



Chair Jon Netts called the **RCI Board Meeting** to order at 12:15 pm on Monday, September 25, 2017 with the following Board members present: Vice Chair Ms. Nazzaro, Mr. Page, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Colon, Mr. Preston, Commissioner Waldron, and Ms. Jenkins. There was a quorum. Mr. Teeple and Ms. Moehring represented staff. Several members of the RCI monitored the meeting, as it occurred directly after RLA graduation and the RCI Annual Meeting.

The Board Meeting took place at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 100 Festival Park Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida, 32202. The minutes from the June 19, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously under a motion by Mr. Page with a second from Mr. Rhodes. The Chair invited public input.

**Election of Officers due to Term Expiration:** Mr. Rhodes, Nominating Committee Chair, recognized the service and accomplishments of Chair Netts, whose term is expiring. He then nominated Ms. Nazzaro for Chair and Ms. Jenkins for Vice Chair. His motion was seconded by Mr. Colon and it passed unanimously. Chair Nazzaro ran the remainder of the meeting.

**Committee Report: Policy Work for 2016/2017:** Ms. Moehring, Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Page reported on behalf on the Natural Resources Committee, Chaired by Dr. White. "Water Beyond Borders", a regional action plan for water, was reviewed and discussed. Commissioner Waldron moved approval of the plan with a second from Mr. Page. The motion passed unanimously. The Board commended Dr. White and the Natural Resources Committee on their work. It was noted that Dr. White would present the plan to the NEFRC at their October meeting.

**Policy Work for 2017/2018:** Regional Tourism had been discussed by the Board at the June meeting as a potential policy topic. At the NEFRC August meeting, the following motion was unanimously adopted:

#### Regional Tourism

The Regional Community Institute (RCI) is asked to convene interested parties to consider the alignment of the many activities underway to strengthen the tourist economy. This includes, but is not limited to, the recommendations arising from previous RCI work related to marketing small towns and rural areas, the significant work done by counties and the State related to trails, greenways and blueways, efforts to promote agritourism, gastro-tourism and ecotourism, the four designated scenic highways in the region, as well as the tourism development efforts of all seven counties. RCI is asked to make recommendations on doable actions to maximize tourism and increase the knowledge of locals regarding destinations in Northeast Florida. RCI is asked to report their recommendations in the Fall of 2018.

There was brief discussion followed by a motion to address Regional Tourism as the next policy issue. Commissioner Waldron made the motion with a second from Mr. Page, and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Moehring reported that Mr. Crowe had agreed to Chair the Economic Development Committee if the decision was made to work on Regional Tourism. Mr. Netts moved Mr. Crowe as Chair with a second from Commissioner Waldron, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Leadership Report:** Chair Nazzaro asked graduates of the RLA Class of 2017 in attendance for input, and there was discussion of including JAXPORT in future curriculums, and discussion of some class highlights, such as the NASJax tour and the farm tours. There was discussion of adding a recurring theme component to RLA classes, and the consensus was that Ms. Moehring should update the Class on the progress on Regional Tourism, as a way to demonstrate RCI in action. Members suggested consideration of inclusion of topics covering education, history and the arts.

**Marketing and Funding Report:** Ms. Moehring reported that much of the vulnerability assessment recommended by the P2R2 Committee was anticipated in 2018, due to a St. Johns Watershed Assessment being undertaken by the National Fish and Wildlife Federation.



**Legislative Priorities:** Mr. Rhodes asked if the NEFRC might consider state funding of resilience initiatives in its legislative priorities. There was consensus of the Board on this issue.

**Recognition:** Mr. Netts was commended and thanked for his service as Chair. Ms. Gledhill is leaving the Board as she has moved to Tallahassee, and Mr. Baker is also leaving. Chair Nazzaro will send letters of thanks from the Board to both.

**General Discussion:** None.

**General Public Comment:** Chair Nazzaro called for public comment. There was none.

Chair Nazzaro provided the 2018 meeting dates to be January 15, March 26, June 25 and September 24.\*

Chair Nazzaro moved adjournment, with a second from Mr. Colon, and the meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

\*Note: The January 15 meeting was later changed to January 18, as January 15 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.