



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Board of Directors Meeting
September 1, 2022

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, September 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

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

BAKER: Commissioner Jimmy Anderson **(in person)**
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)**

FLAGLER: Commissioner Joseph Mullins **(zoom)**
Mayor Catherine Robinson **(zoom)**

NASSAU: Mr. John Drew **(in person)**

PUTNAM: Commissioner Larry Harvey **(in person)**
Commissioner Jeff Rawls **(zoom)**

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

EX-OFFICIO: Mr. Curtis Hart (DEO) **(in person)**
Mr. Doug Conkey (SJRWMD) **(in person)**

Excused: Mr. Michael Griffis, Mr. Donald Holmes, Mayor Michael Lednovich, Commissioner John Martin, Councilmember Joyce Morgan, Mr. Russell Simpson (DEP), Commissioner David Sullivan, Ms. Karen Taulbee (DOT), and Commissioner Paul Waldron

Absent: Mayor Elaine Brown

Presenter: Mr. Eddie Bouza, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Guest: Endrea Frazier, Lindsay Lambert, Howard Wanamaker

Staff: Kate High, Tyler Nolen, Donna Starling, Elizabeth Payne, Sheron Forde, et al

WELCOME & INVITATION TO SPEAK

President Harvey welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members of the public to speak on any item before the Board. He also stated that the public will also be recognized during the public comment portion of the meeting.

*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 Councilmember DeFoor. Motion carried.**

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

*FY 22/22 Proposed Slate of Officers

Mr. Register presented the FY 22/23 Proposed Slate of Officers, as was approved by the Personnel, Budget and Finance Policy Committee acting as the Nominating Committee, for consideration by the full Board as follows: President – Councilmember DeFoor, 1st Vice President – Commissioner Whitehurst, 2nd Vice President – Councilmember Morgan and Secretary/Treasurer – Mr. Register.

President Harvey called for a motion. Mr. Register moved approval of the FY 22/23 Proposed Slate of Officers; seconded by _____ . Motion carried.

*2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Request to Open Public Comment

Mr. Shad provided an overview of the 2022 re-write of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and requested the Board's permission to open the 30-day public comment period. He stated that at the end of the public comment period, staff will incorporate the comments received into the CEDS and bring it back to the Board in October for a final review and approval for submission to the Economic Development Administration. Members were provided with a copy of the CEDS executive summary in the meeting packet, and a full copy of the document was provided in the meeting for their review. Discussion followed.

Suggestions were made to include eco-tourism and consideration of future technologies, i.e., electric vehicles.

President Harvey called for a motion. Mr. Register motioned to approve the draft CEDS document for posting online, with the few additions identified by the Members, to start the public comment period; seconded by Commissioner Condon. Motion carried.

Commissioner Rawls joined at 10:53a

Affordable Housing Committee Update

Chair Bourre provided a presentation on the ongoing Affordable Housing Committee's activities. He highlighted the affordable housing stats such as cost burdened and non-cost burdened in the seven-county region; current programs; success through State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) and State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) programs; current trends; future trends, what is needed and what happens if not addressed; things that local governments can do; and next steps

of the Affordable Housing Committee. Chair Bourre directed the Members attention to the handouts provided, which are scannable bar codes for housing resources. Discussion followed.

Councilmember DeFoor stated that she believes there is a need for a statewide architectural component that should be added to the conversation; possibly utilizing architectural students to produce some really cool resource to make it affordable, and something we can all be proud of. **Chair Bourre** stated that one of the resources they have tapped into is the architectural plans used in the past that are being consolidated onto a website so that they can be easily accessed to do just that.

Commissioner Mullins left the meeting.

Commissioner Bennett left the meeting.

Program Spotlight: City of Jacksonville's Special Committee

Ms. Payne introduced Mr. Noel Comeaux, the Council's new Director of Planning and Policy to share information on the Council's role in assisting the City of Jacksonville's Special Committee on Critical Quality of Life Issues. Mr. Comeaux provided an overview of the Special Committee, whose purpose is to address issues that are of critical concern to the City, such as access to healthcare, affordable housing, and homelessness. The Committee will include working groups that will address questions such as the scope of each issue, what other entities are currently doing to address these issues, and best practice or policies adopted by other communities. He also provided the timeframe of the Special Committee, which is expected to conclude in early December.

Ms. Payne stated that she was approached by City Councilman Boylan who asked the Regional Council to assist by providing similar facilitation services on this Special Committee, as we did with the Special Committee on Resiliency.

Community Resilience Update

Ms. Ilami stated that at the Resilient First Coast Steering Committee meeting, Commissioner Horvath was selected as the new Chair. The next meeting will be on September 14th, at which time they will develop guiding principles, objectives and finalize committees. Ms. Ilami stated that the Council is working with both Putnam and Flagler Counties to conduct their vulnerability assessments, and assisted Baker County with their application and would conduct theirs if awarded. She informed the Members that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) funded the following grants: 1) the Regional Resilience Entity grant, which the Council partnered with Flagler County on, and 2) Silver Jackets grant, which the Council partnered with the US Army Corps of Engineers on. Ms. Ilami also informed the Members of other grants the Council is seeking, upcoming events, and ongoing resilience tasks.

