



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Board of Directors Meeting
June 5, 2025

MINUTES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors held a meeting at 40 East Adams Street, Jacksonville, FL on Thursday, June 5, 2025; President Renninger called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

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

BAKER: Commissioner Anderson
Mr. Griffis
Mr. Register

CLAY: Commissioner Condon (v)
Commissioner Renninger

DUVAL: Councilmember Amaro (v)
Mayor Lynch

FLAGLER: Commissioner Dance (v)

NASSAU: Commissioner Huppmann
Commissioner Martin

PUTNAM: Commissioner Harvey
Commissioner Wilkinson

ST. JOHNS: Commissioner Joseph
Commissioner Morgan
Commissioner Murphy

EX-OFFICIO: Mr. Conkey – *SJWMD*
Ms. Craver - *DEP*
Mr. Dixon - *DOT* (v)
Mr. Hart (v)

Excused: Commissioner Bennett, Mr. Bourre, Ms. Brown, Councilmember Gay,
Mr. Kennedy, and Commissioner Minshew

Excused: Councilmember Gambaro

Absent: Commissioner Pennington

Presenters: Clayton Levins, Executive Director, Smart North Florida

Guests: Matthew Dews, Aide to Senator Moody

Staff: Tyler Nolen, Elizabeth Payne, Andrew Prokopiak, Donna Starling, Cassidy Taylor, and other staff

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

President Renninger called for a motion on the consent agenda. Commissioner Harvey motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

* Proposed FY 24/25 Amended Budget

Ms. Starling presented the proposed amended FY 24/25 budget and highlighted the changes since its approval. The projected decrease in total revenues is approximately \$386,000, and the decrease in total expenses is approximately \$468,000. This would leave the Council with a projected net income of approximately \$81,000. Discussion followed.

President Renninger called for a motion. Mr. Register moved to approve proposed FY 24/25 amended budget; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Motion carried.

*Proposed FY 25/26 Budget

Ms. Starling provided an overview of the proposed FY 25/26 budget, depicting revenues at \$3,476,414 and expenses at \$3,551,115; reflecting a shortfall of \$74,701. A two percent merit increase for staff is included if the deficit is covered.

Mr. Register stated that the Personnel, Budget, and Finance Committee discussed the proposed budget and decided, instead of approving a deficit budget, to add a line item to the budget that would move funds from reserves to balance the budget. Discussion followed.

Mr. Register motioned to amend the proposed FY 25/26 budget by adding a line item moving funds from reserves to fill the deficit and approve the balanced budget; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Motion carried.

*Transportation Disadvantaged LCB Membership Rosters – Baker & Putnam Counties

Ms. Payne presented the Baker and Putnam Counties' Local Coordinating Board Membership Rosters for approval by the Board acting as the Designated Official Planning Agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged program.

President Renninger called for a motion. Mr. Register motioned to approve the Baker and Putnam Counties' Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordination Board Membership Rosters; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Motion carried.

Presentation: Smart North Florida

Mr. Levins, Executive Director of Smart North Florida, provided a presentation on the work of Smart North Florida. He highlighted their Mission of democratizing innovation; How they do it, through data coordination, smart tech, and regional collaboration. He also shared information on

current projects such as TRAINFO, an early train detector; MODII, smart parking with digital twins; STREETSCOPE, understanding traffic conditions with AI; and Hohonu, understanding flooding conditions with radar and ultrasonic sensors. Mr. Levins informed the Members of a new opportunity for the Region and local governments through their Pilot Sponsorship Program designed to support local governments in innovation. Discussion followed.

Program Spotlight: Northeast Florida Shrimping Industry Market Study

Ms. Taylor presented an overview of the recently completed Northeast Florida Shrimping Industry Market Study. This study was made possible through a Community Planning and Technical Assistance grant from the Florida Department of Commerce. She stated that the purpose of the Study was to provide recommendations that support the expansion of small businesses, revitalize the industry, and strengthen the food economy in the Region. Ms. Taylor highlighted project process through three phases, the background research, listening sessions, recommendations. The next step is to provide presentations to interested county/city commissions. Discussion followed.

