



The **Quarterly Meeting** of the Board of Directors of the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc. (RCI) was held on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 12:00 pm. There was a workshop meeting at 11:00 am to discuss Sunshine rules and the role of RCI. The meetings took place at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida, 32216. Staff members present were Brian Teeple, Donna Starling and Margo Moehring.

The following members were present or on the telephone at the Board Meeting:

Chair Doug Conkey, Vice Chair Mary Alice Phelan, Mr. Bob Page, Mr. Art Graham, Mr. David Reed, Ms. Sarah Gledhill, Ms. Linda Myers, Dr. Quint White, Dr. Dawn Emerick, Dr. Perry Bechtle, Jr., Ms. Shari Schurr, Mr. Willie Gonzalez and Mr. David Strickland.

Chair Conkey called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm, after lunch, with a quorum. Approval of the September 23, 2013 minutes was reached by consensus. Ms. Eller's resignation was accepted, with appreciation for her service. Mr. Graham gave an overview of the work of the Economic Development Committee on Thriving Small Business. The consensus was that the Committee is on track.

NEFRFC CFO Starling reviewed the finances of RCI based on the budget. There was discussion as to whether the budget, which includes limited funding brought in by RCI, should be viewed as a problem or as a way for NEFRC to accomplish policy work using RCI volunteers, thereby saving consultant spending. The Board agreed that the latter was the case but concerns were expressed that NEFRC's tolerance for the expense of staffing RCI might not last forever, so RCI should always be reviewing funding opportunities.

There was discussion of approaches already tried, such as a silent auction coupled with a social. It was suggested that this approach could be enhanced by adding a policy aspect that would attract donors and policy advocates to a higher profile event. An event in partnership with other regional partners, perhaps at TPC was suggested, along with inviting speakers such as Secretary Putnam. Ms. Moehring briefed the Board on plans for RCI to enter One Spark as a creator in conjunction with the family farms of First Coast Fresh. In addition, she provided an overview of the proposed R2 Challenge, a fundraising project designed to raise funds for RCI as well as encourage participants to attend civic events in all seven counties of Northeast Florida. The R2 Challenge was approved by consensus. Mr. Graham contributed \$30 to RCI at the meeting and became the first to enter the R2 Challenge. Funding was requested to be a standing agenda item. Ms. Moehring was asked to provide more detailed RCI budget information to the Chair, and to provide information about First Coast Fresh to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.