

NEFRC

LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting



October 5, 2023
9:00 am

Northeast Florida Regional
Hybrid Meeting
VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON



100 Festival Park Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32202
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2023

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

FROM: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

RE: NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Legislative Policy Committee meeting will be scheduled as needed. If scheduled, it may be a hybrid meeting, **virtual and in-person** at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 100 Festival Park Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32202.

Northeast Florida Regional Council

**LEGISLATIVE
POLICY COMMITTEE**

A G E N D A

St. Johns County Health Services Bldg.
200 San Sebastian View, Ste. 2300
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Zoom Link: <https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/87499770491>
Zoom Dial In #: 1-786-635-1003 (or) 1-470-250-9358
Meeting ID: 816 0095 0326

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023
9:00am

(ADDED OR MODIFIED ITEMS IN BOLD)
(*Denotes Action Required)

TAB

- 1. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call – Chair Harvey
- 2. Invitation to Speak – Chair Harvey

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to speak on any item brought before the Council and will be recognized during public comments.

- * 3. September 22, 2023 Committee Meeting DRAFT Minutes – Chair Harvey 1
- * 4. 2024 Draft Legislative Priorities – Chair Harvey 2

5. Public Comment – LIMITED TO **3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

5. Next Meeting Date and Location: **As Needed**

6. Adjournment

***Denotes Action Item**

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NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Legislative Policy Committee

September 22, 2023

MINUTES

A virtual meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee was held virtually via zoom and in-person on Thursday, September 22, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. **Chair Harvey** called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Present: Commissioner Arnold, Commissioner Harvey, Commissioner Horvath, Mr. Register, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Renninger, President Whitehurst

Excused: Mayor Alfin, Commissioner Anderson, Mr. Drew, Mr. Kennedy, Mayor Lynch

Guest: Mr. Wanamaker

Staff Present: Donna Starling, Eric Anderson, Elizabeth Payne and Sheron Forde

Invitation to Speak

Chair Harvey stated that members of the public were invited to speak on any item to come before the Committee.

*Approval of Minutes

Chair Harvey called for a motion on the September 7, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Register motioned to approve the September 7, 2023 meeting minutes; seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried.

2024 Legislative Priorities Discussion

Ms. Payne shared four proposed issues for consideration as regional issues based on her review of the local government priorities received to date. They are: 1) Transportation Infrastructure, 2) Resiliency, 3) Affordable Housing, and 4) Conservation of Land/Protect Natural Resources. Discussion followed.

The Chair asked the Members for their comments based on their local government legislative priorities.

After discussions, the four proposed issues were accepted with two additional issues added: 1) Clay County's Legislative Priority to Continue to Fully Fund Visit Florida. Staff was directed by the Chair to include. 2) Support the Broadband Expansion. By consensus, the Committee agreed to include.

President Whitehurst, on behalf of Commissioner Arnold, mentioned the antiquated Statutory Restrictions on PECO funding. **Chair Harvey** stated that he would speak with Mr. Chris Doolan, with the Small County Coalition, who is associated with the school boards, on this issue. The Council could support the School Board's efforts on this issue. **Chair Harvey** stated he will reach out to Commissioner Dean as well for more information.

Chair Harvey directed staff to proceed with the six items, refining as needed, for further discussion at the October meeting in St. Johns County.

Ms. Payne mentioned that the format is to produce an 8½”x11” and a 5”x7” palm card with the priorities. She pointed out that having six priorities will be challenging for the palm card. However, staff will provide a draft to Committee Members prior to the next meeting for their thoughts and eventual presentation to the Board for approval.

Public Comment: None.

Next Meeting Date: TBD

Meeting Adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Larry Harvey
Chair

Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

FROM: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

RE: 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Legislative Policy Committee Chair, Commissioner Harvey, will provide an overview of the 2024 Legislative Priorities for Northeast Florida.

Issues considered at the September 22 Legislative Policy Committee meeting included:

- Transportation Infrastructure
- Resiliency
- Affordable Housing
- Conservation

Issues added during the September 22 meeting included:

- Use and Expansion of Broadband Funding
- State Supported Tourism Efforts

Staff respectfully recommend that the Legislative Policy Committee approves the draft 2024 Regional Legislative Priorities for consideration by the Board of Directors.

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REGIONAL COUNCIL

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FY 2024

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Bringing Communities Together Since 1977

Hon. Larry Harvey

Legislative Policy Committee Chair
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386-972-0957

Ms. Beth Payne

NEFRC Chief Executive Officer
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2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Transportation Infrastructure

Northeast Florida is a growing region requiring adequate transportation systems to support existing and future growth.

- Small counties rely on the SCRAP and SCOP grant programs; additional funding is critical.
- Investments in rail infrastructure is need – providing alternative travel options, additional safety features and access.
- Increase funding to Transportation Disadvantaged program, which often provides the only transit option in many communities.



Resiliency

Resiliency initiatives allows local governments the ability to respond to and recover from disasters while reducing risk to people and property.

- Continued funding for flood mitigation projects, including infrastructure hardening.
- Funding for property acquisition, building relocation or elevation.
- Upgraded infrastructure funding to protect water quality from saltwater intrusion and pollution from wastewater discharges.



Affordable Housing

This statewide issue impacts Northeast Florida counties differently.

- Review aspects of the Live Local Act to ensure that provisions are relevant to both rural and urban counties and do not impede job creation efforts.
- Increase SHIP allocations to small and rural counties to serve more residents.



Conservation

In a growing region, conserving land protects ecosystems, promotes the history of communities and enhances the quality of life of residents.

- Increased conservation funding to protect unique assets of NE Florida –
 - Heritage sites – including historic sites and working farmland
 - Relic dunes, tree canopies, outstanding Florida waterways
 - Open Space to provide trail connections and recreational opportunities

Issues to Support



Broadband expansion and continued funding



State supported tourism efforts and programs