Council 101: Hurricane Preparedness Program / 2025 Hurricane Season

Mr. Nolen provided an overview of the Council's Hurricane Preparedness Program, which includes assistance with hurricane exercises, staff support during Emergency Operating Center activations and other disasters. NEFRC staff provide assistance with local recovery efforts, as well as providing information sharing among North Florida healthcare facilities. He stated that over the past decade, staff has provided approximately 150 hours of assistance during disasters and recovery activities.

Mr. Nolen also provided some historical background information on hurricane activities and the importance of planning and preparing for the 2025 Hurricane Season. The 2025 season is expected to be above normal with 13-19 named storms, 6 – 10 hurricanes and 3 – 5 being major hurricanes. The names of this season's storms were provided. A brief discussion followed.

Ms. Craver, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), stated that the Department is currently pre-authorizing vegetative and Construction/Demolition Disaster Debris Management Sites so they can activate when needed following a major weather event such as a tropical storm or hurricane.

Community Resiliency Update

Mr. Prokopiak provided an overview of resiliency activities in the Region. He highlighted the Military Installation Readiness Review (MIRR) project and the upcoming visits to Blount Island/Mayport, Camp Blanding and NAS Jax by staff and the consultant; the Regional Resilience Entity program ongoing with deliverables to be submitted by June 30th; the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative is working to conduct community engagement nature based solutions for salt marshes; Flagler Compound Flooding Analysis; and assistance to other Regions. A brief discussion followed.

* Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee Follow Up Discussion.

Ms. Payne provided an update to the creation of a Ad Hoc Committee for strategic planning for the Council. She proposed to change from a committee to a Working Group and highlighted the Mission with key elements; the proposed structure; timeline; and subject matter that will be determined by a facilitated SWOT (strengths, weakness, opportunity, and threat) exercise. The SWOT will be conducted at the September meeting. Ms. Payne added that, as a Working Group,

its findings will be brought to the Personnel, Budget, and Finance for vetting and then to the full Board for approval. Discussion followed.

President Renninger called for a motion. Commissioner Martin motioned to move forward with the Working Group; seconded by Commissioner Harvey.

During further discussions, it was determined by a consensus that a facilitator should lead these meetings rather than appointing a Chair.

On voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment – None.

Local and Regional Issues Discussion

Murphy – He recently participated in the St. Johns County hurricane exercise at the EOC, which was a great exercise, and offered kudos to the NEFRC staff who were involved.

Amaro – The City is about to vote on the UF campus than can have a transformative impact on the City.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORT

Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Ms. Craver

The application portal for Resilient Florida Program will be open for submittals on July 1 through September 1, 2025 for planning grants and the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan. Their Resilient Florida office is hosting virtual seminars on Thursdays 9-11am to conclude on June 30th.

St. Johns River Water Management District – Mr. Conkey

A video was shared on the before and after Seminole Ranch flooding conditions after Hurricane Milton hit. Also shared were statistical information on acute and chronic events related to high-tide flooding incidents and sea level rise.

Florida Department of Transportation – Mr. Dickson

FDOT is rehabilitating three pedestrian bridges; MLK Parkway, Atlantic Blvd. east of I-95, and I-95 at Glen Kernan Street. The project includes cleaning and painting of structural bearings and addressing the steel and concrete. These projects are expected to conclude in early 2026.

Florida Commerce – Mr. Register

Shared information from an article in Site Selection Magazine about the increase in manufacturing in the State of Florida.

President Renninger acknowledged the support of Senator Moody through the attendance of her North Florida Director, Mr. Matthew Dews. Mr. Dews introduced himself and offered his assistance to our Members.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Payne reminded the Members that her contract requires her to have an annual evaluation for review in August by the Executive Committee. Therefore, staff will send them the questionnaire for completion. She also stated that those who sit on our Board are required to complete and submit a Financial Disclosure to the State. She reminded the Members that there will not be a July meeting due to July 4th.

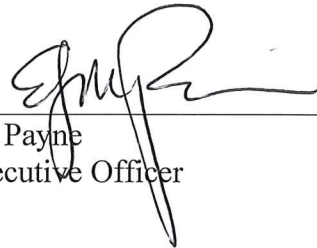
The Executive Committee will be meeting in August.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:02 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: September 4, 2025



Jim Renninger
President



Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer