

Northeast Florida CEDS Committee Annual Meeting Summary
September 24, 12:30 pm
NEFRC Offices, 100 Festival Park Avenue, Jacksonville

Attending: See sign in sheet. The Committee met with its members and the members of the Regional Community Institute, Inc., and its Board of Directors.

Report from the Chair: Dr. Bechtle provided remarks from his perspective as Chair of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee.

Reports: There was discussion as to the need to “harmonize” the three planning efforts currently underway or about to begin, with First Coast Vision. As the CEDS Committee and the RCI Board have previously discussed, Elevate Northeast Florida’s findings and recommendations will be incorporated into the 2019 update of the CEDS Plan and the 2019/2020 update to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Mr. Teeple provided an overview of the findings of Elevate Northeast Florida so far. Ms. Moehring provided an overview of our successes to date in implementation of First Coast Vision, and the challenges the region still faces.

Next Steps: In light of the reports, Chair Bechtle noted consensus among the members of CEDS Committee and the RCI members and Board that the next year should be an action year, rather than a year when a new RCI regional action plan is created. He also noted consensus on the recommendation of the RLA Class of 2018 that “Intentional Training and Support of Workforce” be added to the RCI Board’s list of potential policy issues. These decisions are related to the economic development problems and opportunities that the CEDS update must address. CEDS Committee members were asked to recommend additional Committee members to Ms. Moehring.

Project List: The Chair asked for recommendations on changes to the CEDS. The updated project list, with minor changes to address 2018 updates and a rewrite of the project on regional tourism, to reflect the RCI Board’s approval of the Regional Action Plan on Regional Tourism, was approved by consensus.

Vice Chair: Mr. Bob Page of Green Cove Springs, a member of the RCI Board and the CEDS Committee, was designated Vice Chair of the CEDS Committee by consensus.

Next Meetings: A CEDS Update workplan and meeting schedule were approved by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.