

# Apalachee Regional Planning Council

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday – May 28, 2015

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



*286<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting*

ARPC OFFICE – Conservation Centre Conference Room

2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200

Tallahassee, Florida

[www.thearpc.com](http://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**

RANDY MERRITT, CHAIRMAN (WAKULLA)  
STEVE CUTSHAW, VICE-CHAIRMAN (LIBERTY)  
JANE SAULS, SECRETARY/TREASURER (LEON)

FRCA POLICY BOARD MEMBERS: JANE SAULS, \_\_\_\_\_ AND LISA MILLER

**Calhoun County**

Darrell McDougald  
Wes Johnston  
Don Stephens

County Commissioner  
Mayor, Town of Altha  
Governor's Appointee

**Franklin County**

Pinki Jackel  
Brenda LaPaz  
Dawn Radford

County Commissioner  
Commissioner, City of Carrabelle  
Governor's Appointee

**Gadsden County**

Brenda Holt  
*Vacant*  
Henry Grant

County Commissioner  
*Elected Municipal Appointee*  
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 Brimner

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

**Ex-Officio Members**

Benjamin Blitch  
Christina Coger  
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 – MAY 28, 2015**  
10:30 AM Eastern Time / 9:30 AM Central Time

**AGENDA**

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9. <u>ARPC 2014 Haz Mat Exercise Video “Operation Deep Freeze”</u> – Chris Rietow	
10. <u>Adjournment</u>	
<i>Lunch will be served immediately following the meeting.</i>	

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

**MINUTES – April 2, 2015**

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

Chairman Merritt called the meeting to order at 10:30 am, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves for the Roll Call.

**ARPC Board Members in Attendance:**

Calhoun County	Don Stephens	Governor's Appointee
	Wes Johnston	Altha Mayor
Franklin County	Smokey Parrish	Franklin County Commissioner
Gadsden County	Brenda Holt	Gadsden County Commissioner
	Henry Grant	Governor's Appointee
Gulf County	Ward McDaniel	Gulf County Commissioner
	Tony Justice	Wewahitchka City Commissioner
	Michael Hammond	Governor's Appointee
Jefferson County	John Jones	Monticello City Councilman
Leon County	Jane Sauls	Leon County Commissioner
	Lisa Miller	Governor's Appointee
Liberty County	Woody Stewart	Bristol City Councilman
	Steve Cutshaw	Governor's Appointee
Wakulla County	Randy Merritt	Wakulla County Commissioner
	Ed Brimner	Governor's Appointee

**Ex-Officio Members in Attendance**

Virgie Bowen	FL Dept. of Transportation
Diane Scholz	Enterprise Florida
Paul Thorpe	Northwest FL Water Management District

**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 Program
Keith McCarron	Senior Planner: Community Development
Janice Watson	Finance Director/Loan Coordinator

**Others in Attendance**

Christina Coger	Northwest FL Water Management District
Sheri Coven	FL Regional Councils Association
Linda Little	FL Dept. of Transportation
Ernie Padgett	Liaison for Congresswoman Gwen Graham
Linda Padgett	Jackson County Citizen
Bernard Piawah	Quincy Planning Director
Shawn Wood	Gadsden County Sheriff's Office

Chairman Merritt 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 Steve Cutshaw to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Item 3: Consent Action Items**

Chairman Merritt reviewed and presented the following Consent Agenda Action Items:

- A. Minutes – January 22, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Financial Reports for the Periods ending January 31, 2015 and February 28, 2015
- C. Regional Report on the Killearn Lakes DRI Notice of Proposed Change
- D. A Resolution supporting the Extension of the FL Enterprise Zone Act

**A motion was made by John Jones to approve the Consent Agenda Action Items as presented. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**

A copy of the Resolution is included to these minutes as “Attachment A”

**Item 4: Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Merritt briefly reviewed the following ARPC Program Reports prepared by ARPC staff and included in the Board Package beginning on page 31. He asked the Board for any questions in reference to the Program Reports.

- A. Community Development
- B. Economic Development
- C. Emergency Management
- D. Revolving Loan Fund

Mr. Rietow reported that ARPC staff had secured funding from the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for the preparation of the FY 14/15 Small Quantity Generator of Hazardous Waste Assessments (SQG) for Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty and Wakulla Counties. Mr. Rietow explained that previously, the above listed Counties were required by the State to pay for the cost of preparing these assessments out of County General Revenue funds, a service that would now be provided by ARPC staff at no cost to the local government this year and potentially and additional four years.

Chairman Merritt asked what portion of the Wakulla Environmental Institute (WEI) was scheduled for completion by January 2016 as stated in the program report. Mr. Ballister explained that Phase 1 which was scheduled for completion by the beginning of the January 2016 semester was a classroom building and a connector road. He also noted that Tallahassee Community College was anticipating a 100 million dollar investment in Wakulla County in conjunction with the future development of the WEI over the next 20 years.

Mr. Rietow reported that ARPC staff had successfully assisted the Jefferson County Commission on a quick turn around update of its Land Development Code as required by the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity.

Mr. Rietow noted that all RLF Borrowers were current as of 3/31/15.

**Item 5: Executive Director's Report**

**SB 484 and HB 933 Update:** Mr. Rietow updated the Board on the progress of SB 484 and HB 933 through the 2015 Legislative process and as they directly relate to the ARPC. He reviewed the letter to Governor Scott prepared by the FL Regional Councils Association (FRCA) which outlined the current and potential functions of Florida's Regional Planning Councils (RPCs). Mr. Rietow explained that the bills as filed had included a potential FY 15/16 State appropriation for the RPCs, but noted that the funding had recently been stripped out of both bills. Sheri Coven noted that a \$200,000 placeholder was still in place with regard to SB 484. He noted the SB 484 talking points included on page 57 of the Board Package and encouraged the Board to be in close contact with the ARPC Legislative Delegation on the importance of the ARPC to the Apalachee Region. Chairman Merritt asked Mr. Rietow to keep the Board informed by email on the progress of the bills as the information becomes available.

**Executive Committee Report:** Mr. Rietow reported that the ARPC Executive Committee met on March 2, 2015. He directed the Board to the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting included in the Board Package on page 59. Mr. Rietow also noted the Resolution approved by the Executive Committee requesting an extension from EDA to reconcile the Revolving Loan Fund Reports with the ARPC Audited Financial Statements. He explained that the RFP for Audit Services in reference to the ARPC RLF Program Audit had been released and to date three proposals had been received, which would be reviewed and ranked by the Executive Committee during the month of April.

**Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Update:** Mr. Rietow reviewed with the Board the FRCA Monthly Activity Reports for January and February included in the Board Package beginning on Page 63. He announced that Sheri Coven would be leaving the FL Regional Councils Association on April 15<sup>th</sup> for a career advancement opportunity in the private sector. The Board thanked Ms. Coven for her exceptional service to the ARPC both as a former employee and also through her role with FRCA. Ms. Coven assured the Board that she would be available to assist in any way needed during the transition process and until her position of Intergovernmental Services Director for FRCA could be filled.

**Item 6: Council Attorney's Report**

Council Attorney Ed Blanton reported that he continued to coordinate with ARPC staff on the disputed costs identified in the ARPC audit response and would be coordinating further dialogue between the ARPC RLF Auditor, ARPC Staff and appropriate funding agencies as the RLF Audit process continues.

**Item 7: Rural County Summit**

Mr. Rietow introduced Major Shawn Wood, Director of the Gadsden County Emergency Management Department. Major Wood reviewed for the Board the agenda and presenters for

the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural County Summit titled *Critical Decisions in Critical Incidents* to be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Florida Public Safety Institute in Gadsden County. He gave the Board detailed information on each of the presenters scheduled to speak on their personal experiences as responders during many of the nation’s most recent recognizable disasters. Major Wood explained that there was no charge to attend the Summit, advance registration was required and that 95% of the 300 seats had already been reserved. He also thanked the Board for their continued support of the Summit through the expertise of the ARPC staff in the development and successful coordination of the first three Summits, noting that the event would have never grown to its current magnitude without the assistance and direction of ARPC Director of Emergency Planning Programs, Denise Imbler. Chairman Merritt thanked Major Wood for his presentation and encouraged any local governments that did not have staff already registered for the Summit to contact Major Wood as soon as possible.

### **Item 8: Board Member Reports**

Chairman Merritt discussed with the Board his intent to establish the ARPC Board meetings as a true regional conference for ARPC Board Members to learn from and partner with each other on ways to operate their respective local governments more effectively, and when necessary address issues with a strong regional voice where a single county voice would be less effective. He began the discussion by suggesting that in the future the ARPC might consider establishing a Legislative Committee for the purpose of determining a Legislative agenda for the ARPC and its local governments again stressing that the ARPC could be a much stronger legislative influence than it currently is by maximizing the strength of nine counties taking a unified position on a single issue. Mr. Rietow added that several of the other FL RPCs routinely establish legislative priorities. Chairman Merritt asked Mr. Rietow to contact Chris Doolin of the Small County Coalition about attending future ARPC meeting to update the Board on pertinent regional issues. The Board discussed the importance of routinely inviting the ARPC Legislative Delegation to attend ARPC meetings as well. Lisa Miller suggested that when Senator Montford held Town Meetings throughout the Region it also might be advantageous for several Board Members to attend those Meetings on behalf of the ARPC.

Mr. Rietow reported that Representative Williams had stated at a recent Leon County Legislative Dialogue meeting that the Enterprise Zone program will likely sunset this year. Rep. Williams also reported that it would likely be re-introduced in another form in January 2016 during the winter legislative session.

Brenda Holt discussed the potential negative impacts for Gadsden County if Medicaid funding were to be discontinued. There was an extended discussion on how the Medicaid issue would immediately affect other local government budgets in the Region as well as the State budget.

Chairman Merritt encouraged the Counties to look for opportunities to partner together on purchasing large dollar items. He reported that Wakulla County had recently saved a tremendous amount of money on a lease purchase for a motor grader by tagging on to a bid already negotiated by Suwannee County. Chairman Merritt also reported that Wakulla County had been able to successfully increase revenues while continuing to lower property taxes through the establishment of a consumer services tax attached to local utility bills, a practice which had done a more adequate job of spreading the necessary County revenue increase

among all the citizens than previous property tax increases had done, due to the large of amount of mobile homes and tax exempt properties in the Wakulla County.

John Jones noted that Jefferson County routinely partners with Jefferson County on holding amnesty or hazardous waste days.

Chairman Merritt reported that Wakulla County had successfully established mandatory garbage service, a practice he was originally opposed to, explaining that citizens are paying \$196 per year for full house and pick-up and recycling. He offered to discuss the process and share information with any other Counties in the Region considering the issue.

Brenda Holt reported that a previous Gadsden County Commission had approved a Citizens Bill of Rights which required a super majority of the Board to change zoning designations. Ms. Holt noted that this has continued to be a stumbling block for the Gadsden County Commission as they work to bring new job-creating industry into the County. She also reported that a gaming workshop had been held last week in Gretna, with representatives of Creek Entertainment to work on plans and initiatives for securing the gaming expansions desired to bring the facility up to full operation and the likewise creation of 100 jobs. Ms. Holt also stated that Gadsden County was continually pursuing ways to expand the hospital and asked the Board for any suggestions on securing technical and financial assistance for this endeavor.

Wes Johnston reported that since the last meeting there had been a ground-breaking for the long awaited new K-12 Altha School.

Brenda Holt reported that Gadsden County hosted a luncheon meeting with the Legislative Delegation at the Capitol during March which had provided a very beneficial opportunity for the Commission to discuss current issues face-to-face with its Legislative Delegation. Ms. Holt suggested that the ARPC might consider holding a RPC Luncheon meeting with the Region's Legislators during the 2016 session. The Board agreed to pursue the idea and Chairman Merritt asked Lisa Miller to head up the Legislative Committee for the ARPC and coordinate with Mr. Rietow on a RPC legislative luncheon for the 2016 Session.

Ward McDaniel reported that Gulf County had secured the necessary permits to move forward with the dredging of the shipping channel at the Port of Port St. Joe. The Board discussed at length the positive impacts that an active deep-water port in the City of Port St. Joe would bring to the entire Apalachee Region. Mr. McDaniel reported that the Gulf County Commission continued to work with the FDOT on the development of the Gulf to Bay roadway network stressing that maximum benefit for Gulf, Calhoun, and Jackson Counties as well as the Port, would be received if the traffic continued to travel from I-10 to the Port via Highway 71, which would need to be widened to four-lanes in order to accommodate the traffic generated by a fully operationally Port facility.

Ernie Padgett, Economic Development Liaison for US Representative Gwen Graham, voiced his support for the mission and the work of the ARPC. He explained that by relating his experiences to Congresswoman Graham as a former Jackson County Commissioner, ARPC Board Member and ARPC Executive Director, he had made her aware of the potential opportunities for the Federal Government to assist the Region through the programs of the ARPC. He also noted that he had stressed to her the efficiency of being able to discuss current

issues with local government leaders from over half of her district in an already assembled forum. Mr. Padgett reported that he had been provided a Board meeting schedule by ARPC staff and would schedule a Board meeting attendance by Representative Graham as soon as her schedule would allow. He thanked the ARPC Board and staff for their continued service to the citizens of the Region and agreed to continue close contact with ARPC staff to stay abreast of ways that Representative Graham's office can assist in the economic development initiatives of the ARPC.

**Item 9: Ex-Officio Member Reports / Public Comment**

Diane Scholz reported that Enterprise Florida had appointed Bill Johnson of Miami-Dade County as its new director. Chairman Merritt asked Ms. Scholz to discuss with the Board the programs and function of Enterprise Florida (EF). Ms. Scholz explained that EF served as a public/private partnership for the State and as the interacting arm of the State charged with implementing incentives approved by the Legislature for companies considering locating in Florida. She noted that EF is available to provide assistance to local governments, economic development organizations as well as private sector companies, specializing in matching prospective company needs with community assets and resources. Ms. Scholz suggested having a representative from EF attend a future Board meeting to make a presentation on the many diversified services they offer.

Virgie Bowen reported that she had participated in the Gadsden County Community Asset Mapping Project, sponsored by the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) along with Bruce Ballister and Janice Watson of the ARPC. She noted that it was a very successful endeavor and encouraged other communities to apply for the FDEO program in the future. Ms. Bowen explained that the discontinued Liaison Contract between the FL Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) and the ARPC had nothing to do with the ARPC performance over the past 5-year contract period; but instead was simply an internal decision by FDOT to do more of its program work in-house and as a direct result of operating budget cutbacks by the State.

