



# NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Legislative Policy Committee

July 2, 2009

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## MINUTES

A meeting of the NEFRC Legislative Policy Committee was held on Thursday, July 2, 2009, at 11:50 a.m., at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, FL 32216. President Boyle called the meeting to order with the following members present representing a quorum:

Chereese Stewart	Art Graham	Jon Netts	Larry Williams
Chip Laibl	Milissa Holland	Mike Boyle	Wendell Davis

Excused: Michael Griffis

Absent: Cyndi Stevenson

Staff: Brian Teeple, Mario Taylor and Sheron Forde

### \*Approval of Minutes

**President called for a motion on the February 2009 meeting minutes. Councilman Graham moved approval, seconded by Commissioner Laibl; motion passed unanimously.**

### 2010 Legislative Priorities Solicitation

Mr. Taylor stated that staff has prepared a letter soliciting our local governments' input on their legislative priorities to be sent to all Chief Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers in our Region pending Committee approval. In addition, the 2009 Legislative Priorities publication will be included with the letter to serve as a reminder of what was previously provided. He also reviewed the activities timeline associated with the preparation of the Regional Legislative Priorities and the opening of the 2010 Legislative Session. Assistance was requested of the Board members in identifying key people to work with Council staff in obtaining the requested information.

**President Boyle** requested that specific instructions be provided as to the format in which the information is being requested. Mr. Taylor indicated that staff will include a template in the mail out indicating the format that should be used. It was further requested that staff follow up with the local governments as to the status of their priorities. Further discussion followed.

**President Boyle called for a motion on the 2010 Legislative Priorities Solicitation document. Mr. Williams moved approval to finalize and mail the 2010 Legislative Priorities Solicitation Letter to the Chief Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers, seconded by Councilman Graham; motion passed unanimously.**

### Regional Legislative Delegation Forum

Mr. Taylor provided background on Council staff's efforts to plan a Regional Legislative Delegation forum last year; however, it was determined not to hold one at that time. He mentioned Central Florida's Delegation Forum that was held last year as an example of what this Council could host for the Northeast Florida Region. Mr. Teeple stated that if the decision is made to hold the forum this year, it will require the committed support of our Board members to get their legislators involved. Mr. Taylor indicated that Central Florida utilized the Sun Rail issue as its Forum's primary focus and claimed two

thirds representation of the state's population. He recommended that a similar approach could be used to accomplish the same in our Region. We share similar Representatives and Senators; both of whom would be represented. We could focus on a topic that would attract interest beyond our Council's Legislative Delegation boundaries, both south and west.

**Mr. Williams** suggested the I-10 Corridor as a theme for the forum. **Commissioner Stewart** indicated that this could be brought before the various Boards of County Commissioners at the earliest possible time in order to begin preliminary discussions. Discussion followed on ideas for the forum, such as theme, moderator, and location.

**Commissioner Stewart moved approval to begin preparation for a Regional Legislative Delegation Forum, seconded by Mayor Netts; motion passed unanimously.**

#### Other Business

Mr. Teeple highlighted some events that took place at the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida Regional Councils Association's recent meetings in Marco Island. Discussions surrounding the upcoming sunset review of the Department of Community Affairs and the potential of a pilot program for the delegation of DCA's review of comprehensive plans through the Regional Council. He mentioned that this was previously sought by the Council and has been a recommendation of JCCI as well. Mr. Teeple provided additional information on the capability of the Council to provide this service and some of the nuances that would go along with it such as significant advertising and staffing resources. He inquired of the members if this is something they would like to pursue. Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons.

**Commissioner Holland** indicated that she sees the benefits, but require more details. Mr. Teeple stated that this is just a concept at this point in time. **President Boyle** inquired if this would require legislative action to which Mr. Teeple stated that it would. **Mayor Netts** is concerned that this may end up being an unfunded mandate, but is conceptually in favor of it; however, he needs more assurance. He inquired of timeline, if favorable. Mr. Taylor stated that it would be considered starting in September.

**Mayor Netts** stated that he would like to speak with their local planning staff first before making a decision and then bring that information back to this committee at the next meeting. Mr. Taylor indicated that the members use the same timeline as the legislative priorities process. **President Boyle** requested that this item be placed on the August Legislative Committee agenda. **Mayor Netts** suggested that this Committee meets next month to discuss with a draft proposal to be considered. He also requested that Mr. Teeple articulate some scenarios for the members of this Committee. Mr. Teeple agreed to provide regional/local context as to what it means. **Councilman Graham** also requested a list of the pros and cons.

#### Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2009, immediately following the Board Meeting, at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, FL 32216.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.