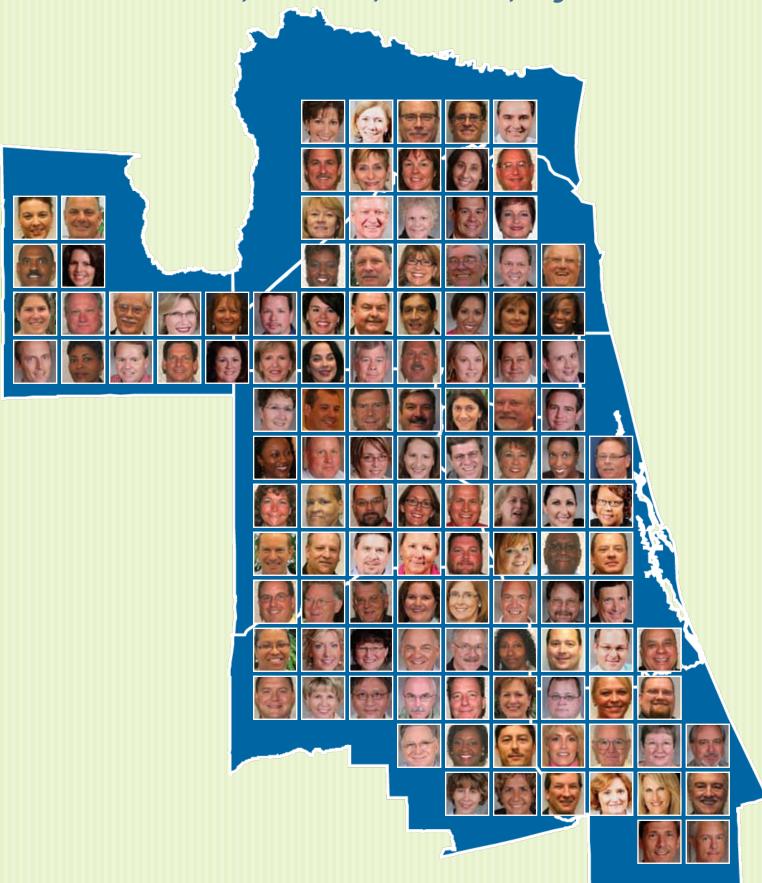


Northeast Florida Regional Council 2014 ANNUAL REPORT ANNUAL REF , Innovative, Productive, Regional.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a great year for our Regional Community and we are grateful that the Northeast Florida Regional Council could make significant contributions to that success. In this Annual Report you will be treated to a snapshot of our activities and accomplishments of the past year.

It was a very busy year in the area of economic development. The Council completed its 5-year update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. This update was in fact a complete rewrite and the Council is grateful to Dr. Perry Bechtle who chaired the highly diverse Economic Development Strategy Committee. We also completed the first ever State of the Region report that was unveiled during our annual Awards Ceremony. Staff completed 12 economic impact analyses on projects that would create new jobs in our Region and presented "Gotta Eat Gotta Grow" at the crowd funding festival One Spark. Finally, the Council accepted the recommendations from the Regional Community Institute on "Thriving Small Business" and adopted its Regional Action Plan.

In the area of emergency preparedness, the Council completed the update to the Northeast Florida Regional Evacuation Study. This study provides highly refined data and analyses to assist local governments in making evacuation decisions for the protection of lives and property in the face of a natural or manmade disaster. Staff conducted six hazardous materials courses with over 200 attendees and made 70 site visits to facilities that maintain hazardous materials inventories. In order for our citizens to more fully take advantage of the National Flood Insurance Program, we initiated the first ever multi-county Community Rating System users group. Finally, the Council became the fiscal agent and administrative entity to the newly formed Northeast Florida Health Care Coalition for Disaster Preparedness.

In the areas of planning and programs, staff reviewed local government comprehensive plan amendments (which resulted in changing the land use for 6,741 acres in the Region) and began work on the Old Kings Road South DRI located in Palm Coast. The Council graduated its ninth class of the Regional Leadership Academy; bringing graduates of this program to well over 200.

Lastly, the Council continues to be recognized for its outstanding work by garnering recognition from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged as the Designated Official Planning Agency of the year. In addition, during the 2014 Awards Ceremony we honored eleven individuals, entities and projects for their excellence.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as President of the Northeast Florida Regional Council and I ask you to join me in wishing great success to our incoming President, Mr. Kenny Eubanks of Putnam County.

Sincerely,

Northeast Florida Regional Council President

2013-2014



Honorable Wendell Davis Council President Clay County

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2013-2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Hon. Wendell Davis
President
Clay County



Mr. Kenny Eubanks 1st Vice President Clay County



Hon. Vernon Myers 2nd Vice President Putnam County



Mr. Hugh Fish, Jr. 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

Hon. Jimmy AndersonBaker County Commissioner

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

Hon. Adam Giddens Baker County Commissioner

Mr. Darryl RegisterGubernatorial Appointee

CLAY COUNTY

Hon. Tony BrownMayor City of Keystone Heights

Hon. Wendell Davis Clay County Commissioner

Hon. Steve Howard Town of Orange Park Councilman

Mr. Kenneth Smallwood Gubernatorial Appointee

Hon. Chereese Stewart Clay County Commissioner

DUVAL COUNTY

Ms. Elaine Brown Gubernatorial Appointee

Hon. Matt SchellenbergJacksonville City Councilman

Hon. Stan TotmanMayor, Town of Baldwin

FLAGLER COUNTY

Hon. Frank Meeker Flagler County Commissioner

Hon. Jon Netts Mayor, City of Palm Coast

Hon. Catherine Robinson Mayor, City of Bunnell

Mr. Bob Sgroi Gubernatorial Appointee

NASSAU COUNTY

Mr. Aaron Bell Gubernatorial Appointee

Hon. Ed Boner Mayor, City of Fernandina Beach

Hon. Shirley Graham Mayor, Town of Callahan

Hon. Barry Holloway Nassau County Commissioner

Mr. Robert "Bob" Spaeth Nassau County Representative

Mr. Larry WilliamsGubernatorial Appointee

PUTNAM COUNTY

Mr. Kenny EubanksPutnam County Representative

Hon. Nancy Harris Chair, Putnam County Commissioner

Hon. Vernon Myers Mayor, City of Palatka

Mr. Jeovanny Palencia Gubernatorial Appointee

Hon. E. Walton Pellicer II Putnam County Commissioner

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Hon. Rachael Bennett St. Johns County Commissioner

Hon. Roxanne Hovalth City of St. Augustine Commissioner

Hon. Ronald Sanchez St. Johns County Commissioner

Hon. Cyndi Stevenson St. Johns County Commissioner

Mr. Harlan MasonGubernatorial Appointee

EX-OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Mr. Geoffrey Sample St. Johns River Water Management District

Mr. Larry ParksFlorida Department of Transportation

Mr. Gregory Strong Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Local Emergency Planning Committee (District 4 LEPC)



The LEPC offered 6 free hazardous materials courses and over 200 responders attended in 2014. This training was attended by public and private partners within the Region, which has assisted in furthering the relationships of these responders.

The primary focus of 2014 was the potential for train derailments with hazardous chemicals. A tabletop exercise was conducted in St. Johns County around the scenario of a train derailment with a chlorine gas release to work through response options to prevent catastrophic loss to life and property.

In addition to conducting quarterly meetings of the LEPC, developing HazMat training courses, completing exercises, and providing technical assistance to facilities, the Council also con-

ducted more than 70 site visits in 2014. Over 40 facilities were visited to verify chemical inventories and to pre-plan for the potential of a chemical release or spill. Another 30 facilities were visited to verify hazardous wastes generation



and proper disposal techniques.

Planning for Hazards

Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program



The 2013 Northeast Florida Regional Evacuation Study (RES) was released in June 2014. The updated study includes valuable information on evacuation clearance times, shelter capacity/demand, and vulnerable populations. A new mapping product was included in the 2013 RES, a Depth Analysis Atlas, which illustrates the depth of the storm surge in increments of feet.

Work continues with the new Directional Atlas product underway for all 11 regions of the State. The Directional Atlas maps storm surge that is produced by specific hurricanes based on the angle of approach of the storm. This map product more narrowly defines the vulnerability of approaching hurricane to allow for better planning. Using the new data, Emergency Managers may begin to further refine their evacuation zones, specifically targeting vulnerable populations.

Clay County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

The Council worked with Clay County Emergency Management to update their Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

(CEMP). A CEMP is an operations-oriented document that establishes an effective system to ensure the County will be adequately prepared to deal with the occurrence of emergencies and disasters. The CEMP unites the efforts of the County and all partner agencies to reduce vulnerability to an array of identified hazards. The CEMP was reviewed and approved by the Florida Division of Emergency Management in September 2014.

Community Rating System (CRS) Users Group

On October 17, 2014, the Northeast Florida CRS User's Group met for the first time in St. Johns County. This is a group of local

county and municipal representatives that work on the CRS program in their community. There was great interest in the formation of a User's Group, as it fills an information exchange gap in the Region.



The group will meet regularly to discuss the nuts and bolts of CRS as well as the challenges and successes of the program in their communities.

Healthcare Coalition

The Council contracted with the Florida Department of Health as the administrative and fiseast Florida Healthcare



Coalition (NEFLHCC). The Council signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the NEFLHCC to accomplish these tasks: website development and maintenance, staff to the Executive Board, procurement, completion of contract specific deliverables and fiscal responsibilities, maintaining all record copies, financial statements for Board meetings. The purpose of the NEFLHCC is to promote emergency preparedness in the Regional healthcare system.

Planning

Preferred Growth Pattern: Multiple Centers

Extensive public engagement has indicated that a growth pattern that allows for centers with jobs and housing located in each county in Northeast Florida is preferred. These mixed use centers need to be accessible to all who might want to visit them or work there. NEFRC policies support such centers and multimodal transportation options to support them. NEFRC is gearing up a Brownfields program, to provide planning and assessment assistance to communities that identify their growth centers on redevelopment sites.



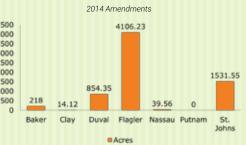
Technical Assistance

The Council matches the skillsets of its expert planning professionals with the needs of the member local governments to address a range of tasks: community challenges like economic development and equity to evaluating special exception applications for consistency with local land development regulations. The Council provides time and expertise to places where additional resources are requested. This year the Council joined three Towns – Beverly Beach, Interlachen and Pomona Park to take up implementation of newly revised Comprehensive Plans. In Beverly Beach, planners helped prepare administrative land use and rezoning applications to introduce place appropriate and sustainable commercial uses. For Interlachen, this meant evaluating special use permits and proposed Future Land use map amendments to accelerate small business development. For Pomona Park, this meant participating in community discussions to rewrite the 1990 Land Development Regulations to initiate the vision outlined in their 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Planning

The Council represents the regional perspective to evaluate large

scale amendments in two arenas: impacts to adjacent local governments and impacts regional resources and facilities. Through the 2014 year, the NEFRC Board took action on a total of



6,741 acres, adopted through amendments to local Future Land Use maps. Review of local government response to comments and recommendations made by the Council shows acceptance by 95%. Information monitored through the year defines how the Region is developing. For the past year, the Region continues to convert Rural and Residential Low Density areas into primarily Medium Density Residential with a secondary conversion to Conservation and Mixed Use Non-Residential areas.

Developments of Regional Impact (DRI)

For the Region, activity within Developments of Regional Impact is focused on changes to existing Development Orders, as existing and new developers modify plans for the projects approved in prior years. Activity was primarily focused in St. Johns County with five DRI projects amending master development plans. Within Flagler County, the proposed Development of Regional Impact in the City of Palm Coast- Old Kings Road South — initiated regional review and will continue into 2015.

Economic DevelopmentState of the Region

The Council released of the State of the Region webpage which included metrics from the Strategic Regional Policy Plan and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Regional Atlas. This year, the metrics were consolidated to create a clearinghouse and begin to monitor changes, patterns and trends in

the regional quality of life indicators. Interesting trends for the reporting 2014 year include annual increases in Regional Per Capita Income, increases in Regional Population, and annual increases in the Regional Gross Domestic Product.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Federally-designated Northeast Florida Economic Development District was updated in 2014 under the leadership of a dedicated and diverse Strategy Committee. That Committee has agreed to meet at least annually to oversee an inclusive process to choose projects to be submitted for grant funding. They view economic development more broadly than simply the number of high paying jobs, and support programs and projects that address the full spectrum of the State's Six Pillar approach to the future of Florida.

Analysis

The Council assists our local governments and non-profit economic development councils to model potential economic impacts of proposed and existing development projects using regional economic model software. During 2014, the Council completed 12 model runs for three of the seven counties in the Region. The model runs provide information to decision makers about the number of jobs a project may create, the increase in disposable income for the local population, and the increase in gross county product (value of all goods and services). The economic model is also used to forecast changes in data – income, population, jobs and is a data source for other planning strategies.

PolicyRegional Resiliency (R2) Challenge

The Regional Community Institute partnered with First Coast Fresh, a Family Farms Group, on the R2 Challenge, a website that challenged residents to do fun things in all seven counties. It also is the place to go to find out where to access the products of First Coast Fresh farms. The effort launched at One Spark



Mayor Alvin Brown & Margo Moehring at Gotta Eat, Gotta Grow

2014 as "Gotta Eat, Gotta Grow" and was a successful vote getter and frequently visited location at the event, which was attended by over a quarter of a million people over the course of five days.



Sea Level Rise

The Regional Action Plan for Sea Level Rise is being implement-



ed. Highlights for 2014 include partnerships with local communities to educate on sea level rise as part of activities that educate on resiliency to flooding, and a well-attended One Spark project that allowed visitors to view scenarios for future sea level rise. Leadership

on this topic is being provided by the private sector-focused Public/Private Regional Resiliency (P2R2) Committee.

Thriving Small Business

The non-profit Regional Community Institute serves as a policy "Think Tank" for the Council. Their work in 2014 was on "Thriving Small Business". Their recommendations were accepted by the NEFRC Board and have become a Regional Action Plan for Thriving Small Business. Implementation will include reporting metrics that will make it easier to determine success of small business and agriculture on a regional level, enhancements to websites and programs that will make it easier for small businesses to work in their communities, marketing small towns and rural areas, and engaging small business in the decision making required to determine what regional projects should be pursued.

Regional Leadership Academy

The Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) graduated its ninth class of regionalists. The Class of 2014 included law enforcement leaders, business leaders in aviation, insurance, economic development, and transportation planning, and policy leaders in community development, public transportation, park preservation and regional planning. This year marked the second roll out of 'Regional Walkabout' where each of the seven counties hosts the group to provide an onsite perspective of the topic area under study. Each academy year concludes with an community solution competition among the graduates. This year, the class selected 'Water: early education is conservation' as the leading topic to pitch to the Regional Community Institute; an important action that may result in the Institute taking up the topic as a future policy goal.

Programs State Housing Initiatives Program

The State Housing Initiatives Program SHIP program (SHIP) provides local support through State Housing Initiatives Partnership state appropriations from the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund. SHIP meets emergency repair, rehabilitation repair and new construction/purchase or very low, low and moderate income families. Within the Region, the NEFRC administers SHIP for Baker and Putnam counties. During Fiscal Year 13/14, both were allocated \$350,000 to implement housing strategies of their Local Housing Assistance Plans. In Putnam County, this

In Baker County, nine homes have been rehabilitated, primarily through demo/reconstruction, helping 18 individual family mem-

Transportation Disadvantaged



The Council is the Designated Official Planning Agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged program in Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties. In this capacity, the Council assists the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Commission and Local Coordinating Boards (LCBs) with program implementation through staff support and profes-

sional planning services. This year, Medicaid Managed Care Reform and its impacts on the TD system, led discussions among the LCBs and Community Transportation Coordinators. The NEFRC Board discussed this topic with Steve Holmes, Executive Director of the Transportation Disadvantaged Commission, during the March 2014 meeting. The TD program, through its coordinated system, provides non-emergency Medicaid transportation for approximately 275,000 people in the Region. Throughout the year and into 2015, staff will continue to assist the LCBs with solving implementation complications in the Medicaid Managed Care Reform through the local TD systems.

Geographic Information Systems

Using Geographic Information Systems enables the Council to examine data like density patterns, resiliency mitigation, demographic characteristics, and transportation corridors. This year, the showcase GIS work includes the map series within the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program, specifically the Depth Analysis Atlas. Other featured map series includes county profile infographics used in the Regional Leadership Academy curriculum and a set of resiliency maps for P2R2 discovering property value impacts of vulnerable non-residential parcels.

Intergovernmental Coordination & Review

The Council reviewed over 350 items in 2014: Environmental Resource Permits and Wetland Determinations from the St. Johns River Water Management District as well as Federal grant applications. The Council reviewed 32 grant applications totaling more than \$15.9 million either designated for Community Development Block Grants or Transportation Disadvantaged programs.

Training and Exercises

St. Johns County, in partnership with the Council, held their Annual Hurricane Exercise on June 4th, 2014. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Dora, the historic hurricane path was recreated, as if it were striking St. Johns County today. The exercise exposed participants to the preparations needed in advance of an evacuation order and for the critical needs for response immediately after landfall. The exercise is a full day event, with guest speakers, a short training session and ongoing meteorology reports. These activities lead up to a discussion-based tabletop exercise. With over 120 local, state and federal participants, the County's annual exercise was a successful opening for the 2014 Hurricane Season.



allocation rehabilitated 20 homes, helping 35 family members.

FINANCE / VALUE ADDED SERVICES

Counties' Return On Investment

Baker \$50/1 Clay \$3/1 Duval \$1/1 Flagler \$5/1 Nassau \$6/1 Putnam \$19/1 St. Johns \$3/1

The Region \$3/1

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) maintained a stable financial position during the year ending September 30, 2014. The firm of Carrs, Riggs & Ingram, LLC conducted the annual audit and issued an unmodified opinion.

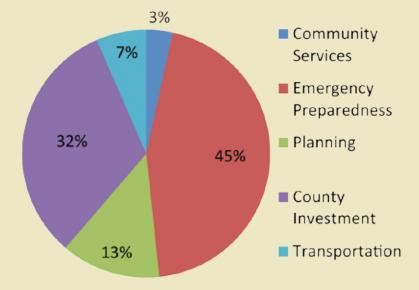
As of the end of this fiscal year, the NEFRC had three tenants, Girls on the Run Inc., Ertrachter Group Inc. and Community Health Charities of Florida Inc. The NEFRC is actively seeking 501(c)3 not for profit or governmental entities to fill current available leasable space.

Return On Investment

Among the tangible benefits reaped by member governments was a \$3/1 return on their county contributions. Following is a breakdown of selected services for the Council's seven-county region:

- Yielded a \$2,029,757 direct/indirect return on investment for contributions of \$623,091 by member counties, a \$3/1 ratio.
- Provided \$154,150 in contract monies to Regional Councils across the State to assist in various Statewide Emergency Management projects.

Revenue Sources / FY 2013-2014		
Revenue Sources Community Services Emergency Preparedness Planning County Investment Transportation	Amount \$66,737 \$714,804 \$250,577 \$623,091 \$126,551	Percent 3% 37% 13% 32% 7%
Total Operating Revenues	\$1,781,759	92%
Pass Thru Funds to Other RPCs	\$154,150	8%
Total Revenues FY 2014	\$1,935,909	100%









BAKER COUNTY

County Seat: Macclenny Population: 26,881* Land Area (sq. miles):585 Other Incorporated Communities: Glen St. Mary Established: 1861 Named for: James McNair Baker, Confederate States senator and Florida judge



CLAY COUNTY

County Seat: Green Cove Springs Population: 192,843* 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



DUVAL COUNTY

County Seat: Jacksonville Population: 876,075* Land Area (sg. miles): 774 Other Incorporated Communities: Atlantic Beach, Baldwin, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach Established: 1822 Named for: William Pope Duval, first territorial



governor of Florida

FLAGLER COUNTY

County Seat: Bunnell Population: 97,483* 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

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.

With 140 miles of coastline and five barrier islands boasting some of the state's most magnificent, pristine beaches, Northeast Florida is truly "Florida's First Coast." Jacksonville in Duval County is the major urban center, boasting a good mix of industrial manufacturing, transportation, financial services, health care, and military employment. Jacksonville accounts for almost 55 percent of the region's population and is the employment hub for several other communities in the Region. Land-wise, it is the largest city in the contiguous U.S.

Other counties in the Region are more rural and suburban in nature, relying on heavily agriculture and service sectors, with a limited, but growing industrial base often focused on a single sector. They are, however, increasing in their rate of urbanization and beginning to develop more economic diversity.

The Region's land area covers a total of 4,428 square miles, with 5.8 percent dedicated to agriculture, 2.1 percent to industry and commercial use, and 14.1 percent urbanized. The total population for the Region is 1,542,449 (Bureau of Economic & Business Research, 2013), which includes 7 counties and 27 municipalities. Of the 27 municipalities, fifteen (15) have a population of less than 5,000 residents. The remaining municipalities are mid-sized, with populations around 10,000. The two largest cities in the Region after Jacksonville are Palm Coast (77,068) in Flagler County and Jacksonville Beach (21,713) in Duval County.

*Source: Office of Economic & Demographic Research, Florida's Population Estimat



NASSAU COUNTY

County Seat: Fernandina Beach Population: 74,661* Land Area (sq. miles): 652 Other Incorporated Communities: Callahan, Hilliard Established: 1824 Named for: Nassau Sound



PUTNAM COUNTY

County Seat: Palatka Population: 72,605* 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: 201,541* Land Area (sq. miles): 609 Other Incorporated Communities: Hastings, St. Augustine Beach Established: 1821 Named for: St. Johns River



REGIONAL AWARDS

At the Annual Elected Officials and Regional Leadership luncheon on December 4, 2014, the Northeast Florida Regional Council recognized the best and the brightest leaders in the Region. Awards were given for Regional Excellence in a broad range of areas that will help define the future of Northeast Florida. This is the eleventh year that the Regional Council has recognized the special people, programs, and communities in Northeast Florida that are making a difference. This year's honorees are listed below.



Dr. A. Quinton White, PhD receives Regional Leadership Award

From left to right: NEFRC President Kenny Eubanks, Dr. A. Quinton White, and NEFRC CEO Brian Teeple

Northeast Florida Regional Council's Regional Leadership Award:	A. Quinton White, Jr., PhD	
Regional Special Achievement Award:	450 Years of French History in Florida City of Jacksonville Federal, State, Local & French Partners	
Regional Award for Excellence in Adaptive Reuse:	City of Palatka Water Works Environmental Education Center	
Regional Award for Excellence in Economic Development & Tourism:	City of Palatka Riverfront Park Revitalization	
Regional Award for Excellence in Quality of Life:	Town of Pomona Park	
Regional Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing:	The Reserve Apartments Nassau County Board of County Commissioners	
Regional Award for Excellence in Education:	Quality Education for All Fund	
Regional Award for Excellence in Public Safety:	City of Palm Coast Change Your Batteries Program	
Regional Award for Excellence in Transportation:	Baker County Council on Aging	
Regional Award for Excellence in Planning & Growth Management:	City of Green Cove Springs Gateway Corridor/CBD Pilot Grant Program	
Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship:	City of Palm Coast Concentrate Zero Liquid Discharge	



REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF

Brian D. Teeple,Chief Executive Officer

Mario L. Taylor, Deputy CEO/ Chief Operations Officer

Donna Starling, Chief Financial Officer

Margo Moehring, Managing Director, Policy & Planning

Jeffrey Alexander,Managing Director, Emergency
Preparedness

Sheron Forde, Executive Assistant/Personnel Services Coordinator

Executive Support Staff:

Bonnie Magee,Administrative Assistant

Angelique Carnley, Accounting Assistant/ Receptionist

Operations: Michael Calhoun, *Graphic Designer*

Program Directors: Ed Lehman

Program Planning Director, Policy & Planning

Elizabeth Payne

Program Planning Director, Emergency Preparedness

Planners: Lindsay Haga Senior Regional Planner

Ameera Sayeed, Senior Regional Planner

Calvin Williams, Senior Regional Planner

Eric Anderson, Regional Planner

Michael Epstein, Regional Planner

Interns: Dylan Ferrell

