



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**May 5, 2022**

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**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 Avenue, Jacksonville, FL, and virtually via Zoom, on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 10:05 a.m.

**President Harvey** welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with the following members present:

**BAKER:** Commissioner Jimmy Anderson (**in person**)  
Commissioner James Bennett (via zoom)  
Mr. Darryl Register (**in person**)

**CLAY:** Mr. Michael Bourre (**in person**)  
Commissioner Betsy Condon (**in person**)  
Mr. Steve Kennedy (**in person**)  
Commissioner Jim Renninger (**in person**)

**DUVAL:** Councilmember Randy DeFoor (**in person**)  
Mayor Sean Lynch (**in person**) (**in person**)

**FLAGLER:** Mayor Catherine Robinson (via zoom)  
Commissioner David Sullivan (**in person**)

**NASSAU:** Commissioner John Martin (**in person**)

**PUTNAM:** Commissioner Larry Harvey (**in person**)  
Mr. Donald Holmes (via zoom)

**ST. JOHNS:** Commissioner Roxanne Horvath (**in person**)  
Commissioner Paul Waldron (**in person**)  
Commissioner Christian Whitehurst (**in person**)

**EX-OFFICIO:** Mr. Brian Austin *for* Ms. Karen Taulbee (DOT) (via zoom)  
Mr. Doug Conkey (SJRWMD) (**in person**)

**Excused:** Michael Griffis, Councilmember Joyce Morgan, Mayor Michael Lednovich, Greg Strong (DEP)

**Absent:** Mayor Elaine Brown, Mr. John Drew, Mr. Curtis Hart (DEO), Commissioner Joseph Mullins, Commissioner Jeff Rawls,

**Presenters:** Chris Doolin and Mr. Ryan Asmus

Staff Present: Eric Anderson, Kate Haigh, Robert Jordan, Marcus Lloyd, Margo Moehring, Tyler Nolen, Elizabeth Payne, Annie Sieger, Jack Shad, Donna Starling, Leigh Wilsey and Sheron Forde

**President Harvey** welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new Board Member, Mr. Steve Kennedy, representing the City of Green Cove Springs in Clay County.

#### INVITATION TO SPEAK

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

#### \*CONSENT AGENDA

**President Harvey** asked if anyone would like to pull any item on the consent agenda for discussion. Hearing none, **he called for a motion on the consent agenda. Mr. Register motioned to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Commissioner Waldron. Motion carried.**

#### OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

##### CEO Vehicle Replacement Discussion

Mr. Register provided an overview of the Personnel, Budget, and Finance (PBF) Committee's discussion regarding the challenges encountered by staff to replace the CEO's council assigned vehicle that was totaled approximately one year ago. He stated that the PBF Committee passed a motion, for the Board's consideration, to waive the Council's procurement policy and authorize the purchase of a vehicle up to the cost of \$60,000.

**Mr. Register made the motioned to waive the Council's Procurement Policy and authorize the purchase of a replacement vehicle up to the cost of \$60,000; seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried.**

*Commissioner Bennett joined the meeting*

##### Affordable Housing Committee Update

Mr. Bourre provided an update of the Affordable Housing Committee activities, which included an overview of the Committee Workshop and Regional Convening meetings held in April. The Convening meeting highlighted the various issues that were brought out in the County meetings across the Region. Ms. April Atkins, a community affairs specialist for the FDIC, was a presenter at the Convening meeting on how to move forward in finding affordable financing. He thanked staff for their efforts in putting it all together. Discussion followed.

Public Comment: Mr. Cornell Oliver, 8527 Oak \_\_\_, Jacksonville, stated that the Sadowski fund has been raided back since Governor Charlie Crist. In 2021 the Legislator passed an online sales tax that has a lot of money. Almost two percent of that sales tax should be put back into the Sadowski Trust Fund to shore it back up. He stated that he had the opportunity to speak with someone on the Tax, Ways and Means in Affordable Housing who told him that if you take two percent of the \$80 million currently being contributed to the unemployment fund, approximately \$8 million a month times 12 months, that's a lot of money. There is an opportunity now to start fixing a lot of the problems that will be seen in the future. The priority for our region is that, from Wyman Duggan to Angie Nixon, they need to know where you stand regarding workforce housing.

