

Northeast Florida Regional Council 2009 Annual Report



Building a Regional Vision



BAKER CLAY DUVAL FLAGLER NASSAU PUTNAM ST. JOHNS
“Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda”

AGENCY PROFILE AND MISSION

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) is a regional government agency serving seven counties—Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns—and their 27 municipalities. Formed in 1977 by an interlocal agreement pursuant to Florida Statutes, Chapter 186, it is one of 11 Regional Planning Councils statewide.

The NEFRC is governed by a 35-member Board, two-thirds elected officials and one-third gubernatorial appointees.

It provides a wide scope of services and programs including strategic planning, Development of Regional Impact reviews, economic development, regional transportation, natural resources, affordable housing, emergency preparedness, and technical assistance.

The Northeast Florida Regional Council is committed to continuing its regional initiatives in support of shared visions, values and goals.

“Our Mission is to provide visionary leadership and coordination between counties and governmental agencies and to preserve and enhance the quality of Northeast Florida’s natural, man-made, economic and social environment.”





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! What a year we had at the Northeast Florida Regional Council in 2009.

It was a watershed year for Regional cooperation with many successes, especially "Reality Check First Coast." As a high profile "jump-start" to developing a Regional Vision, the Council partnered with the North Florida District of the Urban Land Institute and others to bring together 300 community leaders to envision the future of the Region in 2060. Reality Check was a hands-on interactive exercise in which participants were asked where they believed the anticipated 1.6 million new residents and 650,000 new jobs ought to be located within the region. In addition to generating four general scenarios, the participants also came to a consensus on guiding principles with which to project future growth and development. Following the Reality Check event, Regional Council staff took the show on the road gathering input from seven individual County Check events, and culminating with "Generation Check" geared toward younger people ages 13 to 22.

Regional cooperation is based on leadership, trust, and communication within a "community of interest". National organizations have defined the essential elements of modern regional governance and collaboration as: Visioning, Regional Benchmarks, Leadership Development, Maintenance of Formal and Informal Networks, Collaboration and Conflict Resolution and a Regional Capacity to foster dialogue. It is these values that the Northeast Florida Regional Council brings to the table with our Regional Community of seven counties and 27 municipalities.

The Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, the not-for-profit created by the Council, has begun work on a vision for the Region called "First Coast Vision." This effort, lead by growth management legend Bob Rhodes, will create a vision for Northeast Florida that will lead into the upcoming update of the Council's "Strategic Regional Policy Plan."

Additionally, the Council created a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Region to become a Certified Economic Development District, which opens up a source of economic development resources from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

The Council has historically provided local governments with technical assistance, helping many of them in various complex planning activities. This year we also helped our members gear up for the upcoming 2010 Census, a project that will have far-reaching impacts all across the region for decades to come.

In the area of emergency preparedness, our staff conducted several local exercises as well as developing, controlling, and evaluating exercises throughout the State. The Council continued to manage the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study that, for the first time in history, will coordinate evacuation planning throughout the entire state. This study will be extremely valuable to our own region's coastline, and is scheduled to be completed prior to the 2010 hurricane season.

Creating and supporting a regional philosophy has its challenges, but it offers the only real hope of successfully addressing the regional issues. The strength of the Regional Council is found in the make-up of its seven diverse counties. Whether from urban areas like Duval, Clay, Flagler, and St. Johns, or from more rural areas like Nassau, Baker, and Putnam, Council members now understand that regional issues are no longer contained within individual county boundaries. The success of the Regional Council comes with the realization that all counties, regardless of size, deserve a "seat at the table" when regional issues are discussed, and when regional decisions are made.

It has been my distinct privilege and honor to serve as President of the Northeast Florida Regional Council, and, like my predecessors, any successes I enjoyed are really a tribute to our exceptional staff. I am confident that my successor, Baker County Commissioner Mike Griffis, will continue to lead us forward as we address the challenges that lie ahead.

Very Sincerely,



Northeast Florida Regional Council President
2008-2009

2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**The Honorable
Mike Boyle**
President
Nassau County



**The Honorable
Mike Griffs**
1st Vice President
Baker County



**The Honorable
Art Graham**
2nd Vice President
Duval County



Mr. Hugh Fish
Secretary /
Treasurer
Baker County

The Board of Directors of the Northeast Florida Regional Council is comprised of 35 members; two-thirds elected officials and one-third gubernatorial appointees. These individuals are recognized in the public and private sectors for their influence and leadership. They provide the Council with the insight and the tools to make critical decisions which affect the quality of life within our Region. The members named below are listed by their affiliation and title reflective of their status at the time of their service.

BAKER COUNTY

Mr. Hugh D. Fish, Jr.*
City of Macclenny Representative

Hon. Mike Griffs*
Chair, Baker County Commission

Mr. Darryl Register*
Gubernatorial Appointee

Mr. Craig (CJ) Thompson*
Baker County Representative

CLAY COUNTY

Hon. Wendell Davis*
Clay County Commissioner

Hon. Bob Page*
Councilmember
City of Green Cove Springs

Mr. Kenneth Smallwood*
Gubernatorial Appointee

Hon. Chereese Stewart*
Clay County Commissioner

Hon. Carol A. Vallencourt*
Clay County School Board
Gubernatorial Appointee

DUVAL COUNTY

Hon. Bill Bishop*
Jacksonville City Councilman

Ms. Elaine Brown*
Gubernatorial Appointee

Ms. Mary Louise Dungey
Gubernatorial Appointee

Hon. Art Graham
Jacksonville City Councilman

Hon. Paul Parsons*
Commissioner
City of Atlantic Beach

FLAGLER COUNTY

Hon. Milissa Holland*
Chair, Flagler County Commission

Hon. Jon Netts*
Mayor, City of Palm Coast

Hon. Jim O'Connell
Flagler County Commissioner

Hon. Catherine Robinson*
Mayor, City of Bunnell

Mr. Bob Sgroi*
Gubernatorial Appointee

NASSAU COUNTY

Hon. Michael Boyle*
Chair, Nassau County Commission

Hon. Shirley Graham*
Mayor, Town of Callahan

Mr. Robert "Bob" Spaeth*
Nassau County Representative

Mr. Larry Williams*
Gubernatorial Appointee

PUTNAM COUNTY

Hon. Nancy Harris*
Chair, Putnam County Commission

Mr. Chip Laibl*
Putnam County Commissioner

Mr. C.W. (Wes) Larson*
Gubernatorial Appointee

Hon. Mary Lawson-Brown*
Vice-Mayor
City of Palatka

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Hon. Ken Bryan*
St. Johns County Commissioner

Hon. Don Crichlow*
Commissioner
City of St. Augustine

Mr. Harry Maxwell
Gubernatorial Appointee

Ms. Jane Miller*
Gubernatorial Appointee

Ms. Karen Stern*
Gubernatorial Appointee

Hon. Cyndi Stevenson*
Chair, St. Johns County Commission

EX-OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ms. Danita Andrews*
Clay Chamber of Commerce
Enterprise Florida, Inc.

Mr. Jeff Cole*
St. Johns River Water
Management District

Mr. Larry Parks*
Florida Department of
Transportation

Mr. Gregory Strong*
Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

All members who served during any portion of the fiscal year (October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009) and who were appointed by the end of 2009 are listed.

Board Members as of December 31, 2009 are noted with an asterisk.

PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) has an important role in the planning and growth management functions in this Region. The role of the Council can be broadly divided into our role in reviewing all local government comprehensive plans and plan amendments, as well as Evaluation and Appraisal Reports, for consistency with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP), providing quality planning and growth management technical assistance to communities through contract, coordinating the review of Developments of Regional Impact, and facilitating intergovernmental cooperation and coordination through such venues as planning directors meetings.

Putnam County EAR

Section 163.3191, Florida Statutes, requires that “each local government shall adopt an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) once every seven years assessing the progress in implementing the local government’s Comprehensive Plan.” The EAR is essentially an audit of the Comprehensive Plan. Included in the EAR is an assessment of the Comprehensive Plan’s strengths and weaknesses as they related to local major issues. Additionally, the EAR analyzes the effectiveness of the goals, objectives and policies in implementing the Comprehensive Plan. The EAR also provides recommendations for changes that will reflect the current conditions and trends. The Council assisted Putnam County in completing the Evaluation and Appraisal Report for their Comprehensive Plan. The Council addressed certain major issues as well as providing a brief assessment of the Housing and Economic Development Elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Updates to the data and analysis were also provided. The Putnam County EAR was adopted in October 2009, and was found sufficient by the Florida Department of Community Affairs in December 2009.

Flagler County EAR

Flagler County contracted with the Northeast Florida Regional Council to prepare the EAR of its Comprehensive Plan and shepherd it through the adoption process. The local major issues are the foundation of an EAR and the yardstick by which the success of the Comprehensive Plan is measured. Flagler County undertook a thorough visioning process to determine their local major issues. The seven major issues identified were: sustainability; water; public infrastructure; family friendly environment; economic development; transportation; and coastal protection and preservation.

In order to ensure that the EAR included the priorities and requirements of agencies such as the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the St. Johns River Water Management District, NEFRC provided a draft copy to them for review and comment. Based on their comments, the EAR was finalized and formally adopted in August 2009. The EAR was found sufficient by the Department of Community Affairs in October 2009.

Town of Interlachen Zoning Code Re-Write

In early 2009, the Northeast Florida Regional Council began the process of re-writing the Zoning Code for the Town of Interlachen in Putnam County. The Town Council realized that the Zoning Code had become antiquated and no longer most effectively served the needs of the Town. Additionally, the text amendments to the Zoning Code that had been adopted over the past twenty-five years had made the document cumbersome and difficult to read. As

Review of Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Each year, the Council reviews all amendments to local government comprehensive plans within the region, to determine extra-jurisdictional impacts and consistency with the Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan. In 2009, Council staff reviewed a total of 137 amendments to the text of local government plans or their Future Land Use Maps. Sixty-six (66) of these were brought to the Council Board for action, before being provided to the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

part of the re-write of the Zoning Code, the Northeast Florida Regional Council:

- Reviewed every definition, and in many instances struck, revised or added language, to ensure that they were (1) internally consistent, (2) consistent with state and federal definitions, and (3) currently used in the general lexicon.
- Reviewed all of the Zoning Districts, performance standards, and other regulatory requirements and made recommendations to the Town. The recommendations were put forth in several public meetings allowing for citizen input. Recommendations from the public, the Planning Commission, and the Town Council were incorporated into the updated Zoning Code.
- Incorporated the amendments to the Zoning Code that were made over the past twenty-five years into the general body of the document, making it fluid and easy to navigate.
- Reviewed the Zoning Code for internal consistency, consistency with state and federal requirements, and consistency with the Town’s Comprehensive Plan.
- Developed and incorporated into the Zoning Code a Concurrency Management System (CMS), including a transportation proportionate fair-share methodology.

After close to eleven months of work that included many public workshops with the Planning Commission and the Town Council and several drafts, the Town adopted an updated Zoning Code in November 2009.

Town of Interlachen Visioning Workshops

The Town of Interlachen recognized a need for the public to express their views. With the assistance of the Council, they held visioning workshops to understand how the citizens and stakeholders of Interlachen view their community.

In April 2009, the Town of Interlachen held the first of two visioning workshops. Facilitated by the Northeast Florida Regional Council, the workshop was made open to the elected and appointed officials of Interlachen as well as to the general public. The visioning workshop, which was held in Interlachen's Town Hall, was attended by a dynamic and enthusiastic group.

To start off the visioning workshop, Council staff presented "A Walk through Interlachen", a series of photographs designed to get residents thinking about their Town. Then, participants were separated into two groups. Additionally, each group was provided with a large, aerial photograph of Interlachen with the Town's limits and major roadways highlighted, and an easel and large notepad on which to write their findings. The groups were asked to come to consensus on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats to Interlachen using S.W.O.T. Analysis.

The results of the visioning workshop illustrate that the Town has a high quality of life factor, and that the Strengths far outnumber the Weaknesses. The Threats to the quality of life in Interlachen primarily fall into two categories: roadway expansions and unmanaged growth. The Opportunities that Interlachen residents generally identified included Interlachen's geographic location and existing infrastructure.

In August 2009, the Town of Interlachen held the second visioning workshop. The purpose of the second workshop was to identify the Town's priorities. After providing a summary of the April 28th workshop, attendees were divided into groups. A Council staff facilitator was assigned to each group and guided the discussion to address the Town's priorities in the following areas:

- Economic Development: priority examples included economic diversity and small business development
- Environmental Resources and Recreation / Open Space: priority examples included types of amenities, water conservation, and passive versus active recreation
- Transportation and Infrastructure: priority examples included pedestrian safety and interconnectivity
- Housing: priority examples included addressing substandard housing and housing affordability
- General Quality of Life: priority examples included historic preservation and preserving the Town's character

The information garnered from visioning workshops will be incorporated into the Town of Interlachen Evaluation and Appraisal Report due in 2011.

Comprehensive Plan Amendments and Rezonings

At the request of several of our local governments, including the Towns of Interlachen and Pomona Park, the Council provided technical assistance for amendment of their Future Land Use Map and the corresponding rezoning of lands. As part of our review, the Council provided data and analysis on compatibility, potable water and sewer demand, traffic impacts, soil suitability, and effects on natural resources. Staff provided a written recommendation to the local governments, and attended the public hearings to present our findings and answer any questions. In addition, the Council was contracted by the Town of Beverly Beach to update the Capital Improvements Element of their Comprehensive Plan.

Traffic Studies and Transportation Modeling

The Council produced several traffic concurrency studies, traffic analyses and model output data in 2009. The Council has full capabilities in transportation modeling using the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Model (NERPM). The Council has used GIS and Cube/Voyager software for developing and analyzing traffic patterns addressing land use analyses and transportation related issues.

Data Analysis

The Council continues to function as a regional resource for economic, demographic, social and development data in both statistical and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) form. The Council has access to data from the University of Florida and various state agencies. The Council responds to numerous information requests from local citizens, member governments, media, and other organizations.

The Regional Economy

The Council has always had a role in analyzing the economy of the Region and providing data to help with economic activities. It expanded its role in 2009 by submitting a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to the Federal Economic Development Administration, which may result in the region being designated as an Economic Development District with a regional plan, giving it access to certain federal funds.

Economic Impact Analysis

The Council continues to provide economic impact assessments utilizing the Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. (REMI) Policy Insight® model designed specifically for Northeast Florida. This service provides economic development practitioners and local governments a method to assess the economic and demographic impacts of proposed projects and policy initiatives.

The information provided in these assessments is utilized by local governments to make decisions on possible incentive packages for new and/or existing projects as well and provides background data to support various state and federal economic development grants for local economic development initiatives.

In the past year, the Council completed a study to estimate the economic impact of the Northeast Florida State Hospital in Baker County related to total employment, Gross Regional Product, personal income and population. This study was used, in part, to retain the hospital as Baker County's major employer.

Other projects using REMI included data generation for Enterprise Flagler, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report, Reality Check First Coast Vision and the Putnam County Economic Development Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

The Northeast Florida Regional Council adopted a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) on September 4, 2009. Adoption of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

(CEDS) enables the Northeast Florida Regional Council to pursue a certified Economic Development District (EDD) designation for the region by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). The EDD designation affords the region access to EDA grant funds for infrastructure.

The CEDS was developed under the direction of a Strategy Committee, which is a diverse group comprised of public officials, community leaders, and representatives of workforce development boards, institutions of higher education, minority and labor groups, and private individuals.

The CEDS report contains the following sections:

- Background Data
- Cooperation and Coordination with State Economic Efforts
- Industry Clusters
- Workforce Development
- Regional Strengths and Weaknesses
- Goals and Objectives
- Plan of Action
- Vital Programs
- Suggested Projects
- Additional Programs and Projects
- Metrics
- Public Involvement

A Program and Project subcommittee was formed to assist the Strategy Committee in identifying and prioritizing both Programs and Projects for inclusion in the CEDS. The subcommittee provided the Strategy Committee with a list of suggested Programs and Projects categorized by Goal.

After evaluating each Program and Project, the Strategy Committee identified five Vital Programs. The following Vital Programs are not listed in any particular order of priority.