Overview of SB 1940 (Resiliency)

Mr. Eddy Bouza, Planning and Policy Administrator, DEP's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, presented information on Resilient Florida and SB 1954 in the 2021 Legislation and Legislative changes in 2022 regarding Florida's vulnerability to sea level rise, flooding and potential for increasingly severe storms. He highlighted DEP's focusing on planning, which includes vulnerability assessments, adaptation/resilience plans, comprehensive plan amendments, and compliance with the Peril of Flood statute; without a vulnerability assessment by 2024, there will be no qualification for future funding. He also highlighted planning resources, regional

resilience entities, comprehensive statewide data set and assessment, the Florida Flood Hub, resilience plan, project types – they are currently up to half a billion dollars in grants available this year, accomplishments to date, and implementation grant cycle. A brief discussion followed.

Mr. Bouza was asked to provide staff with a list of this regions' local governments who have applied for grants and/or awarded. Mr. Bouza agreed to provide the information to staff for submittal to the Members.

Council Contracts Update

Ms. Payne provided an update of grants and contracts recently awarded to the Council such as a DEO Technical Assistance grant to update Glen St. Mary's Comprehensive Plan for \$24,000, A1A Ocean Island Trail Implementation Strategy for \$35,000, a Competitive Florida grant for strategic planning in the Town of Welaka for \$46,000; DEP Vulnerability Assessment grant in partnership with Flagler County \$125,000 of \$200,000; and a Clay County Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant as a program evaluator for \$6,000. Contracts received for Healthcare Coalition was increased by \$76,952/year for a total of \$748,712/year; Hazard Analysis was increased by \$5,292/year for a total of \$13,848/year; Clay County Substance Use Disorder – phase two of the project – at \$6,000. She stated that while our budget was prepared prior to receiving these grants and contracts, it will alleviate the initial projection of a deficit for this year as staff moves forward with these projects.

CEO Performance Evaluation Consideration

Chair Register stated that the CEO Evaluation was discussed in the Personnel, Budget & Finance Policy Committee and stated that the evaluation was extremely positive. He provided an overview of the Committee's discussion and actions relating to incentive and the Council's contractual requirement related to Ms. Payne's employment contract to annually deposit \$8,000 into a deferred compensation plan. Due to the issues encountered with the current deferred compensation plan, which has since been discontinued, Ms. Payne has withdrawn the funds deposited for her since becoming CEO, and opened a 457b account, which she will deposit these funds into. He informed the Members that the Council is unable to deposit the annual amount directly, and will need to pay Ms. Payne directly, in 12 monthly payments, and she can deposit the funds into her 457b account.

Chair Register, on behalf of the PB&F Committee, motioned for the Council make the \$8,000 payment, per the Ms. Payne's contract, broken into 12 equal monthly installments, directly to Ms. Payne; seconded by Councilmember DeFoor. Motion carried.

Mr. Register, on behalf of the Committee, motioned to increase Ms. Payne's annual compensation by five percent; seconded by Commissioner Horvath. Motion carried.

Discussion followed on the formula for staff increases.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MEMBERS' REPORT / LOCAL & REGIONAL ISSUES DISCUSSION

President Harvey stated that the Town of Welaka received significant state funding for their septic and sewer program and are currently seeking a developer to do the work.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Department of Economic Opportunity

Mr. Darryl Register shared information about a report from a national organization called Upwork, which talks about the types of jobs that are the hardest to fill and highlighted the top five as 1) county positions, 2) IT and networking, 3) general operations, 4) customer service and 5) HR.

Florida Department of Transportation

FDOT has no agency report at this time.

St. Johns River Water Management District

Mr. Conkey stated that Mr. Tom Frick has been designated as the SJRWMD's Chief Resiliency Officer. The cost share program is slightly changing; application starts December 1st and closes January 31st. REDI program has increased to \$1 million for eligible counties. As a follow up to a previous inquiry from President Harvey regarding the value of the SJRWMD, Mr. Conkey stated they are working on 'wild sheets' for each county and will provided at a future meeting that will show the cost shares that have been done, properties owned or operated by the WMD, etc. for a better understanding of how the WMD serves those communities. He acknowledged staff for their assistance and looks forward to working with them on resiliency as well as Ms. Payne's guidance.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Payne reminded the Members that staff is working to solicit legislative priorities for the upcoming Session that begins in March; and anticipates holding our legislative committee meeting in November or December. She informed the Members that the Regional Awards nomination will be online the week of September 5th with the ceremony taking place following the January meeting. Members are encouraged to nominate projects, people, and programs in their local government to continue celebrating all the successes that are taking place.

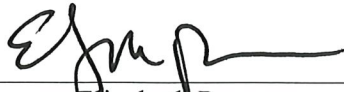
Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be October 6, 2022.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:53 a.m.



Randy DeFoor
President



Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer