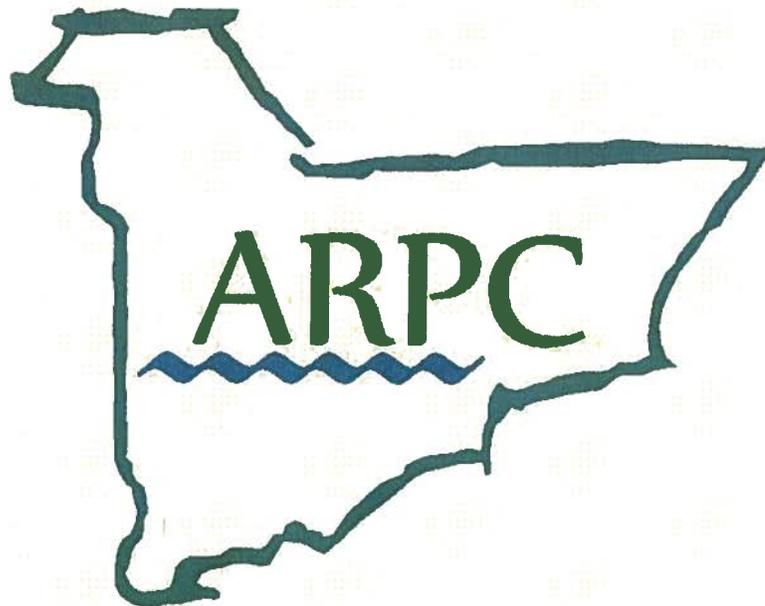


Apalachee Regional Planning Council

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday – January 22, 2015

10:30 a.m. ET / 9:30 a.m. CT



284th Public Meeting

ARPC OFFICE – Conservation Centre Conference Room
2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200

Tallahassee, Florida

www.thearpc.com

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council serves its citizens and local governments by providing technical assistance and a forum for communication and collaboration, to preserve and enhance the economic, natural, and social environments of the Apalachee Region.

**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

JOHN JONES, CHAIRMAN (JEFFERSON)
RANDY MERRITT, VICE-CHAIRMAN (WAKULLA)
JANE SAULS, SECRETARY/TREASURER (LEON)

FRCA POLICY BOARD MEMBERS: JANE SAULS, DELORES MADISON AND STEVE CUTSHAW

Calhoun County

Darrell McDougald
Wes Johnston
Don Stephens

County Commissioner
Mayor, Town of Altha
Governor's Appointee

Franklin County

Cheryl Sanders
Brenda LaPaz
Dawn Radford

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Carrabelle
Governor's Appointee

Gadsden County

Brenda Holt
Delores Madison
Henry Grant

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Midway
Governor's Appointee

Gulf County

Ward McDaniel
Tony Justice
Michael Hammond

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka
Governor's Appointee

Jackson County

Eric Hill
Gene Wright
Vacant

County Commissioner
Mayor, Town of Malone
Governor's Appointee

Jefferson County

Stephen Walker
John Jones
Vacant

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Monticello
Governor's Appointee

Leon County

Jane G. Sauls
Nancy Miller
Lisa Miller

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Tallahassee
Governor's Appointee

Liberty County

Dexter Barber
Woody Stewart
Steve Cutshaw

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Bristol
Governor's Appointee

Wakulla County

Randy Merritt
Gail Gilman
Ed Brimmer

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of St. Marks
Governor's Appointee

Ex-Officio Members

Benjamin Blitch
Paul Thorpe
Virgie Bowen
Diane Scholz

FL Dept. of Environmental Protection
NW FL Water Management District
FL Dept. of Transportation
Enterprise Florida

**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING**

ARPC OFFICE – Conservation Centre Conference Room
2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, Florida

THURSDAY – JANUARY 22, 2015
10:30 AM Eastern Time / 9:30 AM Central Time

AGENDA

	<u>Page #</u>
1. <u>Call to Order and Introductions</u>	
2. <u>*Approval of Agenda</u>	
3. <u>*Approval of November 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes</u>	3
4. <u>Chairman’s Report</u> – John Jones	
A. Executive Committee Meeting Report	11
5. <u>Executive Director’s Report</u> – Chris Rietow	12
A. 2015 ARPC Goals	13
B. FL Regional Councils Association Update	14
C. FL New Markets Tax Credit Alliance Update	
D. *Financial Report	
6. <u>Council Attorney Report</u> – Ed Blanton	
7. <u>Staff Reports</u>	
A. Community Development – Keith McCarron	23
B. *Economic Development – Bruce Ballister	28
C. Emergency Management - Denise Imbler & Chris Rietow . . .	38
D. *Transportation Disadvantaged – Vanita Anderson	41
E. Revolving Loan Fund – Janice Watson	
8. <u>Election of ARPC Officers for 2015*</u> – Ed Blanton	
9. <u>Correspondence / Items of Interest</u> – Chris Rietow	43
10. <u>Ex-Officio Member Updates / Board Members and Public Comment</u>	
11. <u>Adjournment</u>	

Box Lunches will be served following the meeting.

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Conservation Centre Conference Room - Tallahassee, Florida

November 20, 2014

MINUTES

Item 1: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 10:30 am and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARPC Board Members in Attendance:

Franklin County	Brenda LaPaz	Carrabelle City Commissioner
	Dawn Radford	Governor's Appointee
Gadsden County	Delores Madison	Midway City Commissioner
	Henry Grant	Governor's Appointee
Gulf County	Tony Justice	Wewahitchka City Commissioner
Jackson County	Gene Wright	Malone Mayor
Jefferson County	John Jones	Monticello City Councilman
Leon County	Lisa Miller	Governor's Appointee
Liberty County	Woody Stewart	Bristol City Councilman
	Steve Cutshaw	Governor's Appointee
Wakulla County	Randy Merritt	Wakulla County Commissioner
	Gail Gilman	St. Marks City Commissioner
	Ed Brimner	Governor's Appointee

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Leigh Brooks	Northwest FL Water Management District
Virgie Bowen	FL Dept. of Transportation
Diane Scholz	Enterprise Florida

ARPC Staff in Attendance

Chris Rietow	Executive Director
Ed Blanton	ARPC Attorney
Vanita Anderson	Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinator
Bruce Ballister	Senior Planner: Economic Development
Denise Imbler	Director Emergency Planning Programs
Keith McCarron	Senior Planner: Community Development
Janice Watson	Finance Director/Loan Coordinator
Joe Crozier	Planning Intern

Others in Attendance

Sheri Coven	FL Regional Councils Association
Noel Munson	FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity
Harry Reed	Capital Regional Transp. Planning Agency

Chairman Jones asked that the records show a quorum of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council in attendance.

Item 2: Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Randy Merritt to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 3: Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Ed Brimner to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2014 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Delores Madison. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: Chairman's Report

Chairman Jones reported that the Executive Committee met on November 17th at the ARPC office and had accomplished the following:

ARPC FY 12/13 Audit: Met with ARPC Auditor Bud Guilford and accepted the ARPC FY 12/13 as presented. Reviewed and accepted the staff response to the ARPC FY 12/13 Audit and approved including the staff response as presented in the final audit document which would be finalized during December.

ARPC FY 13/14 Audit: Approved staff recommendation to use Bud Guilford for the ARPC FY 13/14 Audit due to the minimum time remaining before the June 30, 2015 deadline. Instructed staff to prepare an RFP to solicit Audit Services for ARPC FY 14/15 Audit.

Calhoun County: Reviewed the correspondence from Calhoun County stating that as in the previous year, the ARPC Dues had not been included in the Calhoun County FY 14/15 Budget. Recommended that a formal letter be sent to Calhoun County notifying them that their ARPC voting privileges had been suspended. Chris Rietow emphasized that ARPC staff would continue to reach out to Calhoun County and promote the services and benefits that are available to them as a member of ARPC. Mr. Rietow also noted that the Calhoun County Governor's Appointee would retain voting privileges.

Brownfield Application: Reviewed the Brownfields Application being prepared by CARDNO for the ARPC and designated the Executive Committee as the Brownfields Program Evaluation Committee for the project if awarded.

Mr. Rietow stated that ARPC staff was in the process of collecting input from the local governments in the Region on possible Brownfield sites to be included in the inventory if the grant is awarded, noting that both public and private properties were eligible. He also reminded the Board about the email request for letters of support for the ARPC Brownfield Program funding application. Lisa Miller asked how many letters were needed and Mr. Rietow replied that the goal was to accumulate at least 20 letters. Randy Merritt asked ARPC staff to re-send the email requesting the letters of support with detailed explanations so that it could be forwarded to appropriate County staff.

Chairman Jones reported that the last formal authorization for the Executive Director to sign routine contracts and modifications had not been addressed since January 14, 1999 and suggested that the Board renew the authority for Executive Director Chris Rietow.

A motion was made by Randy Merritt to authorize Executive Director Chris Rietow to execute on behalf of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, routine contracts and contract modifications in consultation with the ARPC Chairman and the ARPC Attorney. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Jones reviewed with the Board the proposed 2015 ARPC Meeting Calendar included in the Board Package on page 17. By general consensus the Board approved the following regular meeting dates for 2015: January 22nd, March 26th, May 28th, July 30th, September 24th, and November 19th. Chairman Jones noted that additional meetings may be called if the need arises.

Item 5: Executive Director's Report

Outreach Efforts: Chris Rietow reported that he had met with the: Liberty County Commission on October 2nd, the Gadsden County Commission on October 7th, the Franklin County Commission on October 21st, the Wewahitchka City Commission on October 27th, and the Gulf County Commission on October 28th to discuss the services available through the ARPC and the new dues structure passed by the Board on May 29th. Mr. Rietow noted that he had been able to visit and make presentations at all the ARPC County Commissions and several of the City Commissions during his first year as Executive Director. He thanked the Board members for their cooperation in this effort, stating that he looked forward to new opportunities for the ARPC to partner with its member local governments in the upcoming year.

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Update: Mr. Rietow reviewed with the Board the FRCA Monthly Activity Report for October included in the Board Package on Page 21. He also reviewed the draft summary of the FRCA Policy Board Strategic Assessment Retreat held in January 2014 also included in the Board Package on page 23.

FL New Markets Tax Credits Alliance Update: Mr. Rietow reported that the New Markets Tax Credits Alliance Application had been received and logged into the federal Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) system. He noted that application funding determination should be announced in May 2015. Henry Grant reported that Mr. Rietow and Mr. Dinkins of New Markets Tax Credit Alliance would be meeting with the Gadsden County Commission on December 16th to discuss with the criteria for projects that might be eligible to apply for the credits if the ARPC application was approved.

ARPC Goals Update: Mr. Rietow reviewed with the Board the 2014 Goals adopted by the ARPC at its meeting on February 6, 2014. He handed out a spreadsheet which itemized the progress on each specific goal and a discussion ensued about possible objectives to be included in the 2015 Goals. He noted that due to already over-obligated staff time, ARPC staff had not been

able to effectively represent the ARPC at regional meetings. Lisa Miller offered to attend regional meetings on behalf of the Board whenever her schedule permitted.

Planning Intern: Mr. Rietow introduced to the Board Joe Crozier a Graduate Intern from the FL State University Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning. He noted that Joe had been assisting various members of the ARPC staff on community development, economic development and emergency planning projects and would be working with the ARPC through the end of the 2015 Spring Semester.

Financial Report: Mr. Rietow reviewed with the Board the Income Statements as of September 30, 2014 and October 31, 2014, the Reconciled Check Registers and Budget Revenue Expenditure Reports for the same period included in the Board package beginning on page 33. He also reviewed with the Board the ARPC list of accounts payable as of 11/15/14 and the current check register through November 14, 2014.

A motion was made by Randy Merritt to approve the financial reports as presented for September and October 2014. The motion was seconded by Brenda LaPaz. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Woody Stewart complimented ARPC staff on the level of transparency of the Financial Reports as they were currently being presented.

Officer Elections: Mr. Rietow reported that the ARPC By-Laws should require the ARPC Officer elections to take place at the January meeting to accommodate newly appointed members. He stated that the recently revised By-Laws will need to be amended again to fix this glitch. An updated process for elections was discussed at length and by general consensus the Executive Director was directed to poll the Board by email during the month of December for volunteers and nominations for the positions of ARPC Chairman, ARPC Vice-Chairman, ARPC Secretary-Treasurer, FRCA Policy Board Member (County), FRCA Policy Board Member (City), and FRCA Policy Board Member (Gubernatorial). Subsequently, the compiled nomination list should be mailed to the Board in the form of an anonymous ballot including a return envelope, to be opened at the January Board Meeting by the Council Attorney and the results submitted for Board approval.

Item 6: Council Attorney's Report

Council Attorney Ed Blanton reported that he was coordinating with ARPC staff on the disputed costs identified in the ARPC audit response and would be coordinating further dialog with the ARPC Auditor and funding agencies on that matter.

Item 7: Staff Reports

Comprehensive Plan Reviews Keith McCarron reviewed with the Board the ARPC staff report on the Gadsden County Proposed Amendment Series 14-2ER, included in the board package beginning on page 49. He reported that staff had no regional comments on the proposed amendment series.

A motion was made by Delores Madison to approve and submit to the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity the ARPC staff report on the Gadsden County Proposed Amendment Series, 14-2ER. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program Mr. McCarron reported that his work on the 2014 SQG Program in Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties was now complete. Mr. Rietow reported that he and Mr. McCarron were pursuing a funding opportunity through the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection to cover the costs of this program for the counties currently contracting with the ARPC for these services. Mr. Rietow noted that funding determination on the ARPC application should be made during January or February 2015.

FDOT Work Program Liaison Mr. McCarron reported that over the summer ARPC staff had gathered input from the ARPC Counties not covered by the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) for potential projects to be included in the FL Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) 5-year work plan. He noted the 2014 annual report compiled by ARPC staff and presented to FDOT Program and Planning staff was included in the Board Package on Page 55.

Carrabelle CRA Mr. McCarron reported that he had been meeting with Brenda LaPaz and the City of Carrabelle to provide Technical Assistance on the City's Community Redevelopment Area Program. Randy Merritt suggested that ARPC staff may be able to offer CRA consulting assistance to many other communities in the Apalachee Region. Mr. Merritt also suggested that counties and cities might contract with ARPC staff for preparing comprehensive plan amendments initiated by new development and include the cost of the ARPC services in the fees charged to the developer, which likewise would be no additional costs to the local government.

Economic Development Bruce Ballister reported that the North Port St. Joe Water – Phase 1 project and the Apalachicola Scipio Creek Marina project were nearing completion and should be closed out during the first quarter of 2015.

Mr. Ballister reported that the City of Midway had contracted with the ARPC to update its Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations. He noted that the City had received a grant from the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity to cover the costs of the ARPC's services. Mr. Ballister noted that Joe Crozier, ARPC Planning Intern had been working closely with him on the project.

Mr. Ballister announced that he was available to attend any of the Region's economic development council meetings to discuss planning and public works funding opportunities available through the Economic Development Administration.

Regional Hazardous Material Program: Chris Rietow reported on his work with the FL Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) on several projects including the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the Hazards Analysis Update, noting that the next meeting of the District 2 LEPC would be held on February 4th at the Tallahassee/Leon Public Safety Complex. Mr.

Rietow stated that the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) planning project for FY 14/15 would be a full-scale exercise involving an over-turned tanker truck carrying hazardous materials. Early discussions have suggested a potential night operations exercise.

Domestic Security Program: Denise Imbler reported that ARPC staff was working with Leon County Emergency Management to participate in a long-term recovery tabletop exercise scheduled to take place in December. Ms. Imbler also reported that ARPC staff continues to serve as the Coordinator for the Big Bend Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) working to develop a strategic plan and response procedures to enhance operational organization of the many volunteer organizations of the Region.

Emergency Management Program: Ms. Imbler reported that ARPC continued to work on updating the inundation and storm surge maps for the impacted counties in the Region, which involved close coordination with the county emergency management directors. She noted that ARPC staff continued to assist the FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) in updating the Standard Operating Guideline for the State Animal Response Team and to conduct a functional exercise for the FL Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT). Ms. Imbler reported that staff progress continued with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to conduct outreach and assist the business community of Franklin County on developing and enhancing disaster preparedness plans. She noted that a similar project might also be feasible for Gulf County in the near future.

North FL Medical Reserve Corps: Ms. Imbler reported that ARPC staff continues to serve as the Coordinator for the North FL Medical Reserve Corps which serves in the Apalachee Region. She noted that the membership now included more than 50 licensed medical volunteers from around the Region and the next orientation session for new volunteers would be conducted by ARPC staff on December 3rd.

Revolving Loan Fund Janice Watson reviewed the report on the ARPC's Revolving Loan Fund Program included in the board package beginning on page 69. Ms. Watson reviewed the fund balances and reported briefly on the status of the accounts. She noted that no new loan applications had been received since the last meeting.

Item 8: FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity Presentation

Chris Rietow introduced Noel Munson, Strategic Business Planner with the FL Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO). Mr. Rietow reported that Mr. Munson has been providing a regional economic presentation at most of the regional planning councils across the state over the past twelve months. Mr. Munson then led a brief PowerPoint presentation on the FDEO's economic responsibilities/activities. Mr. Munson's presentation illustrated how FDEO and ARPC strategies often complement or align with each other. His presentation included an overview of the Florida 5-Year Strategic Plan for Economic Development. The plan utilizes the Six Pillars of the Future Economy for its framework that is also used in the ARPC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Mr. Munson noted that FDEO was thankful for the RPCs' assistance in the development of the plan.

Item 9: Correspondence / Items of Interest

Mr. Rietow briefly reviewed two items of interest in the Board package beginning on page 73 including: an article on the latest development in the Florida-Georgia Water Supreme Court Case and an article about the recently formed Florida-Alabama Mega Team assembled in hopes of attracting a large manufacturer to the 2,240-acre industrial site in Campbellton.

Item 10: Council / Public Comment

Chairman Jones asked for any public comments and there were none. He announced that the next ARPC Board meeting would be held on January 22, 2015 at 10:30 am ET, in the same location.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

APPROVED BY THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION
ON JANUARY 22, 2015.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

John Jones, Jr.
Chairman

Chris Rietow
Executive Director



AGENDA ITEM 4

Apalachee Regional Planning Council
Serving Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty,
Leon and Wakulla Counties and their municipalities

ARPC Executive Committee

Chairman	John Jones
Vice-Chairman	Randy Merritt
Secretary-Treasurer	Jane Sauls
FRCA Representative	Delores Madison
FRCA Representative	Steve Cutshaw

AGENDA

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2014 – 9:00 am

ARPC Office
2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL

1. EDA RLF Update
2. ARPC By-Laws Revisions
 - a. Elections
 - b. Executive Committee Quorum
3. 2014 Audit Request for Proposal
4. Other Business
5. Next Executive Committee Meeting

AGENDA ITEM 5

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Chris Rietow

The following items will be reported and discussed with the Board:

- A. **2015 ARPC Goals:** Review of the proposed ARPC Goals for calendar year 2015.
- B. **FL Regional Councils Association:** Report on the January 9, 2015 FRCA Policy Board Meeting, including the 2015-16 Strategic Plan and 2015 Legislative Agenda. FRCA monthly activity reports for November and December are also included. The 2013-14 FRCA Annual Report has been distributed.
- C. **Florida New Markets Tax Credits Alliance Update:** A brief update on the ARPC application.
- D. ***Financial Report**

ACTION NEEDED

Motion to accept Financial Reports for the periods ending
November 30, 2014 and December 31, 2014.



Apalachee Regional Planning Council
Serving Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty,
Leon and Wakulla Counties and their municipalities

2015 Apalachee Regional Planning Council Goals

- I. Return financial stability to the Council
 - a. Work with EDA to resolve the EDA Revolving Loan Fund audit findings
 - b. Restore the Operating Budget to the historical level of \$60,000
 - c. Continue efforts to establish increased base funding for the Council to improve the ability to provide services to member local governments

- II. Educate and market the Council's services and capabilities to member counties and municipalities
 - a. Upgrade the Council's website to better represent the Council's economic development, emergency management, transportation and technical assistance activities
 - b. Develop and maintain an email distribution list of pertinent interested parties that will ARPC-related and regionally significant information
 - c. Create an annual report that summarizes the programs and the accomplishments of the Council
 - d. As funding permits, attend all meetings that pertain to regional initiatives in order to stay informed on current issues

- III. Grow and expand the capabilities of the Council
 - a. Become the recognized convener of the Apalachee region to discuss, collaborate and resolve regional issues
 - b. Foster ownership of the Council by the Board of Directors and encourage the Board to provide guidance and direction to staff

***Mission Statement:** The ARPC serves its citizens and local governments by providing technical assistance and a forum for communication and collaboration to preserve and enhance the economic, natural and social environments of the Apalachee region.*



FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION PROPOSED 2015-16 STRATEGIC OPERATING PLAN

Proposed Mission Statement

The Florida Regional Councils Association fosters regional strategies, solutions, and partnerships to support economic growth and improve quality of life; promotes a standard of excellence in the delivery of regional planning council programs and technical professional assistance and expertise; and, advocates for the role of regional planning councils as the state's primary organizations to address problems that are of greater-than-local concern.

GOAL 1: Create a business development strategy that identifies a variety of funding sources and seeks funding opportunities to support the priorities and programs of the regional planning councils.

Objective 1: Organize the business development strategy around regional planning council statewide core programs and develop a template for each regional planning council to use and supplement with programs that may be unique to their region.

Objective 2: Strengthen partnerships with state agencies and other statewide organizations on a perpetual basis to reinforce the relevance of and benefits of working with regional planning councils.

Objective 3: Promote the value of FRCA's "single point of contact" approach to contracting for statewide work to state and federal agency representatives.

Objective 4: Identify and distribute grant opportunities and announcements to the regional planning councils.

Objective 5: Identify regional planning council programs that are ripe for expansion and explore how that might occur.

Objective 6: Promote regional planning council economic modeling services to local governments, local economic development organizations, and local chambers of commerce.

Objective 7: Explore partnerships with non-traditional organizations, such as Visit Florida and Tourist Development Councils.

Objective 8: Explore non-traditional funding opportunities for regional planning councils, such as endowments, public-private partnerships, foundations, and summit/training registration fees.

Objective 9: Continue to explore meaningful opportunities for securing state funding.

GOAL 2: Utilize an advisory council from among the regional planning council gubernatorial appointees to advocate on behalf of regional planning councils.

Objective 1: Identify tactics to improve communication between regional planning council gubernatorial appointees and the Governor and his staff.

Objective 2: Identify regional planning council programs and activities that cannot be carried out without a state appropriation.

Objective 3: Identify regional planning council programs and activities that are in sync with the Governors priorities.

Objective 4: Communicate to the Governor and his staff how regional planning council gubernatorial appointees could be used as a delivery mechanism for his priorities.

GOAL 3: Promote the core programs that are common among the 11 regional planning councils (i.e., economic development, emergency management, transportation, quality of life, and regional conveners).

Objective 1: Develop a statewide core program message to be utilized in FRCA's Communications Program.

Objective 2: Identify specific regional planning council mechanisms to promote the core program message.

GOAL 4: Strengthen the role of regional planning councils as conveners of their regions.

Objective 1: Identify subject areas best suited for utilizing regional planning councils as conveners.

Objective 2: Determine how and to whom this message should be communicated.

GOAL 5: Enhance the role of regional planning councils as data centers.

Objective 1: Identify and secure a funding source to enhance the Regional Scorecard Website.

Objective 2: Identify means to promote regional planning council GIS services within each region.

Objective 3: Evaluate whether regional planning councils should be a clearinghouse or data collector and once determined, develop strategies for accomplishing and promoting this in a meaningful way and consistently among the councils.

Objective 4: Build a relationship with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Office of Labor Market Statistics to ensure consistency in the area of economic modeling for economic development projects and encourage referrals from that office to regional planning councils as may be appropriate.

GOAL 6: Develop a communications program.

Objective 1: Issue a quarterly FRCA Newsletter that addresses core programs and examples of regional planning councils' best practices and transferable activities.

Objective 2: Maintain a FRCA Website.

Objective 4: Issue press releases and public service announcements and encourage regional planning councils to do the same.

Objective 3: Secure exhibit hall space at the Florida Association of Counties and Florida League of Cities annual conferences, and other conferences that may be relevant.

Objective 4: Develop focused, independent marketing materials on the regional planning council economic modeling program; dispute resolution; regional scorecard website; data centers; and role of regional planning councils as conveners of their regions.

Objective 5: Develop a common overview of regional planning councils focused on their ownership by and worth to local governments, their citizens, and thus, their constituents.

Objective 6: Explore whether engaging in social media would be cost effective in terms of staff time, audience, and beneficial outcomes.

Objective 7: Provide a FRCA orientation package to new FRCA Policy Board members.

Objective 8: Develop and distribute a FRCA-related orientation package to each regional planning council for inclusion in their respective orientation package for new regional planning council board members and encourage sharing the same with all new elected officials in person.

Objective 9: Encourage regional planning councils meet with each local economic development organization in their region on an annual basis to outline the resources that regional planning councils bring to the table.

Objective 10: Develop a strategy for being more proactive with the media.

Objective 11: Review the FRCA logo and byline to ensure their relevancy.

Objective 12: Revise the FRCA Letterhead to include the statewide core program message.



Apalachee • Central Florida
East Central Florida • North Central Florida
Northeast Florida • South Florida • Southwest Florida
Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast • West Florida • Withlacoochee

104 West Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301-1713 • 850.224.3427

2015 PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Regional planning councils have been in existence in Florida since the early 1960s, created by the local governments they serve, to meet local government and regional needs, provide services, and collaborate on state and federal initiatives and programs. Florida Statutes recognize regional planning councils as *"Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions on multi-jurisdictional issues, support regional economic development, and provide assistance to local governments."*

The Florida Regional Councils Association, an alliance of Florida's 11 regional planning councils, serves to strengthen the consistency and quality of regional planning council programs to ensure economic prosperity and add value to local, regional, and state initiatives. To that end, the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board adopted the following priorities for the 2015 Legislative Session:

Talent Supply & Education

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** enhanced economic competitiveness, which must include an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) in public education and training programs that are aligned with existing and emerging job markets and industry clusters.

Innovation & Economic Development

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** full funding of regional planning councils to, at a minimum, leverage the role of regional planning councils as federally designated economic development districts; provide support to state and regional economic development initiatives and activities; provide assistance to local economic development organizations; and, cover the costs of statutory responsibilities.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** legislation that reauthorizes the Enterprise Zone program due to sunset on December 31, 2015.

Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** a continued state and regional role in helping local governments accommodate future growth while ensuring economic prosperity and preparing for and responding to emergencies and natural disasters.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** future transportation corridors, a diverse and competitive statewide multi-modal transportation network, and sustainable sources of transportation funding that are consistent with and support regional visions and further the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies of Florida's 11 federally designated Economic Development Districts.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** maintaining and protecting the integrity of all Trust Funds for their stated use.

Business Climate & Competitiveness

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** a strong, but fair, development impact mitigation process that addresses extra-jurisdictional impacts and impacts to natural resources of regional significance and other regional resources and facilities; preserves the role of regional planning councils as conveners and their right to collect fees for services; utilizes regional planning councils' dispute resolution processes; and, protects the entitlements and vested development rights necessary for large-scale, long-term financial investments.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** changes to the Sector Plan process that would provide regional planning councils with a fee for service funding mechanism to allow them to participate in the process in a more meaningful capacity; require regional planning councils to convene all affected parties in the process; and, create a role for regional planning councils in the Detailed Specific Area Plan process to ensure all regional issues are addressed.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** the unlimited ability of a regional planning council to provide planning and technical services for a fee, in furtherance of its mission.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** streamlining state regulatory review processes while ensuring regional and local interests are taken into consideration.

Civic & Governance Systems

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** the positions and policies of organizations that share a common membership with regional planning councils including the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Small County Coalition, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, and which are of mutual interest and concern.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** efforts to improve efficiency and collaboration among agencies tasked with multi-jurisdictional planning throughout the state.

Quality of Life & Quality Places

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** regional visioning as a means to guide the future of Florida, build public/private coalitions to implement key regional and statewide initiatives, and serve as the basis for strategic statewide planning and budgeting initiatives.



Sheri Coven
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
sheri.coven@flregionalcouncils.org
(850) 294-0526

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: November 2014

OUTREACH

- Attended the annual Rural Economic Development Summit and participated in a rural issues working group meeting focused on connecting regional partners, including the Regional Education Consortia, Rural Areas of Opportunity, and regional planning councils, as well as seeking support for continuation of the Florida Learns STEM Scholars program.
- Prepared an informational summary and distributed it along with a sample letter of support for the Florida Learns STEM Scholars program to the appropriate regional planning councils for execution at their discretion.
- Worked with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to position the regional planning councils to receive a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Special Merit Grant to increase community resiliency capacity at the regional level.
- Spoke multiple times with Julie Dennis in the Division of Community Development at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to continue exploring opportunities for the regional planning councils in the Department's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the National Disaster Resiliency Competition.
- Explored the costs versus benefits of joining VISIT FLORIDA's Partnership Program, which are still being analyzed.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- Participated in a U.S. Economic Development Administration grant training session for Florida's Economic Development Districts and spent time networking with agency staff.
- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in meetings of the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition, Florida Transportation Commission, and Rural Economic Development Initiative; and, participated in Enterprise Florida's monthly teleconference for its economic development partners; a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission teleconference to finalize the agency's Wildlife Best Management Practices report; and, a Florida Department of Economic Opportunity on-line meeting for its community resiliency work group.
- Participated in the Florida Chamber Foundation's first 2015 Future of Florida Forum Partners Meeting to begin planning for next year's Forum.
- Participated in a planning meeting for the Florida Civic Advance inaugural annual conference, which is an initiative of the Florida Consensus Center.
- Distributed funding announcements from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Forest Service.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Finalized the Executive Directors Advisory Committee's Position Statement regarding the Developments of Regional Impact and Sector Planning programs and provided it to staff at the Senate Committee on Community Affairs as well as others as appropriate.
- Drafted FRCA's 2015 Legislative platform, which will first be reviewed by the Executive Directors Advisory Committee in December for further consideration by the Policy Board at its January 9, 2015 meeting.
- Updated the Lobbytools account and settings in preparation for the upcoming Legislative Session and began reviewing newly filed bills.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Developed a Draft Strategic Operating Plan for FRCA based on the Policy Board's Strategic Assessment Retreat Final Report and additional recommendations generated at their August 2014 Policy Board meeting, which will be presented to the Policy Board at their January 9, 2015 meeting for further consideration.
- Began soliciting speakers for the January 9, 2015 Policy Board meeting and February, March, and April Executive Directors Advisory Committee Partners meetings.
- Finalized preparations for the December 2-3, 2014 FRCA Business and Partners meetings, which will be held at the Tampa Bay RPC; secured speakers and developed the meeting agendas for these meetings; and, prepared the October 1, 2014 business and partners meeting summaries.



Sheri Coven
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
sheri.coven@flregionalcouncils.org
(850) 294-0526

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: December 2014

OUTREACH

- In conjunction with the South Florida Regional Planning Council, provided support to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to help complete its application for a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Special Merit Grant that, if awarded, would provide a small amount of funding to the regional planning councils to increase community resiliency capacity at the local level through a variety of training tools.
- Participated by phone in a meeting with staff from the Florida Division of Emergency Management and each of the regional planning councils to resolve Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness contract reporting issues and worked with Division staff to address periphery concerns.
- Continued to coordinate with staff from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity on its application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the National Disaster Resiliency Competition.
- Joined VISIT FLORIDA's Partnership Program.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in a meeting of the Sadowski Coalition and in Enterprise Florida's monthly teleconference for its economic development partners, which focused on preparing for the 2015 Legislative Session and included comments from Governor Scott pertaining to the state's economic status.
- Participated in the Florida Chamber Foundation's 2015 Future of Florida Forum Partners Meeting to begin planning for next year's Forum.
- Participated in a planning meeting for the Florida Civic Advance inaugural annual conference, which is an initiative of the Florida Consensus Center.
- Distributed funding announcements from the Kresgee and Robert Wood Johnson Foundations, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, National Endowment for the Arts, VISIT FLORIDA, and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Shared the FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee's position statement on Developments of Regional Impact and Sector Plan Programs with the Legislative Director for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and asked that, should the Department run related legislation, it be considered for inclusion.
- Completed a final draft of FRCA's 2015 Legislative Agenda and Legislative Guiding Principles and Procedures for consideration and approval by the Policy Board at its January 9, 2015 meeting in Tallahassee.

Florida Regional Councils Association
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Monthly Activity Report
December 2014

- Reviewed pertinent bills and issued the first bill tracking report of the 2015 Legislative Session.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Welcomed Commissioner Frank Meeker, Flagler County (NEFRC), to the FRCA Policy Board and emailed him a new member orientation packet.
- Finalized a draft of what will be FRCA's first Strategic Operating Plan for consideration by the Policy Board at its January 9, 2015 meeting in Tallahassee.
- Participated in the December 2-3, 2014 FRCA meetings that took place at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.
- Finalized preparations for the series of FRCA events scheduled to take place January 8-9, 2015, including finalizing meeting logistics, securing speakers, developing agendas, and drafting four sets of meeting summaries.

AGENDA ITEM 7 - A

Staff Report – Community Development

Informational Summary – Keith McCarron

Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program: The Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) contracts annually with Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty and Wakulla counties to implement their Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Assessment, Notification and Verification program responsibilities. Staff submitted a grant request to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to fund the SQG Program FY 2014-2015. Staff is optimistic that the FDEP will approve the application allowing staff to begin work on the project in early February 2015.

FDOT Work Program Liaison: The Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) works annually with Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, and Liberty counties to gather input for the FDOT’s Five-Year Work Program process. Staff attended the FDOT, District 3 Tentative Work Program public hearing and information workshop on December 2, 2014 and distributed the FY 2016-2020 Tentative Work Program work program to counties and encouraged additional input. FDOT announced the new Municipal Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) grant awards in a December 2014 press release (copy attached). Twenty rural communities across Florida were selected to receive the \$9 million in transportation improvement funds. The following five ARPC communities receiving funding are:

Alford	Tennessee Street	\$360,086
Malone	8th Street	\$129,360
Monticello	Waukeenah Street	\$137,863
Quincy	MLK Jr. Blvd.	\$234,529
Graceville	White Ave/ Pearl Street	\$195,840

Killearn Lakes Development of Regional Impact Notification of Proposed Change: The Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) received a Notification of Proposed Change (NOPC) from the Villas at Oak Grove, LLC on November 14, 2014. The NOPC proposes changing a portion of the Killearn Lakes Plaza Subdivision from Commercial to Commercial/ Assisted Living to allow the development of a senior assisted living facility. Copies of the NOPC were distributed to DRI review agencies for comment and written responses were received from the Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Tallahassee, but no substantive issues or concerns were identified. The Tallahassee Leon County Planning Commission held a public hearing on January 6, 2015 and the Leon County Commission will consider the proposed change at their February 10, 2015 meeting.

ACTION NEEDED

None

Governor Rick Scott Announces \$9 Million for Rural Roads

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott announced today that 20 rural areas across Florida have been selected to receive \$9 million in transportation improvement funds. This funding is part of Governor Scott's Rural Areas of Opportunity Program that is designed to help Florida's rural communities continue to grow and create opportunities for families and job creators.

Governor Scott said, "This year we made an historic investment of over \$10 billion for transportation needs and DOT's five-year plan will invest nearly \$41 billion into our state's transportation system. Investing in our roads is a top priority because it will help our state continue to be a global tourist and business destination. Florida has created over 679,000 private-sector jobs in just under four years and we will continue to work every day to create even more opportunities in our state."

The funding is an extension of the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) which FDOT has used to support Florida's economically challenged rural counties for many years.

FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad said, "I applaud the leadership of the Governor and Legislature for extending the benefits of this program which demonstrate the great statewide need for projects to maintain roadways in rural areas."

Senate President Andy Gardiner said, "Investing in Florida's roads and infrastructure is important to Floridians and our state's economy. We are committed to prioritizing Florida's transportation needs to help ensure Florida continues on its path of job creation and economic growth."

House Speaker Steve Crissafulli said, "Florida's roads are an important economic driver and today's announcement is more good news for families across the state. It's important we continue to identify ways we can invest to directly benefit Florida's rural economies so our state can continue to grow."

Senator Jack Latvala said, "Today's announcement is great news for citizens and businesses in Florida's rural areas as it will strengthen infrastructure and boost economic opportunities. I commend Governor Scott and all involved for their commitment to invest in Florida's future through transportation enhancements."

Speaker pro tempore Matt Hudson said, "These projects reflect region-wide priorities, and underline the Governor's and Legislature's commitment to setting our priorities in the spirit of regional cooperation. We are extremely pleased the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) is contributing to these important projects in Hendry County for the benefit of the safety of our residents, people traveling into our communities and the enhancement of our roadway system."

Senator Joseph Abruzzo said, "Representing the communities of Belle Glade, South Bay, and Pahokee is a true privilege. It was a pleasure working with Governor Scott, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Legislature to respond to the critical need for improved infrastructure throughout Florida. Securing this transportation funding is a major triumph; it will provide sustainable solutions by encouraging ease of movement and enriching the overall quality of life for the residents of western Palm Beach County. As the economies of the Western Communities continue emerging and attracting year-round industry, this targeted assistance will provide tangible benefits to some of our most in-need communities."

Representative Ben Albritton said, "This is wonderful news for the City of Wauchula! For years the City of Wauchula has experienced severe flooding along local roads. The proposed Orange Street milling, resurfacing and drainage project will allow the city to provide safe transportation to all motorist and pedestrians. I want to thank Governor Scott and Secretary Prasad for their dedication to small towns across Florida."

Representative Halsey Beshears said, "We needed this funding for our local communities to help with their economic development and we are much appreciative to Governor Scott and Secretary Prasad for their assistance in pushing this through."

Representative Brad Drake said, "This is a great endeavor for our rural communities to receive this additional funding which will spur their local economy."

Senator Charlie Dean said, "I applaud Governor Scott for supporting the roads in our communities. The economy in our area relies on a strong transportation system, and these funds will allow us to maintain the roadways used to move people and goods in and out of our region."

Senator Don Gaetz said "I appreciate the effort of the Governor, Secretary Prasad and the Florida Legislature for this action. This funding comes at a great time to help our rural communities in their efforts to bolster the economy."

Senator Bill Montford said, "Thanks to Governor Scott and Secretary Prasad, rural communities across Florida will receive funding to improve the roadways in rural communities. This additional funding will continue to ensure the entire State of Florida has the best transportation system in the nation."

Representative Cary Pigman said, "I want to thank Governor Scott and Secretary Prasad for these funds that will help improve safety on our roadways and create jobs for the Lake Placid community. It is important that we keep our travelers and pedestrians safe, and this additional funding will help meet the transportation needs of our area."

Representative Keith Perry said, "This additional funding will benefit families, businesses, and travelers in Gilchrist County. Our roadways are a vital part in strengthening our local economy, and Governor Scott and Secretary Prasad understand strong roadways are a win-win for everyone."

Representative Kevin Rader said, "I am very excited about the funding of these road projects in my district. By improving the roadways in the Glades Communities we increase the safety for constituents and continue to foster economic growth."

Representative Alan Williams said, "We are fortunate to be able to provide this funding to our rural areas so they can grow their local economies which in turn supports our entire state."

Representative Charles Van Zant said, "This funding is great news for the rural communities in Northeast Florida. Families in this region work hard, and thanks to Governor Scott and Secretary Prasad this additional funding will help develop and maintain the roadways that are important for a good quality of life."

The communities selected for funding, the projects and the award amounts are listed below:

South central and Southwest Florida

Lake Placid, Highlands Co	Green Dragon Dr	\$100,000
LaBelle, Hendry Co	Bryan Ave	\$75,319
Okeechobee, Okeechobee Co	SW 2nd Ave/ SW 8th St	\$57,750
Clewiston, Hendry Co	Pasedena Ave	\$295,000
Wauchula, Hardee Co	Orange St	\$1,175,574

Northeast Florida

Interlachen, Putnam Co	North Francis St	\$750,000
Live Oak, Suwannee Co	Itchetucknee Rd	\$915,900
White Springs, Hamilton Co	1st St	\$61,544
Bell, Gilchrist Co	Strickland Ave	\$121,200
Jennings, Hamilton Co	Johns St	\$84,908

Northwest Florida

Wausau, Washington Co	4th St/Ollie Rd	\$399,042
Alford, Jackson Co	Tennessee St	\$360,086

Malone, Jackson Co	8th St	\$129,360
Monticello, Jefferson Co	S Waukeelah St	\$137,863
Quincy, Gadsden Co	MLK Jr Blvd	\$234,529
Wewahitchka, Gulf Co	Old Hwy 22A	\$62,712
Graceville, Jackson Co	White Ave/ Pearl St	\$195,840

Southeast Florida

South Bay, Palm Beach Co	Martin Luther King Blvd/ Palm Beach Rd & Main St	\$1,416,687
Pahokee, Palm Beach Co	East Main Pl	\$1,374,512
Belle Glade, Palm Beach Co	SE Ave G, SW Ave H, SW 12th St, SE 7th St, South Canal St, West Ave A	\$1,038,834

The department will work closely with these communities so that work on the selected projects can begin early next year.

AGENDA ITEM 7 - B

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Informational Summary

Port St. Joe – North Port St. Joe Water I: GAC Construction has completed all of the work on the project including satisfaction of the check list. The subcontractor's long standing issues with a payroll irregularity were finally resolved in late October and the paperwork was provided to CDBG for approval. The subcontractor's issues with CDBG are still outstanding. The project manager at CDBG has requested additional information. The subcontractor, Pickron Underground Utilities will not respond to email or phone messages from ARPC staff or the prime contractor GAC. ARPC staff is working through what steps can be taken to close out the project in order for work to proceed on Phase II of the North Port St. Joe Water Project.

Port St. Joe – North Port St. Joe Water II: The City has approved a contract for the ARPC to represent them in the next annual application for funding to create an application package for the next funding cycle. Due to a rule change being adopted for the upcoming cycle, ARPC staff will be required to re-survey a portion of the area to be served in the next phase.

CDBG Cycle Update: The Community Planning and Development section of the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) has published a rule change and proposed revised application for approval. The public hearing process will not conclude in time for a normal application cycle beginning in October. In conversations with CDBG staff last week, ARPC staff learned that the anticipated opening for the 2015 cycle will most likely be in March with closing around mid-April. A reminder that local governments can submit an Economic Development application at any time, even if the applicant has a Neighborhood, Commercial or Housing grant open. ARPC staff is available for CDBG application preparation and development.

City of Apalachicola – Scipio Creek Boat Basin: The project is at 100% subject to completion of a punch list created at final walk through. ARPC staff is preparing closeout documents for both funding agencies (EDA and CDBG).

Midway Comp Plan Amendments: ARPC continues work on preparing an EAR based Amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, staff is reviewing the Comprehensive Plan in relation to changes to the Florida Statutes implemented since the plan's last update in 2008. ARPC staff presented the first four elements of the Midway Comp Plan to the City's Planning Commission in January and will present the remainder in February. Following City Council approval, ARPC staff will be transmitting the elements to the FDEO in early April and following up with public hearings for recommended revisions to the Land Development Regulations.

Wakulla Environmental Institute: The Tallahassee Community College (TCC) team has prepared the initial package of deliverables to EDA for review and approval. The revised plans reflect the work described in the application package, which include solar panels on parking lot shade structures. The bid documents have been approved and staff anticipates a pre-bid conference later this month. Pending EDA approval of the bid and award procedures, notice to proceed could be issued as early as mid March. TCC hopes to have the facility ready for use in the winter semester of 2016.

Havana Planning: From time to time, the ARPC provides planning services on call for the Town of Havana. The ARPC has reviewed the Town's Land Development Code to seek responsible modifications to its severe restrictions on variances. In a recent conversation with the City Manager, the recommendations will be discussed with the City Council after budget season is over, and new business can be discussed. For example, a recent request to replace a burned residence with a mobile home in an unplatted neighborhood characterized by site built homes could not be denied. Neither the Comprehensive Plan nor the Performance Zoning Ordinance had language that would permit the Town to require a site built. ARPC staff will be holding a workshop with the Town Council in February to discuss this and some of the other shortcomings of the Code.

Tallahassee / Leon EDC: ARPC staff has been contacted by the Tallahassee / Leon EDC to provide assistance in developing an Economic Development Action Plan. The EDC also wants to become recognized as a "Six Pillars Community" per the standards of The Florida Chamber and Enterprise Florida. ARPC staff was instrumental assisting the FDEO in developing its Economic Development Plan in 2011 and is uniquely qualified to perform this assistance. ARPC staff has requested that the original FDEO staff involved in the original project be assigned to assist in the project. The proposal for service from the ARPC is still pending approval by the Tallahassee / Leon EDC.

Data Update: As we enter a new year, ARPC staff has taken the opportunity to again check the status of the Apalachee region on the FL Chamber's Regional Scorecard. The Scorecard, and specifically the pages developed for the Regional Councils provide a good snapshot of some of the Region's key indicators. This data and a few of the indicators report in the ARPC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) are reported below. There is good short-term economic news and some not as good long term reports. Most economic news trails by at least a calendar year, as in this case there is no annual data yet for 2014.

Wages per job: ↑ From 2008 to 2013 Avg. wages per job rose from \$33.0K to \$37.5K in the Region for a 13.8% increase in the average wage per job.

Building Permits: ↑ Prior to the 2008 recession's full impact, in 2008 the Region recorded building permits to construct 13,547 residential units. By 2010, the Region only recorded permits for 763 units. Most of these were for multi-family units related to university housing. The recovery is on with an increase since 2010 to a 2013 total of 1,420 units per year.

