



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Board of Directors Meeting
May 2, 2024

MINUTES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors held a meeting at 200 Ocean Crest Drive, Palm Coast, FL on Thursday, May 2, 2024; **President Whitehurst** called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Commissioner Dance, Flagler County Board of County Commissioners, welcomed everyone to Flagler County.

Roll call was conducted with the following members present, representing a quorum:

BAKER: Commissioner Anderson
 Mr. Griffis
 Mr. Register

CLAY: Mr. Bourre
 Mr. Kennedy
 Commissioner Renninger

DUVAL: Councilman Amaro

FLAGLER: Mayor Alfin
 Commissioner Dance
 Commissioner Sullivan

NASSAU: Vice-Mayor Sturges

PUTNAM: Commissioner Harvey

ST. JOHNS: Commissioner Alaimo
 Commissioner Horvath
 Commissioner Whitehurst

EX-OFFICIO: Mr. Conkey, St. Johns River Water Management District
 Ms. Craver, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 Mr. Dixon, Florida Department of Transportation

Excused: Commissioner Bennett, Mayor Brown, Councilman Gay, Mr. Hart,
 Commissioner Condon, Mr. Drew, Mayor Lynch, and Commissioner Martin

Absent: Commissioner Adamczyk

Guests: Representative Paul Renner, Speaker of the House

Staff: Eric Anderson, Elizabeth Payne, Jack Shad, Donna Starling, and other members of staff.

INVITATION TO SPEAK

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

*CONSENT AGENDA

President Whitehurst called for a motion on the consent agenda. Commissioner Harvey moved approval of the consent agenda; seconded by Commissioner Dance. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

Speaker Paul Renner

Speaker Renner shared an overview of the Florida Legislature by highlighting some of the activities during the Session from an appropriations standpoint such as the State's continued commitment to fiscal responsibility – Florida has a balanced budget with record reserves and one of the lowest State debts in the country. Appropriations have gone to education, increasing teacher salaries, and school choice programs; public safety through salary increases for law enforcement personnel; infrastructure – transportation and environmental – looking toward the 2030 timeline, i.e., \$4 billion extra toward the Moving Forward Forever program, and over \$1 billion in land conservation towards the Florida Wildlife Corridor, which will help keep farmers and ranchers in their profession; they also established recurring dollars – approximately \$200 million towards land conservation in perpetuity. Speaker Renner also shared some of 2024 accomplishments, highlighting the Seminole Compact that provides the Seminole Tribe gaming exclusivity in which the State will receive approximately \$750 million per year from the Compact. Both Speaker Renner and the Senate President Passidomo have committed to making sure that all of this remains in the environment. This would mean \$100 million for management of State lands, \$100 million for resiliency, \$100 million for land conservation, with the balance (\$450 million) going to water quality projects. Lastly, he stated that the Legislature also addressed property and auto insurance and ways to reduce rates. One of the ways that this can be accomplished is through a mitigation programs for homeowners to help reduce premiums. Discussion followed.

Ms. Payne, on behalf of the Northeast Florida Regional Council presented Speaker Renner with an award in recognition of his passion and commitment to Northeast Florida.

March 2024 Financial Report

Ms. Starling reported that the Council posted a net income of \$16,625 for the month of March and a year-to-date net income of \$86,943.

President Whitehurst called for a motion. Mr. Register motioned to approve the March Financial Report; seconded by Councilman Amaro. Motion carried.

Office Relocation

Ms. Payne provided background information for the Board on the opportunity presented for a relocation of the Council offices. She informed the members of the disadvantages of the current location and how the staff have outgrown the office space available. The new location was discussed by the Executive Committee at its April meeting, and a tour of the potential space was provided. At that meeting, the CEO was authorized to negotiate a lease and bring it back to the

full board at this meeting for consideration. However, during review of the lease, the Council's attorney, Ms. Brenda Ezell, found items that needed resolution from the leasing agent that are not yet concluded. Therefore, a letter of intent is being presented for the Board's authorization to sign that holds the location until a lease can be signed. Upon the signing of a lease, the Council will provide the current landlord with 60-day notice that most likely will have a move occur in late July to early August. Discussion followed.

Councilman Amaro made a motion to approve the signing of the letter of intent for the relocation of NEFRC Council offices; seconded by Mr. Register. Motion carried.

Public Comment – None.

Local and Regional Issues Discussion

St. Johns – President Whitehurst shared that the County is the front runner as the location for the Florida African American History Museum.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Florida Department of Commerce – No report.

Florida Department of Transportation

Mr. Dixon stated Members can visit www.nflroads.com to view updates on the Department of Transportation projects.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Ms. Craver informed the Members that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has launched an online grant portal to provide eligible entities the opportunity to submit proposals that bolster existing efforts to protect and restore Florida's water resources. DEP is accepting project proposals from May 1 – June 30, 2024, for water-related grant programs for Fiscal Year 2024-25. To view a list of current grant opportunities and/or submit a proposal, please visit ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/Grants.

St. Johns River Water Management District

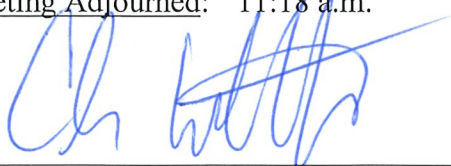
Mr. Conkey thanked everyone for their Water Conservation Month proclamations.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

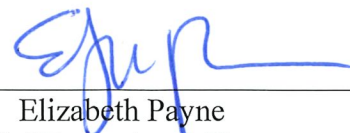
Ms. Payne informed the Members that she will provide an update on the lease negotiation at the June meeting. Also on the June agenda will be the budget adoption.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be June 6, 2024.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:18 a.m.



Christian Whitehurst
President



Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer