

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

January 2016

Regional Planning Directors Tour Solar Facility

The NEFRC hosts the Region's local city and county planning directors and agency planning directors quarterly to discuss policy issues of relevance and provide technical assistance to the directors. The first quarter meeting for 2016 was hosted by the JEA at the Brandy Branch site. This site was selected because of its connection to the 100 acre, privately owned solar farm operated by Jax Solar Inc (JSI). The 200,000 panel farm produces 12 Megawatts (MW) of power. The directors learned of the single and combined cycle methods operating on the JEA site to produce 706 MW hours of electricity. The JEA is the 7th largest municipal water and electric utility in the nation. For more information about this event or to host the planning directors, contact Lindsay Haga at lhaga@nefrc.org.



Directors view the JEA operations.

@NEFRC and Baker County Partner to Kick Off the 2016 Regional Leadership Academy

The Northeast Florida Regional Council's leadership program, Regional Leadership Academy, started this month. The host jurisdiction, Baker County, provided an opportunity for experts from the private and public sectors of the Region to join in the ongoing discussion of how communities support themselves, how and where we live and how we get around. The Program Day 1 topic: "Livelihood/Economy, Housing and Transportation" included expert speakers: Jackie Wright, Executive Director Baker County Council on Aging and Transportation Disadvantaged service provided; Ed Preston, Baker County Planning Director, Bill Lazar, St. Johns Housing Partnership and Crawford Powell, Impact Development Group. The program day blends presentations with exploration of the community. This session introduced the class to Heritage Park in the City of MacClenny and the Wal-Mart Distribution Center via the Wildcat Shuttle. Balancing history with economic development, the regionalists learned how geography, resources and infrastructure influence community development. For more information about the Regional Leadership Academy visit www.nefrc.com. Contact Margo Moehring, with any specific questions, mmoehring@nefrc.org.



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Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

SERC Selects Thomas Yatabe Award Winners

Annually, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) recognizes one person from each Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) District with the Thomas Yatabe Award. The Thomas Yatabe Award signifies outstanding contributions made in the implementation and support of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act through achievements, accomplishments or superior participation in hazardous materials planning or response. The SERC also issues "Certificates of Appreciation" for other worthy nominations received.



Jonathan Lord presents S. Todd Smith with his Thomas Yatabe Award.

In our region, the Yatabe Award was presented to S. Todd Smith, of Jacksonville Fire/Rescue. Todd spent the vast majority of his career assigned to the HazMat team where he became heavily involved in teaching new members. He would rise to the rank of Lieutenant before retiring in 2014, and received numerous awards throughout his career for actions in the line of duty. During his career he responded to countless hazardous materials incidents. Todd later became an Instructor with the International Association of Fire Fighters and now brings his talents to departments across the nation as a seasoned Hazardous Materials Instructor.

Terry Carr of the City of Jacksonville was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Carr currently manages several programs in the City's Environmental Quality Division's (EQD) Water Branch and continues to manage the Emergency Response Program and perform response duties. In addition to these responsibilities, he continues to conduct the 8-hour and 40-hour HAZWOPER classes for EQD employees as well as other City employees as needed.

These classes consume a great amount of his time in both preparing and presenting the material. While not a requirement of his job, he continues to provide this service in order for City personnel to receive proper training to be safely prepared in the field. For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, eanderson@nefrc.org

Incentivizing Resilience

The Regional Resiliency Evening Exchange event on January 25 at NEFRC included a well-attended discussion of how communities could finance investments in resilience. The two mechanisms discussed were tax increment financing through the implementation of a community redevelopment agency, and PACE (property assessed clean energy) funding. Carol Westmoreland of the Florida Redevelopment Association, Brenna Durden, Esq. of Lewis, Longman and Walker, P.A., and Thomas Ruppert, Esq. of Florida Sea Grant College Program were experts who assisted the group in understanding the funding mechanisms. The group will meet again on February 29. To register to attend or for more information, go to the Exchange's Eventbrite page. For more information, please contact Margo Moehring, at mmoehring@nefrc.org

Duval County Maritime Management Plan at the Jacksonville Boat Show

The City of Jacksonville with the support of the Florida Inland Navigation District in creating a Maritime Management Plan. A team from the Northeast Florida Regional Council, University of North Florida and Jacksonville University will be gathering information about water access facilities and the needs and desires of the community. There is currently a survey underway so the plan can reflect public input as it seeks to guide the maintenance of facilities, plan for unmet needs and ensure that the important role that water access plays in our economy and our quality of life remains strong for the long term. The team attended the 69th Annual Jacksonville Boat Show to gather input. For more information or to take the survey, go to www.jaxboatplan.com.



Margo Moehring staffs the Maritime Management Plan Table at the Boat Show

Did you know

Florida has a new business brand — **Florida: The Future Is Here** — courtesy of Enterprise Florida. It's a sleek, 21st-century theme that will be used to target national and international business decision makers. "The new identity serves as a call to action to business leaders interested in starting, growing or relocating their businesses in Florida, and instills a sense of pride in what the state offers to existing business owners and residents." - *Statement from Enterprise Florida.*