**Item 10: Council / Public Comment**

Chairman Merritt asked for any further public comments and there were none. He announced that the next ARPC Board meeting would be held on May 28, 2015 at 10:30 am ET, in the same location.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

APPROVED BY THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON MAY 28, 2015.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

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Randy Merritt  
Chairman

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Chris Rietow  
Executive Director

**ATTACHMENT "A"**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-2**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
SUPPORTING THE EXTENSION OF THE FLORIDA ENTERPRISE ZONE ACT**

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**WHEREAS**, the Apalachee Regional Planning was established in 1977 by an Interlocal Agreement, operates as mandated by Florida Statutes Chapter 186, and is more particularly described in the Florida Administrative Code Chapter 29L; and

**WHEREAS**, the rural, nine (9) county Region served by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council suffers from severe and chronic economic distress and the majority of which has been designated by the State of Florida as a Rural Area of Opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Enterprise Zone Act was created by the Florida Legislature in 1994, to offer an assortment of tax incentives to businesses that choose to create employment within an Enterprise Zone, a specific geographic area targeted for economic revitalization; and

**WHEREAS**, rural areas do not attract and retain the same types of businesses that urban areas do, and likewise rural Enterprise Zones are given different tax credits through the various incentives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Legislature established a repeal date, or "sunset" of the current Enterprise Zone program on December 31, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the Enterprise Zone program provides valuable competitive tools available to rural municipalities and counties to encourage job creation for residents residing in Enterprise Zones and tax incentives to induce private enterprise for investment within the zones; now therefore, be it

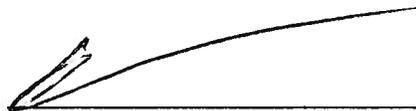
**RESOLVED**, that the Apalachee Regional Planning Council supports the State of Florida's extension of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act for an additional ten (10) years beginning January 1, 2016; and

**RESOLVED**, that the current Enterprise Zone boundaries within counties in designated Rural Areas of Opportunity be extended to apply to the entire county; and

**RESOLVED**, that appropriate legislation, hereto, by the State of Florida be enacted.

*Duly adopted by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council Board of Directors  
on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2015.*

SIGNED:



Randy Merritt  
Chairman

ATTEST:



Chris Rietow  
Executive Director

## **AGENDA ITEM 4**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Randy Merritt**

The following items will be reported and presented to the Board for discussion, review and action if needed:

#### **A. ARPC Staff Reports**

Please read carefully the following ARPC staff reports. To allow adequate time for the Board Member Reports and Regional Discussion, staff will not give oral presentations on the attached reports. However, staff will be present at the meeting to answer any questions from the board on the staff program activities since the last meeting.

#### **B. Appointment of New Municipal FRCA Policy Board Member**

Delores Madison is no longer eligible to serve as the Gadsden County Municipal Elected Board Member and likewise the ARPC's Municipal Representative on the FRCA Policy Board. The Chairman has the authority to appoint someone to fill this position for the remainder of the term which ends on 12/31/16.

#### **C. Executive Committee Meeting Report**

Attached is a copy of the agenda for the Executive Committee Meeting to be held on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am just prior to the Board meeting. A brief report will be given on the action and discussion of the Executive Committee meeting.

## AGENDA ITEM 4 – A – 1

### Community Development – Keith McCarron & Joe Crozier

**FDOT Work Program Liaison Contract:** The five-year Joint Participation Agreement between the ARPC and the FDOT District 3 for liaison services to rural counties concludes on June 30, 2015 and the FDOT has determined that they will be handling that function in-house beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. ARPC staff will be giving Work Program updates at county commission meetings in May and June to inform local officials in Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Liberty and Jackson counties about the Work Program process and gather input for the next Work Program update. Staff will compile a report with information gathered at the commission meetings and forward it to FDOT District 3 Work Program and Planning staff in June 2015.

**Jackson County Transportation Concurrency Management System Maintenance:** Staff is assisting the Jackson County Department of Community Development with an update of their Concurrency Management System model used to monitor level of service on the state and local road network.

**FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) Competitive Florida Partnership and Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant Opportunities:** ARPC staff is available to provide technical assistance to member local governments with proposals for DEO's *Competitive Florida Partnership* and *Community Planning Technical Assistance* grant programs. The Competitive Florida Partnership program provides funding for community asset mapping, community competitive analysis, local economic development strategies and peer-to-peer constructive learning. The Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant is intended to assist counties and municipalities in meeting the requirements of the Comprehensive Planning Act by addressing critical planning issues and promoting innovative planning solutions. Proposals for both programs are due by June 17, 2015.

**Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program:** The FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has agreed to provide financial assistance for the ARPC Small Quantity Generator Assessment, Notification and Verification Program (SQG Program) for FY 2014-2015. Previously the ARPC had to be paid out of each of the seven counties' General Revenue funds. For FY 14/15, all of the ARPC's work on the SQG Assessment Program will be paid for by the FDEP at no additional cost to the Counties listed above.

Upon receipt of the notice to proceed from the FDEP on April 6<sup>th</sup>, ARPC staff immediately began work on the program, by searching business records for all applicable counties, and seeking potential small quantity generators that might not already exist in the FDEP database. Businesses that will be considered for this program are primarily in the automotive repair industry in the Apalachee region. However, drycleaners, medical offices, and others are also involved. These businesses, as well as all other listed businesses, have been sent notification letters explaining their hazardous waste responsibilities and information about the SQG program. ARPC staff attended a weeklong New Inspector Training course in Sarasota beginning on May 11<sup>th</sup> to prepare for completing the scope of work of the project. Upon return, staff has commenced the verification aspect of the program, and is now working to inspect at least 20% of each county's small quantity generators for appropriate storage and disposal of hazardous wastes by the scheduled contract completion date of June 9<sup>th</sup>.

## AGENDA ITEM 4 – A – 2

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – Bruce Ballister

2015 Brownfields Forum: ARPC staff is joining the West Florida Regional Planning Council, FDEP, and the EPA in hosting the Third Annual Northwest Florida Brownfields Redevelopment Forum. The June 11<sup>th</sup> forum is intended to inform communities, investors, and developers on the advantages of participating in Brownfields programs. The draft agenda is included immediately following this report.

Port St. Joe – North Port St. Joe Water II: ARPC Staff reported to the Port St. Joe City Council last month to update them on new rules with respect to the CDBG application process. The City will be applying for funds to complete its replacement of aging, clogged waterlines in North Port St. Joe.

CDBG Cycle Update: The Community Planning and Development section of the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) has published a rule change and proposed a revised application for approval. ARPC staff attended a training event to update grant administrators on the proposed rule change. The anticipated opening for the 2015 cycle will most likely be in mid-April with a closing in early June. 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. The current cycle for applications is open and will close at 5:00pm June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Midway Comp Plan Amendments: ARPC staff presented all elements of the Midway Comprehensive Plan to the City's Planning Commission in March and the City Council in April. Additionally, staff has presented the City's updated Land Development Code at the May Planning & Zoning meeting and will present the Land Development Regulations to the City Council in June. Although the ARPC's deliverables for the Technical Assistance Grant will be complete at that time, staff will continue to assist the City Council through the comments period and assist them in getting the updated plans officially adopted.

Wakulla Environmental Institute: The Tallahassee Community College (TCC) team has received approval from EDA for the selection of Cook Brothers, Inc. as the prime contractor for the facility. The formal approval for a Notice to Proceed has been received and the project is underway. The right-of-way has been cleared and is being brought to final grading. The building pad is filled and marked out for installation of sub-grade utilities. As of May 14<sup>th</sup>, power and communications conduits were being laid along the quarter-mile long entrance road. ARPC staff will be making weekly site visits during construction to conduct Davis-Bacon interviews.

Havana Planning: The Town Council reviewed ARPC staff recommendations for revisions to the Town's Land Development Code. At their request, staff also met with Karen Bass, a Civil Engineer and the Town's newest Council member to review the recommendations in detail.

These recommendations were presented to the Town Council on March 24<sup>th</sup> and the first public hearing to adopt the changes will be held on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): With the recent submission of the 2015 CEDS update, it is time to begin to plan for the next update. ARPC staff has received information from the EDA that they will be revising the recommended format for CEDS reports, and staff will begin reviewing how these format changes affect the ARPC CEDS report.

Enterprise Zones: The Florida Enterprise Zones program is scheduled to sunset in December 2015. Per a recent conversation with Davin Suggs, Fiscal Policy Director for the Florida Association of Counties, any ongoing projects with tax rebate obligations from the State will lose their funding after December. Any businesses in that position should ensure that all paperwork is submitted to the FDEO by October.

ACF Stakeholders: On May 13, in Apalachicola, the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee Flint Stakeholders (ACFS) approved the Sustainable Water Management Plan (SWMP) for the basin. The SWMP report is based on an investment of over \$1.6 Million in technical studies and analyses of in-system flows during varying conditions of flood and drought, salinity distributions in the Apalachicola Bay during those conditions, lake levels at the several federal in-stream dams, and consumptive use by a host of users. The plan outlines a transitional organization that would form a permanent tri-state or trans-boundary water management institution to continue to advise the US Army Corps of Engineers and the various state level water management districts on appropriate management based on the ongoing collection of data and feedback. The executive summary of the SWMP is included on the following pages.

# Agenda

8:00 **Registration**

9:00 **Welcome**

Mayor Thomas Abbott, City of Callaway

Shawn Hamilton, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Terry Joseph, West Florida Regional Planning Council

Chris Rietow, Apalachee Regional Planning Council

9:20 **Redevelopment and Economic Impact**

Rick McCraw, Tallahassee Community Redevelopment Agency

9:40 **Brownfields Overview**

Kim Walker, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

10:00 **Break**

10:15 **Breakout Session \***

12:00 Lunch

12:30 **Equipment Display (Parking Lot)**

John Kent, P.E., \*\* Universal Engineering Sciences

1:15 **Legislative Update**

Joseph Ullo, Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.

1:45 **Break**

2:00 **Grant Writing Workshop**

Margaret Olson \*\*, Environmental Protection Agency

Koren Taylor, City of Tallahassee

2:45 **Closing remarks**

**Breakout Session \*** - The breakout session will include a guided discussion and question and answer roundtable with subject matter experts for brownfields cleanup and redevelopment at the local government, technical, and private redevelopment levels. Participants are encouraged to visit the various tables and ask questions based on that table's area of expertise.

Local Government Table

Koren Taylor, City of Tallahassee

Stella Wilson, Dewberry

Kellie Scott, Gunster

Cliff Wilson, Preble-Rish

Technical Table

Joseph Ullo, Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.

Alex Webster, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Roger Register, Cardno

Private Sector Redevelopment Table

Laurel Locket, Carlton Fields

Danita Andrews, Pensacola Chamber of Commerce

Enterprise Florida\*\* ?

Kim Walker, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

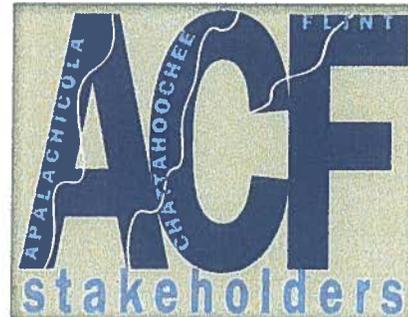
*A special thank you to:*

**Callaway Arts and Conference Center**



*Draft Executive  
Summary*

## **Sustainable Water Management Plan**



*Working together to share a common resource.*

Approved for general release by the Governing Board of the ACF Stakeholders, Inc. The full Sustainable Water Management Plan will be made available to the public no later than June 12, 2015.

**MAY 13, 2015**

## ***Acknowledgements***

This Sustainable Water Management Plan would not have been possible without the commitment and contributions of many individuals and the financial contributions of generous donors. ACFS members volunteered their time, expertise, and talents over the past five years.

ACFS Governing Board members recognize Brad Currey for leading the fundraising effort, the multiple organizations and individuals who contributed to the development of this Plan, and current and former individual ACFS members whose efforts laid the groundwork for this Plan.

Special thanks to Brad Moore, Chair, and Gordon Rogers, Vice Chair, of the Technical Oversight and Communication Work Group who helped guide the development of the Plan. Special thanks also go to Mark Masters for keeping the ACFS on a steady course.

### ***Executive Committee Members (as of April 2015)***

<i>Apalachicola</i>	<i>Flint</i>	<i>Middle Chattahoochee</i>	<i>Upper Chattahoochee</i>
Dan Tonsmeire	Woody Hicks	Billy Turner	Jim McClatchey
Bill McCartney	Charles Stripling	Greg Elmore	Wilton Rooks

### ***TOCWG Members (as of April 2015)***

<i>Apalachicola</i>	<i>Flint</i>	<i>Middle Chattahoochee</i>	<i>Upper Chattahoochee</i>
Dan Tonsmeire	Jim Poff	Steve Davis	Laura Hartt
Chad Taylor	Gordon Rogers	Brad Moore	Danny Johnson
Dave McLain	Woody Hicks	James Emery	Jerri Russell

### ***ACFS Governing Board Members (as of April 2015)***

James Lee Adams	Lee Garner	Charles McClellan	Jerri Russell
Bruce Ballister	Vince Falcione	Ward McDaniel	Carole Rutland
Craig Brinkley	Kevin Farrell	Bob McKinney	Robin Singletary
Casey Cox	Shannon Hartsfield	Dave McLain	Charles Stripling
Mike Criddle	Laura Hartt	George McMahan	Chad Taylor
Brad Currey	John Heath	Tom Morgan	George Taylor, Jr
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Steve Davis	Katie Kirkpatrick	Glenn Page	Dan Tonsmeire
Greg Elmore	George Martin	Jim Phillips	Billy Turner
James Emery	Roger Martin	Tim Perkins	Gary Ulrich
Page Estes	Todd Massey	Jim Poff	Betty Webb
Greg Euston	Billy Mayes	Gordon Rogers	Katherine Zitsch
	Bill McCartney	Wilton Rooks	
	James McClatchey	Marilyn Royal	

## *Funding Contributors*

A Friend of ACF Stakeholders	Florida Riparian County	Brian Brown
AFLAC Foundation	Stakeholder Coalition	Carole Rutland
AGL Resources Private	Rock-Tenn Company	CCT & Associates, Inc. (Chad
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American Proteins	SunTrust - Rich Memorial	Deron Davis
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Bradley-Turner Foundation	SunTrust - Thomas Guy	Friends of Lake Eufaula
Callaway Foundation	Woolford Charitable Trust	Gina and Gordon Rogers
Coca-Cola Foundation	SW GA Farm Credit	Glenn Page
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Oglethorpe Power	King and Spalding	Stripling)
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R. Howard Dobbs, Jr.	Billy Turner	
Foundation	Brad Moore	
Ray C. Anderson Foundation		

### **Facilitation and Technical Team**

Gail Bingham, RESOLVE; Aris Georgakakos, GWRI; Marty Kelly and Pam Latham, Atkins; Martin Kistenmacher, GWRI; Mark Masters; Robert Osborne, B&V; Kristin Rowles, Policy Works; Steve Simpson, B&V.



POLICY WORKS LLC

# *Executive Summary*

## *The ACFS Vision*

The waters of the Apalachicola Chattahoochee and Flint (ACF) Rivers and the Apalachicola Bay (ACF Basin) bind and divide both the geography of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia and the users of the water.

This basin is a water-rich region, yet one where attention to sustainable water resource management has become imperative. Although most needs are met in normal and wet years, the limits of the basin's capacity to support competing water needs are being experienced under dry and drought conditions and more often in some locations and for some water uses. Improvements to the current conditions in the basin are possible, however; and planning for dry and drought years is critical.

The economic well-being of the southern U.S. and the sustainability of the waters in the ACF Basin are intertwined. However, decades of conflict have set the stage for deeply held positions over the future of the region. The regulatory arena is in flux, and litigation casts a shadow of uncertainty. It is time to turn this around.

ACF Stakeholders (ACFS) urges the citizens of this basin to focus on that which unites rather than divides us. We can and must act with common purpose to manage our shared water resources sustainably. Water efficiency and conservation measures, creative alternatives to water control operations, predictive drought management, investment in scientific knowledge for future decisions, and transboundary coordination and cooperation offer real ways to improve environmental, social and economic conditions in this basin.

ACFS began in August 2008 as a small group of people who live and work in the basin. Soon after, the ACF Stakeholders, Inc. was operating as a non-profit corporation with a Governing Board of 56 stakeholder members representing interests from all areas of the basin extending through Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. The ACFS mission is to change the operation and management of the ACF Basin to achieve equitable and viable solutions among stakeholders that balance economic, ecological, and social values and ensure that the entire ACF Basin is a sustainable resource for current and future generations.

ACFS members have sought to develop a mutual understanding of the diverse interests in the basin, to explore how the basin operates, and to reach consensus on recommendations that, taken as a whole, would improve conditions in the basin. This Sustainable Water Management Plan (SWMP) incorporates what ACFS has learned so far about positive choices that can start now. It also lays the groundwork for the studies and dialogue needed to enhance water management in the future.



**The ACFS mission is to change the operation and management of the ACF Basin to achieve equitable and viable solutions among stakeholders that balance economic, ecological, and social values and ensure that the entire ACF Basin is a sustainable resource for current and future generations.**

## *The Audience*

This SWMP recommends actions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), other federal agencies, and the states of Alabama, Florida and Georgia, along with all public and private water users in the basin.

USACE has a large influence in how water moves within the ACF Basin. The Master Water Control Manual, last updated in 1958, guides decisions regarding the ACF Basin operations for the five federal reservoir projects on the Chattahoochee and at its confluence with the Flint. A Revised Interim Operation Plan (RIOP) also sets release rules that specifically provide minimum flow guidance to the USACE based on basin inflow, time of year, and the amount of storage available in the federal projects to meet the various authorized purposes. While the Corps' influence is large, it is limited to the operation of federal reservoirs. The States of Alabama, Florida and Georgia also play critical roles in water resources management throughout the basin. State permitting programs for wastewater discharges and water withdrawals affect most water users. Alabama, Florida and Georgia each have similar wastewater discharge permitting programs delegated from the federal EPA. Water withdrawal permitting varies between the states.

## *Development of the Plan*

ACFS worked closely with state and federal agencies to compile the best available water withdrawals and returns data in the ACF Basin and used this in modeling current and possible future conditions. ACFS also documented needs and concerns for different stakeholder groups and geographic areas of the basin and incorporated these concerns in the Plan by developing performance metrics, presented in Appendix A, which were used in the modeling to assess water management alternatives.

Modelers used RES-SIM, developed by the USACE, and a river and reservoir model developed by the Georgia Water Resources Institute (GWRI) at the Georgia Institute of Technology called the ACF-DSS model to simulate the river and reservoir response under different hydrologic, development, and management scenarios. The basin flow model was tailored to provide the outputs to enable results to be compared to the stakeholder developed performance metrics for the main stem flows. GWRI also conducted hydrodynamic modeling of the Apalachicola Bay to investigate the effects of river discharge on bay salinity. Atkins Global then utilized the outputs of the hydrodynamic model to help ACFS compare different water management alternatives on the Eastern Oyster.

ACFS also worked with a consortium of universities in the region to assess transboundary water resource management institutions in the United States and around the world and to consider options appropriate to the ACFS Basin.

## *Recommendations*

People benefit from healthy aquatic ecosystems, drawing on water resources for many needs. Sustainable water management requires attention to the challenges of maintaining a healthy aquatic ecosystem, particularly as the capacity of the system to meet all stakeholder needs becomes strained. ACFS members have concluded that improvements in meeting stakeholder needs and concerns in the ACF Basin, as compared to current conditions, are possible and that planning for dry and drought years has become critical.

The plan recommendations are grouped into five themes:

- Achieve Sustainable Use and Return
- Improve Water Storage and Control Operations
- Target Dry and Drought Years
- Advance Scientific and Technical Knowledge for Future Decisions
- Strengthen Basin Coordination

Ensuring reliable and sustainable water resources requires a combination of actions that, taken together, achieve greater benefits for the amount of water used. ACFS recommends that all water users contribute to this by identifying and implementing conservation measures and more efficient use of water. Recognizing that “what gets measured gets done,” tracking and reporting progress over time also must be a priority.

Given the complexity of water resource management under changing conditions, it is important to make adaptive management – or learning about what actions achieve desired results and why and making adjustments based on lessons learned – a priority. Adaptive management does not mean creating additional conditions of uncertainty for stakeholders who depend on the results of management decisions. Rather, adaptive management, by definition, is a structured iterative process of robust decision making in the face of uncertainty, with the aim of reducing uncertainty over time via system monitoring. Water managers in the ACF basin are urged to track the results of their efforts, assess whether those results accomplish what basin stakeholders are seeking to achieve, and consult stakeholders when considering changes in management decisions based on new information.

Ultimately, actions that result in increased water returns generally benefit all users of the system. While setting quantitative conservation and efficiency targets will require more analysis, in part because circumstances vary, this plan identifies numerous opportunities for more sustainable use and return, and ACFS urges each water user, and managers of water users, to take action.

Modeling done for this plan also demonstrates how changes in the storage in and operations of the current federal reservoirs, in combination with water efficiency and conservation measures, could simultaneously improve the instream flows that sustain aquatic habitats in the basin, the Apalachicola Bay and other instream uses, while providing for both current and future consumptive uses. These operational changes also result in improvements to instream uses in the basin and the Bay at current consumptive uses.

Thus, based on the modeling conducted for this plan, ACFS recommends that USACE adopt a policy of adaptive management in the revisions to the Water Control Manual, with the involvement of the states and stakeholders in the ACF Basin, implementing the following suite of actions taken together as a starting point to improve operations of the federal reservoirs on the Chattahoochee River:

- Raise the winter pool rule curve at West Point Lake from 628 to 632.5
- Define new zones to coincide with the USACE reservoir recreational impact zones and then only release water from an upstream reservoir when the downstream reservoir is in a lower zone.
- Adjust hydropower requirements to achieve more flexibility.
- Provide two pulsed water releases to achieve 9,000 cfs at Chattahoochee FL, one in May and one in July.\*

It is important to consider this suite of actions as a package. Using a banking analogy, some of the changes add to system “savings” and others “spend” those savings on priorities for restoring instream flows and levels and for consumptive uses during droughts. Thus, each is interdependent on the other to achieve the intended results.

The sustainability of the package of recommendations, particularly under drought conditions, is based on technical modeling performed by ACFS consultants. Their adoption was predicated on three conditions: 1) the system storage during drier years is not worse than storage associated with conditions experienced currently under drier years, 2) instream flows during drier years do not become target flows in normal and wetter years and 3) the assumption (not modeled) that flood control will not be adversely affected. The sustainability of the package of recommendations and consistency with these conditions should be confirmed by the Corps prior to implementation.

This adaptive management approach also should include a regular assessment of the effects of this package of operational rules and adjustments, as frequently as advances in science and the results of data collection to monitor desired outcomes warrant, but no less often than every five years and more often in the first years after this approach is adopted. Such assessments should consider increases and decreases in water use over time and should seek to achieve conjunctive instream flow benefits to the environment, navigation, hydropower, and recreation through pulse magnitudes and durations under dry conditions consistent with the conditions identified above. USACE should utilize the expertise of one or more of its centers of excellence in implementing this adaptive management approach to draw on lessons learned across the country and to enable lessons learned in this basin to be shared more widely.

In addition, ACFS recommends that USACE study and implement, if feasible, an increase in the rule curve at Lake Lanier by two feet. Over time, this would add about 78,000 acre-feet of storage capacity to the system, or about seven percent of the original Lanier active storage, which is needed now during drought years and will be needed as conditions and needs change in the future. This SWMP does not address allocation of this capacity; however, ACFS members concur that the increased storage resulting from operational changes should be shared equitably and used in a manner that relieves the adverse impacts of drought conditions.

\* Pulses were modeled as 9000 cfs flows at Chattahoochee, FL (not as an additional 9,000 cfs) – as well as at 14,000 cfs – and only during periods when flows fell below 9,000 cfs (thus not reducing flows to 9,000 cfs when flows otherwise would have been higher).

