



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 3, 2024**

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**MINUTES**

The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors held a meeting at 1845 Town Center Blvd., Fleming Island, FL on Thursday, October 3, 2024; **President Whitehurst** called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll call was conducted with the following members present, representing a quorum:

BAKER: Mr. Register

CLAY: Commissioner Condon  
Commissioner Renninger  
Mr. Kennedy  
Mr. Bourre

FLAGLER: Commissioner Dance

NASSAU: Commissioner Martin  
Vice-Mayor Sturges

PUTNAM: Commissioner Harvey

ST. JOHNS: Commissioner Whitehurst

EX-OFFICIO: Mr. Dixon, Florida Department of Transportation  
Mr. Hart, Florida Department of Commerce

Excused: Commissioner Adamczyk, Commissioner Alaimo, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Bennett, Mayor Alfin, Councilmember Amaro, Mr. Drew, Council Member Gay, Mr. Griffis, Commissioner Horvath, Mayor Lynch, Mr. Strong (Ms. Craver), and Commissioner Sullivan

Absent: Mr. Conkey, Mayor Brown

Presenter: Jacob Linton, Florida Department of Transportation

Guest: Howard Wannamaker, Clay County Administrator; Heather Huffman, Department of Health-Clay County Executive Director

Staff: Fara Ilami, Robert Jordan, Tyler Nolen, Elizabeth Payne, Donna Starling, Leigh Wilsey, Sheron Forde, et al.

**WELCOME**

Ms. Heather Huffman, Director, Department of Health-Clay County welcomed everyone and provided a brief overview of the facility and safety protocols.

County Manager Wanamaker welcomed the Board to Clay County and briefly shared information on the County's partnership with the Florida Department of Health-Clay County, and with the Regional Council and its importance to the County. He stated that the Regional Council was instrumental in producing the County's first ever Strategic Plan. He further stated that the partnership with the Council is extremely important and looks forward to working together in the future. He invited the Regional Council back to the facility and the County.

#### PASSING OF THE GAVEL

**President Whitehurst** stated he has enjoyed his time serving as president of the Regional Council, which was a privilege and an honor. He passed the gavel to incoming **President Renninger**; ushering in the new leadership with the installation of new officers: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Commissioner Bennett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Councilmember Amaro, and Secretary/Treasurer – Mr. Register.

**President Renninger** stated that he is very honored to serve as president, and that he really believes in collaboration and regionality. He looks forward to working towards taking this region to the forefront of Florida.

#### FY 24/25 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The FY 24/25 Committee Appointments are included in the meeting packet. Due to upcoming elections, this will change as we get new appointments to the Board. Members are asked to let staff know if there are any preferences or changes so they can be addressed.

#### FY 24/25 MEETING SCHEDULE & MEMBER ROSTER

The upcoming FY 24/25 meeting schedule and current membership roster were provided in the agenda packet.

#### INVITATION TO SPEAK

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

#### \*CONSENT AGENDA

**The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by all members in present.**

#### OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

##### Presentation: 2055 Florida Transportation Plan

Mr. Jason Linton, Community Planner with the Florida Department of Transportation, provided an overview of the 2055 Florida Transportation Plan. A brief discussion followed.

##### Comprehensive Plan Amendment Policy Issue

Mr. Jordan shared information on the City of Palm Coast's Comprehensive Plan Amendment (24-1ESR) that reflects a series of visioning work entitled 'Imagine 2050', which may be useful to other communities in the Region. A brief discussion followed.

\*August 2024 Financial Report

Ms. Starling stated that the Council posted a net income of \$3,102 in the month of August and a year-to-date net income of \$120,255.

**All members present unanimously approved the August 2024 financial report.**

\*Request for Proposal – Audit Services

Ms. Starling stated that the Council went out to bid for audit services, which yielded two responses. After review and scoring by a committee comprised of management staff, James Moore & Company was selected and recommended to the NEFRC Board for consideration.

**All members present unanimously approved authorizing the CEO to execute a contract with James Moore & Company for Audit Services as follows: in FY 2024 for \$19,000; FY 2025 for \$20,500; and FY 2026 for \$22,000.**

Regional Community Institute

Mr. Nolen provided an overview of the Regional Community Institute’s annual meeting in which there were nominations for term renewals for Sara Little, Deborah Thompson, Victor Cora, Benjie Bates, Robert Correa, and Dr. Quint White; nomination of Christina Kelcourse as a new member; and nomination of Dr. Quint White as Secretary/Treasurer.

**The membership nominations for the RCI Board were unanimously approved by all members present.**

FY 2023-2024 Attendance Roster

The attendance roster was provided for review with a request to provide any corrections to staff by October 18<sup>th</sup>. The final roster will be provided to each County and the Governor’s office.

FY 2023-2024 Annual Report

Ms. Payne informed the Members that, due to Hurricane Helene, the printing of the report has been delayed. However, the Members were provided with an overview of the report. The report will be provided at the November meeting.

Program Spotlight: Healthcare Coalition Update

Ms. Wilsey provided an overview of the program with a brief update on recent activities and accomplishments and planned future activities.

Community Resiliency Update

Ms. Ilami provided an update on recent resiliency activities. She also announced the awarding of the \$1.1 million Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) grant.

Public Comment – None

Local and Regional Issues Discussion

**Flagler:** The County will have two new Commissioners; Commissioner Sullivan will be replaced with the appointment of another commissioner.

**Nassau:** A new County appointment may be forthcoming. It was also noted that the County is not happy with the newly selected Community Transportation Coordinator, JTA, whose services are not as expected.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORT

For the Department of Commerce, **Mr. Register** shared information on issues surrounding cybersecurity and remote working since the pandemic.

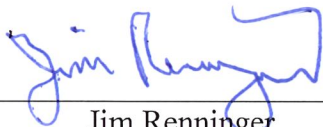
For the Department of Transportation, **Mr. Dixon** shared information about Mobility Week, which will run from October 25th to November 5th.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Payne reminded the Members of the Council's upcoming open house following the November Board meeting. The Regional Leadership Academy is actively accepting nominations, and information on the annual Regional Leadership Awards nominations will be released shortly. Ms. Payne informed that Members that solicitation for Legislative Priorities will be sent to each of our counties, and that a Legislative Committee meeting will be scheduled shortly. She also stated that representatives of the National Parks Service will be here October 15-17 to visit several sites and discuss next steps. Additionally, Ms. Payne stated that the Council has released a request for service for a General Counsel with an update to be brought to the November meeting.

Next Meeting Date: November 7, 2024

Meeting Adjourned: 11:29 a.m.



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Jim Renninger  
President



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Elizabeth Payne  
Chief Executive Officer