



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Executive Committee Meeting
August 7, 2025

MINUTES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council's Executive Committee held a meeting on Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.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	Commissioner Bennett, Mr. Register
CLAY	Commissioner Renninger
DUVAL	Councilmember Amaro
FLAGLER	Commissioner Dance
NASSAU	Commissioner Martin
PUTNAM	Commissioner Harvey (Virtual)
ST. JOHNS	Commissioner Joseph

Other Board Members Present: Doug Conkey

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

Deputy CEO, Eric Anderson stated that Ms. Payne is attending the City of Jacksonville's Finance Committee meeting where they are discussing the Council's appropriation and that she plans to join this meeting as soon as she is able.

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

Commissioner Dance noted a scrivener's error in the comprehensive plan reviews report in which Flagler County was noted as a City rather than County. Council staff will make that correction.

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

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

*May 2025 Financial Report

Ms. Starling presented the Council's financial report for the month of May 2025, which indicated a net income of \$17,987, with a year-to-date net income of \$87,552.

President Renninger called for a motion. Mr. Register moved approval of the May 2025 Financial Report; seconded by Commissioner Dance. Motion carried.

*June 2025 Financial Report

Ms. Starling presented the Council's financial report for the month of June, which indicated a net income of \$23,069, with a year-to-date net income of \$110,620.

Commissioner Joseph arrived.

President Renninger called for a motion. Mr. Register moved approval of the June 2025 Financial Report; seconded by Commissioner Dance. Motion carried.

*FY 25-26 Officer Nominations

Mr. Register provided an overview of the process of selecting the Officers of the Board. FY 25-26 rotation are as follows: President – Baker County, 1st Vice President – Flagler County, 2nd Vice President – City of Jacksonville. As a reminder, it was stated that Jacksonville would always maintain a leadership seat in the 2nd Vice president position. Additionally, Mr. Register would retain the Secretary/Treasurer position. Discussion ensued.

President Renninger called for a motion. Commissioner Martin made the motion to recommend to the Board, Commissioner Bennett - President, Commissioner Dance - 1st Vice President, Councilmember Amaro - 2nd Vice President, and Mr. Register - Secretary Treasurer as the FY 25-26 officer nominations; seconded by Commissioner Joseph. Motion carried.

FY 2024-2025 Return on Investment Summaries

Mr. Anderson presented the Council's Return on Investment (ROI) for each member county. An overview was provided of the ROI's content that highlights each county's dues/investment over a two-year period, impacts or ROI, local and regional projects completed by Council staff, as well as the Council's funding sources. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Dance requested the previous year's ROI so new BOCC members can get a better picture of what was done previously to go along with the current information.

Commissioner Bennett suggested that the two-year county investment total be better displayed. He also suggested that the grant funding obtained for each county be included to show the Council's efforts on behalf of each county.

FY 2025-2026 Budget Follow Up

As a follow up to the FY 25-26 budget that was previously provided with a shortfall, Mr. Anderson provided an update that reflects this has been addressed. He shared that the Council recently

received a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for Regional Resiliency Entity work in the amount of \$194,000. Additionally, he stated that staff is currently working with the Cities of Bunnell, Palm Coast and Fernandina Beach on a variety of work that will assist with the budget. Discussion followed.

Workplan Update: Solid Waste

Mr. Nolen provided an update on the Council's workplan on solid waste. He stated staff have met with county solid waste departments, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and with Dr. Thompson, a subject matter expert, from the University of Florida to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities and requirements of effective solid waste management. These efforts will continue over the coming months. Staff will report back to the Board with additional findings and recommendations as potential opportunities for Council support are identified. A brief discussion followed.

2026 Legislative Priorities

Mr. Anderson reminded the Committee that the 2026 Legislative Session begins in January next year. Staff will be contacting local governments for their legislative priorities as the Council puts together the Regional Priorities. Discussion followed.

Ms. Payne arrived and informed the Members that the City of Jacksonville's Finance Committee has voted to not include NEFRC dues in the upcoming FY25-26 Budget. There is much work to be done and she added that the Council will seek advice for the Council attorney on this issue as well.

*CEO Evaluation Review

Mr. Register provided an overview of the CEO's evaluation responses. Ms. Payne received an overall excellent rating and positive comments. He also stated that, based on previous discussion of providing staff with a two to three percent cost of living increase, Ms. Payne should also receive the same percentage increase. Discussion followed.

President Renninger called for a motion. Mr. Register made the motion that the cost-of-living increase for Ms. Payne mirrors what is done for staff; seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Local and Regional Discussions

Baker County – The County is continuing to deal with issues with the Clerk of the Court submitting the audit, which has cost the County thousands.

Flagler County – The county has gone through one round of their legislative priorities and will be meeting again to make the list more manageable.

Nassau County – Congratulated Ms. Payne in completing another successful year.

St. Johns County – Council staff, Mr. Nolen, will be presenting at the BOCC meeting on August 19th.

CEO Report

Ms. Payne shared some details on the two upcoming strategic planning sessions, one with staff and one with the full Board. The Board's session is scheduled to take place during the September meeting.

Mr. Anderson shared a brief update on the National Park Service projects in the Region and highlighted the activity at the Mary Shoals Park in Baker County.

Ms. Payne stated that work continues on the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) update. However, with SB 180, further clarification is needed to determine how it may impact the SRPP. She shared a brief overview of how that will affect local governments, which is expected to be discussed at the next Planning Directors' meeting.

Ms. Payne informed the Members that the awards nominations will open in September, with the ceremony taking place in January. She announced that Mr. Bob Rhodes, a long-time member of the Regional Community Institute (RCI), an entity under the Regional Council, recently stepped away from the RCI Board. The RCI Board has recommended naming the anchor award, the Regional Leadership Award, after him for the NEFRC Board's consideration.

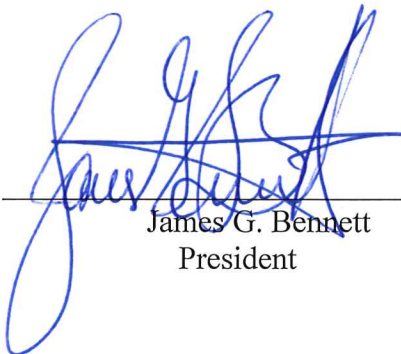
Ms. Payne informed the Members that the Black History Museum Foundation reached out to the Council for a partnership, in which the Council would assist them with visioning and possibly economic modeling.

Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2025.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.



James G. Bennett
President



Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer