

# NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

# HighLights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council March 2017

## Regional Leadership Academy in Nassau County

The Regional Leadership Academy met at Traders Hill Farm in Nassau County on March 29, 2017. They learned about this innovative aquaponics business from Regional Community Institute Board Vice Chair Tracy Nazzaro and had a discussion on regional water policy at the farm, which was a unique opportunity to link policy to reality. They also learned about historic American Beach at the American Beach Museum. For more information on RLA, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).



Captions: RLA Candidates at Traders Hill Farm



RLA Candidates and NEFRC Staff at American Beach Museum

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Bringing Communities Together

## Resiliency in Northeast Florida

NEFRC joined several other partner agencies and governments at the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute on March 16, 2017. The St. Johns Housing Partnership, The City of St. Augustine and the Matanzas Riverkeeper were also part of a session designed to teach natural resource professionals about communication while learning about collaboration on disasters and sea level rise. Mayor Nancy Shaver of St. Augustine noted that Resiliency Florida is a new non-profit advocacy group that will be focusing on these issues statewide, and that St. Augustine is focusing on the issue. For information on NEFRC's efforts regarding resiliency, or the Public/Private Regional Resiliency Committee, contact Margo Moehring at [mmohring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmohring@nefrc.org).



## Update to the Comprehensive Plan in Flagler Beach

NERRC has begun working on an update to the Flagler Beach Comprehensive Plan. Public input will be gathered in the upcoming months and throughout the planning process. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).

## The Regional Community Institute Water Committee



Under the leadership of Dr. Quinton White from Jacksonville University's Marine Science Research Institute, a Committee is meeting monthly on water policy. It is looking at the area of Northeast Florida plus the St. Marys Riverbasin in Georgia. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm, in NEFRC offices or at a Georgia location. Track committee progress on their webpage at <http://www.rcinef.org/Water-Committee.html>.

## SHIP in Putnam County

The 14-member Putnam County Local Housing Advisory Committee, chaired by Palatka Mayor and newly serving NEFRC Board member Mayor Terrill Hill, has been meeting monthly since January to consider incentive strategies for the local housing assistance plan. They carefully considered the 11 categories required by State law and are making recommendations to the Putnam Board of County Commissioners to address impact fees begin making small repairs to mobile homes and assisting with limited title work for Strategic Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) applicants.



## Counties Receive Mitigation Funding for Hurricane Matthew



Northeast Florida counties are preparing projects for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding received as a result of the Presidential Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Matthew. This funding helps communities implement measures to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. HMGP funding is a calculation of the proportional share of the total federal assistance received by a County. Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties received HMGP funding. St. Johns County received the largest allocation – over \$10.6 million, followed by Flagler County with a \$2.8 million allocation, Duval County - \$2.1 million, Putnam County - \$1.1 million, Nassau County - \$567,000 and Clay County - \$297,000.

In order to be eligible to apply for funding, local governments must have an approved Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). Projects must be listed on the project list in the Local Mitigation Strategy and must have the required 25% matching funds for the project. Each county has been busy working with their agencies in order to gather new projects and to review relevant projects on their LMS lists. HMGP funding applications are due to the State Division of Emergency Management by June 9, 2017. For additional information, please contact Beth Payne, [epayne@nefrc.org](mailto:epayne@nefrc.org)