

NOTE:

Minutes of the March 21, 2005 St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners' Meeting.

The minutes contain links that enable you to listen to the audio for each item.

To listen to the audio of an item in the minutes, click on the blue highlighted date, page number and time that precedes each item.

**MINUTES OF BI-LATERAL COOPERATION DISCUSSION  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
& JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA  
MARCH 21, 2005  
1:30 P.M.**

Proceedings of a bilateral cooperation discussion, held at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida, 32216.

St. Johns County:	Bruce A. Maguire, Chairman, District 4 James Bryant, Vice Chair, District 5 Karen R. Stern, District 2 Cyndi Stevenson, District 1 Ben W. Adams Jr., County Administrator Dan Bosanko, County Attorney Diane Gorski, Deputy Clerk
City of Jacksonville:	Elaine Brown, President, Jacksonville City Council Sharon Copeland, District 6 Suzanne Jenkins, District 4 Jeannie Fewell, Director, Planning & Development Brad Thoburn, Mayor's Office Jeff Clements, Chief of Research Jerry Holland, District 3 Glorious J. Johnson, At Large Council Member Lad Daniels, At Large Council Member Arthur Graham, District 13
NE FL Regional Planning Council:	Brian Teeple, Executive Director

(03/21/05 - 1 - 1:47 p.m.)

Brian Teeple, Executive Director, called the meeting to order. He reviewed the contents of the packet that had been distributed at the meeting. He asked everyone to introduce his or her selves.

(1:50 p.m.) Jacksonville City Council President Elaine Brown thanked everyone for attending the discussion. She said that the dialogue that began today would invoke future joint ventures. She stated that both counties should strive to work together for the betterment of the residents. She wanted to establish a good working relationship with St. Johns County and the community. She suggested working together to preserve public boat ramps. She mentioned new developments in the pipeline that added challenges in the areas of education, transportation, parks and recreation for both counties.

(1:54 p.m.) St. Johns County Commission Chairman Bruce Maguire thanked everyone for attending the discussion. He appreciated the opportunity to work with the City of Jacksonville Council and looked forward to continuing the dialogue for years to come. He said that Duval and St. Johns County had many of the same issues and concerns, such as transportation, beach access, Nocatee overlapping both districts causing school and road issues, and that working together to resolve the issues would be in the best interest of the residents in both counties.

Teeple stated that the NEFRC had been in existence for over 28 years, oversaw seven counties and 27 municipalities, covered 4,443 square miles, 1.3 million people (Exhibit B). He said that he was responsible for the Board of Directors, 31 members and that Commissioners Stern and Maguire and Council President Brown were on the Board.

He said that the NEFRC had responsibilities under 19 Florida Statutes, and that they were the Staff to 18 separate organizations. He said that they had programs ranging from growth management to economic development to maternal/child healthcare to domestic security to small business loans to dispute resolutions to emergency preparedness, regional leadership, and more. He reviewed the regional effects of growth, rate of regional growth, projected regional growth, 2000-2003 census, components of growth, regional population densities, regional commuting patterns, 2003, labor force and commuting patterns, and county property taxes in 2003. He explained that the counties were stronger together than individually and that the systems should evolve or risk becoming obsolete. He suggested thinking and acting regionally to compete globally. He said that by working together, both counties could find ways to become more efficient and effective. He suggested the following topics as issues for regional cooperation:

- 1) Economic Development;
- 2) Transportation;
- 3) Schools;
- 4) Environmental Conservation;
- 5) Affordable Housing;
- 6) Public Facilities/Water Supply;
- 7) Public Safety;
- 8) Planning/Growth Management;
- 9) Human Services.

(2:13 p.m.) Maguire suggested adding the Library System and Council Woman Sharon Copeland suggested adding Senior Citizens to the list. Teeple congratulated everyone for attending the discussion and welcomed their input.

(2:15 p.m.) Jeannie Fewell, City of Jacksonville, Planning & Development Department, explained that balance was an important component of growth. She said that Jacksonville's overall growth was less than 2% yearly, with specific planning districts showing more growth. She gave a brief overview of the growth activity throughout Duval County. She stated that Duval was trying to create more mixed-use areas so that people could live near their work. She said that Duval continued to struggle with school capacities. She predicted a shortage of labor work force for specific skills, educated for specific jobs. She anticipated having difficulty matching skills with available employment. She recommended taking the opportunity to share services such as police and fire, libraries, schools, affordable housing, roads and ways to increase revenue.

(2:32 p.m.) Maguire asserted that transportation was the number one, single most important issue, followed by water, boat ramps and beach access were of great concern and said that it would be beneficial to both Counties to pool their resources.

(2:34 p.m.) Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator, explained the Regional Summit that took place yearly at the World Golf Village. He said that growth management and finance opportunities, medical coverage, Medicaid, Medicare, transportation have all been discussed. He said that Veteran's Affairs would be the topic for this year's summit. He said that St. Johns County was growing and need the infrastructure to sustain it. He reviewed the priority issues for St. Johns County as provided to the Legislative Delegation during the 2005 session, which were as follows:

- 1) Transportation Funding State Road 312, State Road 9B and C.R. 210;
- 2) Oppose Water Transfers;

- 3) State Aid to Libraries;
- 4) Health and Human Services Direct Appropriation;
- 5) Health and Human Services Unfunded Mandates;
- 6) Historical Resource Grants;
- 7) Beach Access.

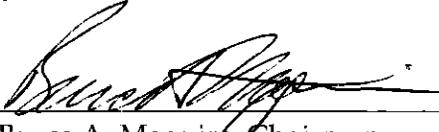
He mentioned expanding the Palmo Boat Ramp. (2:42 p.m.) Councilwoman Sharon Copeland mentioned that Duval County had two boat ramps in the area of Trout Creek and another in the Mandarin area. Adams continued reviewing the punch list and mentioned the possible purchase of the St. Johns Service Company. He thanked Chief Barrett for doing an excellent job in cooperating with St. Johns County. He mentioned restructuring the salary structure to match Duval County and the informal agreement with the Jacksonville Fire Rescue and the mutual aid formal agreement with Jacksonville Beach Fire Service. (2:46 p.m.) Copeland asked what was needed to formalize the mutual aid agreement and Adams answered that it was a work in progress. (2:47 p.m.) Brad Thoburn, Mayor's Office, left the meeting. (2:48 p.m.) There was a discussion between the attendees regarding joint cooperation regionally for libraries, education, regional sharing, transportation issues, a regional summit, cultural opportunities, recreation, boat ramps, tourism, mass transit, traffic, coordination of social services and economic development.

(3:32 p.m.) Brown thanked everyone for attending and encouraged continued dialogue.

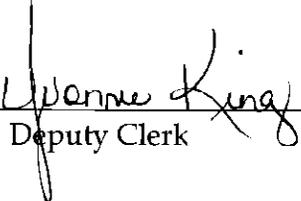
(3:33 p.m.) Teeple echoed Brown's statement, promised to provide each attendee with the results of the dialogue and adjourned the meeting.

Approved May 18, 2005

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:   
Bruce A. Maguire, Chairman

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By:   
Deputy Clerk

