



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**April 3, 2025**

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MINUTES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council's Executive Committee held meeting on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 10:03 a.m., at the Jessie Ball DuPont Center, 40 E. Adams Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

**President Renninger** called the meeting to order with the following members present, representing a quorum:

BAKER	Mr. Register, Commissioner Bennett
CLAY	Commissioner Renninger
DUVAL	Councilmember Amaro
FLAGLER	Commissioner Dance (Virtual)
NASSAU	Commissioner Martin
PUTNAM	Commissioner Harvey (Virtual)

Other Board Members Present: Commissioner Murphy, Doug Conkey

Guests: 904-679-2620 (via zoom)

Excused: Commissioner Joseph

Staff Present: Eric Anderson, Fara Ilami, Robert Jordan, Tyler Nolen, Elizabeth Payne, Annie Sieger, Donna Starling, Leigh Wilsey, and Kenajawa Woody

INVITATION TO SPEAK

**President Renninger** welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that members of the public are welcome to speak on any item before the Board.

\*CONSENT AGENDA

**President Renninger called for a motion on the consent agenda. Councilmember Amaro motioned to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Mr. Register. Motion carried.**

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

\*February 2025 Financial Report

Ms. Starling stated that the Council posted a net income of \$2,382 for the month of February 2025 with a year-to-date net income of \$21,762. A brief discussion followed.

**President Renninger called for a motion. Mr. Register moved approval of the February 2025 Financial Report; seconded by Councilmember Amaro. Motion carried.**

\*Flagler County TD Community Transportation Coordinator Recommendation

Ms. Jones stated that the Community Transportation Coordinator for the Transportation Disadvantaged is a five-year contract. Upon expiration, the current contractor can submit a letter of interest to continue in that role or a request for proposal would be advertised. She stated that the current contractor, the Flagler County Public Transportation, submitted a letter of interest stating they wanted to continue being the Community Transportation Coordinator for Flagler County. The Flagler County Administration also provided a letter indicating their interest in the current contractor continuing as such. As the Designated Official Planning Agency, staff recommend the Flagler County Public Transportation as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Flagler County. A brief discussion followed.

**President Renninger called for a motion. Commissioner Bennett moved approval of the Flagler County Public Transportation as the Flagler County Transportation Disadvantaged Community Transportation Coordinator for recommendation to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged; seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried.**

Resolution 2025-06

Ms. Payne presented Resolution 2025-06 supporting the Water Management Districts' designation of the month of April as Water Conservation Month.

Mr. Conkey thanked the Members for their continued support. He also shared some of the activities and efforts the Water Management District is currently working on related to conservation and education. Discussion followed.

**President Renninger called for a motion. Mr. Register made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-06 recognizing the month of April as Water Conservation month; seconded by Councilmember Amaro. Motion carried.**

Purchase of Emergency Evacuation Equipment for Long-Term Care Facilities: Sole Source

Ms. Wilsey provided a brief overview of the Healthcare Coalition (HCC) program, which was previously under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services but has recently been moved under the Centers for Disease Control Prevention. The goal of the Hospital/Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) is to improve the capacity of the health care system to plan for and respond to large-scale emergencies and disasters. A function of the HPP is equipment purchasing for coalition member facilities; therefore, a working group was developed to identify gaps and recommend equipment purchases to address the gaps. The Working Group developed two focus areas for funding in fiscal year 2024-2025; long-term care facility evacuations and hospital surge capacity. The objective is to purchase like equipment to reduce the cost through volume discounts, similar training for the equipment and, deployment to other facilities if needed.

The working group, based on their review and identified gaps, recommended the purchase of evacuation mats and chairs for long-term facilities. Staff surveyed long-term care member facilities, which resulted in 27 facilities requesting 130 AlbacMats and 25 Bariatric Mats; 11 facilities requested EvacuTrac Chairs. The recommended vendor is a sole source vendor; therefore, staff did not publish a request for quotes. Therefore, staff requested authorization to purchase the equipment from Advanced Egress Solutions in the amount of \$95,025 for the evacuation mats and chairs. Discussion followed.

**President Renninger called for a motion. Councilmember Amaro made the motion to authorize staff to purchase the AlbacMats and EvacuTrac chairs from the sole source vendor Advanced Egress Solutions in the amount of \$95,025; seconded by Mr. Register. Motion carried.**

RFQ – Purchase of Disaster Stretchers for Hospitals

In continuation of the above item, the working group also recommended the purchase of disaster stretchers for hospitals. Ms. Wilsey stated that staff surveyed member hospitals to determine the need for the equipment. This survey resulted in 21 hospitals requesting at least one 5-pack stretcher with most wanting more than one. This will be a multi-year project for the Healthcare Coalition program. Ms. Wilsey stated that a request for quote was published as there were more than one distributor for this equipment; staff received four quotes, 1) Name Brands Direct Inc dBA Medicalproductsdirect.com, 2) Medicus Health Direct, Inc., 3) Technology International, Inc., and 4) CPR Savers and First Aid Supply. The quotes were reviewed based on cost and shipping.

Ms. Wilsey stated that, after reviewing the quotes, Name Brands Direct Inc dBA Medicalproductsdirect.com was selected as the first choice, with Medicus Health Direct, Inc second. Therefore, staff recommend authorization to purchase disaster stretchers from Name Brands Direct Inc dBA Medicalproductsdirect.com in an amount not to exceed \$86,000. If this vendor cannot meet the requirements, staff request authorization to purchase from Medicus Health Direct, Inc., or Technology International, Inc. if Medicus Health Direct, Inc. cannot meet the requirements. Discussion followed.

**President Renninger called for a motion. Mr. Register made the motion to authorize staff to purchase disaster stretchers in an amount not to exceed \$86,000; seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried.**

NEFRC Workplan: Solid Waste Discussion

Discussion was held on the Council's Workplan: Tackling the Trash Together – Innovative Solutions to Solid Waste Management. Ms. Payne shared the phases of the workplan, which included identifying and engaging stakeholders, research and data collection, convening stakeholders, development of collaborative strategies and the final documentation. She stated that a meeting of stakeholders will be scheduled shortly to begin the process. Discussion followed.

**Commissioner Murphy** stated that biosolids are a huge challenge in St. Johns County and inquired if this will be included in the program. Discussion followed.

**Commissioner Bennett** stated that in addition to areas identified in the research and data collection, are identifying the challenges, which are different in a county versus a municipality. Also, what is the long-term use/availability of landfills?

**Councilmember Amaro** stated that the collecting of information has to include the full life cycle of trash: where it is generated, where it is going, and what happens afterwards.

**Mr. Conkey** commented on the advancement of technology and thinks the discussion would include looking at incineration for energy creation. Ms. Payne stated that while there are

innovations in this area, there is a cost for these innovations that far exceed what any one individual county can afford. New technology and innovation is a key component of this program  
Ms. Payne stated that this is not an area the Regional Council works in, with this with this set of County staff, and asks for the Members' support in getting folks to the table.

**Commissioner Harvey** encouraged staff to avail themselves of the University of Florida's Dr. Townsend, a resident of Putnam County, who is the Director for the Center of Solid Waste Management with the Hinkley Center. He is an authority on landfills, alternative energy, waste energy, etc.

**President Renninger** shared that Clay County did a two-year study on solid waste and recycling services and learned that while 100% of residents pay for the service, only 30% actually recycle. Additionally, recycling has to be processed; they went from a \$6/ton rebate to an \$85 cost, so they cancelled the program. He believes that industries should be included in the discussions as well as education.

Ms. Payne stated that this workplan issue will be a multi-year process and that it is anticipated that the Regional Community Institute may assist us along the way. She asked the Members' assistance in making this initiative as robust as possible.

#### Legislative Issue Discussion

Ms. Payne reminded the Members of the bills filed this Session that includes the striking of the Regional Planning Council from Statute. The Florida Regional Councils Association, representing all 10 Councils, has a lobbyist who has been advocating for the Councils and have been successful in speaking with Legislators about the value of Regional Councils. The Bill was recently put on the Senate Commerce Committee agenda where Mayor Lynch and Mr. Register both attended and spoke to the Committee on behalf of the Regional Councils; along with other elected officials across the State. However, it was passed favorably out of the Committee.

Ms. Payne stated that the main concern is why it is important for us to remain in Florida Statute. A contingency plan is needed should Regional Councils be struck from Florida Statutes. While it does not mean we close our doors, there are many questions about how we move forward, as well as what the justification is of why we belong in State Statute. She believes that one of the reasons we need to stay in State Statute is because it requires Membership. Without it, there would be no legal statutory requirement for participation in the Council. With so many considerations, this issue may require a separate group or committee to be formed to discuss this issue further, outside of a regular meeting.

#### Public Comment

None.

#### Local and Regional Discussions

**Baker County** – Currently experiencing challenges with Clerk of Courts due to the 2023 audit still not yet submitted; but expects that to be done shortly.

**Clay County** – They received the DOGE letter; they have responded and provided their audit. The Clay County Fair opens today!

**Duval County** – While it may not have been initiated by a letter from the Governor's office, the City of Jacksonville is doing its DOGE and have identified a number of projects that were on the Capital Improvement Projects list that had not been funded and will most likely be eliminated.

**Nassau County** – Shrimp Festival in May. The County receive the State's DOGE letter and have complied and responded.

**SJRWMD** – North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan (NFRWSP) has a statutory requirement for a Water Supply Facilities Work Plans to be updated by June 12<sup>th</sup>; 18 months after approval of the NFRWSP and encourages counties and cities to ensure this is completed by the deadline.

#### CEO Report

Ms. Payne recognized Mr. Eric Anderson for his 15 years of service to the agency.

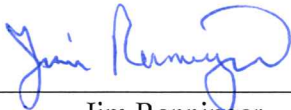
Ms. Payne shared with the Members the April 22<sup>nd</sup> kickoff meeting for the Military Installation Readiness Review project with a tour of MS Mayport. Invites were sent to all Board Members.

#### Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 7, 2025.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.



Jim Renninger  
President

  
Elizabeth Payne  
Chief Executive Officer