



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**February 6, 2025**

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**MINUTES**

The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors held a meeting at 40 East Adams Street, Jacksonville, FL on Thursday, February 6, 2025; President Renninger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

BAKER:           Commissioner Anderson  
                      Commissioner Bennett  
                      Mr. Griffis  
                      Mr. Register

DUVAL:           Councilmember Amaro  
                      Councilmember Gay

CLAY:            Commissioner Condon  
                      Commissioner Renninger  
                      Mr. Kennedy  
                      Mr. Bourre (virtual)

FLAGLER:        Commissioner Dance  
                      Councilmember Gambaro (virtual)

NASSAU:          Commissioner Huppmann  
                      Commissioner Martin  
                      Commissioner Minshew

PUTNAM:          Commissioner Harvey  
                      Commissioner Wilkinson

ST. JOHNS:       Commissioner Joseph  
                      Commissioner Murphy  
                      Commissioner Morgan

EX-OFFICIO:      Mr. Conkey, St Johns River Water Management District  
                      Ms. Craver (*for Mr. Strong*), Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
                      Mr. Hart, Florida Department of Commerce

Excused:          Mayor Brown, Mayor Lynch, and Mr. Dixon

Presenter:        Mr. Mark McManus, Naval Air Station & Naval Station Mayport Community  
                      Planning and Liaison Officer

Guests: John Nooney, Bill White, Sarah Marrs, Lisa Tinsley, Amanda Thorpe, Jay Pemberton, Hank Hodde, Kneetej, 19702141495, STYMYERK, and other members of the public

Staff: Monica Dominguez, Fara Ilami, Robert Jordan, Tyler Nolen, Elizabeth Payne, Donna Starling, and others

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**President Renninger** welcomed new Board Members: City of St. Augustine Beach Commissioner Virginia Morgan.

#### INVITATION TO SPEAK

**President Renninger** 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

**Mr. Register motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

##### NEFRC Financial Structure

Ms. Starling provided an overview of the Council's financial structure highlighting the fiscal year is from October to September; the Council is a governmental agency formed by State Statute Chapter 186 and created by interlocal agreement with our Member Counties; and receives funding from State, Federal and Local governments. She shared information on the Council's accounting guidance that the Council follows for federal and state awards; internal policies are aligned with the State of Florida policies; State Statute allows governmental agencies to contract with the Council without having to go through the RFP process. Additionally, per the interlocal agreement, the Council Board must approve the annual budget by July 15<sup>th</sup> for operation on October 1<sup>st</sup>. There is usually a mid-year budget amendment around June of each year. Ms. Starling also shared the source percentage of the budget for FY 23/24 and FY 24/25; the county dues received from member counties are based on \$0.41 per capita; Federal and State funding sources; and the role of the Personnel, Budget and Finance Committee.

##### \*FY 23/24 Audit

Mr. Chalifour presented the FY 23/24 Audit. He highlighted the audit process that includes, 1) the required communications in a financial audit scope with the objective of expressing an opinion on the financial statements in terms of the numbers, 2) audit reports on the financial statement and the compliance for federal programs, both received unmodified opinions, and no material weaknesses observed on the internal control and compliance report. He stated that the Council is in a strong financial position with a reserve of approximately \$2.6 million. A brief discussion followed.

**President Renninger called for a motion on the FY 23/24 Audit. Mr. Register motioned to approve the FY 23/24 Audit; seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried unanimously.**

\*NEFRC Fiscal Year 23/24 Closeout

Ms. Starling provided an overview of the Council's FY 23/24 budget reconciliation and closeout. She stated that the Council began with an adopted budget of approximately \$3,289 million and ended with \$3,197 million; producing a revenue reduction of approximately \$91,000. She stated there was also a reduction in the expenses of approximately \$88,000. A brief discussion ensued.

**President Renninger called for a motion on the NEFRC FY 23/24 Closeout. Commissioner Harvey motioned to approve the FY 23/24 Closeout; seconded by Mr. Register. Motion carried unanimously.**

Military Installation Resilience Presentation

Mr. Mark McManus, Naval Air Station & Naval Station Mayport Community Planning and Liaison Officer provided a presentation on Navy military installations in Jacksonville. Mr. McManus informed the Members of the change in the name of the grant, now to be called 'Military Installation Readiness Review' going forward. He stated that the purpose of this study is a holistic look between the Base and the surrounding communities. His presentation highlighted the military's impact on the local area including an overview of NS Mayport and NAS Jacksonville, and the local training ranges. In conclusion, he stated that the MIRR will analyze the vulnerabilities and risks and identify projects that can mitigate those challenges. . Discussion ensued.

*Commissioner Bennett left the meeting.*

\*RFP: Military Installation Readiness Review

Ms. Payne provided the Members with background information on the Military Installation Readiness Review (MIRR) request for proposal process. She stated that staff received three proposals: Jacobs Engineering, Stantec Consulting's Services Inc., and Tetra Tech that were reviewed and ranked by a committee comprised of herself, Fara Ilami (NEFRC Regional Resiliency Manager), Donna Starling (NEFRC Chief Financial Officer), James Richardson (City of Jacksonville's Environmental Protection Board), and Chief David Motes (Clay County Fire Chief). Based on the Committee's review and rankings, Jacobs Engineering was ranked highest. Discussion followed regarding following State guidelines regarding any protests.

