



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Executive Committee Meeting
April 4, 2024

MINUTES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council's Executive Committee held an in-person only meeting on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., at the Jessie Ball DuPont Center, 40 E. Adams Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

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

BAKER Mr. Register
CLAY Commissioner Renninger
DUVAL Councilmember Amaro
FLAGLER Commissioner Sullivan
PUTNAM Commissioner Harvey
ST. JOHNS Commissioner Whitehurst

Also Present Mr. Conkey, SJRWMD

Excused: Commissioner Martin

Guests: Mr. Nooney

Staff Present: Eric Anderson, Summer Jones, Robert Jordan, Tyler Nolen, Elizabeth Payne, Donna Starling, Jack Shad, Kenajawa Woody, and Sheron Forde.

The Committee was provided an abbreviated tour of the Jessie Ball DuPont Center.

President Whitehurst welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that the Members will take an abbreviated tour of the Jessie Ball DuPont Center and then resume the meeting.

INVITATION TO SPEAK

President Whitehurst stated that members of the public are welcome to speak on any item before the Board.

*CONSENT AGENDA

President Whitehurst called for a motion on the consent agenda. Commissioner Harvey motioned to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Councilmember Amaro. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

*February 2024 Financial Report

Ms. Starling stated that the Council posted a net income of \$15,565 for the month of February 2024 with a year-to-date net income of \$70,318.

President Whitehurst called for a motion. Mr. Register moved approval of the February 2024 Financial Report; seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. Motion carried.

*Upcoming Grants Match Requirement

Ms. Payne stated that Council staff are working on two grant applications that will require a match component.

The first is a Military Installation Resilience Review project through the Department of Defense. Although the Board approved the match several months ago, the application portal only recently opened, and the Council will submit its application. The grant request could be up to \$1.4 million; therefore, a 10% match on the maximum grant request would be approximately \$140,000. The Council will also be seeking Florida Department of Environmental Protection grants that, if awarded, would be used for the match. Staff seeks a more recent approval for this match, which would be noted in the application. Discussion followed.

President Whitehurst called for a motion. Mr. Register motioned that the Executive Committee reaffirms the Council's position of paying the 10% match for the MIRR grant; seconded by Commissioner Renninger. Motion carried.

The second grant is for the Civic Spark Fellow Program. Ms. Payne provided a brief overview on the program and indicated that this position would assist the Council in its resiliency and affordable housing. Staff has been informed that the application has been approved. There is a required match of \$29,000 on the part of the Council and seeks the Committee's approval to proceed. The next step is to identify a fellow to assist the Council. Discussion followed.

President Whitehurst called for a motion on the Civic Spark Fellow Program match. Commissioner Harvey moved approval for the Council to commit \$29,000 as its match for the Civic Spark Fellow Program grant; seconded by Mr. Register. Motion carried.

*Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Memberships

Ms. Jones presented the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) membership rosters for Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau and St. Johns Counties. She stated that due to a lack of quorum, the Putnam County LCB could not vote on their membership. However, Putnam County's membership roster will be brought back once approved. Discussion followed.

President Whitehurst called for a motion. Commissioner Sullivan moved to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Membership Rosters for Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau and St. Johns Counties; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Motion carried.

*RFP: Nassau County Transportation Disadvantaged Community Transit Coordinator

Mr. Anderson provided background information as to why the Council issued a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the Nassau County Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) and provided an overview of the process. Although the RFP only received one response, from the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA), it was reviewed, ranked and deemed to be eligible to provide this service. Therefore, it was recommended to the Nassau County TD Local Coordination Board (LCB), at its March meeting,

to be the CTC beginning in September 2024. The LCB approved the recommendation and has recommended the JTA to the Community Transportation Commission. As the Designated Official Planning Agency for Nassau County, the NEFRC must also make a recommendation to the Commission on its selection. Therefore, staff recommends approving the JTA as the next Nassau County Transportation Disadvantaged Community Transportation Coordinator. Discussion followed.

President Whitehurst called for a motion. Mr. Register motioned to recommend to the Community Transportation Commission that the Jacksonville Transportation Authority be the Nassau County Transportation Disadvantaged Community Transportation Coordinator; seconded by Commissioner Renninger. Motion carried.

*Resolution 2024-03: Water Conservation

Ms. Payne presented Resolution 2024-03 for the Committee's consideration. Mr. Conkey stated that this year's theme is that of irrigation efficiency and thanked the Members for their consideration and support, both from the Regional Council and the local governments. Discussion followed.

Mr. John Nooney, 8356 Bascom Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32216, representing the Pottsburg Creek Park, shared his approval of the resolution in support of water conservation. He provided information that is included as an attachment to the minutes.

President Whitehurst call for a motion. Commissioner Harvey motioned to approve Resolution 2024-03 for Water Conservation; seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. Motion carried.

Upcoming Projects

Mr. Anderson provided an update on projects the Regional Council have either applied for, are going after, or have interest in. He highlighted the status of the Brownfields Assessment Grant, the National Park Service Regional Ecotourism and Trails, the Regional Resiliency Entity and Regional Resiliency Action Plan, the Military Installation Resilience Review, and the Town of Baldwin Vulnerability Assessment. He stated that there are potential opportunities that the Council is currently involved in discussions, such as the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study update, Planning Technical Assistance grant, and Competitive Florida grant. The Council has been awarded a two-year grant for the National Coastal Resilience Program (Multi-State South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative). An overview was also provided of the Council's ongoing programs, such as the Healthcare Coalition program, recently renewed for five-years; Emergency Preparedness: contracts received for exercises in Baker, Duval and St. Johns Counties; and pending Community Development/Planning work for several local governments. Discussion followed.

Affordable Housing Discussion

Ms. Payne provided an overview of the last Affordable Housing Committee meeting, which was held jointly with the Urban Land Institute (ULI). She stated that the ULI is a group of professionals that compliments the work of the Regional Council in that they are developer and real estate attorney centric. During the joint meeting, discussion was had on moving from a committee approach to more of a working group approach, which would enable us to accommodate more practitioners and county staff involvement. Ms. Payne stated that she will update the Board on how we can move forward with this following her meeting with Chair Renninger.

*Office Lease Discussion

Ms. Payne shared information on the current status of the Council's space capacity at its current

location. She stated that an opportunity has presented itself in space availability at the Jessie Ball DuPont Center, which is why the Committee was provided a tour of the facility and potential office space for the Council. Ms. Payne stated that, with the Committee's approval, she would like the authorization to pursue negotiations for a lease to be brought back to the full Board for a vote at its May 2024 meeting. Discussion ensued.

President Whitehurst called for a motion. Councilmember Amaro motioned to authorize the CEO to proceed with negotiations to lease space in the Jessie Ball DuPont Center for the NEFRC for a final offer to be brought to the full Board on May 2, 2024; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. John Nooney, 8356 Bascom Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32216, representing the Pottsburg Creek Park, addressed the Committee regarding his pursuit to make a public recreation area and is seeking a sponsor for this effort. He provided a copy of a news article on public participation that is included as an attachment to the minutes.

Local and Regional Discussions

Clay County – the Clay County Fair runs from today thru April 14th.

Flagler County – the City of Palm Coast has an open City Manager position.

St. Johns County – the County received funding for four regional parks set to open in 2026.

CEO Report

Ms. Payne stated that the May Board Meeting will take place in Flagler County where Speaker Renner will address our Board. Following the meeting, a luncheon will be hosted by the Palm Coast-Flagler Regional Chamber of Commerce in honor of Speaker Renner and Senator Hutson – a save the date flyer was distributed. Ms. Payne stated that it is the Council's intent to purchase tables for the NEFRC Board Members who wish to attend. More information will be provided to the full Board prior to the May meeting. Discussion followed.

Next Meeting Date


The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 1, 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.



Christian Whitehurst
President



Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer