



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 6, 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, October 6, 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 **(zoom)**  
Mr. Steve Kennedy **(in person)**  
Commissioner Jim Renninger **(in person)**

**DUVAL:** Councilmember Randy DeFoor **(in person)**

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

**NASSAU:** Mr. John Drew **(in person)**  
Mayor Michael Lednovich **(zoom)**  
Commissioner John Martin **(in person)**

**PUTNAM:** Commissioner Larry Harvey **(in person)**  
Mr. Donald Holmes **(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:** Commissioner James Bennett, Mr. Michael Griffis, Mayor Sean Lynch, Councilmember Joyce Morgan, Commissioner Joseph Mullins, Commissioner Jeff Rawls, Mr. Russell Simpson (DEP), and Ms. Karen Taulbee (DOT)

**Absent:** Mayor Elaine Brown

**Presenter:** TJ Ward, Project Opioid Jax;

**Guest:** Abigale Bell, Project Opioid Jax; and Wes Wolfe (zoom)

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

### WELCOME

**President Harvey** welcomed everyone and stated that it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as President for the past year, and looks forward to continued service on the Council. He acknowledged Ms. Payne and her staff for their efforts on behalf of the Regional Council.

Ms. Payne presented **President Harvey** with a gavel plaque for his year of service to the Regional Council as President and thanked him for his support and service during his tenure.

### PASSING OF THE GAVEL

**President Harvey** passed the gavel to incoming **President DeFoor**; thus, ushering in the new leadership with the installation of new officers; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Commissioner Whitehurst, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Councilmember Morgan, and Secretary/Treasurer – Mr. Register.

**President DeFoor** shared her appreciation for the excellent job Commissioner Harvey did during his term as president.

### WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

**President DeFoor** welcomed new Board Member, Mayor David Alfin, City of Palm Coast as a representative for Flagler County; replacing Commissioner Mullins.

### FY 22/23 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

**President DeFoor** stated that the FY 22/23 Committee Appointments are included in the meeting packet. Members are asked to let her, or staff, know if there are any preferences or changes so they can be addressed.

### FY 22/23 MEETING SCHEDULE & MEMBER ROSTER

Ms. Payne informed the Members that the upcoming meeting schedule through 2023 and the NEFRC Membership roster are provided for their information.

### INVITATION TO SPEAK

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

## OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

### Comprehensive Plan Reviews: New Format

Mr. Jordan provided an overview of the new comprehensive plan reviews format that staff will be utilizing going forward. He stated that in the past, each comprehensive plan amendment would be prepared individually. This new format will combine staff's review on a more concise table providing the issue, background, impacts and suggested intergovernmental coordination. It will also include a regional map identifying the location of the amendment, and an appendix with site-specific maps for Future Land Use Amendments. He stated that this format will make it easier for the reader to understand as well as allow staff to create a Geodatabase each month of the overall profile for the fiscal year of future land use map changes.

**President DeFoor called for a motion. Commissioner Horvath moved approval of the Comprehensive Plan Reviews' New Format; seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.**

### \*Draft Resolution 2022-03: Commissioner Waldron

Ms. Payne introduced draft Resolution 2022-03 honoring Commissioner Waldron for his service on the Regional Council for the Board's consideration. Ms. Payne read the resolution into the record as attached. A brief discussion followed.

**President DeFoor called for a motion. Commissioner Whitehurst motioned to approve Resolution 2022-03 honoring Commissioner Waldron; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Motion carried.**

### Program Spotlight: 2023 Regional Leadership Academy

Mr. Nolen provided an overview of the Council's Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) program and highlighted some of the activities of the 2022 class. He stated that the 2023 class will begin in January 2023, however the application period is now open through November 10<sup>th</sup>. Candidates can only be nominated by either a member of the Regional Community Institute, a NEFRC Board Member, or the CEO. Mr. Nolen highlighted the commitment involved, the curriculum, and the process for nominating potential candidates. A nomination form was provided in the meeting packet. Discussion followed.

### Project Opioid Jax Presentation

Mr. TJ Ward, NF Director for Advocacy for Project Opioid, provided a presentation on their initiative. His presentation highlighted the number of overdose deaths in the US since 2021, national drug involved overdose among all age groups between 1999 and 2020, number of pills containing Fentanyl seized between 2018 (209,304) to 2021 (9+ million); with over 10 million seized between May and September 2022. Mr. Ward shared some recommendations for Abatement of Harms From the Opioid Epidemic, included in a white paper he co-authored, that he believes could be helpful as LG utilize funds received from the Opioid settlements. He stated that it is believed the recommendations will apply to every context that will make a massive impact; they are evidence based, and have been proven effective. He provided a brief overview of some recommendations such as Awareness, Peer Support Services, Harm Reduction / Naloxone (Narcan), Medication Assisted Treatment, Behavioral Health, Workforce Development, and Criminal Justice System. An additional recommendation, which was not included in the white paper, is Innovative Programming. Discussion followed.

