



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**January 5, 2023**

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**MINUTES**

The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors, pursuant to Chapter 120.525, F.S., held a hybrid meeting both in-person, at 100 Festival Park Avenue, Jacksonville, FL, and virtually via Zoom, on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

**President DeFoor** welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with the following members present:

**BAKER:** Commissioner Jimmy Anderson **(in person)**  
Mr. Darryl Register **(in person)**

**CLAY:** Commissioner Betsy Condon **(in person)**  
Mr. Steve Kennedy **(in person)**  
Commissioner Jim Renninger **(in person)**

**DUVAL:** Councilmember Randy DeFoor **(in person)**  
Mayor Sean Lynch **(in person)**  
Councilmember Joyce Morgan **(in person)**

**FLAGLER:** Mayor David Alfin **(in person)**  
Mayor Catherine Robinson **(zoom)**  
Commissioner David Sullivan **(in person)**

**NASSAU:** Commissioner John Martin **(in person)**

**PUTNAM:** Commissioner Larry Harvey

**ST. JOHNS:** Commissioner Roxanne Horvath **(in person)**  
Commissioner Christian Whitehurst **(in person)**

**EX-OFFICIO:** Mr. Brian Austin (DOT) **(in person)**  
Mr. Doug Conkey (SJRWMD) **(in person)**  
Ms. Katlyn Craver (DEP)  
Mr. Curtis Hart (DEO)

**Excused:** Commissioner Arnold, Commissioner Bennett, Mr. Bourre, Mr. Drew, and Mr. Griffis

**Absent:** Mayor Brown and Mr. Holmes

**Staff:** Kate Haigh, Tyler Nolen, Donna Starling, Elizabeth Payne, Sheron Forde, et al

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

**President DeFoor** welcomed new Board Member, Ms. Katlyn Craver representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

INVITATION TO SPEAK

**President DeFoor** stated that members of the public are welcome to speak on any item before the Board and will be recognized during public comment.

\*CONSENT AGENDA

**President DeFoor** asked if anyone would like to pull any item on the consent agenda for discussion.

**Mr. Conkey** shared information on activities, such as chemical clearings, etc., that may occur on publicly accessible lands owned by the Water Management District sites, chemical clearing, etc. for the general public's awareness.

**Mr. Hart** declared a conflict as he is a party to one of the Comprehensive Plan amendments and will abstain from the vote.

With no other comment or request to pull any items, **President DeFoor called for a motion on the consent agenda. Commissioner Martin moved approval of the consent agenda; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Motion carried.**

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

October 2022 Financial Report

Ms. Starling stated that the Council posted a Net Income of \$3,147 for the month of October and a Year-to-Date Net Income of \$3,147.

**President DeFoor called for a motion. Mr. Register moved approval of the October 2022 Financial Report; seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.**

November 2022 Financial Report

Ms. Starling stated that the Council posted a Net Income of \$7,145 for the month of November and a Year-to-Date Net Income of \$10,292.

**President DeFoor called for a motion. Mr. Register moved approval of the November 2022 Financial Report; seconded by Commissioner Condon. Motion carried.**

Resolution 2023-01

Ms. Payne introduced the resolution honoring the service of Commissioner Rawls on the Board of Directors. The resolution was read into the record.

**President DeFoor called for a motion. Commissioner Harvey moved approval of Resolution 2023-01; seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.**

### 2023 Work Plan

Ms. Payne provided an overview of the 2022 Work Plan and shared the action oriented items; i.e., affordable housing, opioid epidemic – substance use disorders, and agriculture as a economic development initiative. She also provided an update on the coordination and support items that the Council is involved with, such as strategic planning for local governments, broadband, and workforce training and development activities.

Mr. Anderson shared information on Ecotourism, the proposed 2023 work plan focus, which have ecological, economic, socio-cultural benefits and can include heritage tourism. Staff conducted a review of the current programs and opportunities for ecotourism. Based on the review, a draft scope of work was developed with six tenants that includes, 1) Economic impact of Ecotourism; 2) Inventory of existing trails and connections; 3) Checklist to successful Trail Towns program; 4) Successful places, focus areas, in the Region; 5) Future opportunities; and 6) Funding opportunities. Discussion followed.

**President DeFoor called for a motion. Commissioner Harvey moved approval of Ecotourism as the 2023 Council Work Plan; seconded by Commissioner Horvath. Motion carried.**

### NEFRC 2023 Regional Legislative Priorities

Ms. Payne directed the Members attention to the 2023 Regional Legislative Priorities in their packets. The Legislative Committee met, determined, and approved the Regional Priorities for 2023, which are 1) County Infrastructure Support, 2) Community Resiliency, and 3) Affordable Housing. The flyer and palm card are provided for the Members use when meeting with our local Legislators going into and during the 2023 Legislative Session. A brief discussion followed.

### Special Committee on Critical Quality of Life Issues, Jacksonville

Mr. Comeaux provided an overview of staff’s support to the City of Jacksonville on their Special Committee on Critical Quality of Life Issues (CQLI). The Committee met and three working groups met five times over a four month period. These meetings addressed the current state in Jacksonville, best practices, a Strength-Weakness-Opportunity-Threat (SWOT) analysis, and recommendations. A final 30-page report was presented to the Jacksonville City Council on December 13, 2022. Discussion followed.

**Commissioner Martin** requested information on the data from Miami-Dade County on how they were able to reduce their homelessness issue. Mr. Comeaux stated he would provide the data.

### Community Resilience Update

Ms. Ilami provided an update on resiliency activities over the past two months. She highlighted a summary of the Resilient First Coast Collaborative meeting with speakers from the City of St. Augustine, St. Johns and Flagler Counties and discussion on the impacts and resiliency of the storm season. She also shared information on the progress of the Coordinating Vulnerability Assessments Across Northeast Florida Jurisdiction, a FDEP funded project, which is due in June 2023; progress of the Multi-Regional Planning and Mitigation Assessment, a CDBG-MIT funded project and; shared insights gleaned from the Southeast Florida Climate Leadership Summit. Ms. Ilami informed the Members of the potential for a Military Installation Resilience Review in Northeast Florida and provided an overview of the project. The Council’s ongoing resiliency work includes bringing on a resiliency intern, working with US Army Corp of Engineers on a Natural

and Nature-Based Features Tour in Northeast Florida for the Silver Jackets project, and continuing work on Task Four of the CDBG-MIT grant. A brief discussion followed.

**Mr. Conkey** stated that, regarding the military installation resilience review, there is already a group that meets quarterly and discuss things pertinent to installation that would be a good source for staff to get involved with. He will provide contact information with staff.

#### Regional Leadership Awards

Mr. Nolen provided an overview of the Awards Selection process and informed the Members of the winners in each category. He announced that the winner of the main award, Regional Leadership, is Ms. Margo Moehring. A brief discussion followed.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

#### MEMBERS' REPORT / LOCAL & REGIONAL ISSUES DISCUSSION

The following report and issues were shared by the Members by city/county as follows:

**Baker County** – Jobs via the reopening of the prison. This Board's support of upcoming proposed legislation to reopen the prison is being sought.

**Clay County** – Homelessness and pan handling; paramedicine, attainable housing, citizen safety

**City of Green Cove Springs** – Homelessness through positive law enforcement interactions, impacts from the two exchanges off the First Coast Expressway; waterfront asset study

**City of Jacksonville** – Homelessness intervention through Sulzbacher

**City of Baldwin** – Transients and Aging Infrastructure

**Flagler County** – Hurricane Nicole's damage along the coast at \$200 million; Recently opened new Sheriff's Operation Center in City of Bunnell

**City of Bunnell** – Ecotourism/bike paths map of those in Flagler to be added to the Regional map, homeless court, infrastructure, water/wastewater treatment plant

**City of Palm Coast** – Growth with opportunity to create Masterplan, utilizing information for today's presenters to create a future that is aware of the issues the Members are struggling with to keep from building that into the new frontier of Palm Coast

**Putnam County** – FAC holding a Broadband Summit January 26-27; Mr. Carlos Nathan, Federal Navigator for the federal programs is available to visit counties to help local governments navigate through the Broadband dilemma.

**Nassau County** – Will be providing contacts to Mr. Anderson and Mr. Comeaux for their projects, and will follow up with Vice-Mayor Horvath on the homeless court information. Issues include attainable housing, infrastructure, and mitigation

**St. Johns County** – Transportation Infrastructure

**City of St. Augustine** – Homelessness intervention through Homeless Court

#### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity – Nothing to add at this time.

Florida Department of Transportation – Nothing to add at this time.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**Ms. Craver** informed the Members that Mr. Jim Mayer, Assistant Director in the Northeast Office, has retired. Mr. Tom Kallemeyn is the new Assistant Director.

St. Johns River Water Management District – Happy to have Ms. Craver on the Board.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

The Council awarded a Request for Proposal in the amount of \$20,000 to Halff & Associates to assist the Council on the A1A Scenic Byway, a DEO grant project. While this amount is within the CEO’s signature authority, staff wanted to inform the Board.

The Florida Regional Councils Association will hold its Policy Board meeting in Tallahassee next week. The Council representatives, Mr. Drew, Mr. Register and Commissioner Whitehurst are scheduled to attend.

The Regional Domestic Security Task Force will host a ‘Cybersecurity Exercise’ in February, which is targeted to the constitutional officers’ IT staff.

At the request of the Economic Development Administration, the Council will be holding a ‘Listening Session’ at Flagler County’s Emergency Operations Center on January 19<sup>th</sup> for participants to speak about the impacts of the hurricanes.

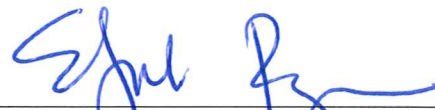
Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be February 2, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:50 a.m.



Randle P. DeFoor  
President



Elizabeth Payne  
Chief Executive Officer