- Establish Northeast Florida as a research, development and design center; as a center of research and development applications for sustainable initiatives; and establish links between research, design and commercialization.
- Establish and enhance intermodal system for the movement of freight; encourage development and enhancement of inland ports; increase airport passenger and freight capacity; and increase access to public transportation, rail, etc.
- Increase and improve regional infrastructure and technological and high-speed interconnectivity.
- Create business incubators and increase small business access to capital.
- Increase industrial park entitlements and shovel-ready lands.

After evaluating each Program and Project, the Strategy Committee identified five Suggested Projects. The following Suggested Projects are not listed in any particular order of priority.

- JaxPort Expansion
- The First Coast Outer Beltway
- An Industrial Lands Study
- A Green Business / Energy Study
- An Agriculture Impact and Strategy Study

A more detailed explanation of the Vital Programs and Suggested Projects, as well as the CEDS in its entirety, can be found at www.regi.biz/About_CEDS.html.

Utilities and Energy

Because of the regional nature of such facilities, the Council is mandated to review utility site plans and planned pipelines.

Each year, every electric utility in the State of Florida produces a ten-year site plan that includes an estimate of future electric power generating needs. The purpose of the ten year site plan is to disclose the general location of proposed power plant sites and facilitate coordinated planning efforts. Section 186.801, Florida Statutes, requires that all major generating electric utilities in Florida submit a Ten-Year Site Plan to the Florida Public Service Commission for review.

The intent of the Ten-Year Site Plans is to give state, regional and local agencies advance notice of proposed power plants and transmission facilities. The Northeast Florida Regional Council reviews electric utility Ten-Year Site Plans within the region and submits comments to the Commission for review. The Commission forwards the Ten-Year Site Plan review, upon completion, to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for use in subsequent power plant siting proceedings. In 2009, the NEFRC reviewed the JEA and Seminole Electric site plans.

The Florida Power & Light (FPL) Energy-Secure Pipeline Natural Gas project is a proposed pipeline to provide natural gas for generating electricity. The proposed pipeline route affects 14 counties in the State of Florida, three of which are within the Northeast Florida Region. The three affected counties in our region are Clay, Putnam and Flagler. Ninety percent of the main proposed pipeline route will be constructed along existing utility and transportation rights of way, from Bradford to Martin County. The proposed project is currently under review by various agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Northeast Florida Regional Council hosted a public information meeting on behalf of the local governments in the Region affected by the FPL proposed pipeline. The NEFRC continues to be a part of the FPL certification process and submitted an agency report to DEP in February 2010.

Other NEFRC reviews included the JEA Greenland Energy Center and the Florida Power and Light St. Johns Pellicer-Pringle transmission line.

The Census

Every 10 years, the Council swings into action to assist local governments in the Region to ensure that every resident of the region is counted.

2010 Census

The Council is an official partner with the 2010 US Census and is committed to promoting the importance of the Census to the region and its local communities. In the past the NEFRC has hosted presentations and training sessions, as well as disseminating vital information through the various stages gearing for Census Day on April 1, 2010. The Council's encouragement, support and assistance enabled several counties to create Complete Count Committees (CCC). CCCs bring together a cross-section of community members whose focus is 2010 Census awareness and increasing the response rate for residents through a focused, structured, neighbor-to-neighbor program. The CCC also utilizes the local knowledge, expertise, and influence of each Complete Count Committee member to design and implement a targeted Census awareness campaign.

Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)

The Local Update of Census Addresses program, also known as LUCA, is a Decennial Census geographic partnership program. This program allows the Census Bureau to benefit from local knowledge in developing its Master Address File (MAF) for the 2010 Census.

Council Staff assisted Nassau County with its review of LUCA Feedback Materials. The Census Address List Improvement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-430, allows participating governments to review the detailed feedback materials and documents that have been updated and accepted by the Census Bureau. The review of the LUCA Address List allows the government the opportunity to review and dispute specific address information.

Regional Visioning

Regional visioning will provide an opportunity for the Council to evaluate the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) as a policy document and to involve the Region in the development of a vision for its future that will in turn frame the update to the SRPP.

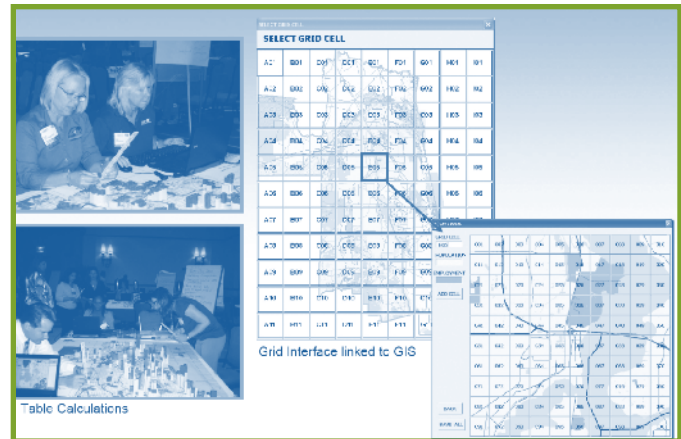
Reality Check First Coast

Regional visioning kicked off in May 2009, with a high-profile leadership exercise: Reality Check First Coast (RCFC). This involved a partnership of seven regional organizations who came together to facilitate 300 participants who were representative of the region in the business, non-profit and government sectors. Reality Check First Coast required the services of more than 150 volunteers as well as a huge investment in Council staff time. In addition to "Game Day", the Council staffed the overall Reality Check effort, including collaboration with the partners to develop a Final Report that summarized the event and its implications, which was released in December 2009.

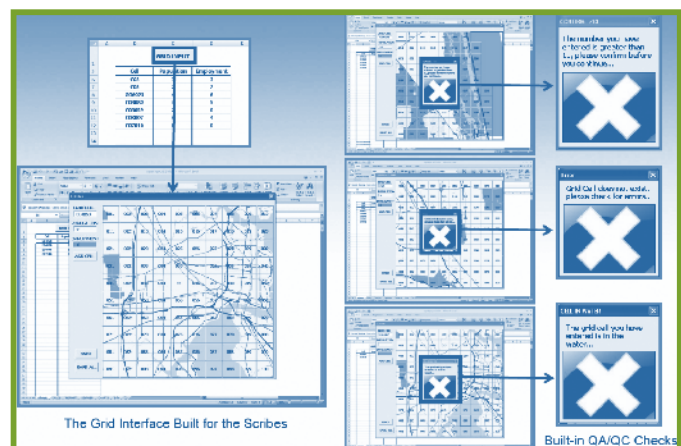
The Data

The Council benefits from the lessons it learned about designing and implementing systems to put on the event. One area where this was especially true was data. The RCFC participants were asked to place bricks on a 56x70 base map of the region divided

into 1x1 mile grid squares where they put LEGO® bricks and yarn to show growth for approximately 50 years. When the leaders completed building their growth pattern, the data was collected using an Excel interface, and then joined back into the grid for geospatial analysis. Reynolds, Smith & Hills was the consultant that designed the software under the guidance of a talented committee of volunteers. It took sixty volunteer facilitators and scribes to diligently input the number of yellow and red bricks into the Excel interface for each grid cell where a brick was placed on the base map. In less than two hours, the results of the analysis were combined with charts and graphs to produce a presentation for the afternoon session of Reality Check First Coast. Here is an overview of how the process worked:

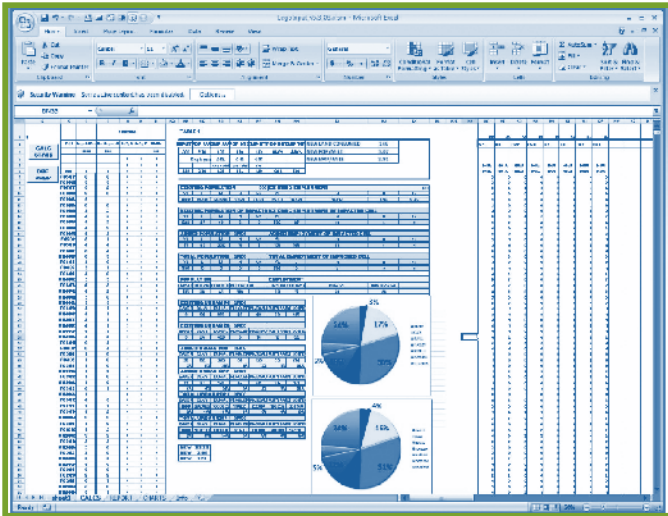


The Excel interface ensured that the LEGO® bricks were not placed in water or outside the region, and prompted the user to confirm brick heights greater than 10. The grid interface was designed to auto save after five minutes or after twenty inputs. The interface included the county boundaries (unlike the map the participants used, as the point was to view the map regionally) to assist the user in identifying the grid numbers relative to the region's geography and to generate real time data points within the interface as numbers were being tabulated.



