



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Board of Directors Meeting
January 4, 2024

MINUTES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors, pursuant to Chapter 120.525, F.S., held a hybrid meeting both in-person, at 100 Festival Park Ave., Jacksonville, FL and virtually via Zoom, on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

President Whitehurst welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with the following members present and in person unless otherwise noted:

BAKER: Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Bennett
Mr. Register

CLAY: Commissioner Renninger
Mr. Kennedy

DUVAL: Mayor Lynch

FLAGLER: Commissioner Dance
Commissioner Sullivan
Mayor Alfin

NASSAU: Commissioner Martin
Mr. Drew
Vice-Mayor Sturges

PUTNAM: Commissioner Harvey

ST. JOHNS: Commissioner Horvath
Commissioner Whitehurst

EX-OFFICIO: Mr. Hart
Mr. Conkey, St. Johns River Water Management District
Mr. Dixon, Florida Department of Transportation

Excused: Councilman Amaro, Commissioner Condon, Mr. Strong, Councilman Gay, and Mr. Griffis

Absent: Commissioner Adamczyk, Mr. Bourre and Mayor Brown

Presenters: **Judy Holm**, Fuse Executive Fellow, City of Jacksonville Planning and Development

Lori Burklew, Regional Water Supply Planning Coordinator, St Johns River Water Management District

Guests: Steve Fitzgibbons, Bill White, Emily Ducker, Derek Busby, James Richardson, and other members of the public

Staff: Eric Anderson, Fara Ilami, Elizabeth Payne, Tyler Nolen, Andrew Prokopiak, Annie Sieger, Donna Starling, and other members of staff.

INVITATION TO SPEAK

President Whitehurst stated that members of the public are welcome to speak on any item before the Board and will be recognized during public comment.

*CONSENT AGENDA

President Whitehurst called for a motion on the consent agenda. Commissioner Harvey moved approval of the consent agenda; seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

Comprehensive Plan Items of Interest

Mr. Jordan informed the Members that the Northeast Florida Regional Council reviews large-scale comprehensive plan amendments concerning adverse effects on regional resources and facilities identified in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, as well as extra-jurisdictional impacts inconsistent with the comprehensive plan of any local government within the Region. Additionally, the review allows Board members to review the potential impact of large-scale amendments to adjacent jurisdictions.

Mr. Jordan provided an overview of two large-scale amendments recently reviewed by staff to illustrate the development potential for over 14,000 acres within our Region: Clay County 23-1DRI transmitted amendment proposes to change the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan for 3,145 acres to include approximately 4,000 housing units; and the City of Jacksonville 23-4ESR transmitted amendment proposes to change the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan for 11,047 acres to include approximately 13,520 housing units.

*November 2023 Financial Report

Ms. Starling stated that the Council posted a net income of \$19,134 in November 2023 with a year-to-date net income of \$28,148. She informed the Members that the Audit will be presented in February, 2024; however, receipt of the Florida Retirement System information may delay the presentation to March.

President Whitehurst called for a motion on the November 2023 Financial Report. Mr. Register motioned to approve the November 2023 Financial Report for consideration by the full Board; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Motion carried.

*Resolution 24-01: Mayor Catherine Robinson

Ms. Payne presented a resolution 24-01 honoring Mayor Catherine Robinson for her many years of service to the Northeast Florida Regional Council. Ms. Payne read Resolution 24-01 into the record and stated that she will present the resolution to Mayor Robinson at an upcoming City of Bunnell Board meeting.

President Whitehurst called for a motion. Commissioner Harvey moved approval of Resolution 24-01 honoring Mayor Robinson for consideration by the full Board; seconded by Commissioner Renninger. Motion carried.

*Resolution 24-02: Commissioner Sarah Arnold

Ms. Payne presented a resolution 24-02 honoring Commissioner Arnold for her service to the Northeast Florida Regional Council. Ms. Payne read Resolution 24-02 into the record.

President Whitehurst called for a motion. Commissioner Renninger moved approval of Resolution 24-02 honoring Commissioner Arnold for consideration by the full Board; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Motion carried.

First Coast Well Being Index Overview

Ms. Payne provided an overview of the Northeast Florida Regional Council's regional data indicators dashboard, also known as the First Coast Well Being Index. This has been a multi-year effort, built off of First Coast Vision and created in collaboration with the Regional Community Institute. Those who partnered with the Council in determining data indicators and the story the data tells about the Region included: JaxUSA Partnership, United Way of Northeast Florida, North Florida Transportation Planning Organization, Urban Land Institute, CareerSource Northeast Florida, the Northeast Florida Health Planning Council, and Smart North Florida, who created the dashboard. The launch of the Well Being Index will be presented at the Awards Ceremony.

