information, needs and solutions, and to consider issues to be brought to the legislature in the next session. For more info, contact Margo Moehring, mmoehring@nefrc.org.

Did you know

The Northeast Florida Regional Council has created an online Regional Clearinghouse, which is a simple cross-referenced compilation of studies. The idea for the Regional Clearinghouse came about in 2014 from private and public leaders developing the Region's economic development strategy. www.nefrc.org/CEDS/Regional_Clearinghouse.htm