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Further, ACFS also recommends that USACE add a flow control node in the WCM at Columbus. This recommendation is contingent on the implementation of the adaptive management recommendation package above and is not a standalone recommendation. The minimum flows for the proposed node should be developed to retain an approximation of the historical flow frequency while still achieving the benefits to upstream and downstream interests sought in that adaptive management recommendation package.

Clearly, the amount of water available to meet stakeholder interests is less during droughts. Given the adverse impacts in the basin of recent droughts, ACFS urges local, state and federal decision makers to establish consistent drought management plans that trigger incremental and equitable actions as early as possible to avoid the more dramatic reductions that might be necessary if actions are taken later. Water users and water managers need to be more proactive and less reactive if we are going to manage the system sustainably.

Specifically, ACFS urges USACE to utilize predictive drought indicators in the revised Water Control Manual. Various combinations of predictive drought indicators can be used that allow operation decisions to be made in drought years that enhance system flows while still preserving adequate reservoir storage during the drought. As a starting point for discussion, drought management planning discussions should consider:

- a. Triggers based on drought conditions (antecedent inflow, areal precipitation, and soil moisture), stream flows, time of year, and remaining storage in federal reservoirs.
- b. The RIOP uses composite storage alone as a drought trigger. USACE should also consider the state of the basin (how dry or wet) in triggering drought operations. A drought index should be developed to guide the decision based on the predictive drought indicators selected (e.g. antecedent Mean Areal Precipitation and/or soil moisture). In addition, USACE should use regional sub-basin drought indicators (e.g. for the Apalachicola River, Apalachicola Bay, the middle Chattahoochee or the Flint) to consider changes in operations rather than waiting for designation of drought in the entire ACF Basin.

Developing a common, scientifically valid understanding of the ACF Basin is an essential foundation for sustainable water resource management in this basin. In the development of this SWMP, ACFS members gained a better understanding of the basin including the Apalachicola Bay but also encountered challenging gaps in scientific and technical knowledge both for near term decisions and for future adaptive management. ACFS members recommend that investments in knowledge about the basin be made in the following areas, with suggested specific studies listed in Chapter 5:

- Environmental and ecological studies
- Climate variability studies
- Shared real-time water use/return/storage/flow information
- Improvements in modeling

Finally, collaborative efforts are essential to finding sustainable water management solutions. We must sustain and enhance communication among stakeholders. Further, ACFS urges the states of Alabama, Florida and Georgia to participate in efforts to establish a transboundary water management institution for the ACF Basin. Such efforts could begin with a transitional entity,

designed to provide a forum for discussing how best to structure a permanent transboundary water management institution. ACFS stands ready to assist in the formation of such a transitional process or entity.

These recommendations are detailed in the Plan, and ACFS urges decision makers and citizens in this basin to take action to implement them.

Basin stakeholders' perspectives are presented in Appendix B. Stakeholders have described in their own words the interests and concerns that they are seeking to achieve. The consensus of ACFS is that stakeholders' diverse perspectives are important to understand. However, the perspectives expressed in Appendix B are not a consensus statement of ACFS as a whole nor are they necessarily a consensus of all the members associated with the various sub-basin or stakeholder interest group perspectives represented.

## AGENDA ITEM 4 – A – 3

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT and DOMESTIC SECURITY PLANNING

#### **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 May 5, 2015 at the Tallahassee/Leon Public Safety Complex. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 5, 2015 at the same location. Staff attended the quarterly meetings of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for Hazardous Materials in Tallahassee, Florida on April 8-9, 2015 at the Betty Easley Conference Center. The next round of SERC meetings will be held on July 16-17, 2015 in St. Augustine.

#### Hazardous Materials Training

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

Date	Course	Location	Hours	Participants
5/12/15	8-hr HazMat Tanker Rollover Course	Tallahassee Training Division Facility	8	17
5/13/15	8-hr HazMat Tanker Rollover Course	Tallahassee Training Division Facility	8	34
5/14/15	8-hr HazMat Tanker Rollover Course	Tallahassee Training Division Facility	8	19

Staff worked with the Tallahassee Fire Department (TFD) to coordinate three 8-hr Flammable/Combustible Liquid Tank Truck Fire Attack and Rollover Emergency courses on May 12, 13 & 14, 2015. The three consecutive dates allowed for each of the three HazMat Team shifts to attend the training as well as responder from throughout the Region. Staff also rescheduled a 1-hr CSX Operation Respond course for District 2 responders in Tallahassee for June 30, 2015. Staff scheduled one 8-hr HazMat Technician Level Refresher course for Florida State University on June 23, 2014. Staff has approximately \$17,000 in training funds remaining for FY 14/15.

#### 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 to pre-plan and identify vulnerable populations.

Staff continued Hazards Analysis (HA) work for Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jefferson, Liberty and Leon Counties. Staff completed all work for the 3<sup>rd</sup> deliverable which included site visits for 85 facilities throughout the Region. All information was updated in the CAMEO database (Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations).

#### HMEP Planning Project

Staff continued work on the 2014-15 HMEP Planning Project which will be a full-scale hazardous materials exercise involving an overturned tanker truck. The exercise will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> and will allow previously held Tanker Rollover training to be put to the test. The midterm and final planning meetings were held on April 24<sup>th</sup> & May 7<sup>th</sup> with the exercise planning team.

#### Risk Management Plan (RMP) Facility Site Visit

Staff participated in an RMP site visit with the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the Environmental Protection Agency on March 31<sup>st</sup> at Raffield Fisheries in Gulf County. The facility will be completing significant hazardous materials safety upgrades for the anhydrous ammonia stored on site.

#### **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 through May 30, 2015.

#### Exercises

The Planner served on the planning team for a regional healthcare tabletop exercise which took place on April 22, 2015. Counties around the Region are planning exercises to take place throughout the spring and summer 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 next meeting of the Big Bend COAD is scheduled for June 2, 2015. The COAD has formed a working group to develop a regional mass feeding strategy. 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 Planner attended the following meetings and workshops since the last board meeting:

- National Public Health Week, April 6 – 11, 2015
- Florida Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT) Meeting, April 14 - 16, 2015
- Big Bend Healthcare Coalition Tabletop Exercise, April 22, 2015
- Midterm Exercise Planning Meeting District 2 Local Emergency Planning Committee, April 24, 2015
- State Working Group Meetings, April 27 - 30, 2015
- District 2 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting, May 5, 2015
- Regional Evacuation Study Meeting, May 5, 2015

### **Emergency Management Program**

The ARPC received funding to update inundation maps for the impacted counties in the Region and worked with county emergency management directors on the project. The creation of a Directional Depth Tide Atlas is complete. Staff will be working with the counties to develop operational tools and maps from the data.

Staff is assisting the FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to update the Standard Operating Guideline for the State Agricultural Response Team and conduct a full-scale exercise for the Florida 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. This project is ongoing and will be completed by the end of June.

### **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. During the week of April 6<sup>th</sup> the North Florida MRC participated with the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Public Health in Florida by supporting outreach and education efforts at the Capitol. The North Florida MRC volunteers continue to support Leon County with school health screenings and Ebola monitoring. The Coordinator served on the exercise planning team for the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition's Tabletop Exercise which took place on April 22, 2015. The North Florida MRC membership includes more than 50 licensed medical volunteers from around the Region. An Orientation Session for new volunteers took place on May 6, 2015 and the next Orientation Session is scheduled for August.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – A – 5**

**TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM – Vanita Anderson**

Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged ARPC Contract

**Distribution of Planning Related Grants**

“Planning related grant funds will be apportioned for distribution to the planning agencies as follows: (a) 25% of the planning allocation shall be divided into shares equal to the percentage of population each county has relative to the total state population, with each planning agency receiving a share for each county within its jurisdiction; (b) 75% of the planning allocation shall be divided into shares equal to the number of counties throughout the state, with each planning agency receiving no more than one share for each county within its jurisdiction.” 41-2.014(6) F.A.C.

