

# NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

June 2011

## Council Hosts DCA Growth Management Implementation Workshop

The Northeast Florida Regional Council, on behalf of our member local governments, hosted a DCA Regional Workshop on Growth Management Implementation on June 28, 2011 at the St. Johns County Convention Center at the World Golf Village. Over 200 participants attended the event to hear from DCA Secretary Billy Buzzette and his staff on the recent changes to Florida's Growth Management Law, now titled the Community Planning Act. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation made by DCA can be found on the Council's website at [www.nefrc.org](http://www.nefrc.org). The Council would like thank St. Johns County for providing the use of the Convention Center for the workshop. For more information contact Brian D. Teeple at 904.279.0880.



*DCA Secretary Billy Buzzette addressing audience at World Golf Village.*

## NEFRC Wins State and National Awards

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) received recognition in June for its work in directing the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program (SRESP) and for work on behalf of the Northeast Florida Region. At its annual conference in San Diego, the National Association of Regional Councils presented the NEFRC the 2011 Major Metro Achievement Award noting that the SRESP was a program that has made a significant impact on the Region while promoting and exemplifying regional cooperation, coordination and excellence.

The Florida Planning and Zoning Association presented the NEFRC and the Florida Regional Councils Association its 2011 Outstanding Public Study Award at its annual conference in Naples for the SRESP.



## NEFRC Hosts Chief Administrative Officers

The Northeast Florida Regional Council hosted the Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) (County/City Managers) from our Region on June 6, 2011. The highlight of the agenda was a presentation by Jerry Mallot, President of the Cornerstone Regional Economic Development Partnership. Mr. Mallot briefed the CAOs on current and future activities of Cornerstone, including the upcoming rebranding of Cornerstone. The CAOs found the forum so valuable they asked the NEFRC to bring them together quarterly rather than semi-annually. For more information contact Brian D. Teeple at 904.279.0880.

**Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda**

## JCCI Study Tasks NEFRC

The Jacksonville Community Council's latest study, *Recession Recovery...and Beyond*, lead by Elaine Brown as the Study Chair, was released on June 15 at a luncheon at the Hyatt in downtown Jacksonville. This regional study looked at ways to retain existing jobs, rapidly create new jobs, and position the region for long-term economic growth. The study made a total of 13 recommendations, four (4) of which were directed at the NEFRC. These recommendations include identifying and prioritizing pressing public investment needs; in conjunction with Cornerstone, present the outcomes of our sub-cluster study to a wide range of stakeholders; identify, streamline, and standardize regulatory and permitting processes used in the Region; and produce, in partnership with Cornerstone, an annual regional economic summit. For more information contact Brian D. Teeple at 904.279.0880.

## JEA Hurricane Preparedness Tabletop Exercise



Staff of the Northeast Florida Regional Council assisted, as a member of an Exercise Planning Team, responsible for the coordination, facilitation, and evaluation, in JEA's Annual Tabletop Exercise for Hurricane Preparedness.

This exercise, held on June 15th, 2011, was designed to test all levels of personnel on the processes, procedures, and policies currently in place at JEA concerning emergency response operations before, during, and directly following a tropical cyclone incident.

Over 85 participants engaged in discussions on their current response concepts and plans, internal interactions, communications, and collaboration, and response capabilities of JEA. Players were broken out into five different tables with representation from amongst various jobs, roles, and emergency functions. The exercise was conducted under a realistic scenario in a safe, low-stress learning environment where all participants were able to discuss what actions they would take using current policies and procedures.

At the conclusion of the exercise, players had a chance to brief out on their thoughts and opinions, with many of the comments positive about the preparation and execution of the exercise. During exercise play, the participants were also able to recognize and identify various aspects of their current policies and procedures that worked well and what could work better. An evaluation team was also present during the exercise to provide further insights. The Exercise Planning Team will develop an After Action Report to assess the exercise's challenges and successes. For more information, contact Jason Taylor at 904.279.0885 x136

## Implementing a Regional Vision

On June 23, 2011, the Regional Community Institute (RCI) Board of Directors and members were privileged to hear from practitioners from parts of the State that already have regional visions. Shelley Lauten of Central Florida and Elisa Degregorio of Tampa Bay told their stories, including discussion on the very different governance structures in place in each region. This gave RCI lots to think about as they reviewed the draft First Coast Vision and considered how it will be implemented in Northeast Florida. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at 904. 279.0885 x161.



*Shelley Lauten, President of myregion.org*



*Elisa DeGregorio, Senior Vice President, Tampa Bay Partnership*

## First Coast Consortium: A partnership model for the future

The First Coast Consortium, originally created to respond to the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant in 2010, has been busy these last weeks. First, they reviewed the draft of First Coast Vision, to provide their unique perspectives in the form of comments to the Regional Community Institute. Then, with NEFRC help, they have made available a file sharing site for the use of Health Zone 1 in Jacksonville, which will be of use to many who participated in the HUD supported "Investing in Community Transformation" symposium for non-profits and faith based organizations on June 27 and 28. There is obviously interest in the First Coast Consortium model of collaboration between non-traditional partners, and this was expressed by many who presented at the symposium. This will, we hope, serve them well as they gear up for the next round of HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grants in 2011. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at 904.279.0885 x161.