



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Board of Directors Meeting

August 6, 2009

MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Northeast Florida Regional Council was held on Thursday, August 6, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida, 32216.

President Boyle called the meeting to order with the following members present representing a quorum:

BAKER	Hugh Fish Michael Griffis Darryl Register Craig Thompson
CLAY	Wendell Davis Kenneth Smallwood Chereese Stewart Carol Vallencourt
DUVAL	Elaine Brown Bill Bishop Art Graham Paul Parsons
FLAGLER	Milissa Holland Jon Netts Catherine Robinson Bob Sgroi
NASSAU	Michael Boyle Shirley Graham Bob Spaeth Larry Williams
PUTNAM	Wes Larson Mary Lawson-Brown
ST. JOHNS	Ken Bryan Don Crichlow Jane Miller Cyndi Stevenson
EX-OFFICIO	Jeff Cole Larry Parks Beth Weatherford for Greg Strong

Excused: Robert Page, Nancy Harris, Chip Laibl and Karen Stern

Others Present: Geoff Sample, Steve Fitzgibbons, Staci Rewis, Sarah Langieri, Valerie Britt, Daniel Chitwood and other members of the public

Staff Present: Brian Teeple, Mario Taylor, Donna Starling, Ed Lehman, Margo Moehring, Ameera Sayeed, Jason Taylor, Michael Calhoun and Sheron Forde

President Boyle welcomed everyone and asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. The Invocation and Pledge was led by **Vice Mayor Lawson-Brown** of Putnam County.

*Approval of Minutes

Mr. Larson moved approval of the July 2, 2009, meeting's minutes; seconded by Councilman Graham; motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None

*Consent Agenda

President Boyle asked if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda. There being none, **Ms. Brown moved approval of the Consent Agenda; seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion Agenda

*City of Palm Coast Transmitted Amendment 09-2

Ms. Sayeed provided an overview of the City of Palm Coast's Transmitted Amendment 09-2. She added that this amendment was reviewed and approved for transmittal to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) by the Planning & Growth Management Committee (the Committee). The amendment proposes to change 678 acres from County Agriculture and Timberland to City Mixed Use; and 119 acres from County Conservation to City Conservation. Staff comments noted that the proposed development is greater than the DRI threshold. However, Palm Coast is designated as a DULA community and is therefore not subject to DRI review. Staff respectfully requests that the Council also approve this amendment for transmittal to DCA.

Mr. Register moved to approve transmittal of the City of Palm Coast Transmitted Amendment 09-2 to DCA; seconded by Mr. Sgroi; motion carried unanimously.

*Putnam County Transmitted Amendment 09-2

Ms. Sayeed provided an overview of Putnam County's Transmitted Amendment 09-2. She added that this amendment was reviewed and approved for transmittal to DCA by the Committee. Staff's only comment was a minor one relating to the transportation impact analysis. Staff respectfully requests that the Council also approve this amendment for transmittal to DCA.

Mr. Thompson moved to approve transmittal of Putnam County's Transmitted Amendment 09-2 to DCA; seconded by Mr. Smallwood; motion carried unanimously.

* City of Jacksonville Beach Adopted Amended 09PEFE-1

Ms. Sayeed provided an overview of the City of Jacksonville Beach Adopted Amendment 09PEFE-1. This item was reviewed and approved in its transmitted form by the Council at its September 2007 meeting. DCA had three objections that have been addressed and is included in this amendment. She stated that this item was reviewed by the Committee and found consistent with the Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan and requests that the Council also finds it consistent.

Ms. Brown moved to find the City of Jacksonville Beach Adopted Amendment 09PEFE-1 consistent with the Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan; seconded by Commissioner Stevenson; motion carried unanimously.

*Transportation Disadvantaged LCB Member Appointments

Mr. Lehman stated that, in its role as the Designated Official Planning Agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program, the Northeast Florida Regional Council is responsible for appointing the members of the Local Coordinating Boards (LCB). Four individuals have expressed interest in serving on the LCB. They are: Mr. Edgardo Silva and Mr. Isaiah Williams, Clay County; Mr. Joe Astuto, Flagler County; and Ms. Sally Stuermer, St. Johns County. These candidates have been reviewed by the representative members of the Board for the applicable Counties with no concerns. Staff recommends that the Council approve the appointments to the respective TD Local Coordinating Boards.

Mayor Netts moved approval of the Transportation Disadvantaged LCB Member Appointments; seconded by Mr. Williams; motion carried unanimously.

*Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones (RIIZ)

Mr. Teeple stated he has been working with the Ohio-Indiana-Kentucky Council of Governments (OKI) and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) to put some form and substance on a relatively unique concept called Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones (RIIZs), which is coming out of the Cincinnati, Ohio area. The theory is that in areas that would be designated as RIIZs, donations for the purposes of infrastructure would be tax deductible as ordinary income off the federal income tax. This is to encourage infrastructure investments where there is no money either at the local, state or federal level to make those improvements. This process wouldn't require a rewriting of the surface transportation act, it would simply require a minor change in the IRS code to allow it to go forward. The process would be that either this Board or some other regional organization with responsibilities for planning would do the leg work in certifying the RIIZs and managing the program, which would be written into the Legislation. These tax deductions would not be allowed for the purposes for improvements that are tied to approvals, such as a DRI for example. Staff is requesting the Council's approval to send a letter, provided for your review, to the Director of NARC supporting this initiative. Mr. Teeple stated that this initiative is gaining popularity from agencies around the country. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Stevens inquired if bike paths or pedestrian safety would be included. Mr. Teeple stated that the approach is to make it as broad as possible. **Mr. Smallwood** inquired if this is envisioned to be both cash and in-kind. Mr. Teeple stated that it is envisioned to be cash, but there could be in-kind as well.

Ms. Vallencourt moved approval to send the Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones letter of support; seconded by Commissioner Bryant; motion carried unanimously.

DEP's Preliminary Recommendations for Achieving 75% Recycling Goal

Mr. Teeple stated that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has come up with 39 preliminary recommendations to increase the recycling goal in the State of Florida to 75 percent; they are currently at 28%. He mentioned that there is no discussion on container deposits within DEP's recommendations. He highlighted some of the recommendations that may be important to our local governments: 1) The Legislature is encouraged by DEP to apply the new recycling goal to counties with populations over 100,000 and for all cities with population over 50,000; those communities that don't make a good faith effort in trying to achieving the goals would then not be eligible to receive any other grant assistance from the DEP; 2) The Legislature is encouraged to require that those local governments that fall beneath those population thresholds would not be held to the goal, but should at least provide the opportunity for recycling for the residents; 3) The communities that are above the threshold should be on a commercial base process for actual collection; 4) Counties that continue to operate Construction and Demolition landfills; prior to the debris going to the landfill, it should go through a recovery and reprocessing facility first. Mr. Teeple mentioned that DEP held a public

meeting on August 4, 2009 in Orange County and is waiting to see the results when posted on the DEP's website. Mr. Teeple commented on one of the focal point of the recommendation, the "pay-as-you-throw" concept in which residents would be rewarded by a differential in residents' solid waste bills for the weight of recycled materials. He stated that in some places the collection vehicle is equipped with a scale and the container is placed on it to be weighed. He stated that staff will keep the Council informed regarding the progress of this initiative. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Bryan inquired how a determination on the weight would be made. Mr. Teeple mentioned that some of the systems he's aware of such as a scale on the back of the recycle vehicle to allow the operators to weigh the containers, others systems employ a pay-per-bag method where trash the bags are provided as part of the program. **Mayor Netts** observed that the cost for such programs would then be passed on to the local governments. He added that there is a high variable as to what is recyclable and suggests in conjunction with an across the board weight benefit things then there should be an across the board uniformed definition of what is recyclable as well. **President Boyle** stated that education is needed on the recycling process, which is not profitable.

Hazardous Materials Training Event Presentation

Mr. Teeple introduced Mr. Jason Taylor, staff contact for the Local Emergency Planning Committee, who provided a presentation on Hazardous Materials Training. Mr. Taylor provided an overview of the formation of the LEPC and what they do. He utilized a recent training exercise held in Clay County, which was a simulation of how First Responders would prepare, conduct and conclude activities surrounding a hazardous materials situation. A brief discussion followed.

Senate Bill 360 Update

Mr. Teeple stated that the Bill is very confusing in how it was drafted. He has discovered that, throughout the State, everyone is reading into it what they want to read into it with levels of expectations that are not being met. The FL Chamber of Commerce, for example, has its view on it and disagrees with Secretary Pelham's legal interpretation because they believe it's not what the Legislature meant. The Secretary's interpretation may not be what the Legislature meant, but it is what they said and it's causing a lot of consternation at this point in time. The interpretations are continually evolving. There will clearly be a glitch bill this coming Legislative Session because it is really difficult to implement and difficult to administer because the language is so confusing. He provided an example of a community that was identified as a DULA community because a snapshot of the community was taken prior to April 1, 2008; but subsequent to April, 2008 the community annexed land that no longer qualifies them as a DULA community. In fact when this is reviewed next year, the rules that went away come back, basically putting the community in limbo. Mr. Teeple urged those communities that are identified as DULA communities to begin working on their transportation concurrency exception area and mobility plan as it will take time to complete them. He indicated that there is litigation filed in Leon County Circuit Court and staff is monitoring the outcome of that.

Regional Visioning Update

Ms. Moehring provided an update on the Regional Visioning program and stated that staff is working on the report associated with Reality Check First Coast. Expert panels have been planned to review, comment and assist with the metrics going forward. The panel discussions are scheduled for the third week of August, with the report planned for release the end of September. Staff is also working on the County Visioning sessions scheduled for October and November, and the Youth exercise to be conducted in early December. The Members' assistance is requested in identifying Youth groups that may be interested in participating in the exercise. In addition, she asked for input regarding where and when the exercises could be held, preferably venues that are free and at a time when most people would find it convenient. She added that the next Regional Community Institute (RCI) meeting will be held following the September 3rd Board meeting. All Board members are also members of the RCI and

are invited to attend if they wish. The RCI Board meeting will be 2pm, followed by the Regional Leadership Academy graduation at 3pm. Immediately following that will be a full RCI Board meeting to discuss regional visioning and ending with a social gathering. She stated that the CEDS document will be brought before the Board and that they are now at a point where they will begin talking about the strategies to Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Boards, etc.

President Boyle inquired if Ms. Moehring was suggesting that the September meeting could be an all day commitment for the Council members. Ms. Moehring stated that it would be for those members who are interested in attending, if they also attend the RCI meeting

Public Comment

None

Members/Ex-Officio Members Reports

Mr. Cole mentioned upcoming meetings related to the 2010 Water Supply Plan; phase 1 of the River Withdrawal Study report will be released today which will provide recommendations for the second phase that has already begun, with many of those recommendations being incorporated into the second phase. A symposium will be held on the River Withdrawal Study on September 23rd and 24th. Everyone is invited to attend, but will need to register on-line for this free event. He also mentioned that at its last meeting, the Water Management District Board strengthened the agency's commitment to water conservation and also delayed funding allocations for new surface water withdrawal projects through the next fiscal year. He mentioned the St. Johns River Algae blooms and the District's role in monitoring the River's water quality and providing the results to the Department of Health, who would then issue an advisory if needed. However, there are currently no concerns and the District will continue to monitor this as will the Health Department.

President's Report

President Boyle reiterated the extended day of the September 3rd meeting followed by meetings in the afternoon. He encouraged those who can to participate.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

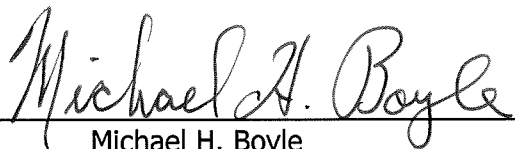
Mr. Teeple stated that this is the last Board meeting newspaper clippings will be provided. This month's clippings are on the table for interested members. Highlights are located in the members' binders and upcoming events are listed on the agenda for your review. He added that the Water Management District is sponsoring two Low Impact Development Workshops that are listed under the upcoming meetings section of the agenda.

Next Meeting Date


The next Council Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 3, 2009** at 10:00 a.m. at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, FL 32216.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.



Michael H. Boyle
President



Brian D. Teeple
Chief Executive Officer