

# NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

# HighLights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council April 2017

## Regional Leadership Academy Class in St. Johns County

The Regional Leadership Academy April Class was in St. Johns County. It covered the topics of affordable housing and agriculture. Bill Lazar of the St. Johns Housing Partnership led a lively discussion on affordable housing. David Dinkins of UF/IFAS introduced the group to farmers who led a tour of two farms, Blue Sky and Barnes provided an overview of agriculture in Northeast Florida and hosted a wonderful, locally sourced lunch. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).



Cabbages at Barnes Farm



Potatoes at Blue Sky Farm

## NEFRC at Art Walk

In support of NEFRC's Public/Private Regional Resiliency Committee, NEFRC staff had a booth at the Green Lion Festival at Art Walk in Downtown Jacksonville on April 5. Event organizers estimate more than 7,000 people attended. The booth featured maps showing sea level rise based on the regional assumptions of 1' to 3' by 2060 and 3' to 6' by 2110. Many attendees learned about the issue and several signed up for upcoming action items, including gathering entities that have data in support of a regional vulnerability assessment. For more information on resilience efforts in Northeast Florida, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).



## St. Augustine Beach Land Development Code Rewrite

The Council, with the assistance of ETM, recently completed rewrite of the City's Land Development Code. The process included numerous meetings, workshops, and one-on-one interviews with the City Commission, Planning Board and the Beautification & Tree Advisory Board. Citizen input was garnered through a "Walkabout Toolkit" that was completed by interested residents and business owners.

Of particular community interest in this effort was measurement of the City's 35 foot building height limit, set by the Municipal Charter. In addition to building height, other key topics of interest included zoning designations, permitted uses, impervious surface calculations, building setbacks within the overlay districts, landscaping and buffering, tree protection, parking for hotel and restaurants and sign regulations. For more information contact Brian Teeple at [bteeple@nefrc.org](mailto:bteeple@nefrc.org).

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Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

## Crescent City Visioning and Goal Setting

The Council was asked by the City of Crescent City to facilitate a visioning and goal setting process for the City Commission. This was accomplished in four phases starting with a joint workshop between the Crescent City Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the CRA Advisory Board. The second phase was a citizen questionnaire that was included with their utility bill. In order to garner additional citizen input the third phase was a citizen's workshop. The final phase consisted of a City Commission meeting to review, adjust and approve the final report. The final report provided priority ranked one, three and greater than three year goals. For more information contact Brian Teeple at [bteeple@nefrc.org](mailto:bteeple@nefrc.org).

## CSX / LEPC Training and Exercise

The Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee recently partnered with CSX to develop and implement a training and exercise program tailored towards improving response capabilities for train incidents.

This was a 3 stepped approach:

- 1) Provide awareness level training at local fire departments in the region
- 2) Provide operations level training to the 3 regional hazmat teams, using the CSX Safety Train
- 3) Conduct a regional exercise to test the capabilities gained in training

Throughout the spring of 2017, the LEPC and CSX offered 16 awareness level courses at Fire Departments in the region. A total of 218 responders attended this training. CSX staff and contractors provided an overview of common railcars and commodities that move through our region on a regular basis. She also provided the opportunity for responders to practice with some of CSX's training props. A mobile training prop, with multiple types of railcar domes, allowed students to learn and recognize common problems they may come across when dealing with a spill or release of chemicals from a railcar.



*CSX contractor discussing the railcar props to members of the Palatka Fire Department*

The awareness level training was followed up with operations level training. CSX provided their Safety Train to use for this training and the regional exercise. Responders were educated about railcar safety, common leaks and spills, and mitigation techniques for chlorine gas, LP gas, ethanol, and molten sulfur.



*St. Johns County Fire/Rescue learning about Ethanol Railcars*



*Jacksonville Fire/Rescue mitigating a chlorine gas leak*

Upon conclusion the training, CSX and the LEPC planned and conducted a regional hazardous materials exercise. This exercise brought together the region's 3 hazmat teams from Clay County Fire/Rescue, Jacksonville Fire/Rescue, and St. Johns County Fire/Rescue.