



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**November 7, 2024**

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**MINUTES**

The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors held a meeting at 40 E. Adams Street, Jacksonville, FL on Thursday, November 7, 2024; **President Renninger** called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

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

BAKER:           Commissioner Anderson  
                      Mr. Griffis  
                      Mr. Register

DUVAL:           Councilmember Amaro  
                      Mayor Brown

CLAY:            Commissioner Condon  
                      Commissioner Renninger

FLAGLER:        Commissioner Dance  
                      Commissioner Sullivan

NASSAU:         Commissioner Martin

PUTNAM:         Commissioner Harvey

ST. JOHNS:      Commissioner Horvath  
                      Commissioner Whitehurst

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

Excused:         Commissioner Bennett, Mr. Bourre Mr. Drew, Councilmember Gay,  
                      Mr. Kennedy, Mayor Lynch, Mr. Strong and, Vice-Mayor Sturges

Presenter:       Jeremy Norsworthy, Jacksonville Transportation Authority  
                      Fred Jones, Director, Haskell

Guest:           Denise Bevan, Allison Kopicki, Dan Rizza, Steve's iPhone, Patrick Moore, et.al.

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

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 present.**

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

*Mr. Griffis left the meeting.*

Presentation: Regional Safe Spaces Action Plan and Coordinated Mobility Plan

Mr. Jeremy Norsworthy, Jacksonville Transit Authority (JTA), and Mr. Fred Jones, Haskell, provided a presentation on a collaborative effort toward achieving Vision Zero, an effort to reduce traffic fatalities to zero in Northeast Florida. They highlighted recent safety analysis results, strategies to eliminating traffic related fatalities and severe injuries, and next steps for implementing key initiatives across the Region. Discussion followed.

\*NEFRC Attorney Search

Ms. Payne provided some background information on the need for a contracted attorney, and her communication with two recommended attorneys: Ms. Brenda Ezell and Mr. Jerimiah Blocker. Chair Register added that the Personnel, Budget & Finance Committee discussed this at length and passed a motion to look very strongly at the Douglas Firm.

**Chair Register motioned that Ms. Payne enter negotiations with the Douglas Firm to secure a contract for services; seconded by Commissioner Harvey.** Discussion followed.

After discussion, **Mr. Register amended the motion to include President Renninger in the negotiations and subsequent approval of a contract. Commissioner Harvey amended his Seconded. By voice vote, the amended motion and second passed unanimously.**

*Mr. Griffis returned to the meeting.*

\*2024 Northeast Florida CEDS Annual Report & Resolution 2024-05

Mr. Shad provided an overview of the 2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy's (CEDS) Annual Report and resolution. He shared information on the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) application process and highlighted the activities conducted during 2024, such as, technical assistance with EDA and State grants; projects in support of CEDS goals for regional eco-tourism and trails strategy, and integrating economic development into all areas of government – Cities of Palatka and St. Augustine Vision Plan; economic modeling utilizing REMI for Baker, Clay, Duval and Flagler Counties as well as projects for City of Jacksonville, JEA and JaxUSA; and economic resiliency, which resulted in award of a shrimping market study grant, and developing connections between emergency management, resiliency and economic development. He stated that, as required by the EDA grant, the passing of Resolution 2024-05 will approve the annual report for transmittal to the US Economic Development Administration. A brief discussion followed.

**President Renninger called for a motion on 2024 Northeast Florida CEDS Annual Report & Resolution 2024-05. Mr. Register moved approval of Resolution 2024-05 approving the**

**2024 update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; seconded by Councilmember Amaro. Motion carried.**

\*Resolution 2024-06: Honoring Commissioner Horvath

Ms. Payne presented Resolution 2024-06 recognizing Commission Horvath for her years of service on the Board and various committees, as well as serving as the President of the Florida Regional Council's Policy Board. The resolution will be presented at Commissioner Horvath's last Board of County Commissioner's meeting in St. Augustine.

**Resolution 2024-06 was unanimously approved by all members present.**

\*Resolution 2024-07: Honoring Commissioner Sullivan

Ms. Payne presented Resolution 2024-07 recognizing Commission Sullivan for his years of service on the Board and various committees during his tenure. The resolution will be presented at Flagler County's next Board of County Commissioner's meeting.

**Resolution 2024-06 was unanimously approved by all members present.**

\*Resolution 2024-08: Honoring Mayor Alfin – Ms. Payne

Ms. Payne presented Resolution 2024-07 recognizing Mayor Alfin for his service on the Board and Legislative Committee during his tenure.

**Resolution 2024-06 was unanimously approved by all members present.**

\*RFP – Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series for HCC Facilities

Ms. Wilsey provided information on a Request For Proposal (RFP) that was issued by the Council for a vendor to provide a series of virtual tabletop exercises for the Healthcare Coalition members. The RFP yielded six responses: All Clear Emergency Management Group, Chloeta, Emergency Educators, LLC., EnviroSafe Consulting, Integrated Solutions Consulting, and Resilience Solutions Consulting. These were reviewed and ranked by a review committee comprised of the Deputy CEO, Healthcare Coalition Program Manager, and Healthcare Coalition Planner. Based on the ranking, All Clear Emergency Management Group was the top vendor. Therefore, staff recommends that the Board approve the selection of All Clear Emergency Management Group and authorize the CEO to negotiate a contract with them. Discussion followed.

**President Renninger called for a motion. Commissioner Harvey motioned for the CEO to negotiate a contract with All Clear Emergency Management Group for Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series for Healthcare Facilities; seconded by Commissioner Horvath. Motion carried.**

*Commissioner Martin left the meeting.*

Program Spotlight: Strategic Regional Policy Plan Update

Mr. Anderson informed the Members that every five years Regional Councils are required by state statute to evaluate its Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) and determine if we want to make updates to align with the vision of Northeast Florida. He provided some background information on what is involved in a review of the SRPP. Based on staff's evaluation of the plan, six items were identified for consideration that will be brought to the Board over the next year: 1) cultivation was added in 2019, i.e., agriculture and silverculture, and there's more work to be done. There are

groups doing things in this area and we plan to convene them and get more policy oriented guidance from them; 2) emergency preparedness and resilience of developed environment. A lot of work has been done in resilience over the last 5 years. So, staff is recommending to take out that baseline information we have just about sea level rise and make it its own standalone element. We would work with the First Coast Collaborative to get some guidance and direction on the things that we should be measuring; 3) First Coast Wellbeing, in partnership with Smart North Florida, provides a data center where people can go and access data, which hasn't been included in the SRPP; health 4 & 5) energy – these two will be reviewed to determine if they are stand alone elements, could be incorporated in another element. In the case of energy, we will review to determine what our role is; 6) the Chamber Foundation and six pillars will be evaluated to determine relevancy for us to align ourselves to. Staff requests approval of the assessments to begin the 2024 SRPP update, which must be completed by March 1, 2026. A brief discussion followed.

**President Renninger called for a motion. Commissioner Harvey moved approval of the 2024 Assessment of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan and subsequent update; seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.**

Presentation: Leveraging FloodVision® to inform Resilience Decision-Making

Mr. Dan Rizza, Director, Program on Sea Level Rise and Ms. Allison Kopicki, FloodVision Outreach & Communications Coordinator of Climate Central provided a presentation on new tools for visualizing, communicating, and assessing sea level rise and coastal flood risk. Discussion followed.

*Commissioner Martin left the meeting.*

Community Resiliency Update

Ms. Ilami provided an update on recent resiliency activities, such as the Regional Resilience in Action event at WJCT studios produced by the ADAPT program; staff presentation at the Flooding Adaptation Symposium in Orlando; the Regional Resiliency Action Plan – phase one is complete and phase two has begun. She also provided a synopsis of the Flagler County Vulnerability Assessment, and upcoming events. Discussion followed.

Ms. Ilami thanked Commissioner Horvath for her leadership as Chair of Resilient First Coast!

FY 2023-2024 Annual Report

The 2023-2024 Annual Report, our opportunity to show what the Council has done over this past fiscal year, was provided for the Members information.

Public Comment – None

Local and Regional Issues Discussion

**Commissioner Sullivan** stated Flagler County had a recent groundbreaking for the Florida State Guard training facility, authorized by the Governor; the only one in the State of Florida. He also stated this was his last meeting, thanked everyone for their support, and leaves his role in the hands of Commissioner Dance.

**Commissioner Dance** thanked Commissioner Sullivan for his service and encouragement in joining this Board. He is very interested in the resiliency projects as Flagler County looks to address many of their own resiliency issues.

**Commissioner Anderson** stated it was an honor to serve with Commissioner Horvath and Commissioner Sullivan and Mayor Alfin. You made this board a better board and he looks forward to serving with the ones filling your shoes. Godspeed, enjoy your retirement and enjoy your family. It's well deserved.

Everyone present echoed Commissioner Anderson's sentiments.

**Commissioner Martin** shared that Vice-Mayor Sturges did not win his reelection bid by 19 votes. However, due to the slim margin, there is currently a recount process taking place. Hopefully, it will be in his favor.

#### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORT

FloridaCommerce – No report.

Florida Department of Transportation – **Mr. Dixon** shared information about a subsequent public hearing next month about the proposed improvements, for I-95, from I-10 to Beaver Street. The meeting will be from 4:30 to 6:00 pm at the FDOT Urban Training Center in Jacksonville. Virtual attendance is also available at [www.nflroads.com](http://www.nflroads.com). NEFRC staff will be provided the flyer for distribution. This project will include rehabilitation of the deck of Myrtle Bridge Avenue where they will be replacing the deck and adding two 12-foot lanes and will include some access management.

St. Johns River Water Management District – Mr. Conkey shared that four conservation measures in the State passed, one being in Clay County. He also reminded everyone that watering service recently changed from two to one day a week.

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Payne reminded the Members of the save the date announcement for our regional Awards banquet, which is January 9<sup>th</sup> and will be held at WJCT. The Board meeting will be in our old boardroom, and the event will be downstairs in Studio A. Also award nominations are due this Friday.

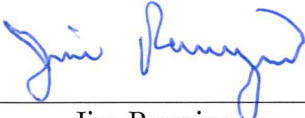
Staff are about to submit a Brownfields Coalition grant, which will serve all seven counties, but our critical partners in it are the city of Palatka, the city of Jacksonville and Nassau County. Two staffers were recently promoted: Robert Jordan and Annie Sieger were both promoted to Senior Regional Planner.

Lastly, the Legislative Committee met virtually on October 31st, chaired by Commissioner Martin. We have asked for priorities from your counties by November 22<sup>nd</sup>. A virtual meeting will be held prior to the Executive Committee, and we hope to bring the legislative priorities to the Executive Committee in December for approval.

The NEFRC's open house is immediately following this meeting, and we would love to have you; We're excited to show off our new space.

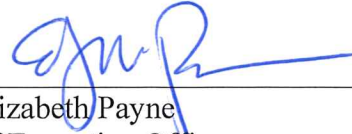
Next Meeting Date: January 9, 2025

Meeting Adjourned: 12:01 p.m.



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Jim Renninger  
President



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Elizabeth Payne  
Chief Executive Officer