



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**May 7, 2026**

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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, May 7, 2026; President Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

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

BAKER:           Commissioner Anderson  
                  Commissioner Iverson  
                  Mr. Griffis

CLAY:            Commissioner Condon  
                  Commissioner Renninger  
                  Mr. Bourre

DUVAL:           Councilmember Amaro  
                  Mayor Lynch

FLAGLER:        Commissioner Dance  
                  Councilmember Gambaro

NASSAU:         Commissioner Huppmann  
                  Commissioner Minshew

PUTNAM:         Commissioner Harvey  
                  Commissioner Wilkinson

ST. JOHNS:      Commissioner Taylor  
                  Commissioner Whitehurst  
                  Commissioner Morgan

EX-OFFICIO:     Ms. Gore, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (*virtual*)  
                  Ms. Santana, Florida Department of Transportation  
                  Mr. Conkey, St. Johns River Water Management District

Excused:         Councilman Ludwig, Commissioner Martin, Mr. Hart

Absent:          Councilmember Gay and Ms. Brown

Presenter:       Marshall Eyerman, Nassau County Deputy County Manager

Guests:          Isabel Cosio, CJ Thompson, Jessica Prevatt, Tara McCue, Lays Morillo, Jeff Schmucker, Bill White, Terry Suggs, Joel Addington, Kristin Dozier, TLanahan, Amanda's iPhone, Tom's iPhone, and other members of the public.

Staff: Elizabeth Payne, Donna Starling, Leigh Wilsey, Jennifer Bryla, Fara Ilami, Tyler Nolen, Annette Bardge, Robert Jordan, and other staff

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**President Anderson** welcomed everyone to the meeting.

\*CONSENT AGENDA

**President Anderson asked if anyone wanted to pull any item on the consent agenda. Hearing none, he called for a motion on the consent agenda. Commissioner Harvey motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Commissioner Whitehurst. Motion carried.**

Alternate Review Comprehensive Plan Amendments (Information Only)

Comprehensive plan amendments are required to be reviewed and comments provided to the State and local government within a 30-day window. With the cancellation of the April meeting, these were reviewed the established alternate review process. Therefore, staff's review of these comprehensive plans were reviewed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, in the absence of the President, and comments submitted to the State and local government. They are provided for information only.

ACTION ITEMS

\*RFQ: Pediatric Restraints

Ms. Wilsey provided an overview of the Healthcare Coalition (HCC) program, which serves 18 counties in north Florida and has allocated funding to complete regional projects that address mitigation strategies identified in the regional healthcare vulnerability assessment. The HCC program previously provided pediatric restraints to emergency responders in 2023. The HCC was able to identify additional available funding and would like to provide more of these restraints where needed. A request for quotes was issued on April 14<sup>th</sup> and received two responses on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from: Ferno and Henry Shein. Based on the pricing, the best price was selected from each vendor; therefore, staff request approval to purchase: 89 PediMate+ restraints and 17 NeoMate restraints from Henry Shein totaling \$39,432; and 37 KangooFix restraints in the amount of \$23,726.25 from Ferno. A brief discussion followed.

**President Anderson called for a motion. Commissioner Condon motioned to approve the purchase of 89 PediMate+ and 17 NeoMate restraints in the amount of \$39,432 from Henry Shein; and 37 KangooFix restraints in the amount of \$23,726.25 from Ferno or a total expense of \$63,158.25; seconded by Councilmember Amaro. Motion carried.**

\* Transportation Disadvantaged LCB Membership Rosters

Ms. Bryla provided an overview of the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) membership rosters. She stated that Baker, Clay, Flagler, and St. Johns Counties added voting members and were approved at their February LCB meeting and that Duval, Nassau, and Putnam Counties had no membership changes and were also approved at their February LCB meeting with no changes.

**President Anderson called for a motion. Commissioner Harvey move to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Membership for Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties, and authorize staff to submit the**

**membership rosters to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged; seconded by Commissioner Renninger. Motion carried.**

\*Resolution 2026-09-Water Conservation Month

Ms. Payne stated that with the cancellation of the April meeting, this resolution is being brought to the Board now to recognize Water Conservation Month.

