

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

November 2010

NEFRC Initiatives and Associates Honored by Local Planning Organizations

The Northeast Florida Regional Council and Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida Chairperson Bob Rhodes were recognized in November 2010 by the Region's two planning organizations.

On November 5, 2010, the Florida Planning and Zoning Association, Northeast Florida Chapter, awarded the Northeast Florida Regional Council its 2010 Economic Development Planning Award at the organization's annual awards dinner, for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This Strategy serves to not only set out an economic development strategy for the Region, but also gives business owners, not-for-profits and government bodies access to federal Economic Development Administration funding.

On November 19, 2010, the First Coast Section of the American Planning Association, Florida Chapter (FCAPA), recognized Bob Rhodes, Chairman of the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, as its 2010 Outstanding Planning Advocate. Mr. Rhodes was honored with other award winners at the FCAPA winter awards luncheon held at the University of North Florida. For more information, please contact Jennifer Hewett-Apperson at (904) 279-0885 x104 or jhewettapperson@nefrc.org.

Top Photo: RCI Chairman Bob Rhodes (left) accepts the 2010 Award for Outstanding Planning Advocate from FCAPA Chair Steve Tocknell (right).

Bottom Photo: 2010 Economic Development Award from the Florida Planning and Zoning Association, Northeast Florida Chapter.



The Regional Leadership Academy is now accepting applications its 2011 class. For more information on the Regional Leadership Academy, please contact Jennifer Hewett-Apperson at 904-279-0885 x104, or jhewettapperson@nefrc.org.

NEFRC Hosts Meeting of Transportation Disadvantaged Technical Coordinating Committees

The Northeast Florida Regional Council staff, represented by Ed Lehman, hosted a meeting on November 22nd as the Chair of the Northeast Florida Mobility Coalition. This meeting was attended by representatives of the Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam and Nassau County CTCs. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions that were started in late-October on the steps necessary to address regionalization of Transportation Disadvantaged Services in Northeast Florida. The basic framework for this effort was presented to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged at their statewide meeting in Daytona Beach on October 29th. For more information on the Transportation Disadvantaged program, please contact Ed Lehman at (904) 279-0885 x130.

Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

NEFRC Staff Attends Walkability Audit of Downtown Green Cove Springs

The Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida, Inc. (HPCNEF), held its annual meeting on October 21, 2010. HPCNEF partners with NEFRC on many initiatives and was instrumental in adding Health and Human Services to the issues to be covered by First Coast Vision. The keynote speaker at the annual meeting was Dan Burden, a well-known and well-travelled proponent of walkability in communities. Mr. Burden's presentation gave many answers to "how to" questions that give direction for communities to plan interesting, safe and healthy places for people, rather than emphasizing cars exclusively. On October 22nd, Mr. Burden led a walking audit of Green Cove Springs. This resulted in a lively discussion about the many assets of downtown Green Cove Springs, and things that could be changed, some at low cost, to make it more walkable. HPCNEF will continue to work with Green Cove Springs to create an action plan. For more information on this event, please contact Margo Moehring at (904) 279-0885 x161, or mmoehring@nefrc.org.

Florida Brownfields Conference

The 2010 Florida Brownfields Conference was held in Jacksonville from November 14th through the 17th. The conference was sponsored by the Florida Brownfields Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields in Florida. In addition to Northeast Florida Regional Council staff, over 250 land planners, environmental engineers, geologists, and other brownfields assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment practitioners were in attendance.

The conference offered a wide range of individual sessions ranging from the highly technical and science driven (e.g., mitigation techniques for petroleum, arsenic, and volatile organic compounds pollutants), to more social and community based sessions, such as economic development and green building options. Sessions that staff found particularly valuable and relevant to the Northeast Florida Regional Council's brownfields goals included Florida's Brownfields Incentives, Redeveloping Brownfields with Renewable Energy, and Local Government's Expanding Role in Redevelopment.

The conference was very successful, and provided Northeast Florida Regional Council staff not only with a great educational experience, but also the opportunity to continue to build and foster relationships with local, regional, state and federal stakeholders. For more information on the Florida Brownfields Conference, please contact Guy Parola at (904) 279-0885 x135, or gparola@nefrc.org.

E-Plan National User's Conference

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) recently sponsored four district representatives to attend the E-Plan National User's Conference, held in Estero, Florida, October 21-22, 2010. E-Plan is the nation's largest electronic database of chemical facilities and provides first responders with information concerning hazardous substances being stored on-site at facilities. In the State of Florida, E-Plan is used to disseminate Tier II Chemical Facility Inventory data to Hazardous Materials Teams, Fire Fighters, Law Enforcement Officers, and Emergency Managers. LEPC Staff members can also access the database for their Emergency Planning purposes. E-Plan has become an integral part of tracking chemical inventories in the State of Florida with several practical applications. First Responders can use E-Plan as one of their research tools or for their pre-planning purposes.

The E-Plan User's Conference provided attendees with a chance to learn about new and upcoming features provided through E-Plan, such as chemical release plume modeling, database search features, and reporting options. Conference attendees were also given a chance to provide input for other new and upcoming features. Best practices, tips and tricks, outreach efforts, training opportunities, and other information on E-Plan and E-Plan related activities were able to be shared between the users from around the nation and E-Plan administrators during the conference.

For more information on E-Plan or the LEPC, please contact Jason Taylor at (904) 279-0885 x.136 or jtaylor@nefrc.org.