Mr. Oliver stated that a resolution needs to come from this body providing your standpoint that they need to shore up the Sadowski Trust Fund. He believes that going through the Special Session, the Governor, the House or Senate Speaker, can extend past the insurance policy and take a good look at the Sadowski Trust Fund. He encourages everyone who lives in the City of Jacksonville and the surrounding communities to let the Northeast Florida Delegation hear from you on this issue.

#### Program Spotlight: Overdose Summit Recap

Mr. Nolen provided an overview of the Overdose Summit that was held on March 31, 2022 at the World Golf Village. He highlighted the number of deaths over a one-year period between 2020 and 2021 as a direct result of an overdose. A copy of the program was provided for the Members that provided more detailed information of the 19 speakers and the topics that were covered. Additionally, there were 12 vendors providing information on available resources. He stated that the next steps will include a regional collaboration and information sharing; research of funding sources; as well as monitoring of settlement funding not only locally, but statewide and nationwide. Discussion followed.

**President Harvey** expressed his appreciation of staff's efforts and hard work in bringing everyone together for this very informative event. He stated that this was probably the best meeting he has ever attended in his entire life where he walked out feeling like 'we can do something about this issue.'

Ms. Payne stated that the next steps will include helping to educate the Members of this Board and to provide resources that could be used when determining how the settlement funding received is spent in your communities.

#### 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Mr. Shad provided an update on the rewrite of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Monthly hybrid meetings are being held to discuss issues and review drafts of the required elements of the CEDS. In April, the topic was Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities and Threat (SWOT) analysis. They noticed that, in using the Mentimeter polling software, affordable housing was recognized, by the participants, as one of the biggest threats of economic development. The May meeting will focus on resilience, building on the work of the Economic Resilience Task Force. This will be followed by discussion on the strategic direction/action plan in June, and evaluation framework in July. The Committee will review the draft plan in August before being presented to the Board for approval in September of this year.

#### Community Resilience Update

Ms. Ilami provided an overview of the community resiliency's second workshops, held in March. She highlighted the workshop format, which included presentations from the American Flood Coalition. The workshop included breakout groups and the utilization of the Mentimeter software for participant input. She shared some of the outcomes of the workshop as 1) determined priorities and structure to form a regional resiliency collaborative for Northeast Florida, and 2) determined resiliency data gaps and needs that can inform future priorities as they move forward (the first task of the FDEP grant). Ms. Ilami also highlighted the top four goals identified and the preferred structure. Moving forward, there will be 1) a steering committee formed, 2) prepare a template of a MOU, and 3) target a launch date for summer 2022. Ms. Ilami informed the Members that staff is working on a multiregional grant with five of our sister organizations. The purpose is to provide

a cohesive statewide approach to resilience planning, including inland counties in resilience efforts, and providing a regional framework for funding mitigation projects and creating implementable strategies and plans across Florida. She highlighted some of the steps that will be involved such as 1) future extreme rainfall modeling, mitigation needs assessments, template and mitigation priority areas and project list, small area mitigation plans, regional resilience exposure tool (R2ET), interactive best practice application, and stakeholder engagement. Ms. Ilami informed the Members of other ongoing resilience tasks, stating that the Council has submitted the first deliverable for the FDEP grant with the remaining to be submitted through June 15<sup>th</sup>; submitted first deliverable of the CDBG healthcare grant and currently working on task two and four of the grant; submitted pre-proposals for several other resiliency grant opportunities; and staff continues to work with partners to do outreach, webinars and symposia. Ms. Ilami shared information on the resilient Florida program planning grant awards in FY 21-22 for the Region by county. Discussion followed.

**Councilmember DeFoor** suggests that the action items regarding flooding include requirements for new construction, and how to mitigate already built out areas. She stated that the action items should be focused on private property more so than public facilities. **Commissioner Waldron** agreed that solutions such as how to generate funds and what needs to be done to fix the problem going forward is what he would like to see included. **Commissioner Condon** encourages staff to work with Mr. Conkey at the Water Management District to get with key resources to utilize their model to do their water studies.

#### 2022 Hurricane Season Update

Mr. Anderson presented the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season outlook and provided 1) an overview of the susceptibility of the Region, including a brief history of hurricane activity in Florida, 2) the early season forecast of 19 named storms, nine hurricanes with four of them a major hurricane, and 3) the possibility of an earlier start to the Season, as early as mid-May. Mr. Anderson also highlighted some of the activities provided by the Council to assist local governments and their communities in preparing for hurricanes, such as the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study updates, hurricane training exercises, and Council staffing during disasters. A brief discussion followed.

#### FDOT Target Zero

Mr. Ryan Asmus, FDOT Program Coordinator, Dist. 2, provided a presentation on the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) new initiative Target Zero and the Department's emphasis on safety. He stated that the top priority of FDOT is to eliminate roadway fatalities. He highlighted District Two's emphasis areas and process improvements that has been implemented, the planning process, project development & environment process, design process, maintenance & ongoing operations, the Northeast Florida Region statistics for serious injuries and fatalities. The department is moving forward to Target Zero and ensuring that the focus is on safety with all their projects. They continue to look for partnerships with the Planning Councils and ask the Members for input. A brief discussion followed.

#### 2022 Legislative Session Summary

Mr. Doolin stated that the upcoming Special Session in May will include discussion on property insurance. He provided a brief review of the 2022 Legislative Session, highlighting funding secured for rural infrastructure, broadband, SCOP and SCRAP. He added that HB7049 allows local governmental agencies the option to publish notices on publicly accessible websites, HB7055

prohibits state agencies and local governments from paying or complying with a ransomware demand, requiring cybersecurity training and adoption of standards. Additionally, all local governments are required to have stormwater and wastewater 5- and 20-year plans by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MEMBERS' REPORT / LOCAL & REGIONAL ISSUES DISCUSSION

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Department of Economic Opportunity

**Mr. Darryl Register** shared information from an article in Wall Street Journal discussing local issues related to local communities rebelling against growth, which is causing a delay of planned development.

Florida Department of Transportation

**Mr. Austin** stated that FDOT has no agency report at this time.

St. Johns River Water Management District

**Mr. Conkey** thanked the Board for the Council's support of the District's Water Conservation Month resolution.

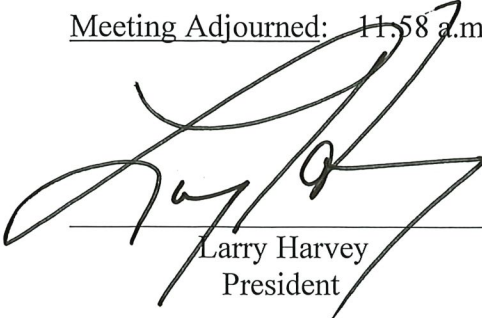
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Payne introduced two new employees; Ms. Annie Sieger who is helping with the Healthcare Coalition program; and Mr. Marcus Lloyd who is a planner and will be working on affordable housing issues. Ms. Payne reminded the Members about completing their Financial Disclosures. She also asked, on behalf of Vice-Mayor Kreger, if any Members are experiencing issues with the tree legislation (F.S. 163.045) to please reach out to him to assist with developing clarifying language to the Statute.

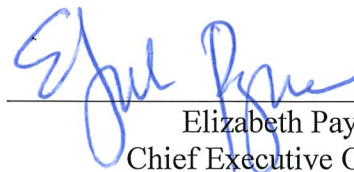
The 2022 Regional Leadership Academy is ongoing, with the first class held on March 30<sup>th</sup> in Flagler County.

Next Meeting Date: June 2, 2022

Meeting Adjourned: 11:58 a.m.



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Larry Harvey  
President



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Elizabeth Payne  
Chief Executive Officer