



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Legislative Policy Committee

September 22, 2023

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### 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.

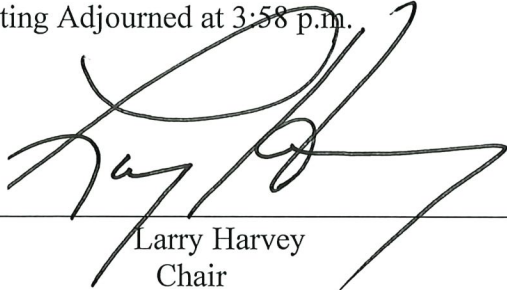
**Chair Harvey** directed staff to proceed with the six items, refining as needed, for further discussion at the October meeting in St. Johns County.

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.



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Larry Harvey  
Chair



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Elizabeth Payne  
Chief Executive Officer