

NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

January 2017

Regional Community Institute - Water Committee

The first meeting of the Regional Community Institute's (RCI) Water Committee convened on January 11th at the Regional Council. This committee was developed based upon the request of RCI membership to work on the subject of Water in 2017. The Committee Chairperson, Dr. Quinton White of Jacksonville University, welcomed attendees and asked for their participation and collaboration in the coming year. The goal of the Water Committee is to analyze data and trends associated with Water in Northeast Florida, then develop a report and associated recommendations in the following areas: Quantity, Quality, Political/Economic, and Other Areas of Concern.

The Water Committee is set to meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Regional Council. Please visit www.rcinef.org or contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org regarding upcoming meetings.



NEFRC and Putnam County SHIP Undertake Triennial Report

The Putnam County Strategic Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) housing program has grown beyond the minimum annual allocation of funds and thus must prepare a required triennial report by this May. The report requires the citizen's Local Housing Advisory Committee to take an in depth look at 11 State-mandated topics such as development permits, impact fees, land use densities and infrastructure to determine if there needs to be any changes made to local affordable housing policies to decrease the regulatory cost of housing.

NEFRC and Baker County Partner to Kick Off the 2017 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 in 'Making a Living, Making a Life/Economy & Quality of Life' to join in the ongoing discussion of how the region works to attract business. The Program included expert speakers: Brian Teeple, Daryl Register and Cathy Chambers to share perspectives from the region, Baker County and JaxUSA Partnership. The program day blends presentations with exploration of the community. This session introduced the class to a Baker County success story of a "custom food truck" manufacturer employing about 15 workers. The regionalists learned how team work, cooperation, ingenuity and a strong work ethic come together to attract everything from a local shop to an Amazon fulfillment center. To find out more about the Regional Leadership Academy visit www.nefrc.org. Contact Margo Moehring, with any specific questions, mmoehring@nefrc.org.

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Bringing Communities Together

Fernandinana Beach Sea Level Rise Meeting

On Monday, January 23, 2016, NEFRC staff held a public meeting in the City of Fernandina Beach. The meeting was held as part of a Statewide Sea Level Rise Planning project the Council is working on with the other Regional Councils in Florida. The Sea Level Rise Community Workshop provided an overview of several online tools to visualize sea level rise scenarios on various map formats. These tools can be used to facilitate stakeholder engagement, scope projects and provide sea level rise analysis with various data sets.

A facilitated discussion took place with interested citizens regarding those sea level rise impacts are most important to Fernandina Beach. These priorities will be used in the creation of a Vulnerability Assessment using the online sea level rise tools. Priorities to be taken in to consideration include the historic district, infrastructure, public facilities and the industrial centers in the City. The Vulnerability Assessment will be completed by the end of March 2017. For more information, please contact Beth Payne, epayne@nefrc.org



Beth Payne assists Fernandina Beach residents with on-line sea level rise tools.

LEPC HazMat Awards

Members of the Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and HazMat community have had a very successful month. Our region took home several top awards.

Chief Richard Knoff of Clay County Fire/Rescue, and Chair of the LEPC, was awarded Hazardous Materials Responder of the Year by the Florida Fire Chiefs Association (FFCA). He was recognized for his contribution to the HazMat Community, which include:

- Developed and implemented the first HazMat 160 Hybrid course in Florida
- Founding Member of the Florida Hazardous Materials Symposium
- Chairperson of the Northeast Florida LEPC
- FFCA HazMat Section
- Various HazMat Exercises
- HazMat Instructor

St. Johns County Fire/Rescue sent a team to participate in the HazMat Team Competition at the Florida HazMat Symposium in Daytona Beach in January. This was their first time participating in the competition, and the team of Chris Naff, Dan Haley, and Joe Durden made a statement few teams will forget. They took home all three top awards given at the Competition.

- Team Best – Risk Assessment
- Team Best – Leak Control
- Best Team – Overall (Grand Prize)

For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, eanderson@nefrc.org