**President Anderson called for a motion. Commissioner Harvey motioned to approve Resolution 2026-09; seconded by Commissioner Huppman. Motion carried.**

\*Resolution 2026-10: Darryl Register

Ms. Payne introduced and read into the record; Resolution 2026-10 honoring Darryl Register for his years of service to the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors – resolution is attached. A brief discussion followed.

**Commissioner Condon moved approval of Resolution 2026-10 honoring Darryl Register for his years of service; seconded by Commissioner Condon. Motion carried.**

Presentation: Data Centers – Mr. Marshall Eyerman, Deputy County Manager, Nassau

Mr. Eyerman, Assistant County Manager, Nassau County, provided an overview of their experience regarding Data Centers. It began with a company stating that they had a site that would be ideal for a Data Center, which was quickly spread over social media. Nassau County reached out to the company who eventually confirmed, in writing, that they are not doing a Data Center. Unfortunately, social media has not accepted that. The County continues to put out notices that there are no Data Centers coming to Nassau and no one has submitted any paperwork for this.

Considering all of this, the County is looking at a moratorium on Data Centers. Therefore, two public hearings have been scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>. A moratorium will allow the County to pause what is not happening for up to a year and make sure they go through this the right way by structuring what they want to see. He stated that the State is also going through SB 484, which includes requirements on water restrictions.

Mr. Eyerman stated that they will be asking the Board to form a fact-finding committee to compile all the information from areas such as SJRWMD, Data Centers, FPL, etc. to see what can be done with their land use codes and environmental considerations to develop best practices. Discussion followed.

Ms. Payne stated that staff will be working with Nassau County to determine how the Regional Council can participate and/or assist them in this endeavor. She added that this is a regional issue that can be added to our agenda as a regular item to provide updates.

**President Anderson** requested that this item be placed on the regular agenda as a discussion item. He also requested that it be added to next month's agenda to be voted on to make it a regional issue.

**Councilmember Gambaro** offered to host a site visit in Palm Coast to assist with the fact findings.

Strategic Communications Plan Update

Ms. Payne stated that the Strategic Communications Plan kickoff with Raftelis has begun, which will include a comprehensive discovery, stakeholder research, and the development of the Plan. She provided a brief overview of the project scope and deliverables scheduled through November. This will include a review of the Councils existing digital and print materials as well as in-depth stakeholder interviews.

#### Program Spotlight: City of Bunnell Visioning

Ms. Bryla provided an overview of a Community Visioning Project the Regional Council recently completed for the City of Bunnell. She highlighted what the visioning project is, its purpose and selected themes. She concluded with an invitation for anyone interested in having this done in any of their communities to reach out to the Council for mor information.

#### Community Resiliency Update

Ms. Ilami provided an overview of the resiliency activities in the Region. She highlighted the Resilient First Coast; the Regional Resilience Entity Project that is ending this year but staff will be submitting a proposal for FY 26-27 funding; the Multi-Regional Planning and Mitigation Assessment's final report has been submitted and will be available online once approved by FloridaCommerce to be followed by regional and statewide trainings on the project results and applicability; the Military Installation Readiness Review project; the Pinycastle Military Installation Readiness Review project in partnership with the East Central Regional Planning Council; the Aquatic Connectivity Project status; and local vulnerability assessments in Baker County and the Town of Baldwin. She also shared information on work being done on the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative in which the Council is assisting the North Florida Land Trust in this effort, which also protects military installations as well.

#### Regional Leadership Academy Update

Mr. Nolen provided a brief background on the Council's Regional Leadership Academy for the benefit of the new Board Members. He shared the list of the 2026 participants representing wide variety of industry professionals. He highlighted each of the first four sessions' activities that took place in Baker, Putnam, Nassau, and Flagler Counties. The class will next visit St. Johns County in May followed by a networking event in June, Clay County in July and will conclude in Duval County in August. More information was provided on the networking event on June 24 at the NEFRC office which all Members are invited. A brief discussion followed.

Public Comment – Mr. Nooney, address on file, spoke about the Tourist Development Council and gaps in Jacksonville's current tourism economy, which he believes is horrible signage based on the 2025 Emerald Trail map. Specific projects/initiatives that could be funded using Tourism Development tax revenue – the Culinary Institute of America which is coming to Duval County. He also commented on other opportunities that the TDC could entertain such as bait to table.

### LOCAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES DISCUSSION

Baker County – **Commissioner Anderson** asked any Member who has or are dealing with issues related to social media sharing incorrect information that the public then accepts as truth to contact Commissioner Iverson as he will be working in Baker County to try and address this. **Commissioner Iverson** stated that he would welcome any input provided.

**Commissioner Minshe**w mentioned a book by Brooks Williams called Performative Outrage and others where he talks about that the power of social media and negative public engagement and she believes elected officials would find his work informative.

Flagler County – **Commissioner Dance** stated that on April 25<sup>th</sup> they held their ‘Celebrate Trails Day’ in Palm Coast; a rail and trail conservancy project. If anyone is interested in doing one in their county, please contact the Flagler County Tourism office or him for information on the steps they took.

Nassau County – **Commissioner Minshe**w (City of Fernandina Beach) stated that they recently dedicated their new waterfront park. The Regional Council is currently assisting the City with their Evaluation and Appraisal Review. The City is looking to hire a Chief Resiliency Officer so they can address their adaptation plans. They City have gone out to bid to remove Bretts restaurant and address the marina and sea wall in the future.

St. Johns County – **Commissioner Taylor** stated that the County paid an outside contractor half a million dollars to do their comprehensive plan only to have it rejected by the State because of SB 180. Because of this, she encourages the Members to continue to hold their legislators accountable to the negative effects of SB 180 to local governments.

**Commissioner Morgan** (St. Augustine Beach) stated she is seeking information from anyone who has dealt with the River-2-Sea loop, now known as the Sun Trail, and would love to speak with them as the City of St. Augustine Beach is at the design and planning stage and ready to make the leap to the next stage and are getting a surprising amount of push back. She is asking anyone who is similarly situated with the Sun Trail to please reach out to her.

#### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS’ REPORT

Florida Department of Transportation – **Ms. Santana** stated that the FDOT will host a public meeting in Jacksonville on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed median modifications on Lem Turner Road at Robena Road. This will be held at Highlands Regional Library, 1826 Dunn Ave. from 4:30pm - 6pm.

St. Johns River Water Management District (WMD) – **Mr. Conkey** stated that regarding the Aquatic Connectivity project with UNF and JU, the WMD has an extensive database will be available to anyone who wants to use it.

Department of Environmental Protection – **Ms. Gore** introduced herself as Ms. Craver’s replacement and the new Public Information Officer for DEP and encouraged the Members to feel free to contact her should they need anything from the Northeast District.

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

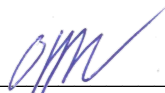
Ms. Payne informed the Member of an upcoming Planning Officials Training Workshop, hosted by the Florida American Planning Association, in Keystone Heights. She reminded everyone about Financial Disclosures coming up. The Council will be conducting a Hurricane Exercise for St. Johns County on May 28th and the JEA/City of Jacksonville June 2-4, 2026.


Ms. Payne recently spoke at the League of Cities dinner in the City of Fernandina Beach where she shared some of the work of the Council, i.e., services provided to its municipalities, and our community visioning program for our small communities.

Ms. Payne also informed the Members of the Navy's stance on Data Centers as the at Kings Bay Naval Station issued a letter not in support of proposed Data Centers. This was also an item of discussion on the Military Installation Readiness Review call staff had recently.

Next Meeting Date: June 4, 2026

Meeting Adjourned: 11:48 a.m.

  
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Jimmy Anderson  
President

  
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Elizabeth Payne  
Chief Executive Officer