As the user input the number of LEGO® bricks for population and employment in the Excel interface, the interface was designed to automatically generate data points relevant to RCFC. Some of these data points included population distribution by county, new land consumed, percent new population and new employment,

area distribution difference from existing to new and population and employment ratios. Pie charts were set up to automatically update as the user input numbers into the grid cell input interface.



The grid values were then converted to an image indicating relative densities per unit area. This function is known as kernel density estimation in the ArcGIS Spatial Analyst application.

One benefit of the rapid analysis of the data collected from the morning LEGO® exercise is that it allowed for polling of the afternoon session of Reality Check First Coast based on these results. Approximately 450 people provided input at the Reality Check First Coast event. Since that time, an additional 150 people have participated in County Checks, which allowed additional stakeholders to participate in the visioning exercise in their own county.



The Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc.

The other benefit to the data collected through Reality Check First Coast (RCFC) is that it can be used to inform the creation of a regional vision. The Regional Community Institute (RCI) was created by the Council to create a regional vision in a timeframe that will allow the Council to consider the vision as it updates the SRPP. RCI will be able to use the participant preferences expressed at RCFC and the County Checks, as well as subsequent polling to gauge public sentiments about the future of the region. In addition, comparisons between the growth patterns created at RCFC can be important education tools as they do public outreach regarding the vision.

RCI will kick off committees next year that will create a vision in the following areas: Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Emergency Preparedness, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Transportation. The committees will also assist with another core aspect of the RCI mission, which is to create and maintain indicators to monitor how the region is doing. RCI members include all members of the NEFRC Board and all graduates of the Regional Leadership Academy.



TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Transportation Disadvantaged

The Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) coordinated system for the State of Florida was created in 1979, and re-enacted in 1989. The 1989 act created the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged whose mission is to ensure the availability of safe, efficient, cost-effective and quality transportation services for individuals who, because of physical or mental disability, income status or age, are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation. This statewide coordinated transportation system is used as a model throughout the nation for how transportation should work – efficiently, effectively and safely for the state’s most fragile citizens, the elderly and the disabled.

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) continues in its role as the designated official planning agency for the transportation disadvantaged program in Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties. It assists the TD Commission and Local Coordinating Boards (LCBs) in implementing the TD program by providing staff support and planning services. In 2008, the LCBs continued their quarterly meeting schedule and addressed a wide array of important issues. Of particular note, Flagler County was re-designated the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) by the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged for the next five years. This continuity of service will enable the County to continue its efforts in providing cost-effective and efficient mobility options to its disadvantaged citizens. The passage of the Federal stimulus package allowed our CTCs to augment their service fleets with new and more modern vehicles. All CTCs continue to strive to provide, with limited funding, the best service possible.

Florida Commission for the



**Transportation
Disadvantaged**

Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Review

Developments of Regional Impact are defined in Sec. 380.06, F.S. as any development which, because of its character, magnitude, or location, would have a substantial effect upon the health, safety, or welfare of citizens of more than one county. The Council continued its role in coordinating the review of Developments of

Regional Impact during the last Fiscal Year, as required by Sec. 380.06, F.S. During 2008-2009, the Council issued a recommendation report for the Governors Park DRI in Clay County just south of Green Cove Springs. The right-of-way of the proposed Outer Beltway, which is a proposed multi-lane tolled freeway, runs through this approved project. With construction of this road will come development pressures, particularly in the areas around the proposed interchanges. DRI review allows for a comprehensive mitigation plan to be incorporated within the Governors Park Development Order, which is preferable to piecemeal smaller development that has occurred around other new interchange areas in Northeast Florida.

There are a number of other proposed DRIs that continue to be under various stages of review by Council staff. Those DRIs include:

- Elkton DRI in St. Johns County
- Old Brick Township DRI in City of Palm Coast
- Hunters Ridge DRI Substantial Deviation in Flagler County
- Durbin DRI in St. Johns County
- Cordova Palms DRI in St. Johns County
- Neoga Lakes DRI in City of Palm Coast

With the passage of Senate Bill 360, there are a number of communities in Northeast Florida that are “Dense Urban Land Areas” (DULAs) and, as such, will no longer be subject to the review requirements of Sec. 380.06, F.S. These DULA communities include the City of Jacksonville – large projects in Jacksonville will no longer be required to undergo this level of regional scrutiny. The passage of SB 360 presents challenges to the Regional Council to work with the City to ensure that sufficient development review requirements are in place to adequately address regional impacts from any proposed DRI-sized projects.

State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP)

The Northeast Florida Regional Council administers two housing programs for Putnam County: the Putnam County State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program, and a Hurricane Housing Recovery Program. These programs assist very low-, low-, and moderate-income households.

Through these programs, the Council has helped bring affordable housing funds of more than \$6,778,000 to Putnam at no direct cost to the County. In addition to the 2008-09 state allocation of \$671,180 to the SHIP program, the Northeast Florida Regional Council recaptured an additional \$70,955 that was put back into the program. With these funds, NEFRC and Putnam County provided over \$165,000 as down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers. NEFRC and Putnam County provided, through the SHIP program, approximately \$294,772 to very low-, low- and moderate-income families for home rehabilitation. In addition to the down payment assistance and home rehabilitation funds, NEFRC and Putnam County provided over \$100,000 to Putnam County’s Habitat for Humanity. In total, these funds helped over 25 families either repair their existing home or purchase a new or existing home.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS

The Emergency Preparedness Programs (EPP) area of the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) strives to work in all areas of public safety and emergency management. The staff of EPP works with state and local emergency management and public safety officials to develop plans, programs and training opportunities to prepare communities and document their procedures in response to disasters. Developing mitigation programs and plans prepares communities ahead of disasters. Post disaster mitigation assists communities in recovering from disasters. Training and exercises prepare responders and evaluate procedures.

NEFRC conducted several table-top exercises throughout the region in 2009. These exercises included:

- St. Johns County Hurricane Exercise at the opening of St. John's EOC, August 29, 2009: This exercise was conducted as part of the grand opening of the new Emergency Operations Center as a practical effort to familiarize EOC staffing personnel with the operations of the new facility. The Regional Council established an Exercise Design Team comprised of a representative from emergency management and EOC operations to design the exercise. Together, they were responsible for the design, development, conduct, and evaluation of the exercise. The scenario was: A large hurricane passing nearby St. Johns County would cause significant damage. This exercise was intended to create thought and expose the staff to the new EOC Environment. The exercise did not directly test or stress the EOC itself, but served as a familiarization of the County staff to the facility.
- Clay County Emergency Management, September 2, 2009: This exercise was intended to analyze the ability of Emergency Support Function staff to work with the new electronic emergency management system, WebEOC®. The exercise did not directly test or stress the organization it-

self, but served as a familiarization of the County staff with the software. The scenario included: An overseas infection arriving in Clay County with an effective delivery systems that has infected the county and portions of the State. County participants practiced coordination of response and delivery of information to the public.

- Anastasia Mosquito Control District, November 13, 2009: This exercise was designed to provide local agencies with the opportunity to identify significant problems, information exchange needs, and critical decisions related to a serious mosquito-borne disease outbreak. It had the following county-wide objectives: Introduction of EOC /Management (POD System) with county agencies; Exercise Mosquito Control operations plan and suppression plan; Exercise information exchange/risk communications /cross agency coordination.
- Baker County Mass Casualty: This exercise was to review existing local government and their various agencies plans and procedures related to communication, to test existing plans and procedures related to continuity of operations, and to test the coordination between the local response and support agencies following a disaster affecting a large area of Baker County and the City of Macclenny.

Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF)



The Northeast Florida Regional Council provides staff to the RDSTF for Region 3, which includes; Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Gilchrist, Flagler, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, and Union counties. Each of the 7 regions of the RDSTF has two planners, who attend all RDSTF meetings and functions, and facilitate the needs of the Task Force on a daily basis. In addition to more routine functions such as staffing and supporting the annual RDSTF meeting. The following have been a part of the RDSTF activities of the Council:

Emergency Management Software

Through a grant funded by the Jacksonville Urban Area Security Initiative, the RDSTF planner and Council staff facilitated selection and installation of regional emergency management collaboration software. The installation of this software represents a major step forward in the coordination of resources and disaster response within the Region. Following months of region wide review and consensus building, one out of 9 possible software selections was purchased and installed in the first five of the region's counties; the remaining counties will receive the software in subsequent funding cycles. The software selected was WebEOC®. This is a web-enabled crisis information management system that provides secure real-time information sharing to help Emergency Managers make sound decisions quickly. As this software was originally

developed for public safety and emergency management officials, WebEOC® is now also used for routine operations in many areas of response, as well as by government at every level: city, county and state agencies nationwide, including federal agencies such as the Departments of Defense, Energy, Agriculture, and Health & Human Services. The software used in emergency operations centers (EOCs) to manage crisis information, exchange information, request and coordinate response and communicate with units in the field. Following its selection by Northeast Florida, other regions have begun to implement this NEFRC-developed configuration of the software and it is quickly becoming the leading EOC and incident management software in Florida.

EM Constellation

The State of Florida uses a software package known as EM Constellation to coordinate incidents with the local government during a disaster. This custom software is ideal for local government to State government coordination and information exchange, but cannot be used at the local or regional level as a coordination tool. During this year the RDSTF Planner and Council staff coordinated the configuration and installation of the regional collaboration software, WebEOC®. Then taking regional collaboration to the next level and working directly with the Division of Emergency Management and the developers of EM Constellation and WebEOC®, Council staff coordinated the development of an interface between EM Constellation and EOC management software packages. This bridging software will allow any EOC in the State to interface seamlessly with the State EM Constellation software from within their selected EOC Management software. This will

revolutionize the use of software in local emergency operations centers across the State allowing for direct collaboration with not only the State but other counties utilizing the bridge. Effectively, this effort, funded by the Florida Division of Emergency Management will establish the foundation for the nations first real state-wide collaborative emergency management software.

Federal Reserve Bank, Miami Exercise

In June 2009, Council staff worked with the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) in Miami to design and conduct a Tabletop Exercise for the Miami Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, one of the twelve districts of the national Federal Reserve System.



A similar exercise was developed for the Jacksonville Branch in 2008. Following that exercise the staff was invited to develop an exercise for the Miami branch. Federal Reserve Branches process tens of millions of dollars in cash, and many thousands of checks on a daily basis in order to serve the needs of banks and other financial institutions within its region. The Tabletop Exercise challenged exercise participants with a scenario involving hazardous materials and a potential act of terrorism in which the Federal

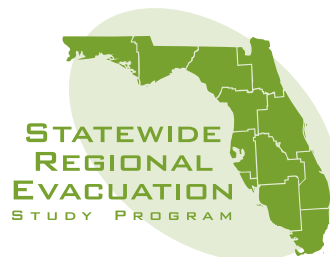
Reserve facility was damaged and made inaccessible for several days. The exercise was so well received that the New Orleans and Atlanta Bank of the Federal Reserve Bank now intend to duplicate the effort.

Florida Homeland Security Workshop

Council staff coordinated a State Homeland Security Funding Workshop. The purpose of this two-day workshop was to bring together the various discipline committees that oversee the Homeland Security Grant coordination effort and develop consensus on what projects should be pursued in the next funding cycle. Meetings commenced on September 15, 2009, with representatives from counties across the state meeting to designate funding and prioritize homeland security funding needs. Different committees participated each day. Both days began with the welcome and general session and then the funding committees broke out to their specified locations. The committees that participated on the first day were: interoperable communications, law enforcement prevention, medical surge, community health surge, fire rescue, public information, law enforcement response, emergency management and campus security. All committees were able to come to an agreement on their selected meeting day; and after doing so, they created funding worksheet templates. The Northeast Florida Regional Council provided logistical support and staffing for this workshop. Staff was also on hand to assist in event facilitation and coordination, and to conduct and provide a post event summary to the Division of Emergency Management.

SRESP 2009

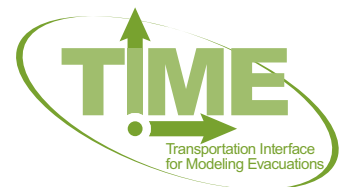
This year saw the achievement of numerous milestones for the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program (SRESP). Phase I – Data Collection has been completed. Phase II, which includes the analysis, modeling and application of the data is ongoing. Portions of the analysis have been completed. The Behavioral Analysis and resulting planning assumptions for each County were completed in 2009. This is a key component of the Regional Evacuation Models, which have been developed for all eleven (11) regions across the State. The behavioral planning assumptions, along with demographic, hazards, and shelter data, the roadway evacuation network and the Sea, Lake, Overland Surge from Hurricanes (SLOSH) Basin results are used to produce clearance times by storm category and provide information on the vulnerable population in each Region and County in the State. The Evacuation Model will be run for each Region in the coming year as all analysis is completed and finalized.



The development of the Regional Evacuation Models has made tremendous strides in 2009. All necessary data has been collected for use in these models and the prototype model that was developed for the Tampa Bay Region has been finalized. The Model was then replicated for all Regions. The Model has been developed on the CUBE software platform, which is consistent with the software utilized across the State of Florida. Additionally, much effort has gone into the development of the Transportation Inter-

face for Modeling Evacuations (TIME) that users will encounter as they run the model for specific purposes once the Study has been completed.

The Transportation Interface for Modeling Evacuations (TIME) is a graphic user interface developed as part of the SRESP to provide a user friendly way for emergency management and growth management staff to use the evacuation transportation model. The evacuation transportation model developed in CUBE software platform requires training; however, a background in travel demand modeling is not required in order to use it effectively. TIME allows the user to set up a scenario by selecting from a preset list of options, including evacuation level, response curve, behavioral response options, demographic options, and year of assignment. TIME then uses the input data selected by the user and runs the scenario in CUBE. Results are reported back to TIME for emergency management and growth management staff to use in their advanced planning efforts.



The TIME user interface allows for continued use of the model outside of the Study. It will allow Emergency Management and Growth Management officials to test a variety of scenarios and their effects on evacuation in the region and in a particular county. As the model continues to be updated and maintained, this feature can provide decision-makers with additional, relevant information on the effects of growth management and emergency management decisions on evacuation.

The Light Detecting and Ranging (LiDAR) mapping portion of the Program was also completed in 2009. LiDAR has been collected aerially through flyovers of the state, processed and distributed across the State for use in the Study. This was a massive undertaking, which faced unforeseeable obstacles in completion. After three (3) years and a budget of \$24 million, the effort has proven successful. This newly released LiDAR data and its resulting GIS products are being utilized by the National Hurricane Center in the SLOSH model for each of the eleven (11) Basins across the State.

Using the new LiDAR data will provide a significant improvement in the output of the SLOSH model runs because of the quality of



the data being fed into the model. Previous SLOSH model runs for Northeast Florida and most of the State in general, utilized topographic data from USGS quadrangle maps. During 2009, the National Hurricane Center in Miami has completed eight (8) of the eleven (11) SLOSH Basins across Florida.

The LiDAR data, specifically the Digital Elevation Model created from LiDAR, in combination with the SLOSH model results are utilized in the Storm Surge Inundation tool. This tool was developed using an ArcGIS platform and its Spatial Analyst extension by Marshall Flynn, the GIS Manager at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC). The tool produces the storm surge zones for Category One (1) through Five (5) storms. These storm surge zones are the basis for the Digital Storm Tide Atlas that is produced as a product of the study. Storm Surge Zones are also given to each County's Emergency Management Director to aid in the creation of Evacuation Zones.

Collaboration has also been a focus in 2009. SRESP program staff have reached out to the Florida Department of Community Affairs and the Florida Department of Transportation on key concepts, definitions and processes to ensure that there is a statewide collaboration and acceptance of all methods utilized in the SRESP.

Looking forward, 2010 will bring the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program to a close. All eleven (11) regions within the State will complete their study in 2010. This will result in a completed statewide study with over 133 volumes of data as well as Storm Tide Atlases for each county. This study is a major advancement for the State of Florida's evacuation planning and is providing a model for other States across the Nation.

Continuity of Government (COG) Plan Template

Continuity of Government (COG) planning has become increasingly important over the last decade as the nation has experienced large scale emergencies and events with greater frequency. While these events have varied in type and magnitude, it is necessary for the government to continue its functions during such events since people need government most when disaster strikes. COG Plans provide organizations with the capability to ensure that government can preserve, maintain or reconstitute its ability to carry out executive, legislative and judicial functions under the threat or occurrence of any emergency conditions that could disrupt government functions. A COG Plan provides reasonable assurance that the government has the capability to preserve civil government institutions and perform essential functions effectively under emergency or catastrophic conditions.

The Northeast Florida Regional Council entered into a contract with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) in June 2009 to produce a Continuity of Government (COG) Plan Template to be utilized by State agencies and organizations, as well as, County and Municipal governments. Additionally, a web application will be developed to allow users to complete the majority of the COG Plan online. Training materials will also be developed that include the overall design and outline of the course and all relevant course work, including both the instructors' and students' manuals and PowerPoint presentations. This project will be complete mid-2010.

Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Planning and Coordination

"Tactical Interoperable Communications" (TIC) is a term used for the rapid provision of on-scene, incident-based, mission-critical voice and/or data communications among all first responder agencies (medical, fire, and law enforcement), as appropriate for the incident, and in support of an incident command system as defined in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

The Northeast Florida Regional Council has been tasked with coordinating the creation and/or update of TIC Plans across the State of Florida. A handful of regions (Miami, Tampa, Orlando and Jacksonville) have existing TIC Plans, while the rest of the State does not. Utilizing new guidance and an associated standard template for TIC planning, published by the Department of Homeland Security, NEFRC is fostering the creation of plans in those regions that have none and helping the State's urban regions to update theirs in accordance with the new guidance. These plans capture information pertaining to communications resources and capabilities for the various regional and urban areas across the State. The plans are used as a tactical tool for incidents or planned events.

The Council's role is not only coordination of meetings, schedule and deadlines, but also to provide subject matter expertise in the realm of TIC planning. Our subject matter expert reviewed all Federal guidance and existing State Plans and was available to advise and answer questions from each region on their TIC Plans.

Local Mitigation Strategy

The Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Task Forces for Baker, Clay and Nassau Counties have each completed their Quarterly meetings for the year of 2009. The Northeast Florida Regional Council provides these counties with assistance to help compose their meeting agendas; invite representatives from appropriate government agencies and departments, as well as members of the community to participate; facilitate the Task Force meetings; maintain a record of the meeting minutes; update the project priority list and other documents; and offer technical assistance as needed. The Council offers support and information to all counties to facilitate the successful mitigation of hazards throughout our region.

The intent of the Local Mitigation Strategy is to help counties reduce their vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters. Mitigation includes a variety of measures to protect and preserve the property and lives of citizens through preventative measures and actions. These projects may include the acquisition of flood prone properties, debris removal, the hardening of structures and disaster shelters, acquiring power generators, clearing underbrush, creating water drainage plans and the elevation of roads and other transportation networks, in addition to domestic security, hazardous materials, critical infrastructure protection and many other projects. It's not just hurricanes and wildfires anymore!

The Council helps to serve as a link between various local government agencies, private sector entities and non-profit organizations. All of these entities work together to produce a community-wide effort that will help the counties to reduce the impacts of recovery and their associated costs, and to rebuild their neighborhoods after a disaster strikes.

The LMS Task Force also serves as a link between municipalities, the county, citizens and the federal government. In order to receive Federal disaster assistance, each County Task Force develops a prioritized list that identifies potential mitigation projects. If and when a disaster does occur, this priority list becomes the community design for how Federal dollars will be spent on eligible projects.

There are several funding sources that Counties can utilize for assistance with their Mitigation efforts at the Federal and State levels, including: Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, Fire Assistance, Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grants, Homeland Security Grants, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants, Hazard Mitigation Grants, and others.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is one of the mitigation funding sources that covers a specific aspect of mitigation activities: hardening and retrofitting of structures to resist damage. During an emergency situation, there may be citizens who are not able to evacuate outside of the path of a storm in time. These shelters serve as a secure place to wait for the storm to pass, and provide temporary housing for those people whose homes were destroyed; as such, these shelters must be compliant with American Red Cross (ARC) shelter guidelines. Many counties across Florida do not have enough of these ARC compliant shelters and are operating in shelter-space deficits. Other buildings may be essential to a community during disaster response and recovery and must

be able to withstand the impacts of the storm. These buildings, or critical facilities, may also be retrofitted so that the structure can operate effectively during times of emergency.

Currently, the Council is involved with several HMGP projects across the Region. This past year, Putnam County completed retrofitting of its Emergency Operations Center. This building can now operate during the most severe of storms, providing assistance to other potentially affected areas of the county. Another HMGP project in Putnam County that will create shelter space is Middleton Burney Elementary in the southern portion of the county. This project is currently undergoing a project cost increase in order to maximize the retrofit effort and ensure that a quality structure will result when the work is done. Since this is an operating school, construction is planned to occur during the summer months when school is not in session.

In Baker County, Macclenny Elementary Project funding to install hurricane screens. The Baker County School Board also received HMGP funds to retrofit portions of five other schools in the County that are used as shelters during emergencies. These school buildings include: Baker Middle School, Building 19; Baker Senior High School, Building 15; J.F. Keller Intermediate School, Building 18; Phoenix Center, Center Building; and Westside Elementary School, Building 7. The Council has been tasked with administering each of these grants throughout the course of the projects' time span, providing technical assistance, coordination efforts, and keeping track of documentation during the planning, construction, installation, completion, and closeout phases of these projects. Each of these retrofits is a mitigation project that will help to improve the shelter capacity and emergency response capabilities of their communities.



Hazardous Materials

The District IV of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is a state-appointed committee staffed by the Council. The Committee is charged with facilitating regional hazardous materials emergency response and compliance with hazardous materials reporting laws under the Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The District IV of the LEPC completed its Quarterly Meetings for 2009. These meetings serve as a gathering point for those involved in hazardous material response and planning and the relaying of information from the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC).

The LEPC also serves as a public repository for annual inventory reports, or Tier IIs, that are submitted by facilities that store or use hazardous materials and chemicals on-site, and assists companies in complying with State laws. Staff for the LEPC also serves as a point of contact if a hazardous material spill or leak were to occur. This information is gathered and shared with the State Warning Point, and vice versa; it is then reported to the District at its Quarterly meetings.

2009 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Project

During fiscal year 2008-2009, the Local Emergency Planning Committee District IV chose Option 2: Community Workshops and Section 302 Facility Outreach as its HMEP Planning Project. Recent projects had consisted of conducting an exercise and quality control of submitted Tier II's. Based upon the quality control project, it was determined that there was a need to conduct a series of "How to Comply" workshops in the District so as to educate and inform chemical facility operators of their legal obligations under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).

In February 2009, five "How to Comply" workshops were held throughout the Region. Staff plans to offer similar workshops in the coming years, especially with the onset of Florida HMIS, the new electronic reporting tool for Chemical Inventory Reporting.

Staff also gave individual presentations on the "How to Comply" workshop to some eighteen (18) Section 302 facility operators throughout the district, including both public and private facilities. By Staff taking time to sit down with each of these facility operators, the LEPC is now a known quantity with a name and face, instead of just a reference in a manual. Continued exposure to the various Section 302 facilities is expected to commence over the next couple of years as well.

In September 2009, Council staff conducted a workshop for firefighters in Clay County. Staff presented participants with information on E-Plan, a software program that can be used by Hazardous Materials Technicians as a resource for a HazMat response call. This program is an online chemical database that can help identify chemicals and their quantities. A new goal of District IV is to increase awareness and use of this tool throughout our region; cur-



rently members of the LEPC and local HazMat Teams are working to develop a training presentation that will assist with this goal.

In total, some ninety-five (95) people attended the workshops or presentations held by LEPC District IV Staff to meet the objectives of the HMEP Planning Project, Option 2: Community Workshops and Section 302 Facility Outreach, which exceeds the minimum requirement of sixty (60) people. Continued operations and planning will also be incorporated into the annual functions of the LEPC to help deliver technical assistance and information to chemical facilities, communities, and first responders.

2008-2009 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning & Training Opportunities

The LEPC receives funding from the State through the Federal Department of Transportation to provide training opportunities for Hazardous Materials emergency responders. In total, 279 First Responders received a total 3,288 training hours for the 2008-2009 year under the HMEP program. The following is a summary of some of the activities that District IV of the LEPC sponsored over the past year:

Incident Command Systems, Orange Park, Florida: These courses were taught to first responders from throughout the District in November 2008 under the framework of the nationally standardized Incident Command structure and the process associated with Disaster Management, with an emphasis on the Planning and Logistics Section Chiefs, Receiving and Distribution Manager, Status Check-In Recorder, and Supply and Resource Unit Leaders.

2009 International Hazardous Materials Conference, Baltimore, Maryland: The LEPC sponsored two Clay County firefighters' attendance of this training event in May 2009.

Hazardous Materials Operational Refresher Course,



Clay County: The LEPC held an Ops Refresher for HazMat designed to allow first responders to demonstrate basic skills and core competencies expected of those individuals who have already been trained at the full operational level, with reviews of basic Hazard and Risk Assessment Techniques, review of various PPEs, Basic Terms and Standard Operating Procedures, Control, Containment, Confinement, Decontamination. The course was comprised of seven, eight-hour days in June 2009. Approximately 150 students received about 1,200 combined training hours.



HazMat IQ (Above the Line, Below the Line): The HazMat IQ training course was held in August and September 2009, and taught critical knowledge for first responders to be able to make the quick decision as to whether they would be able to make an entry to effectuate a rescue during a HazMat incident through the understanding of the various environmental hazards and presence of the required PPE to do so, as well as streamlining the size-up process.

US DOT MultiModal HazMat Transportation Training: This two-day training seminar was held in August 2009 to increase the knowledge and awareness of HazMat Responders for the safe and secure transportation of hazardous materials, by combining a variety of basics, essentials, and safety and compliance breakout sessions for attendees. The seminar is only being offered in three states total. The LEPC sponsored attendance for four personnel from three County Fire Departments.

AHLS Tox-Medic: The Advanced Hazmat Life Support (AHL) provider program trains participants to: provide rapid assessment of hazmat patients, recognize toxic syndromes (toxidromes), provide medical management for hazmat patients, apply the poisoning treatment paradigm, and administer specific antidotes. This course was conducted in August 2009 through Shands Hospital and the Florida Poison Information Center.

2008-2009 Hazards Analysis Update

Staff has completed all site visits and database updates for the 2008 – 2009 Hazards Analyses for Baker, Clay, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties. Site visits are conducted every other year for Section 302 facilities, or those facilities known to contain Extremely Hazardous Substances, under the Emergency Planning Community Right-To-Know Act. Updated information is entered into an electronic database, and all supporting documentation, site visit certification forms, facility surveys, statements of determination, and site maps are submitted to the State for their review. Suggested corrections have been received and resubmitted to DEM for Final Review. Final copies will be sent to the Counties for their Emergency Response Plans concerning hazardous materials; depending upon the facility, the type of chemical, and other conditions, the county emergency managers can be aided in their decisions to enact evacuation procedures or sheltering-in-place as possible options. This information is also incorporated annually into the LEPC Comprehensive Plan for Hazardous Materials as part of its vulnerability and hazards assessment.

2008-2009 Small Quantity Generators of Hazardous Waste

The Northeast Florida Regional Council is working with the Department of Environmental Protection to implement the Small Quantity Generators (SQG) program in Baker and Nassau Counties. SQGs are individual businesses that generate and/or accumulate dangerous wastes at quantities between 100 to 1,000 kilograms in a month. Businesses that produce below this range are Conditionally Exempt and operate under different aspects of State laws; businesses that produce above this range are Large Quantity Generators and subject to different regulations and legislation. Individual business sites are to be inspected once every five years, or a minimum of 20% of the entire county annually, so that all SQG sites for the whole county are inspected. This past year, staff conducted site inspections for Nassau County and verified 22 different sites, or 21% of all sites county wide; inspections in Baker County totaled 7 sites for this year, or 21% of the entire county.

FINANCE / VALUE ADDED SERVICES

The Council maintained a stable financial position during the year ending September 30, 2009. The firm of Magers and Associates conducted the annual audit and issued an unqualified opinion.

The Council replaced the building roof with proceeds from the refinance of the building note. The roof replacement was completed in June 2009 at a final cost of \$460,217.

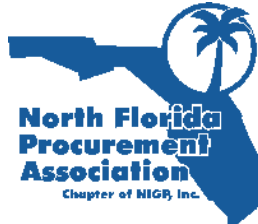
The Council has fully modernized our Records Management process. The Council is currently in compliance with the State's records management requirement under Section 257.36(5) of the Florida Statutes and Rule 1B-24.003 of the Florida Administrative Code for public records retention. The Council appropriately disposed of 74 cubic feet of records in 2009. The Council currently has 427 cubic feet of stored records. The Records Management Liaison Officer for the Council is a Florida Certified Records Manager.

Operating Revenue Sources 2008-2009 \$4,976,565

Community Services	\$627,280
Emergency Preparedness	\$3,046,636
Planning	\$576,651
County Investment	\$623,091
Transportation	\$102,907

North Florida Procurement Association

Cooperative purchasing is central to the mission of the North Florida Procurement Association (NFPA). This organization, which received its Charter in 2005, provides professionals in the area of public procurement with opportunities to improve the way in which they conduct business. These opportunities include education, training, research, enhanced communication and peer support.



The NFPA is a Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), and through this affiliation, is able to provide educational events for members to gain advanced knowledge in public purchasing, including certification seminars and webinars.

In 2009, the NFPA hosted four classes which provided accreditation toward the Certified Public Purchasing Officer (CPPO) and the Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB). These classes provided educational opportunities for thirty-nine (39) students, of which 49% were from the local regional area.

On January 23, 2009, the NFPA hosted the 2009 Procurement and Contracting Expo at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. This event provided exhibition facilities for 49 vendors. Revenues from this event allowed the NFPA to award 16 scholarships of \$250 each to members of the Chapter. Eligible entries were determined by the membership's class and meeting participation. The 16 scholarships were awarded from a total of 169 eligible entries.

Despite the local economy and the continued impact on resources available to many of our regional agencies, NFPA membership rose from 83 members in 2008 to 107 members in 2009.

The NFPA Board of Directors maintains a website located at www.nf-pa.org. The site provides up-to-date information for its members and interested parties, providing quick links for job opportunities, upcoming class schedules, registrations and Chapter meeting information.

As of the end of this fiscal year, two-thirds of the Council's leasable space was occupied with two tenants: Project SOS and the Early Learning Coalition of Duval.

Return on Investment

Among the tangible benefits reaped by member governments was a \$8/1 return on their county contributions. Following is a breakdown of selected services for the Council's seven-county region:

- Yielded a \$4,864,902 direct/indirect return on investment for contributions of \$623,091 by member counties, a \$8/1 ratio.
- Provided \$992,279 in contract monies to Regional Council's across the State to assist in the development of a Statewide Regional Evacuation Study and various other Statewide Emergency Management projects.
- Approved for funding consideration \$102,636,984 in federal/state/local government and private monies for 442 regional programs and projects.

Counties' Return On Investment

Baker	\$83/1
Clay	\$6/1
Duval	\$2/1
Flagler	\$12/1
Nassau	\$16/1
Putnam	\$43/1
St. Johns	\$7/1

The Region \$8/1

INFORMATION SERVICES

Information Technology

The Information Technology function provides local network services for the Council staff. Services include network administration, server administration, desktop support, data storage and backup, network security, business machines, audio/visual support, web site hosting, e-mail services, IT purchasing, site security systems, as well as voice communications, including Blackberry administration.

The Council continues to build and enhance its Information Technology Systems. This project has produced new and upgraded security technologies, i.e. a new firewall, upgraded antivirus software, and a new spam filtering system. Servers and ancillary equipment have been upgraded and consolidated into a totally Microsoft-based network. A storage area network has been added, providing increased storage capacity and better data management. Financial Services hardware and software have been upgraded with all new personal computers, a new server, and new accounting software. All the Council's personal computers have been replaced or refurbished, and all are equipped with dual monitors. All comput-

ers run on a common Microsoft platform. All Council printers, copiers, fax machines and scanners have been upgraded, including a more cost-effective and reliable service contract. The project has also produced phone system improvements, including highly reliable service. Finally, the project has included upgrading the Board Room's audio/video capability, vendor management, and process documentation.

There were a number of significant accomplishments in the past year. The IT Backup System was replaced and based on a state-of-the-art application that continually images all servers. A centralized IT Control Room was created, which contains servers, inventories, supplies, and IT office space. The technical foundation was completed for PlanScans, a paperless document management system that Planning and Strategic Initiatives (PSI) will build into a data and information warehouse. Additionally, IT provided substantial support for the Council's consolidation of office space, for the startup of the Critical Infrastructure Threat Assessment (CITAMS) program, and for the transfer of GIS to program area staff.



REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Regional Leadership Academy

The Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) is a program of the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) that nurtures and cultivates this same commitment to Regionalism. The Academy educates Regional Leaders and invests in the future of our communities through a mission to make Northeast Florida a better place to live and work.

Topics covered during the 2009 Regional Leadership Series included: "Our Region 101"; Equity and Diversity; Land Use and Quality of Life; Emergency Management; Housing and Healthcare; Economic Development and Local Government Finance; and Transportation. This

broad range of topics was designed to provide class members with an understanding of our multi-faceted Region.

By participating in the Regional Leadership Series, one can become a Graduate of the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy through meeting attendance requirements, which in turn makes one eligible for membership in the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc. (RCI), the nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that is part of the NEFRC.

In 2009, 15 Regional Leaders completed the Regional Leadership Series and became RLA graduates, marking over 115 members having gone through the educational program.

Regional Achievements Recognized at Annual Elected Officials Reception and Regional Leadership Awards Ceremony

On February 24th, nearly 150 elected officials, Regional leaders and award winners gathered at the University of North Florida for the 9th Annual Northeast Florida Elected Officials Reception and 2009 Regional Leadership Awards. WJCT President and CEO Michael Boylan was the evening's master of ceremonies and recognized each of the evening's award winners. This years honorees are listed below.



Regional Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing

Accepted by Dana Moore, St. Johns County Homeownership Programs Coordinator



Harry Waldron Award

Accepted by Peter Rummell



Regional Award for Excellence in Economic Development and Tourism

Accepted by Troy Blevins on behalf of the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division



Regional Award for Excellence in Transportation

Accepted by John Youell on behalf of the Palatka Municipal Airport Terminal Area Improvements



Regional Award for Excellence in Education

Accepted by John Edwards on behalf of the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency Family Self Sufficiency Program



Regional Quality of Life Award

Accepted by Susan Holden-Dodge on behalf of the Barnabas Center, Inc.



Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship

Accepted by Joe Stephenson on behalf of St. Johns County Fleet Management Biodiesel Project



Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship

Accepted by Michael Sweat on behalf of St. Mary's Shoals Park



The Northeast Florida Regional Council Special Achievement Award

Accepted by Theresa Smith on behalf of Wayne and Delores Weaver and the Jacksonville Jaguars



Regional Award for Excellence in Planning and Growth Management

Accepted by Rob Palmer on behalf of Reality Check First Coast



Regional Award for Excellence in Public Safety

Accepted by Chief Robert Musco on behalf of the City of Green Cove Springs Police Department Teen Summit

OUR REGION

The Northeast Florida Regional Council, formed in 1977, serves Regional District 4, and is comprised of seven counties (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns) and 27 municipalities.

The Region's land area covers 4,428 square miles and the population surpasses 1.2 million. Forty-three percent of the region is dedicated to agriculture, two percent to industry and commercial use, thirteen percent is otherwise urbanized and the remaining forty-two percent is covered by a variety of other uses.

The Region is characterized by an abundance of natural resources and a diversity of habitats. Its central feature is the lower St. Johns River. With 140 miles of coastline and five barrier islands boasting some of the state's most magnificent, pristine beaches, the region is truly "Florida's First Coast."

Jacksonville is the major urban center, with a good mix of industrial manufacturing, transportation, financial services, health care, and military employment. Landwise, it is the largest city in the U.S.

Surrounding counties are more rural in nature, relying on agriculture and service sectors, and a limited industrial base often focused on a single sector. They are, however, increasing in their rate of urbanization and beginning to develop more economic diversity.



BAKER COUNTY
County Seat: Macclenny
Population: 25,890*
Land Area (sq. miles): 585
Other Incorporated Communities:
 Glen St. Mary
Established: 1861
Named for: James McNair Baker, Confederate States senator and Florida judge



FLAGLER COUNTY
County Seat: Bunnell
Population: 95,512*
Land Area (sq. miles): 485
Other Incorporated Communities: Beverly Beach, Flagler Beach, Marineland, Palm Coast
Established: 1917
Named for: Henry Flagler, developer of the Florida East Coast Railroad



CLAY COUNTY
County Seat: Green Cove Springs
Population: 185,168*
Land Area (sq. miles): 601
Other Incorporated Communities: Keystone Heights, Orange Park, Penney Farms
Established: 1858
Named for: Kentuckian Henry Clay, Secretary of State under John Quincy Adams



NASSAU COUNTY
County Seat: Fernandina Beach
Population: 71,915*
Land Area (sq. miles): 652
Other Incorporated Communities: Callahan, Hilliard
Established: 1824
Named for: Nassau Sound



DUVAL COUNTY
County Seat: Jacksonville
Population: 904,971*
Land Area (sq. miles): 774
Other Incorporated Communities: Atlantic Beach, Baldwin, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach
Established: 1822
Named for: William Pope DuVal, first territorial governor of Florida



PUTNAM COUNTY
County Seat: Palatka
Population: 74,989*
Land Area (sq. miles): 722
Other Incorporated Communities: Crescent City, Interlachen, Pomona Park, Welaka
Established: 1849
Named for: Benjamin Alexander Putnam (1801-69), lawyer, soldier, judge, state legislator, first president of the Florida Historical Society



ST. JOHNS COUNTY
County Seat: St. Augustine, oldest permanent settlement in U.S.
Population: 181,180*
Land Area (sq. miles): 609
Other Incorporated Communities: Hastings, St. Augustine Beach
Established: 1821
Named for: St. Johns River

*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census
 Estimates by Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, Florida Statistical Abstract 2009

REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF



Brian D. Teeple
Chief Executive Officer



Mario L. Taylor
*Deputy CEO/
Chief Operations Officer*



Donna Starling
Chief Financial Officer

Margo Moehring, *Director, Planning & Strategic Initiatives*
Ed Lehman, *Director, Transportation & Community Development*
Jeffrey Alexander, *Director, Emergency Preparedness*



Moehring



Lehman



Alexander

Executive Support:

Sheron Forde, *Executive Assistant*

Shirley Orberg, *Executive Assistant*

Operations:

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Angela Session, *Accountant*

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Guy Parola, *Senior Regional Planner*

Ameera Sayeed, *Senior Regional Planner*

Michael Calhoun, *Graphic Designer*

Angela Giles, *Administrative Assistant*

Transportation & Community Development

Debbie Balevre, *Housing Programs Coordinator*

Emergency Preparedness:

Steve McMikle, *Senior Regional Planner*

Elizabeth Payne, *Senior Regional Planner*

Jason Taylor, *Regional Planner*

Joyce Rhodes, *Administrative Assistant*

Debbie Dale, *Data Entry Clerk*



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