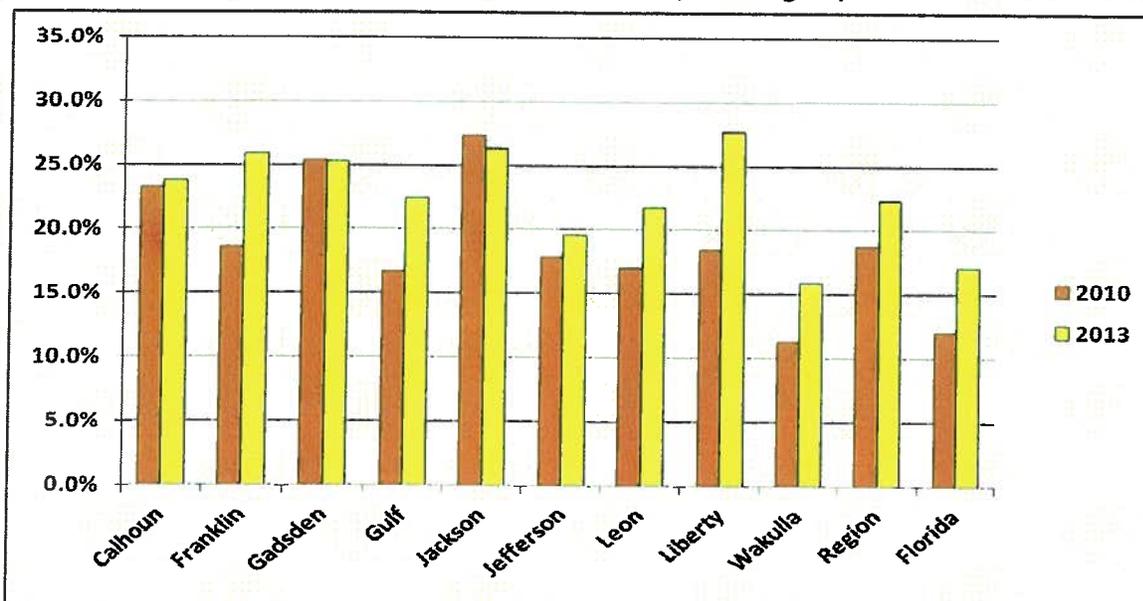
Tourism Development Taxes: ↑ Tourism Tax receipts indicate that the tourism industry, hit for a short time in 2008 and 2009, have rebounded. In 2010, Tourism taxes for the Region were \$26.7M. They rose to \$31.4M by 2012 and in 2013, they were \$33.7M.

Unemployment: ↓: If you've tracked employment news you know that unemployment is down nationally and a little more so in Florida. In November of 2013, the ARPC's unemployment rate had dropped to 5.5% from a high in 2010 of 8.3%. In November of 2014, two months ago, the Region's unemployment rate has dropped to 5.2%.

Most of the above statistics are short term volatile indicators. They respond relatively quickly to international and national forces. Two troubling indicators taken from the FL Chamber's Scorecard indicate long-term structural problems with Florida's education system. High School graduation rates have dropped from 83.6% in 2011 to 74.1% in 2013. 8th grade Math performance dropped from 68.7% in 2011 to 52.7% in 2013. Although the Apalachee region performed slightly better than Florida, the data still indicates a negative trend. National news recently reports that Florida dropped from 8th nationwide to 28th. The State is 37th in School Finance among the many indicators measured.

In finalizing the CEDS, one data point was disturbing, the following is a new graphic prepared for the CEDS on poverty. The most recent negative trend is the increasing poverty rate vs. falling unemployment. Job losses have come from decreasing state employment in the Capital offices to failures in the oyster beds of Apalachicola Bay. Replacement employment has come largely from low-income positions in the service sector. We would have to conclude that the increasing poverty rates are also indicative of higher economic stresses in middle income households as well.

Change in Poverty 2010 – 2013 Percent, Counties, the Region, and the State of Florida



Source: US Census; Small Area Income and Poverty, 1/15

Not all data can be reported on a month to month basis, but ARPC staff should be able to give quarterly updates on unemployment and wages for the Region. Other indicators are often updated from April to July for the prior year and we'll report this data in future board updates.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs): The CEDs committee met in late 2014 to provide input on this mid-term update to the CEDs. The update includes a few changes to the discussion of current conditions which suppose that the Region is now essentially out of the recession that still dominated trends in the 2012 report. There are modifications to the report on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Most importantly, there are changes to the Vital Projects List which serve as a basis for funding of projects. Included with the package as a separate document is the edited version of the CEDs as approved by the CEDs committee.

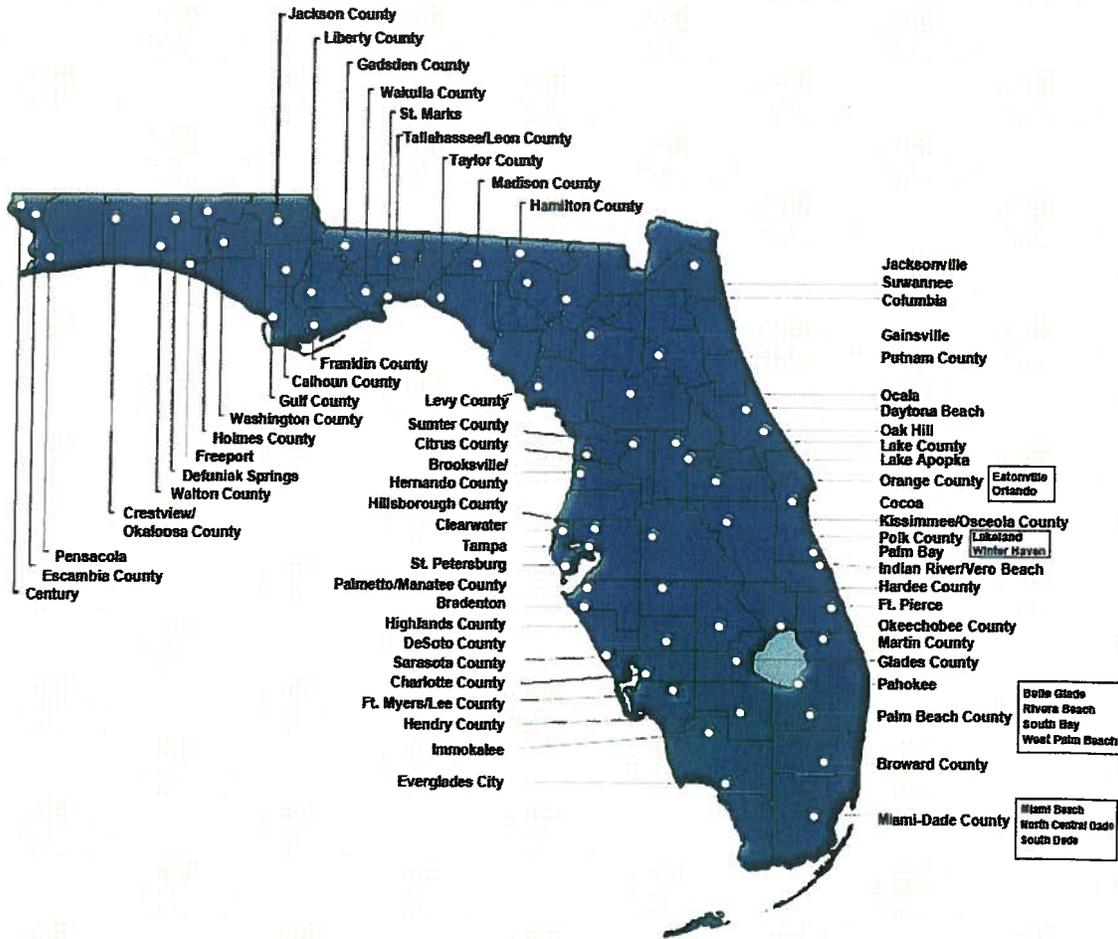
Enterprise Zones: The Florida Enterprise Zones program is scheduled to Sunset in 2015. The program provides numerous incentives for new and relocating businesses to set up shop in those zones. From equipment sales tax relief, to payroll subsidies in the start-up years, the program helps new firms finance start-up costs for getting a new business up and running. ARPC staff encourages the Board to make sure repealing the Enterprise Zone Sunset is a prominent part of each county/municipality 2015 legislative agenda. The program also provides additional points for CDBG projects if the site is located in an Enterprise Zone.

ACTION NEEDED

Motion to approve the edited version of the CEDs for submission to the
Economic Development Administration

FLORIDA ENTRPRISE ZONES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2013



Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
 Division of Strategic Business Development
 107 East Madison Street; MSC 80
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399
www.floridaenterprisezone.com

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This annual report of the Florida Enterprise Zone Program is submitted by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) in accordance with section 290.014(2), Florida Statutes. This report summarizes the results of the Florida Enterprise Zone Program during the timeframe of July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014.

This report is based on information provided by the 65 Enterprise Zone Development Agencies (EZDA) and the Florida Department of Revenue (DOR). The purpose of this document is to examine the impact of the program and monitor the use of state and local incentives.

RESULTS FOR FY 2013/2014

During the timeframe of July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, the following activity levels were reported by the 65 EZDAs using their internal monitoring systems and not reflecting use of incentives:

- 6,065** businesses moved into or were created in enterprise zones
- 11,151** businesses received technical assistance from EZDAs
- 12,982** new jobs were created by businesses located in enterprise zones

During the timeframe of July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, the following activity levels were reported by DOR:

- \$15,767,116** state tax incentives were approved by DOR
- 1,497** state tax incentive applications approved by DOR

State approved enterprise zone incentives **decreased** by more than \$532,565 as compared to the prior period when \$16,299,681 in state tax incentives were approved by DOR.

Local incentives provided by city and county governments totaled more than **\$11 million**. The local incentives **decreased** by over \$41 million as compared to the prior period when \$52,900,706 were provided by local governments. City and county governments received a substantial amount of federal and state support to supplement their revitalization efforts, totaling more than \$45 million during the FY 2013/2014 time period.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

During the 2014 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature did not make any revisions to the Florida Enterprise Zone Program.

EXPIRATION DATE

The Florida Enterprise Zone Program is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2015.

BACKGROUND

An enterprise zone is a specific geographic area targeted for economic revitalization. Currently, there are 65 designated enterprise zones in Florida. Florida established one of the first enterprise zone programs in the country in 1982 to encourage economic growth and investment in distressed areas by offering tax advantages to businesses investing in them.

The Florida Enterprise Zone Program offers corporate and sales tax credits for hiring residents of the zones to businesses located within enterprise zones. Sales tax refunds are offered to property owners that purchase building materials and businesses that purchase business equipment for use in an enterprise zone. Corporate income tax credits are available to businesses that construct or expand their facilities in an enterprise zone. In some enterprise zones, a sales tax exemption on electrical energy is available new or expanding businesses. In addition to the state enterprise zone incentives, local governments also provide a number of incentives to attract new businesses, and help existing businesses expand.

In 1994, the Florida Legislature passed the Florida Enterprise Zone Act of 1994, which significantly revised the existing program. As a result, the existing zones were repealed on December 31, 1994, and parameters were established for designation of new zones. Administrative responsibilities of the program were transferred from the Department of Community Affairs to the Department of Commerce. The jobs tax credit eligibility criteria were revised to require both the business and employee to reside within an enterprise zone.

During the summer of 1995, local governments completed and submitted competitive applications for new enterprise zone designations. The application process was patterned after the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community programs offered by the federal government. On July 1, 1995, 19 new enterprise zones were designated in urban and rural communities throughout the state. On July 1, 1996, the administrative responsibilities for the program were transferred to the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED).

In 2005, the Florida Legislature extended the program for 10 years and provided existing enterprise zones an opportunity to have their zones be re-designated (with boundary amendments).

Effective January 1, 2006, OTTED approved 53 Enterprise Zone Re-designation Application Packages. The 53 enterprise zones will be in effect until December 31, 2015.

Subsequently, the Florida Legislature authorized and OTTED approved an enterprise zone in the following jurisdictions:

- Columbia County
- City of Lakeland
- City of Ocala
- City of Palm Bay
- Lake County
- Levy County
- Martin County
- Sumter County
- Suwannee County

In 2010, the Florida Legislature amended the definition of real property by excluding “condominiums” within the Building Materials Sales Tax Refund incentive. The Legislature also directed the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to review and evaluate the Enterprise Zone Program.

In October 2011, OTTED became part of the newly created Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). As a result, the Florida Enterprise Zone Program is now managed by the Bureau of Business and Economic Incentives within DEO’s Division of Strategic Business Development.

In 2012, DEO approved three application packages and designated an enterprise zone in the following jurisdictions:

- Charlotte County
- Citrus County
- City of Winter Haven.

In 2012, DEO approved four Enterprise Zone Boundary Amendment Requests from the following jurisdictions:

- City of Ocala
- Glades County
- Palm Beach County
- Suwannee County.

In 2013, DEO approved ten Enterprise Zone Boundary Amendment Requests from the following jurisdictions:

- City of Bradenton
- Gadsden County
- Glades County
- Gulf County
- Highlands County
- Hillsborough County
- Madison County
- Okeechobee County
- Taylor County
- Washington County.

ENTERPRISE ZONE INCENTIVES

The Florida Enterprise Zone Program includes financial incentives which are offered to businesses to encourage private investment and increase employment opportunities for enterprise zone residents. These incentives are available to businesses that are located within a designated zone. A statutory reference is provided for each incentive.

- **Enterprise Zone Jobs Tax Credit (Sales & Use Tax) (s. 212.096, F.S.)**
Businesses located in a zone, that collect and pay Florida sales and use tax, are allowed a monthly credit against their sales tax due on wages paid to new employees who have been employed for at least three months and are residents of a Florida enterprise zone or a rural county.
- **Enterprise Zone Jobs Tax Credit (Corporate Income Tax) (s. 220.181, F.S.)**
Businesses located in a zone that pay Florida Corporate Income Tax are allowed a corporate income tax credit for wages paid to new employees who have been employed for at least three months and are residents of a Florida enterprise zone or a rural county.
- **Enterprise Zone Property Tax Credit (Corporate Income Tax) (s. 220.182, F.S.)**
New or expanded businesses located in a zone are allowed a credit on their Florida Corporate Income Tax equal to 96 percent of ad valorem taxes paid on the new or improved property (maximum of \$25,000.00 or \$50,000.00 tax credit) for each eligible location.
- **Sales Tax Refund for Building Materials (s. 212.08(5)(g), F.S.)**
A refund is available for sales taxes paid on the purchase of building materials used to rehabilitate real property located in a zone. Effective July 1, 2010, condominium projects are no longer eligible for a sales tax refund.
- **Sales Tax Refund for Business Machinery and Equipment (s. 212.08(5)(h), F.S.)**
A refund is available for sales taxes paid on the purchase of certain business property, (e.g. tangible personal property such as office equipment, warehouse equipment, and some industrial machinery and equipment), which is used exclusively in a zone for at least three years. The minimum purchase price of equipment is \$5,000 per unit.
- **Sales Tax Exemption for Electrical Energy (s. 212.08(15), F.S.)**
A 50 percent sales tax exemption is available to qualified businesses located in a zone on the purchase of electrical energy. The exemption is only available if the municipality in which the business is located has passed an ordinance to exempt qualified enterprise zone businesses from 50 percent of the municipal utility tax.
- **Community Contribution Tax Credit Program (s. 212.08 (5)(p), s. 220.183 & s. 624.5105, F.S.)**
Businesses located anywhere in Florida are eligible for a tax credit of up to 50 percent on Florida Corporate Income Tax or Insurance Premium Tax as well as a sales tax refund for eligible donations made to approved community development projects
- **Exemption for a Licensed Child Care Facility operating in an Enterprise Zone (s. 196.095, F.S.)**
An exemption of ad valorem property tax for childcare facilities operating in an enterprise zone. The child care facility must be owned and operated by the property owner as well as meet the requirements of s. 402.302, F.S.

ENTERPRISE ZONE INCENTIVES APPROVALS

The Florida Department of Revenue (DOR) approved the following state incentives during the period between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014:

STATE INCENTIVE	TAX INCENTIVE TYPE	APPROVED AMOUNT	NUMBER OF APPROVALS
Sales Tax Exemption for Electrical Energy	Sales Tax	\$751,485	79
Property Tax Credit	Corporate Income Tax	\$1,191,181	17
Building Materials Sales Tax Refund	Sales Tax	\$1,194,130	317
Business Equipment Sales Tax Refund	Sales Tax	\$1,561,339	834
Jobs Tax Credit	Corporate Income Tax	\$4,237,163	47
Jobs Tax Credit	Sales Tax	\$6,831,758	203
TOTALS		\$15,767,116	1,497

The amount of state incentives of **\$15,767,116** for FY 2013/14 represents a **three point four (3.4) percent decrease** from the **\$16,299,681** of state tax incentives approved in FY 2012/2013 time period.

Please refer to **Appendix A** of this report for a summary of the state incentives approved in each enterprise zone for sales tax credits or refunds. Corporate income tax credits are reported as a total for all 65 enterprise zones and are not broken out per enterprise zone. Corporate income tax credits are generally claimed in consolidated corporate income tax returns and figures are not identified by specific enterprise zones by DOR.

AGENDA ITEM 7 - C

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT and DOMESTIC SECURITY PLANNING

Informational Summary

Regional Hazardous Materials Program

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council staffs the District 2 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) which is responsible for implementing the federal Emergency Planning and the Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) for the Council's nine-county region. The four primary activities of the LEPC are hazardous materials planning, training, emergency exercises and public outreach.

The most recent quarterly meeting of the District 2 LEPC was held on October 15, 2014 at the Tallahassee/Leon Public Safety Complex. The next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2015 at the same location. Staff attended the USCG Sector Mobile, Florida Area Committee Meeting on December 9, 2014 in Eastpoint, Florida. Staff attended the quarterly meetings of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for Hazardous Materials in Daytona Beach, Florida on January 20-21, 2015. The next round of SERC meetings will be held on April 2-3, 2015 in Tallahassee.

Hazardous Materials Training

Staff sponsored the following training course since the last ARPC Board Meeting:

Date	Course	Location	Hours	Participants
12/10/14	8-hr HazMat Technician Refresher Course	TFD Training Division Facility	8	11

Staff coordinated one 8-hr HazMat Technician Level Refresher course on December 10, 2014 for District 2 responders. Staff also scheduled one 16-hr HazMat Operations Level course in Jefferson County on February 7 & 14, 2015. Staff is working with Franklin Emergency Management personnel to schedule one Awareness level course in the first quarter of 2015. Staff also worked towards state approval of funding reimbursement for three Tallahassee Fire Department HazMat Team personnel to attend the 2015 HazMat Symposium in Volusia County in January 2015.

The Council recently received the 2014-15 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) contract from the state. The HMEP contract saw modest increases in both the training and planning categories.

Hazards Analysis Update

Each year, staff visits 50% of the Region's (excluding Jackson and Wakulla Counties) Section 302 facilities to verify Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) inventories and emergency contact information. Section 302 facilities store EHSs at or above the established

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) thresholds. Examples of common EHSs in the Apalachee Region include chlorine, sulfur dioxide, sulfuric acid and anhydrous ammonia. The site visits aid in creating an electronic hazards analysis (HA) summary that includes worst-case spill/release data. The information is used by first responders and emergency management planners. Staff has recently received the FY 2014-15 HA contract and has begun preliminary planning work. Site visits will likely begin in late January.

HMEP Planning Project

Staff completed the *Hazards Analysis Facility Summary* for the District II LEPC's annual Federal Fiscal Year 2013-14 HMEP planning project. This project resulted in a hard copy binder of organized facility data to be used by dispatchers in each of the Region's counties. The FY 2014-15 HMEP planning project will be a full-scale hazardous materials exercise with planning efforts beginning in February. The exercise will involve an overturned tanker truck that releases hazardous materials into the environment. The exercise may involve night operations.

Staff also attended the HMEP Planning and Training workshop in Gainesville with FDEM staff on December 16, 2014. The workshop helped LEPC staff contacts better understand the requirements of the U.S. DOT HMEP grant that funds the training and planning activities.

LEPC Exercise Assistance

Staff also assisted the Tallahassee Community College with a hazardous materials tabletop exercise that was held on November 21, 2014. Staff was an evaluator for the exercise. The scenario involved a chemical release inside one of the chemistry labs.

Domestic Security Program - Region 2 Domestic Security Task Force

Seven domestic security task forces were formed in Florida after the events of September 11, 2001 and in accordance with F.S. 943.0312. The main responsibilities of the Task Forces are to improve Florida's ability to detect and prevent terrorist threats, collect and disseminate intelligence and investigative information, protect critical infrastructure, coordinate the delivery of training and support the purchase of proper equipment for first responders and Task Force response teams. ARPC staff serves as the Emergency Management Planner for the Region 2/North Florida RDSTF.

Exercises

The Planner served on the planning team for a post-disaster recovery plan tabletop exercise in Leon County. The exercise, scheduled to take place November 24th was canceled due to an emergency event. The Planner assisted county emergency management offices develop funding templates for evacuation and mass sheltering exercises in 2015. Counties around the Region are planning exercises to take place in the spring of 2015.

Planning

The Planner serves as the Coordinator for the Big Bend Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) and has worked with the Leadership Group to develop a strategic plan and

response procedures to enhance operational organization of the volunteer organizations in the Region. The COAD has formed a working group to develop a regional mass feeding strategy. During the quarter, the COAD activated in support of the localized flooding event which occurred in Leon County over the Christmas Holiday. The Planner will be updating the "EM Toolkits," a subset of the Regional Evacuation Study after new SLOSH runs for the Region are complete.

Meetings and Workshops

The RDSTF Planner attended the following meetings and workshops since the last board meeting:

- RDSTF Planner Meeting, November 17, 2014
- RDSTF Quarterly Meeting, December 10, 2015
- Big Bend COAD Leadership Council Meeting, January 8, 2015
- State Agriculture Response Team Workshop, January 12 – 14, 2015

Emergency Management Program

The ARPC has received funding to update inundation maps for the impacted counties in the Region and is working with county emergency management directors on the project. The update to the Storm Tide Atlas for Franklin, Gulf, Jefferson, Leon and Wakulla is complete. The update to the Depth Tide Atlas will be complete by the end of January. Staff is assisting the FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to update the Standard Operating Guideline for the State Animal Response Team and conduct a functional exercise for the FL Integrated Rapid Response Team. The ARPC has received grant funds from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to conduct outreach and assist the business community in Franklin County to develop or enhance disaster preparedness plans.

North Florida Medical Reserve Corps

Staff continues to serve as the Coordinator for the North Florida Medical Reserve Corps which serves an eight-county region in the Big Bend. The North Florida MRC has supported Leon County with school health screenings and Ebola response planning. The North Florida MRC membership includes more than 50 licensed medical volunteers from around the Region. An Orientation Session for new volunteers is scheduled for January 28, 2015.

ACTION NEEDED

None

AGENDA ITEM 7 – D

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM

Informational Summary

Board Member Appointments

The Executive Director appointed the following members to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards, effective January 1, 2015.

COUNTY	MEMBER	POSITION	TERM ENDING
Calhoun	Pat Cobb	Department of Elder Affairs	NA
Jackson	Hon. Clint Pate	Elected Official/Chairman	NA
Liberty	Hon. Jim Johnson	Elected Official/Chairman	NA

ACTION NEEDED

Motion to approve the Executive Director’s appointments to the designated local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards.

2014-2015 TD Local Coordinating Board Meeting Schedule

COUNTY	TIME & PLACE	Dates
Calhoun	2 PM CT Sr. Center Blountstown	September 16, 2014, November 10, 2014, February 9, 2015, June 8, 2015
Franklin	10 AM ET Courthouse Apalachicola	September 10, 2014, November 12, 2014, February 11, 2015, June 10, 2015
Gulf	2 PM ET Gulf Transp. Office Port St. Joe	September 10, 2014, November 12, 2014, February 11, 2015, June 10, 2015
Jackson	10 AM CT JTrans Marianna	September 8, 2014, November 10, 2014, February 9, 2015, June 8, 2015
Liberty	2 PM ET Civic Center Bristol	September 9, 2014, November 13, 2014, February 10, 2015, June 9, 2015

Meeting locations, dates and times may change.
Contact staff for current information regarding the meetings.

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM

2014 Annual Performance Report

	Calhoun	Franklin	Gulf	Jackson	Liberty	Totals
TRIP PURPOSES						
Medical	4,960	5,179	7,696	16,815	18,120	52,770
Employment	946	141	11	11,185	184	12,467
Education	764	1,293	10,549	3,661	8,029	24,296
Nutrition	1,551	13	3,773	5,320	2,186	12,843
Life Sustaining	463	1,438	582	4,824	4,307	11,614
TOTAL TRIPS	8,684	8,064	22,611	41,805	32,826	113,990
Unmet Trips	0	4	35	249	12	300
Passengers	442	314	441	1,027	1,480	3,704
Driver Hours	9,360	16,271	12,186	31,200	21,005	90,022
Employees	10	14	12	26	18	80
No Shows	29	4	73	279	25	410
Complaints	0	0	1	2	1	4
Commendations	1	0	1	0	4	6
Vehicles	13	15	12	27	19	86
Vehicle Miles	150,848	269,480	262,658	572,677	383,063	1,638,726
Revenue Miles	124,031	269,381	261,272	443,006	363,855	1,461,545
Road Calls	4	1	0	3	1	9
Accidents	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue	\$539,732	\$553,881	\$524,557	\$1,377,768	\$440,399	\$3,436,337
Total Expenses	\$511,142	\$532,427	\$479,696	\$1,373,861	\$435,113	\$3,332,239
Cost/Trip	\$58.86	\$66.03	\$21.22	\$32.86	\$13.26	\$38.45
Cost/Veh. Mile	\$3.39	\$1.98	\$1.83	\$2.40	\$1.14	\$2.15

12/4/2014

ACTION NEEDED

None

AGENDA ITEM 9

CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS OF INTEREST

Informational Summary

1. Letter from North FL Economic Development Partnership.

ACTION NEEDED

None



NORTH FLORIDA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Board of Directors

Alex McCoy, Chairman
*Vice President, Economic Development
Putnam County Chamber*

Julie Conley, Vice-Chair
Executive Director, Jefferson County EDC

Sheryl Rehberg, Secretary
Executive Director, CareerSource North Florida

Bobby Pickels, Treasurer
North Florida District Manager, Duke Energy

Gordon Crews, Commissioner
Baker County BOCC

Darryl Register, Exec. Director
Baker County Chamber of Commerce

Ross Chandler, Commissioner
Bradford County BOCC

Pam Whittle, Director
N FL Regional Chamber of Commerce

Don Taylor, Executive Director
Citrus County Economic Development Council

Jody Robson, Commissioner
Dixie County BOCC

Mike Cassidy, County Manager
Dixie County BOCC

Todd Gray, Commissioner
Gilchrist County BOCC

Bobby Crosby, County Manager
Gilchrist County BOCC

Susan Ramsey, Exec. Director
Hamilton County Development Authority

Hines Boyd, Commissioner
Jefferson County BOCC

Ricky Lyons, Clerk of the Court
Lafayette County

Dave Pieklik, EDO
Nature Coast Business Development Council

Rick Davis, Commissioner
Madison County BOCC

Allen Cherry, Immediate Past Chairman
*President, Madison County
Development Council*

Chip Laibl, Commissioner
Putnam County BOCC

Wesley Wainwright, Commissioner
Suwannee County BOCC

Alvin Jackson, Director
Economic Development, Suwannee County

Scott Frederick, Executive Director
Taylor County Development Authority

Jimmy Tallman, Commissioner
Union County BOCC

Kellie Hendricks Connell
*Clerk of Court
Union County BOCC*

Dave Cobb, External Affairs Manager
Florida Power and Light

Scott Koons, Executive Director
NCF Regional Planning Council

Dr. James Surrency, Executive Director
NEFEC

Jeff Hendry, Executive Director
NFEDP

Chris Rietow
Executive Director
Apalachee Regional Planning Council
2507 Callaway Rd, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Dear Mr. Rietow: *Chris*

On behalf of the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, our Board of Directors, and our entire membership, I want to thank you for your willingness to participate as a speaker at the 2014 Florida Economic Development Summit held November 5-7, 2014 in St. Augustine Florida. The feedback and evaluations on the Summit were simply off the charts and your support and participation were a critical part of making the Summit a tremendous success.

We had nearly 175 attendees at this year's event including county and municipal elected officials, state, regional and local Economic Development professionals, Board Members and Executive staff from multiple regional CareerSource offices as well as the Florida State CareerSource office, and private service providers and corporate supporters, among many others. We had a tremendous response to our First Annual Legislative Rural Economic Development Champions luncheon where we recognized Senators Denise Grimsley and Bill Montford, and Florida House of Representative Members Halsey Beshears and Elizabeth Porter. In addition, Diane Scholz of the Florida Institute of Government was recognized as a Rural Economic Development Champion for her tireless and selfless work on behalf of Rural Florida.

Again, thank you for being an essential part of this Summit and our organization. Please contact me at (850) 487-1870 or e-mail to jhendry@iog.fsu.edu if we can ever be of service to you.

With Gratitude,

Jeff Hendry, Executive Director
NFEDP

3200 COMMONWEALTH BLVD, SUITE 7 • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32303
PHONE: 850-487-1870 • FAX: 850-487-0041