**ARPC Allocation for Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

The FL Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged ARPC Planning Grant funding allocation for the period July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016 will be the same as FY 2014-2015 allocation and listed below.

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>FY 2015-2016 ALLOCATION</u>
Calhoun	\$19,058
Franklin	\$18,992
Gulf	\$19,080
Jackson	\$19,800
<u>Liberty</u>	<u>\$18,918</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$95,848</b>



In early April, Florida's best bus drivers and technicians participated in the 2015 Florida Triple Crown Bus Roadeo in St. Petersburg. The year's event was a joint effort of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), the Florida Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the Florida Association of Coordinated Transit Systems (FACTS), and hosted by the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority. The Florida Triple Crown Roadeo combined the FPTA and RTAP roadeos into a single weekend honoring all of Florida's maintenance technicians, paratransit and fixed route operators.

The roadeo is an opportunity for Florida paratransit drivers to gain recognition for their driving skills. While there are awards for the top finishers, winning is not the primary reason for the competition. The roadeo is an opportunity to test driver limits, improve driver skill levels, and provide an opportunity to learn from peers. Training opportunities are available for contestants to take advantage of prior to the contest. Skills are tested with a written test and then participants face the challenging course competition. The maintenance technicians faced similar challenges with a written test and a series of diagnostic tests.

As always, the event concluded with an Awards Banquet that crowned and recognized the 2015 champions in the paratransit van and cutaway divisions, the fixed route bus division, and the maintenance technician's team competition.



**VAN DIVISION DRIVERS**



**CUTAWAY-SMALL BUS DIVISION DRIVERS**

## THE 2015 PARATRANSIT DIVISION CHAMPIONS

**Van Division:**      1<sup>st</sup> Place – Tommy Griffis (Jackson County)  
                                 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Deandre Moore  
                                 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Peggy Shiver (Liberty County)

As Florida Paratransit Roadeo Van Division winner, Tommy Griffis (Jackson County) earned an all expense paid trip to compete as the Florida representative on May 31<sup>st</sup> in Tampa at the National Paratransit Roadeo sponsored by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA).



*L-R: Karen Deigl, FPTA Board Chair;  
1st Place: Tommy Griffis, JTrans;  
and Elizabeth Stutts, FDOT*

**Cutaway Division:**    1<sup>st</sup> Place – Dante Marinell  
                                 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Ryan Boyer  
                                 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Tim Smith (Calhoun County)

### INDIVIDUAL EVENT WINNERS IN THE VAN DIVISION

Lynne Barton, Calhoun County and Tommy Griffis, Jackson County tied for first place on the written test earning 44 points out of a possible 50 points.

Tommy Griffis, Jackson County, placed first and Peggy Shiver, Liberty County, placed third in the Driving Event. Tommy was awarded \$300 and Peggy was awarded \$100 from the Florida Association of Coordinated Transportation Systems (FACTS).

Michael Wimberly, Calhoun County placed first with a perfect score on the Pre-Trip Inspection.

Peggy Shiver, Liberty County, earned the Yardstick Award. The Yardstick Award is awarded to the operator with the lowest combined scores of the actual measurement at the passenger stop and the judgment stop.

### INDIVIDUAL EVENT WINNERS IN THE CUTAWAY DIVISION

Donna Waldo, Gulf County, tied with two others on the written test earning 48 points out of a possible 50 points.

Tim Smith, Calhoun County placed first on the Pre-Trip Inspection with the highest score.

Tim Smith, Calhoun County, placed third in the Driving Event and was awarded \$100 from the Florida Association of Coordinated Transportation Systems (FACTS).

## PARATRANSIT GRAND CHAMPIONS

The agency whose van and cutaway operators have the highest combined total score of a possible 1975 points was Calhoun County drivers, Michael Wimberly and Tim Smith, with a combined score of 1389. A trophy was presented by RTAP. This trophy is a traveling trophy and presented each year. The first Grand Champions trophy was awarded to Jackson County at the 2014 Rodeo.



*L-R: Michael Wimberly, Timothy Smith, and Robert Westbrook-FDOT*

## TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM

### Proposed 2015-2016 Coordinating Board Meeting Schedule

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

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>TIME &amp; PLACE</b>	<b>DATES</b>
Calhoun	2 PM CT Senior Center , Blountstown	September 10, November 9, February 8, June 6
Franklin	10 AM ET Courthouse, Apalachicola	September 9, November 12, February 10, June 8
Gulf	2 PM ET Gulf Transp. Office, Port St. Joe	September 9, November 12, February 10, June 8
Jackson	10 AM CT JTrans, Marianna	September 10, November 9, February 8, June 6
Liberty	10 AM ET Civic Center, Bristol	September 8, November 10, February 9, June 7

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – A – 6**

**CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS OF INTEREST**

1. Press Release from Home Source International – (Jackson County)
2. Press Release from USDA on the Regional emphasis of the US Farm Bill.

## **An I-10 Textile Corridor? Home Source International Thinks So**

“With changes in the world economy, the expansion of the Panama Canal and with port and transportation facilities and improvements, I-10 and northwest Florida could become the worlds new textile manufacturing corridor.” That was the message by Home Source International to Opportunity Florida board members; EDOs and guests during a leadership workshop and tour in April. Dennis Rudd, Vice President of Manufacturing for Home Source International explained that the narrowing wage gap in Asia along with other changes in the world economy and advances in technology, could lead to major re-shoring of manufacturing to the U.S., particularly to Northwest Florida.

Home Source International is a textile, home furnishings manufacturing and distribution company that announced its sole U.S. manufacturing facility in Marianna, Florida's Airport Commerce Park in June, 2012. The company, founded by CEO Keith Sorgeloos, first started business by “in-source”



manufacturing in Asia and selling high-end textile products to U.S. retailers. Chances are, if you purchase a bath towel from Bed, Bath and Beyond, it was made and distributed by Home Source International (HSI). Sorgeloss's textile manufacturing and marketing career started in the mid 1970's with Dayton-Hudson followed by WestPoint Stevens Asia.

During the 1970's textile, apparel, and “cut and sew” manufacturing was prevalent throughout the Deep South, including northwest Florida. Most any County Seat was also the home to a “cut and sew” operation. Those plants employed mostly women who developed strong manual dexterity skills and were often paid on a base plus piecemeal production rate. Vice President of Manufacturing Rudd explained that many of those former employees and those skills are still available within the region. That availability along with knowledge and familiarity with that former apparel manufacturing culture is one of the reasons that HSI chose northwest Florida.

Another major reason HSI chose Marianna and Jackson County was the package that local government put together to attract the company. The City of Marianna and its EDO, the Jackson County Development Council (JCDC), created a package that included an attractive lease for an abandoned 270,000 square foot manufacturing facility once operated by Alliance Laundry Systems, LLC. Alliance, the owner of the Unimac brand of commercial laundry equipment, closed the Marianna plant in 2006. The City of Marianna owns the facility which has been expanded over the years. The original core of the building was a 30,000 square foot facility, operated by Graham Air Base.



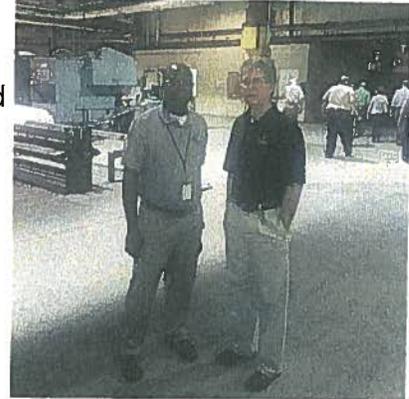
HSI considered six states, including Alabama and South Carolina, before finally settling on the Marianna location. An attractive deal on the building, along with a \$1.4 million grant from the State of Florida's Quick Action Closing Fund and the promise of a \$2.46

million Community Development Block Grant (CDBD) sealed the deal. The HSI deal was the first Quick Action Closing Fund grant awarded to a rural county. Rudd also credited David Melvin

and Melvin Engineering for writing the CDBG, and while providing much of the preliminary project facilities layout and design at no cost to the company.