*Approval of 2024 Workplan

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the 2023 Workplan on Trails & Ecotourism, highlighting the accomplishments to date. The National Parks Service – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (NPS-RTCA) program staff visited and toured some of the hurricane impacted areas in Northeast Florida. The NPS-RTCA staff developed a synopsis of the assistance that could be provided for all hurricane impacted Florida projects, including a budget that was submitted to the Department of the Interior. While staff have not been provided with a copy of the synopsis, at the direction of the Board, the Council has reached out to the Florida Congressional Delegation requesting their support for obtaining professional and resource support from the NPS-RTCA in Florida.

Mr. Anderson stated that while we await information from the NPS-RTCA, there is still a lot more to be done in this area. In addition to NPS assistance, the implementation strategy would also involve, 1) conducting regional meetings to address and develop consensus on a variety of issues, and 2) begin work on local projects identified on the tour with NPS. Therefore, it is staff's recommendation to continue with Trails & Ecotourism as the Council's 2024 Workplan.

President Whitehurst called for a motion. Commissioner Horvath motioned to approve the continuation of Trails as the Council's 2024 Workplan; seconded by Commissioner Harvey for consideration by the full Board. Motion carried.

Presentation: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Ms. Judy Holm provided a presentation on the City of Jacksonville's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. She highlighted the City of Jacksonville MSA, EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

requirements, Climate Action Plan Scope, Key Dates, and Community Engagement. Discussion followed.

Presentation: St. Johns River Water Management District 2023 Water Supply Plan

Ms. Burklew provided a presentation on the St. Johns River Water Management District's (SJRWMD) adopted 2023 North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan. She highlighted the partnership, Minimum Flows and Levels Systems in the partnership area, conclusions reached, the Regional Water Supply Plan implementation, Water Supply Development, Water Resource Development, and Water Conservation. Ms. Burklew informed the Members of the SJRWMD's 2024-25 Cost-share Program timeline beginning with an announcement on January 5th and concluding with their approved project ranking list being submitted to FDEP for funding consideration on May 17th. Discussion followed.

Community Resiliency Update

Ms. Ilami provided an update on the Council's Resiliency program activities; highlighting recent resiliency conferences around the State of Florida. Updates were also provided on Resilient First Coast, Regional Resilience Entity grant, CDBG Multiregional grant, the Silver Jackets project, local government assistance to Flagler and Baker Counties on their Vulnerability Assessments, the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant being worked on with the City of Jacksonville, grant applications under consideration, and other ongoing resiliency work. She announced a newly awarded grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative that was awarded in December 2023.

2024 Regional Leadership Academy

Mr. Nolen informed the Members of the participants in the 2024 Regional Leadership Academy (RLA). He stated the RLA will meet on the last Wednesday each month beginning in Baker County on January 31st. Members are invited to attend the class held in their counties if interested.

2023 Regional Awards of Excellence Winners

Mr. Nolen provided an overview of the award nominations and subsequent winners as selected by the Executive Committee.

Public Comment – None.

Local and Regional Issues Discussion – None.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Florida Department of Commerce

Mr. Register shared information from a Site Selection Group Newsletter that rates states on suitability for manufacturing. Using their software criteria, 50 percent for workforce and market alignment, 25 percent for operating costs, and 25 percent for geographic position; Florida came in at number 11 in the U.S. The top ten included competitors such as South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Georgia, Virginia, and Mississippi.

Florida Department of Transportation

Mr. Dixon – Nothing to report.

St. Johns River Water Management District

Mr. Conkey – Nothing to add.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

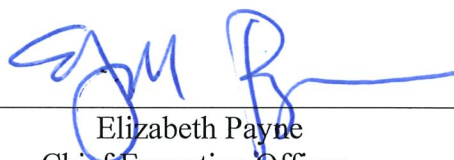
Ms. Payne introduced a new staff member, Mr. Andrew Prokopiak, Sr. Regional Resiliency Planner. She provided updates on contracts that have been secured, which have closed any budgeting gaps previously identified when the Budget was approved earlier in the year.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be February 1, 2024.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:47 a.m.



Christian Whitehurst
President



Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer