



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Board of Directors Meeting
September 5, 2024

MINUTES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors held a meeting at 40 East Adams Street, Jacksonville, FL on Thursday, September 5, 2024; **President Whitehurst** called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

BAKER: Commissioner Anderson
 Commissioner Bennett
 Mr. Griffis
 Mr. Register

CLAY: Commissioner Renninger
 Mr. Kennedy (virtual)

DUVAL: Council Member Gay
 Mayor Lynch

FLAGLER: Commissioner Dance
 Commissioner Sullivan (virtual)

NASSAU: Mr. Drew (virtual)
 Commissioner Martin

PUTNAM: Commissioner Harvey

ST. JOHNS: Commissioner Horvath
 Commissioner Whitehurst

EX-OFFICIO: Mr. Conkey, St. Johns River Water Management District
 Mr. Dixon, Florida Department of Transportation (virtual)
 Mr. Hart, Florida Department of Commerce

Excused: Commissioner Alaimo, Mayor Alfin, Councilmember Amaro, Mr. Bourre,
 Commissioner Condon, and Vice-Mayor Sturges

Absent: Commissioner Adamczyk, Mayor Brown

Guest: Ayolane Halvsky, Ben Brandao, Bill White

Staff: Eric Anderson, Elizabeth Payne, Donna Starling, Kenajawa Woody, Tyler Nolen,
 et al.

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

The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

Presentation: The Corridor, Trails, and Ecosystem

Mr. Jason Lauritsen, Chief Conservation Officer, Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation, provided the Council with a presentation that highlighted the corridor, trails, and ecosystem. Discussion followed.

CEO Evaluation Overview

Chair Register provided an overview of the CEO's Evaluation results and informed the Members of the Executive Committee's approval of a two percent cost of living increase.

*Proposed FY 24/25 Officer Nominations

The proposed FY 24/25 Officer Nominations were presented as follows: President – Commissioner Renninger, Clay County; 1st Vice President – Commissioner Bennett, Baker County; 2nd Vice President – Councilmember Amaro, Duval County, and Secretary Treasurer – Mr. Darryl Register, Baker County. **The FY 24/25 slate of officers was unanimously approved by all members in attendance.**

Community Resiliency Update

Ms. Ilami provided an overview of the resiliency activities to date.

Program Spotlight: Economic Development Update

Ms. Dominques provided an update on economic development projects including the City of Palatka Vision Plan, St. Augustine Vision Plan Update, the Northeast Florida Shrimping Industry Market Study, and the Town of Welaka Historic Properties Survey.

Regional Leadership Academy Update

Mr. Nolen provided an overview of the Regional Leadership Academy's final class for the 2024 program. He also announced that applications for the 2025 class is now available.

Public Comment – Mr. Benjamin Brandao, 291 Cubbedge Rd., St. Augustine, FL., representing Florida Paddling Trails Association and American Canoe Association. Mr. Brandao spoke on accessibility of paddling and canoe trails.

Local and Regional Issues Discussion

Commissioner Renninger thanked the Members for their support in selecting him to lead the organization in the upcoming fiscal year. He also shared his appreciation for the CEO and Council staff for the range of issues they address, which in turn assist local governments.

Commissioner Martin congratulated elected officials who won their election and thanked those who did not prevail for their service.

President Whitehurst he is looking forward to the presidency of Commissioner Renninger and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as the current president.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORT

For the Department of Commerce, **Mr. Register** shared information on issues surrounding concerns about cybersecurity as it relates to remote working since the pandemic.

Mr. Dixon, Department of Transportation, shared information about the upcoming widening project on I-95 from Emerson Street to Atlantic Blvd. in Jacksonville with completion in Spring 2028. A virtual meeting on this project is scheduled for September 16, 2024 at 5pm; register at www.nflroads.com/vph. An in-person meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2024 at 4:30 at the Department's Urban Office, 2198 Edison Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32204.

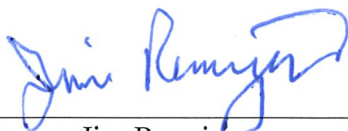
Mr. Conkey, St. Johns Water Management District, commented on blooms and micro system toxins that are currently being discussed in the Region. The WMD has data on this and is available on their website; he can be contacted for assistance in accessing it, if needed.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Payne shared information on the November official open house. She continues to meet with the Chair of each County Commission and County Administration around the Region to share the Return-on-Investments while monitoring their budget meetings. Ms. Payne also shared that while Ms. Margo Moehring retired from full-time service to the Council approximately two years ago, she stayed on as the part time Executive Director of the Regional Community Institute and her last day will be September 30th following the RCI Board meeting/RLA graduation. She invited those Members present to visit our new offices if interested following the meeting.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be October 3, 2024; in-person only in Clay County

Meeting Adjourned: 11:55 a.m.



Jim Renninger
President



Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer