

NEFL MIRR Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Date: May 26, 2026
Project name: Northeast Florida Military Installation Readiness Review
Project no: D3968700
Attention: NEFL MIRR Technical Advisory Committee
Company: Northeast Florida Regional Council
Prepared by: Jacobs

Agenda

2:00 pm Welcome & Introductions

- Introduction
- Purpose of the meeting - Jacobs
- Project scope & overview- Jacobs

2:10 pm NEFL Regional Housing

- *Ashon Nesbitt, CEO Florida Housing Coalition*

2:40 pm Using AI for Wildfire Mitigation and Recovery

- *Dr. Valeria Martin, UWF*

3:10 pm Implementation Path Forward: Lessons from NWFL MIRR

- *Eric Christensen, Emerald Coast Regional Council*

3:30 pm Review of NEFL MIRR Prioritization Metrics

3:50 pm Next Steps & Questions

Technical Advisory Committee Mission

To discuss relevant topics, provide expert opinions, follow up questions on assessment and adaptation, review preliminary findings and foster the identified outcomes toward implementation.



Meeting Summary

The Northeast Florida Military Installation Resilience Review (NEFL MIRR) Technical Advisory Committee meeting held on May 26, 2026, brought together stakeholders to advance regional resilience planning through a series of technical presentations and strategic discussions. The meeting began with an overview of its purpose and project scope, followed by a focus on emerging technologies, implementation strategies, housing policy, and project prioritization efforts. A central theme throughout the meeting was the importance of actionable, implementation-driven planning supported by strong partnerships and data-informed decision-making.

One of the presentations, delivered by Dr. Valeria Martin of the University of West Florida, explored the use of artificial intelligence for wildfire mitigation and recovery. She emphasized that wildfires are becoming more frequent, larger in scale, and more costly, creating an urgent need for improved monitoring and predictive tools. Her research demonstrated how machine learning models, trained on satellite imagery, can be used not only to detect wildfires in near real time but also to predict their behavior. Models using bitemporal imagery—comparing before-and-after conditions—showed significantly higher accuracy than single-image approaches, achieving approximately 92 percent accuracy. Dr. Martin also outlined future capabilities for wildfire prediction, including estimating ignition risk, spread, and burned area over forecasting horizons ranging from one to ten days. She noted key challenges related to adoption, particularly identifying the appropriate end users and determining notification thresholds that balance early warning with avoiding unnecessary alarm. Her presentation generated interest among attendees, particularly in the potential to incorporate AI-based tools into future resilience recommendations.

Eric Christianson of the Emerald Coast Regional Council then presented lessons learned from the implementation of the Northwest Florida Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR). He stressed the importance of ensuring that resilience efforts are implementation-focused rather than producing plans that remain unused. A critical takeaway was that every project must have a clear champion responsible for advancing it, and that project lists should be treated as living documents, continuously updated and reprioritized as conditions change. The Emerald Coast Area Resilience Collaborative was highlighted as an effective model for maintaining momentum, meeting regularly to review projects, add new initiatives, and apply consistent evaluation metrics. Christianson also underscored the importance of partnerships with organizations such as the Sentinel Landscape Program and regional defense coalitions. Practical lessons included the need to consider both financial and political feasibility, the value of sustained engagement through regular meetings, and the significant impact of having dedicated staff focused on implementation. Examples from several military installations illustrated how project rankings evolved as funding was secured and progress was made.

The meeting also included a presentation by Ashon Nesbitt of the Florida Housing Coalition, which addressed the intersection of housing policy, resilience, and economic development. Nesbitt highlighted that housing is a foundational component of community resilience and outlined several tools designed to support local governments and stakeholders. These included the Home Matters Report, which tracks housing performance statewide, and a Local Policy Toolkit that provides strategies for advancing affordable housing. He discussed recent legislative changes that have expanded opportunities to develop affordable housing in commercial and industrial zones and strengthened funding protections. The presentation also introduced the REACH program, which evaluates community vulnerabilities related to housing, income, and access, and supports ongoing assessment efforts. A key concept was “guided growth,” which focuses on identifying optimal locations for resilient and affordable housing investments while accounting for risks such as insurance costs and environmental hazards.

In the final portion of the meeting, the Jacobs team led a review of the Northeast Florida MIRR adaptation project prioritization metrics. The discussion centered on a structured scorecard designed to evaluate and rank projects within individual military installations rather than across installations. The metrics incorporate a comprehensive set of criteria, including mission criticality, infrastructure resilience, connectivity, implementation feasibility, and financial viability. Additional factors address long-term cost-benefit considerations and alignment with broader regional goals, such as economic resilience, quality of life, environmental health, and life safety. The framework also considers innovation, adaptability, and the potential for unintended consequences, ensuring a holistic and forward-looking approach to project selection.

Overall, the meeting reinforced the importance of integrating advanced technologies, with practical implementation strategies and policy frameworks to enhance regional resilience. Participants emphasized the need for ongoing collaboration, iterative planning processes, and the alignment of projects with both local priorities and broader strategic objectives. The group will continue these efforts at the next TAC meeting scheduled for June 25, 2026.