**Chair Register motioned, on behalf of the Personnel, Budget & Finance Committee, that the CEO be authorized to enter into negotiations of terms with the top scoring firm, Jacobs Engineering; seconded by Councilmember Amaro. Motion carried.**

Community Resiliency Update

Ms. Ilami provided an overview of the Council's current resiliency activities in the Region including the Military Installation Readiness Review, and the Regional Resilience Entity project. She also provided information on multi-regional efforts taking place in several counties, and technical assistance provided to local governments. Discussion ensued.

**President Renninger indicated that the Resilient First Coast Steering Committee needs a Board representative and asked for a volunteer. Commissioners Minshew and Murphy volunteered to serve. Commissioner Dance also expressed an interest.**

### Program Spotlight: Strategic Regional Policy Plan Review-Part 2

Ms. Payne provided an overview of the Council's Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP), and the process involved in revising the Plan every five years. She stated in November 2024 the Council Board approved the 2024 SRPP Plan Assessment and authorized staff to begin the SRPP update. She stated that the Rulemaking process goes through 2026 when it will be brought back to the Board for approval. The remaining four elements and recommendations are provided for your review reflecting staff's proposed changes in track changes shown as strikethrough and underlined for **Element:** Energy; **Determination:** Delete this element – it is not a required element, and the Council has no role in the implementation of these objectives. **Element:** Health; **Determination:** Delete this element – it is not a required element. **Element:** Natural Resources of Regional Significance; **Determination:** Keep – recommended changes shown as strikethrough and underlined. **Element:** Regional Transportation; **Determination:** Keep – recommended changes shown as strikethrough and underlined. The remaining elements – Cultivation and Resilience – will be brought to a future meeting.

### EDA Funding: Post Disaster Recovery for Hurricanes Helene & Milton

Ms. Payne stated that the Council is the Designated Economic Development District of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for our region. She informed the Members that the Council received \$500,000 from the EDA to fund disaster recovery following Hurricanes Milton and Helene over the next four years. She stated a Listening Session will take place in St. Johns County next week with federal agencies and local governments to discuss the 2024 season impacts, unmet needs, and potential project funding opportunities. Ms. Payne added that the Council will utilize some of this funding to establish a new initiative, the Community Visioning Program.

Ms. Dominguez shared information on some of staff's recent visioning work and the benefits. The Community Visioning Program will target smaller local governments/municipalities lacking the financial resources or staff to do the work. Thereby increasing their ability to plan for long-term recovery and resilience. Staff is currently seeking participants for the program. A brief discussion ensued.

### Public Comment

Mr. John J. Nooney, 8356 Bascom Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32216, representing NEFRC – public park on Pottsborg Creek in Duval County and public access to our waterways. He participated in the Resilient Jacksonville and believed the biggest takeaway is that 90 percent of the waterways in Jacksonville is private with only ten percent of the waterway being public. He also shared his thoughts on the Department of Elder Affairs and senior citizens centers, disability etc.

### Local and Regional Issues Discussion

St. Johns County – **Commissioner Joseph** stated there will be an ad during the Superbowl representing their farmers. Lays Potato Chips put the ad out and included the family that grows the potatoes in St. Johns County for the chips in the ad.

Clay County – **President Renninger** complemented the Council for their collaborative efforts.

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORT

Florida Commerce – Mr. Register shared information from an article in Site Selection Magazine regarding a survey of approximately 200 CEOs of companies that recently relocated or expanded and ranked the top 25 States based on business climate. The survey placed Florida fifth in the ranking; Texas was first, Georgia was second, NC was third and Virginia was fourth. He also shared some of the reasons these CEOs make the choices they made.

Department of Environmental Protection – Ms. Craver stated that DEP will be hosting their Environmental Resource Permitting Workshop series. The first workshop is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> and will then be quarterly throughout 2025.

St. Johns River Water Management District – Mr. Conkey reminded the Members that lawn watering is once per week. He added the SRPP page 3G-11, the Black Creek project is wrapping up and should be up and running by Summer.

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Payne introduced the Council's Emergency Management Intern, Mr. Kyle Higginbotham.

Mr. Nolen, Local Emergency Planning Committee Coordinator, worked with CSX to get their Responder Incident Training train in our region at the Baldwin Railyard February 11-14 for HazMat Technician training. On February 13<sup>th</sup> interested elected officials can attend and observe the training.

Legislative priorities have been printed and available at today's meeting. Additionally, Council staff will be taking copies to each County BOCC meeting for distribution.

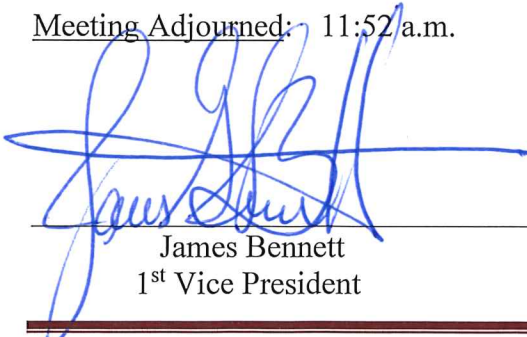
The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA), an association of the ten regional councils in the State of Florida, held a Policy Board meeting in January; President Renninger and Mr. Register serve on the Board. A copy of the FRCA Annual Report, covering the activities of all the Councils statewide is available for you.

Trails meetings are being held in each county, with Jacksonville, Nassau, and St. Johns taking place in the next few weeks.

The Council now has an attorney in place, Mr. Jeremiah Blocker of the Douglas Law Firm. Mr. Blocker plans to attend future meetings as needed.

Next Meeting Date: March 6, 2025

Meeting Adjourned: 11:52 a.m.



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James Bennett  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



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Elizabeth Payne  
Chief Executive Officer