

# NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

# HighLights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council May 2017



## Welcome New Member - Flagler County Commissioner David Sullivan

The Council welcomes new member Commissioner David Sullivan. Commissioner Sullivan represents District 3, which includes the municipalities of both Flagler Beach and Beverly Beach. He was elected to office in November 2016. He is a retired U.S. Navy captain. After his military retirement, he served as director for the Hughes Electronics Corporation, and Boeing Space and Communications. He served as chairman of the Flagler County Republican Executive Committee through 2014.

## Flagler Beach Partners with the Regional Council to Update its Comprehensive Plan

Flagler Beach will be updating its Comprehensive Plan and has engaged the Northeast Florida Regional Council to assist. After NEFRC reviewed the statutory changes that require amendments to the plan, the City is convening three open house meetings to gather public and stakeholder input. The first, on June 6, will focus on infrastructure and intergovernmental coordination. The next will be July 11, focusing on housing and land use. The final open house will be August 1, and will focus on environment, coastal issues, recreation and open space. All are welcome at the open houses, each of which is at Flagler Beach City Hall, 105 S. 2nd Street in Flagler beach at 4pm. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).

## Council Staff Present at Conferences around the Country

Various Regional Council staff have attended and presented at conferences over the last month. Policy Director Margo Moehring presented at the National Planning Conference on May 7, highlighting last year's NEFRC Regional Resiliency Rebuild (R3) Challenge, the design competition to allow residents to consider how, what and where Northeast should rebuild after a disaster. The images created by young people in the region are thought provoking. Find them at <http://www.rcinef.org/R3challenge.html>.

Eric Anderson, the Coordinator for the Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee made a presentation at the National Conference for the National Association of SARA Title II Program Officials in early May. The presentation was based upon a public/private partnership fostered between the Northeast Florida LEPC and CSX, which was comprised of a training and exercise plan to enhance and improve hazardous materials response capabilities of our local fire agencies. Over 350 firefighters participated in training or the regional hazmat exercise.

Beth Payne made a presentation at both the Georgia Emergency Management Summit in Savannah, Georgia and the Governor's Hurricane Conference in West Palm Beach, Florida. Each presentation was a discussion on Healthcare Coalitions in the State of Florida, with representation from four Healthcare Coalitions in Florida. The presentation highlighted the structure of the Coalitions, including the differences in operations and mission among them.

## Transportation Disadvantaged Services Evaluated

NEFRC staff assisted the Evaluation Committees of several Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards in the annual evaluation of services. Committee members discuss operations with the providers, ride the service and follow up with a survey of riders. Mike Birkhead, pictured to the right, provided a safe and enjoyable ride for the evaluators and Flagler County Public Transportation clients. Survey results reinforce the importance of transportation disadvantaged services to communities in Northeast Florida. Many clients note that without them, they would be unable to enjoy the great quality of life in our region. Compliments and thanks go out to the hard-working people who provide this greatly needed, and appreciated, service. For more information on NEFRC's work on transportation disadvantaged planning, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).



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## Award Winner Stoughton

At the 2017 Governor's Hurricane Conference, held in West Palm Beach, Florida, a local Northeast Florida Emergency Manager was honored. Linda Stoughton, Emergency Management Director in St. Johns County, was presented the Governor's Award. This is the conference's most prestigious award, given to an individual who has made an outstanding, major contribution to the cause of hurricane preparedness in the State of Florida. Director Stoughton led the County through the response to Hurricane Matthew ensuring the safety of the citizens of the County during evacuation and working diligently on the numerous recovery issues that persist. Congratulations to Director Stoughton!



## JEA Exercise

For several years, the Northeast Florida Regional Council and JEA have partnered together to develop an annual Hurricane Exercise. Each year has been highlighted by exercising the organizational leadership on decision making and use of new resources based upon the premise of an impending strike within the JEA service territory from a hurricane. The 2017 Hurricane Exercise (Hurrex) brought new challenges for coordination and communication, especially with the "lessons applied" after the real-life Hurricane Matthew in October 2016.

A hallmark of the 2017 Hurrex was the partnership with JEA and the City of Jacksonville's Emergency Preparedness Division. Efforts were made to integrate the City and JEA's incident objectives through executive leadership meetings with the City, followed by communication and coordination to align those objectives into the JEA response efforts.

Additionally, great efforts were made to practice a hurricane response from JEA's alternate storm location. JEA operated out of this alternate location for two days of the exercise. This was done in an effort to test JEA's continuity of business operations in the case they were required to evacuate their downtown location.

The week-long exercise was capped off with Keynote Speaker Scott Cordero, Meteorologist in Charge of National Weather Service's Jacksonville Office. He provided a review of the 2016 storm season, with close attention paid to the near strike from Hurricane Matthew.



JEA staff operating out of their alternate storm location to test business continuity and operations.



COJ Emergency Preparedness Division staff providing a situation report to exercise participants who were scattered throughout Duval County, and logging in using WebEx technology to conduct virtual meetings. This was a new capability tested by the City and JEA.