Significantly, both the closing fund incentive and the CDBG were awarded to the City and not directly to the company. Monies from the Quick Action Closing Fund were used to renovate the building which is owned by the City of Marianna. The CDBG was used to construct a \$100,000 pedisphere elevated water storage tank and to improve roadways and entry-ways to HSI. In turn, Home Source International plans to invest \$2.3 million and employ over 300 employees.

According to Rudd, in addition to the favorable building deal and the availability of both experienced and easily trainable employees, transportation access was another factor favorable to the location. HSI and its recently acquired furniture and fixture manufacturer, Shiner International, depend upon the ability to efficiently import raw material and ship product for distribution. Rudd likes the Marianna location due to its close and easy access to ports and to the Interstate highway system. Rudd feels those same labor and logistics factors may be attractive to other textile and home furnishing related manufacturers.



Home Source International manufactures furniture, lighting fixtures, bed spreads, comforters, window treatments and decorative pillows. In an a textile sourcing "180," the company now imports raw textile material from China, Pakistan and India which is used in the manufacturing process now performed in the U.S. That's quite a turnaround from an industry which almost completely left the States for low labor costs offshore. As wage levels steadily increase in Asia and other developing manufacturing markets, the cost advantage of off-shoring has eroded. Also, as Rudd indicated, "Made in America" has become more of a marketing factor to retailers, since the recession.



To those who were familiar to the behemoth Unimac building, the renovation of that facility to accommodate HSI is remarkable. A new entryway and complete face-lift of the exterior is a welcomed change to the Airport industrial and commercial complex. In addition, the facility includes an outlet store which is open 10 AM to 3 PM to the general public.



***Photos from top: Dennis Rudd Vice President of Manufacturing explains process to Raymon Thomas of the Holmes County Development Commission and Susan Estes of Opportunity Florida; Newly renovated HSI builidng; Sean Lewis of Florida DEO with Roy Baker of the Jackson County Development Council; HSI-Shiner "rocking bed" product of Marianna plant; new entrance-way with help from CDBG***

## **USDA to Give Priority Funding for Regional Economic Development Projects** *Policy Will Support Long-Term, Regional Economic Growth Strategies*

MEMPHIS, TN, May 20, 2015 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced USDA's plan to implement a Farm Bill provision that will have a major policy impact on the way the Department helps rural communities plan and finance regional economic development strategies. The new Regional Development Priority (RDP) policy will make it easier for rural communities to access resources to invest in long-term community development efforts by giving priority to applications for Rural Development programs that include regional partnerships and strategies.

"Regional planning maximizes the effectiveness of our investments in rural America," Vilsack said here today while addressing the 10th Annual Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Conference. "When communities come together to share resources, ideas and expertise, they can develop a cohesive economy strategy and invest in their future. With a strategy in place, USDA-funded projects can spur regional economic transformation, increase job opportunities and improve quality of life for rural communities."

Under the RDP, communities with multi-jurisdictional economic development plans will be able to request funding priority when they apply for loans and grants in four key USDA programs. These programs help finance a variety of infrastructure, business and community development needs. They are:

- **Community Facilities Program**
- **Business & Industry Loan Guarantee Program**
- **Water and Environmental Program**
- **Rural Business Development Grant Program**

Applicants seeking priority consideration will be judged by (1) how well their funding request supports a region's existing development plan, and (2) how well the plan addresses regional collaboration and considers other funding sources including philanthropic groups and other federal agencies. Projects that receive funding will be based on locally identified needs and growth strategies that capitalize upon a region's unique strengths.

Vilsack made this announcement during the 10th Annual Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. The conference brings world leaders and policy officials from 34 countries to discuss how modern policies can help rural regions reach their full economic potential, support national growth and be globally competitive. During the conference, Secretary Vilsack reaffirmed his vision for four pillars of rural economic development.

Additional information about the funding priority was published in today's Federal Register. Congress authorized USDA to implement this regional approach when it passed the 2014 Farm Bill. That law builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers.

Since the bill's enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including expanding access to rural credit, developing new markets for rural-made products, and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve the quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill).

## AGENDA ITEM 5 – B



### 2015 SERDI New Directors Training

May 16, 2015

Marriott Griffin Gate – Lexington, Ky

- I. 7:30 AM Continental Breakfast
- II. 8:00 AM Welcome  
Wayne Strickland,  
Chair, SERDI Council  
of Peers & Scott  
Koons, Vice Chair,  
SERDI Council of  
Peers
- III. Challenges that You Face as a New Director  
Jim Youngquist,  
SERDI Staff

Prior to New Directors Training, all new executive directors in the 12-state region were sent a survey asking about the challenges that they face as a New Director. The results of the survey will be the basis for a general discussion among training participants.

- IV. Financial Management 101  
Carol Jackson, CPA  
Executive Director  
Mid-Ohio Valley  
Regional Council

The financial management of a regional development organization can be challenging in balancing contracts, grants, dues, and non-traditional funding. The session will be led by Carol Jackson who brings her experience as an executive director and Certified Public Account to the table. This session will allow you to ask questions and share your concerns about the challenges you face in financially managing your council.

- V. Board Governance  
Brian Teeple  
Executive Director  
Northeast Florida  
Regional Council

One of the many balls that you juggle as an executive director is your interaction with your Board of Directors on a daily basis, as well as, at your regularly scheduled meetings. It is a challenging tight rope to balance policy making by your Board and your leadership in carrying out that policy with direction to your staff. What are the skills you require to work effectively with your Board and communicating the Board's actions with your staff? Brian Teeple shares his insights of 25+ years as an Executive Director.

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**VI. Inheriting a Mess, Irrelevancy, Disengagement**

**Chris Rietow, Executive Director, Apalachee RPC (FL)**  
**Mark Farley, Executive Director, Upper Cumberland DD (TN)**

Over the last 5-10 years a number of new directors have taken over regional councils that have become irrelevant to their local governments. They have had to deal with serious financial problems and the disengagement of their councils from the region and their owner, local governments. Often these problems were not recognized until the new director was on board and realized it was going to be an uphill climb to re-establish the relevancy of their councils. Chris Rietow will discuss the numerous challenges he faced when he became the new Executive Director at the Apalachee Regional Planning Council in Florida; and, Mark Farley will discuss the what he faced when he took over the Upper Cumberland Development District in Tennessee.

**VII. Social Media and other Media Marketing**

**Kristin Meeks**  
**West Virginia Social**  
**Media Consultants**

In this session, Kristen Meeks will talk about how to get your council's message out quickly and to the appropriate groups in your region. The requirements of social media are changing very quickly and a director needs to understand the pros and cons of social media. There are great things about social media...some cautions as well. Kristin will discuss and answer your questions.

**VIII. Your Relationship with Your Fellow Executive Directors In Your State and the Value of Membership in your State Association**

**Bob Lake**  
**Executive Director**  
**West Alabama**  
**Regional Council**

This session will focus on the importance of working together with your fellow Executive Directors and why participation in your state association is critical. They will also discuss the negative impacts that can happen when a state association isn't working well.

**Greg Godard**  
**Executive Director**  
**Upper Coastal**  
**Plain Council of**  
**Governments**

**Betty Huskins**  
**Director**  
**North Carolina**  
**Association of**  
**Regional Councils**

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**IX. Engaging Your Region**

**Jim Youngquist**

Your Council is not an island. The successful and relevant regional councils engage and are engaged in their region. It is important for your council be engaged in your region ensuring that the public and private organizations and citizen leaders are all at the table.

**X. Wrap Up and Lunch**

**Wayne Strickland,  
Chair, SERDI Council  
of Peers & Scott  
Koons, Vice Chair,  
SERDI Council of  
Peers**

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