**Mayor Lednovich** shared his realization of not only the damage a small amount of Fentanyl can do, but also the local impact based on a recent law enforcement activity in his community.

**Commissioner Sullivan** asked what can be done now to help influence the school board to raise their awareness of the importance of having Narcan available to save lives? Mr. Ward stated that they could present the statistics and the evidence-based model for Narcan and even help secure it through grant funding with little or no impact to the budget. He stated the Project Opioid would be happy to help explore options for any local government, if needed.

**President DeFoor** stated she would like to see the data on how many overdoses there are, which if available could be the driving force in obtaining more funding and ensuring it is put into this. Mr. Ward stated that they could provide that data to a certain degree as not all overdoses are reported. Therefore, whatever number is provided would need to be increased by a lot more.

Ms Payne thanked Commissioners Mullins and Rawls for encouraging the Regional Council to get involved in the information sharing of the opioid crisis; assisting local governments such as Clay County in facilitating meetings with community partners on how to utilize their settlement funds. She stated that the Council is available to assist Council Members' local governments in this process if desired.

Conversation continued with Members sharing thoughts and concerns of the opioid crisis.

#### Community Resilience Update

Ms. Ilami stated that the Resilient First Coast obtained a \$15,000 grant from the American Food Coalition to support the Collaborative to begin early next year. At the Steering Committee's last meeting they discussed goals and objectives using the Regional Resilience Priorities Analysis as a starting point, and relevant funding opportunities. The next meeting will be held October 26th. She also provided an overview of a Regional Council hosted community event, Resilience on our Rivers, which included exhibitors, panel discussion and audience interaction. The event was well attended by approximately 150 individuals. Ms. Ilami updated the Members on staff's activities pertaining to vulnerability assessments in the Region; and the upcoming City of Jacksonville's Environmental Symposium on October 14<sup>th</sup> where the Regional Council will host an exhibitor table promoting Resilient First Coast. Council staff will also be involved in two session during the symposium, 1) Green Infrastructure and Innovative Solutions, and 2) Regional Resilience and Water Planning. Ms. Ilami also informed the Members of other grants the Council is seeking, and ongoing resilience tasks. Discussion followed.

#### \*Draft Resolution 2022-05: Commissioner Mullins

Ms. Payne introduced draft Resolution 2022-05 honoring Commissioner Mullins for his service on the Regional Council for the Board's consideration. Ms. Payne read the resolution into the record as attached.

**President DeFoor called for a motion. Commissioner Sullivan motioned to approve Resolution 2022-05 honoring Commissioner Mullins; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Motion carried.**

#### 2021-2022 Attendance Roster

Ms. Payne informed the Members that the 2021-2022 attendance roster is provided for the Members' consideration. Members are asked to let staff know of any incorrect information within the next two weeks as each appointing local government and the Governor's office will be provided with this information.

#### Annual Report

Ms. Payne directed the Members' attention to the NEFRC's Annual Report that is provided for their information. The Annual Report reflects a summary of the Council's work over the past year.

#### Florida Regional Councils Association Update

The Florida Regional Councils Association information in the agenda packet was provided for the Members' information.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

#### MEMBERS' REPORT / LOCAL & REGIONAL ISSUES DISCUSSION

**President DeFoor** asked Members to share some of their lessons learned in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. The Members shared their local government's experience during and after the storm, as well as plans to address concerns going forward.

#### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

##### Department of Economic Opportunity

**Mr. Darryl Register** shared information from an article entitled 'How Recessions Could Impact Supply Chains.' A brief discussion followed.

##### St. Johns River Water Management District

**Mr. Conkey** stated that the District is open with some limitation, particularly in central Florida. Additionally, the District's EOC stands ready to assist with personnel or equipment, i.e., pumps, boats, tractors, etc. A brief discussion followed.

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Payne reminded the Members that the Council provides staff support during disasters and informed them of the staff hours provided during Hurricane Ian to City of Jacksonville, Flagler and St. Johns Counties, and City of Flagler Beach.

Ms. Payne stated that the Awards Ceremony will take place in January following the Board meeting. The nomination period is now open, and Members are encouraged to nominate deserving entities or individuals for the great work that they do.

Ms. Payne announced that Mr. Drew is the Chair of the Legislative Policy Committee this year. Staff is working to collect local government's priorities in the month of October. The first Committee meeting will be held in November to work through the priorities, with a goal to

finalizing them at the December Executive Committee meeting to be ready to share with Legislators in January when Legislative Committee Meetings begin.

Ms. Payne shared information on an upcoming event on October 13<sup>th</sup>, Route 91 Speaker Event, regarding the mass shooter event in Las Vegas a few years ago. Currently there are approximately 500 registrants for this event.

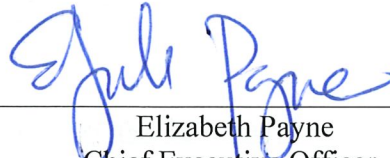
Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be November 3, 2022.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:57 a.m.



Randle P. DeFoor  
President



Elizabeth Payne  
Chief Executive Officer