



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Executive Committee Meeting
August 15, 2024

MINUTES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council's Executive Committee held meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 9:48 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 (Virtual)
NASSAU	Commissioner Martin
PUTNAM	Commissioner Harvey
ST. JOHNS	Commissioner Whitehurst

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

INVITATION TO SPEAK

President Whitehurst 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 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

*May 2024 Financial Report

Ms. Starling stated that the Council posted a net income of \$11,759 for the month of May 2024 with a year-to-date net income of \$91,660.

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

*June 2024 Financial Report

Ms. Starling stated that the Council posted a net income of \$13,670 for the month of June 2024

with a year-to-date net income of \$105,330. It was noted that the Council's moving expenses will be reflected in the July financial report and will decrease income in the next few months. Additionally, as previously approved, staff bonuses will be reflected in the financial reports. However, the Council will still be in good standing financially. A brief discussion followed.

President Whitehurst called for a motion. Commissioner Harvey moved approval of the June 2024 Financial Report; seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried.

FY 2022-23 Return On Investment (ROI) Summaries & Talking Points

Ms. Payne presented, and provided an overview of, the Regional Council's Return on Investment for each County. The ROIs reflects a 2-year summary, with the bulleted items identifying projects completed for each County. Ms. Payne stated that she works to meet with each County's Board of County Commission Chairs, the County Managers, and as many of the City of Jacksonville's City Councilmembers as possible to share this information. Discussion followed.

Ecotourism & Trails Update

Mr. Anderson provided an update on the activities of the Ecotourism & Trails Steering Committee, which meets next on August 26th. Staff received communication from the National Park Service stating that they are in the process of staffing projects for assistance. He highlighted seven key areas of the Regional Work Plan's actions and strategies: Trail Signage; Consensus on a Regional Brand; Trail Town Designations through FDEP; Funding Opportunities; Youth Stewardship Program; GIS Mapping, Storyboards, and Website; Consensus on Future Trail Locations – Integrates Overland and Blue Trails, and NEFRC Local Assistance. A brief discussion followed.

*CEO Evaluation Review

Mr. Register provided an overview of the CEO evaluation results and stated that overall, it was a strong review of Ms. Payne's performance, and ultimately the performance of the Council. He reminded the Members of the recently approved budget which included a two percent cost of living increase across the board, and up to a two percent in merit increases. During a recent conversation with Ms. Payne, she indicated that she would happily forego any merit increase for herself, leaving that in the pool for distribution to staff.

Mr. Register made a motion that the Executive Committee approve the two percent cost of living for Ms. Payne; seconded by Commissioner Martin. Discussion followed.

After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Local and Regional Discussions

Clay County – The County contracted with the same trash collection provider as St. Johns County with a start date of October 1st, working to avoid the same challenges. The County is going to a no budgetary process for non-profit funding, it is being replaced with an application process.

Flagler County – The Army Corp Beach Restoration project is happening this weekend.

Nassau County – The County also utilizes the application process to fund non-profits.

Putnam County – The County recently approved planned unit development of 580 D.R. Horton homes in the East Palatka area.

Duval County – City Council recently approved the lease/renovation of the Stadium. Working on the \$94 million Community Benefits Agreement package.

St. Johns County – the County is working with FCC, the trash collection provider, on their challenges in providing the services they were contracted to do.

CEO Report

Ms. Payne informed the Members that the match of \$29,000 for a Civic Spark Fellow; a program that would have allowed the Council to have someone work in our office on resiliency, has been withdrawn. While we did receive communication that we were selected and they were working to select someone for the position, their federal funding fell through, and a decision was made to not expand into Florida.

Ms. Payne reminded the Members that in September, the Personnel, Budget & Finance Committee will make nominations for the Board Officers for consideration by the full Board. The newly appointed Board Officers will be installed at the October meeting that will be held in Clay County.

The Council will host a ‘soft’ opening for the full Board following the September meeting in the office. However, there will be an official Open House in November, following the meetings. A save the date will be provided at the September meeting.

Ms. Payne shared a video that spotlighted the significant work the Regional Council has done with this year’s JEA Hurricane exercise; recognized by the JEA Board Chair, Joe DiSalvo.

New Business

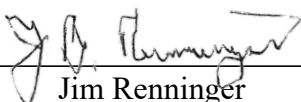
Mr. Register shared information that Florida Commerce announced that the Governor has awarded 25 Tech Assistance Grants today; one of them is to the NEFRC for \$44,000 to provide recommendations that will support the expansion of small shrimping businesses. He stated two were awarded to Putnam County as well.

Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.



Jim Renninger
President



Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer