

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday – July 30, 2015

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



287th 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**

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

FRCA POLICY BOARD MEMBERS: JANE SAULS, WOODY STEWART AND LISA MILLER

Calhoun County

Darrell McDougald
Wes Johnston
Don Stephens

County Commissioner
Mayor, Town of Altha
Governor's Appointee

Franklin County

Pinki Jackel or Smokey Parrish
Brenda LaPaz
Dawn Radford

County Commissioners
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 – JULY 30, 2015
10:30 AM Eastern Time / 9:30 AM Central Time

AGENDA

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**Items Requiring Board Action*

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

MINUTES – May 28, 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
Gadsden County	Brenda Holt	Gadsden County Commissioner
	Henry Grant	Governor's Appointee
Jackson County	Gene Wright	Malone Mayor
Jefferson County	Stephen Walker	Jefferson County Commissioner
	John Jones	Monticello City Councilman
Leon County	Jane Sauls	Leon County Commissioner
	Lisa Miller	Governor's Appointee
Liberty County	Woody Stewart	Bristol City Councilman
Wakulla County	Randy Merritt	Wakulla County Commissioner
	Gail Gilman	St. Marks City Commissioner
	Ed Brimner	Governor's Appointee

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Ray Kirkland	FL Dept. of Transportation
Christina Coger	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
Janice Watson	Finance Director/Loan Coordinator

Others in Attendance

Harry Reed	Capital Regional Transp. Planning Agency
Alicia Brininger	FL Dept. of Transportation
Tori Wilson	FL Dept. of Transportation

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 Ed Brimner to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Brenda Holt. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 3: Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by John Jones to approve the Minutes of the April 2, 2015 ARPC Full Council Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: Chairman's Report

A. Staff Reports: Chairman Merritt briefly reviewed the following ARPC Program Reports prepared by ARPC staff, included in the Board Package beginning on page 13. He asked the Board for any questions in reference to the Program Reports listed below.

1. Community Development
2. Economic Development
3. Emergency Management
4. Revolving Loan Fund
5. Transportation Disadvantaged
6. Misc. Correspondence & Items of Interest

Mr. Ballister briefly reported on his work with the City of Midway to administer the City's Technical Assistance Grant from the FL Dept. of Economic Development (FDEO). Chairman Merritt asked what other communities in the Region could do to qualify for these types of grants. Mr. Rietow explained the program and application process. He encouraged the Board to contact staff if they had projects that could possibly qualify for these FDEO grants. Mr. Ballister also noted that the ARPC along with the West Florida Regional Planning Council, would be co-hosting the Brownfield Conference on June 11th in the City of Callaway and encouraged the Board to attend.

B. Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Policy Board Appointment: Chairman Merritt explained that Delores Madison was no longer serving on the Midway City Council and likewise ineligible to serve on the ARPC which had also left a vacancy on the FRCA Policy Board. Chris Rietow reviewed with the Board the responsibilities of serving on the FRCA Policy Board and noted that ARPC FRCA Policy Board members also served on the ARPC Executive Committee. Chairman Merritt asked if any of the Municipal Elected Officials on the Board would be willing to serve in this capacity. Woody Stewart volunteered to serve as the ARPC's Municipal Representative on the FRCA Policy Board.

A motion was made by Henry Grant to appoint Woody Stewart as a FRCA Policy Board Representative for the ARPC. The motion was seconded by Brenda Holt. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Executive Committee Meeting Report: Chairman Merritt reported that the Executive Committee had met prior to the Board Meeting. He summarized the report from RLF Auditor Chris Moran who had discussed in detail with the Committee his research and methodology on the RLF Fund Program Specific Audit. Mr. Merritt explained that the RLF audit had been a very extensive and time consuming task for ARPC staff and should be ready for Board review at the

July meeting. He also noted that the New Markets Tax Credit Application had been denied due to the way in which all of the Florida Applications had been structured. Mr. Rietow stated that the FL New Market Tax Credit Alliance would be re-submitting the Florida applications in 2016 with amendments to address the review committee's interpretation of the federal guidelines.

Item 5: Executive Director's Report

Financial Report: Mr. Rietow reviewed with the Board the Income Statements, the Reconciled Check Registers and Budget Revenue Expenditure Reports as of March 31, 2015 and April 30, 2015, included in the Board package beginning on page 55. He also reviewed with the Board the ARPC list of accounts payable and the current check register through May 21, 2015.

A motion was made by John Jones to approve the financial reports as presented for March and April 2015. The motion was seconded by Stephen Walker. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Southeastern Regional Directors (SERDI) Conference Update: Mr. Rietow summarized some of the best practices gleaned from the New Directors Training at the May 16-18 SERDI conference in Lexington, Kentucky. The Board concurred that a one-page summary of the Board Meeting action items would be helpful to members. He also noted that his presentation "Inheriting a Mess" was well received. Woody Stewart asked if Mr. Rietow might share the same presentation with the Board at a future meeting when time permits.

Senate Bill 1215 Update: Mr. Rietow reviewed with the Board the highlights of SB 1215 noting one of the major impacts of the bill on Florida's Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) was the elimination of the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council (WRPC) and the re-assignment of the five WRPC Counties to the surrounding RPCs. He explained that FRCA had worked very closely with Senator Simpson on the development of the legislation to eliminate many of the tasks currently listed in the Statutes as duties of the RPCs which were no longer relevant. Mr. Rietow pointed out that the Development of Regional Impact process had also been eliminated from the RPC statutory responsibilities and now would be handled at the State level. He noted that changes to any existing DRIs would still be handled by the RPCs.

Budget Letters: Mr. Rietow reported that he had written and mailed budget letters to County Administrators and Clerks requesting their consideration for ARPC dues funding in the 2015-16 Fiscal Year. Mr. Rietow noted that each letter provided a county-specific summary of services provided over the past 12 months. The intent was to keep counties informed on the return on investment with respect to membership dues. Mr. Rietow noted that the Council would continue to develop a system for tracking the hours dedicated for the technical services provided by the Council.

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 continued.

Item 8: Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion

Chairman Merritt reminded the Board that the main purpose of ARPC Board meetings is to be a regional forum to learn from and partner with each other on ways to operate the Region's local governments more effectively, and when necessary to address issues with a strong regional voice where a single government voice would be less effective. He began the discussion by asking why the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) had not sent a representative to the ARPC Board meeting in several years. Mr. Rietow replied that the FDEP representative assigned to the ARPC lived in Panama City and always had a conflict on Thursdays prohibiting him from attending. Mr. Merritt suggested that staff contact FDEP about having a local person assigned to the ARPC that would be able to attend the meetings.

Lisa Miller reported that she had talked with Tom Rudd of FDOT about the new emphasis at FDOT for working with minority businesses, especially paving companies. She explained that small contractors based in rural areas were also considered minorities. Ms. Miller asked the Board to let her know of any small contractors in the Region that may qualify for this designation and be eligible to special bid status on FDOT construction programs.

Chairman Merritt gave the Board a brief overview of the Public Services Tax and how it is assessed. He encouraged the Board to go back to their local utility companies to determine how it is being assessed in the respective local areas to determine the actual percentages being charged versus what is being reported to the public through the media. Mr. Merritt stated that he would be doing further research on the matter and would share any additional information he collected with the Board at a future meeting.

Brenda Holt reported that the City of Gretna was waiting on the opinion from the FL District Court of Appeals about their application to the FL Dept. of Business and Professional Regulation to operate slot machines at the Creek Entertainment Facility. She explained that the citizens of Gadsden County had passed a referendum in support of the project which had been halted at the State level, and which the City of Gretna had subsequently appealed. Ms. Holt explained that upon issuance of the license, the owners of the Creek Entertainment facility will move forward with the previously permitted next phase of the project by expanding the existing operation and building several large hotels and restaurants that would bring more than 800 new jobs to the Gadsden County facility near the Gretna I-10 interchange.

Bruce Ballister briefly reviewed with the Board the Executive Summary of the Sustainable Water Management Plan (SWMP) prepared by the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint Stakeholders which was included in the Board Package on page 19. Mr. Ballister explained that this has been a project in the works for several years and has the potential to direct the successful management of the Region's greatest natural resource, the Apalachicola River. He noted that the ARPC had contracted with the Riparian Counties Stakeholder Coalition to provide complete copies of the SWMP for each County Commissioner of the six Apalachicola River Riparian Counties in the near future.

Item 9: Ex-Officio Member Reports / Public Comment

Christina Coger of the Northwest FL Water Management District (NFWFMD) reported that as they become available, she would be forwarding to Chris Rietow potential local government grant opportunities through the NFWFMD to be shared with the ARPC Board.

Ray Kirkland distributed flyers about the FDOT Open House to discuss the FL Transportation Plan and the Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan on August 25th in Orlando. He encouraged the Board to take advantage of the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas on policies that will shape Florida’s transportation system in the future. He noted that comments could also be provided online using the web address on the back of the flyer.

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 July 30, 2015 at 10:30 am ET, in the same location. He directed staff to follow up with the Board members absent from today’s meeting to encourage their attendance at the next meeting in July.

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 JULY 30, 2015.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Randy Merritt
Chairman

Chris Rietow
Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM 4

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Chris Rietow

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

- A. ***Financial Report:** At the meeting the financial reports for May and June 2015, a Proposed Budget Amendment for FY 14/15 and a Draft Budget for FY 15/16 will be handed out for Board Review.
- B. **Staff Reports:** Detailed staff reports are included in the Board Package. The Revolving Loan Fund and Transportation Disadvantaged reports require action. Staff will be available to answer questions on any of the reports.
- C. **Legislative Update:** Summary of the approved legislation with respect to Regional Planning Council responsibilities, boundaries and funding. A memorandum from the South Florida Regional Planning Council is included which highlights the impacts of the 2015 legislative changes to RPCs.
- D. **Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Policy Board Meeting Recap:** Staff attended the semi-annual FRCA Policy Board meeting in Altamonte Springs with Lisa Miller on June 10th. A brief summary of the meeting will be discussed.
- E. **Florida New Markets Tax Credit Alliance (FNMTCA) Update:** The letter from the FNMTCA provides a thorough explanation as to why the ARPC's application was disqualified.
- F. **C.H.A.R.M. Workshop Recap:** Overview on the Community Health and Resources Management (CHARM) workshop that was held on June 2nd at the Franklin County Emergency Operations Center. The workshop flyer is included in the following pages.
- G. **County Budget Workshops:** Update on staff attendance at Budget Workshops in Jackson and Calhoun Counties.

ACTION NEEDED

Motion to accept Financial Reports for the periods ending May 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015, FY 2014-15 Budget Amendment and the FY 2015-16 Budget.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - B - 1

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – Bruce Ballister

Port St. Joe – North Port St. Joe Water II: The application process is on hold until winter of 2015-16. The Port St. Joe Star failed to print the required advertisement for the second public hearing. The paper acknowledged receipt of the ad in adequate time for publishing but neglected to forward the ad to layout. Unfortunately, there is no recourse other than to wait for the next cycle which is expected to open in January of February.

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 2014 cycle, normally scheduled for October-November each year, was postponed to June 2015. Roger Doherty, of CDBG, said it would be impossible to get back on track in one year due to short staff and out-of-office commitments for the current cycle of applications. As mentioned above, FDEO anticipates opening the 2015 cycle in January of 2016 and being back on schedule the following October.

Midway Comp Plan Amendments: ARPC staff has essentially completed its contractual commitments to the City of Midway by supplying FDEO with the marked-up Comprehensive Plan, its Data and Analysis, and the updated Land Development Regulations. ARPC staff has agreed to assist the Midway City Council through completion and final adoption of both documents which still need to be transmitted for comments and adopted. It is anticipated that it will require one more workshop to answer questions that came up at the first transmittal hearing and a final transmittal hearing in September. Logically, adoption of the Land Development Regulations should occur after or at the same time as adoption of the Amended Comprehensive Plan so that both documents are consistent.

Wakulla Environmental Institute: The selected contractor, Cook Brothers, Inc. is well underway with construction of the new facility. Economic Development Administration participation in the funding is limited to the access road, its utility extensions and the site work surrounding the several million dollar building. Final asphalt is not scheduled until all heavy equipment is delivered, so closeout of the EDA grant will not occur until approximately March of 2016. ARPC staff continues to monitor construction and to conduct Davis-Bacon interviews.

Havana Planning Assistance: Project is complete. The Havana Town Council read the adoption ordinance into its records at a second public hearing on May 25th. The updated plan permits increased authority to grant variances, consolidates and updates definitions, provides more flexibility in the design of buffers, permits the continued use of zero lot-line construction in the downtown commercial district, permits use of compact car parking and makes minor changes in the fee structure to insure that potential developers pay fees to cover costs of reviewing their projects and any required advertising costs.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): With the recent submission of the 2015 CEDS update, it is time to begin planning for the next update. ARPC staff has received information from the Economic Development Administration that they are revising their recommended format for CEDS reports. ARPC staff will be holding at least one CEDS committee meeting in August to consider changes in local conditions this past year. Updates to data tables in the technical report will not affect all tables, but will be focused sections not updated in 2014.

FEDC Conference: ARPC Staff attended the 2015 Florida Economic Development Council conference in Orlando on July 13th – 15th. The conference, under new leadership, was designed around breakout sessions that actively engaged the participants in best practices and lesson sharing. As the RPCs retool to focus more on economic development and less on planning oversight, it is imperative to be present at these statewide meetings.

Rural Economic Development Summit: Save the Date!



The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster. The top left corner features a photograph of a large, modern white building with a central tower, situated on a green lawn next to a blue body of water. To the right of this image, the text '2015 RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below this text is a green logo consisting of two upward-pointing chevrons. Underneath the logo, the text 'NORTH FLORIDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The bottom half of the graphic has a dark blue background with a subtle light flare effect. In this section, the text 'EVENT UPDATE!' is written in a large, white, italicized, sans-serif font. Below it, the dates 'NOVEMBER 15-17, 2015' and the location 'JW MARRIOTT, ORLANDO, FL' are written in a white, sans-serif font.

**2015 RURAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT**

NORTH FLORIDA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

EVENT UPDATE!
NOVEMBER 15-17, 2015
JW MARRIOTT, ORLANDO, FL

AGENDA ITEM 4 – B – 2

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 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 Cocoa Beach, Florida on July 16-19, 2015. The next round of SERC meetings will be held on October 8-9, 2015 in Destin, Florida.

Hazardous Materials Training

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

Date	Course	Location	Hours	Participants
6/23/15	8 hr HazMat Tech Refresher	TFD Training Facility	8	21
6/30/15	1-hr CSX Operation Respond	TFD Training Facility	1	22
7/14/15	Chlorine Tank Car Training Dome	TFD Training Facility	NA	NA

Staff worked with Florida State University’s Environmental Health and Safety Department to coordinate one 8-hr HazMat Technician Level Refresher course for Florida State University on June 23, 2015. Staff also coordinated a 1-hr CSX Operation Respond course for District 2 responders in Tallahassee on June 30, 2015. The course allowed for eligible personnel to gain access to CSX online portal that provide real time freight inventories. Staff also worked with the Tallahassee Fire Department and DEM staff to receive U.S. Department of Transportation approval to purchase a chlorine rail car/tanker training dome for the Region. This training prop has been a need in the Region for over 10 years. Staff worked to continue to effectively spend the remaining training funds prior to the September 30, 2015 deadline. A 40-hr Fire Chemistry course and a 16-hr ToxMedic course are being tentatively planned for August and September, respectively.

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, paraquat dichloride 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 mailed all counties an electronic copy of the 2014-15 Hazards analysis and emailed all District facilities to notify them of the availability of the data.

The Council received the executed 2015-16 Hazards Analysis (HA) contract from DEM on July 1st and has already begun work for Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jefferson, Liberty and Leon Counties. Staff is currently updating the vulnerable zone maps and site plans for many of the facilities before beginning the site visit process. Staff also participated on the June 3rd Hazards Analysis Working Group conference call.

HMEP Planning Project

Staff completed work on the 2014-15 HMEP Planning Project which was a full-scale hazardous materials exercise involving an overturned gasoline tanker truck. The exercise was held on May 21st and allowed for the previously held Tanker Rollover training to be tested in an exercise environment. Staff completed the required HSEEP After Action Report and Improvement Plan and facilitated the After Action Meeting on July 2nd. Staff will conduct a Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study for the next planning project.



LEPC Emergency Plan Update

Staff worked to update the 2015 District 2 LEPC Emergency Plan. The draft plan update was completed and submitted to Division staff on June 30th.

Emergency Management Program

The ARPC received funding to update Regional Evacuation Study (RES) 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 is now working with the counties to develop operational tools and maps from the data. Staff will soon begin work on a limited statewide transportation update component for the RES.

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 August.

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 volunteers continue to support Leon County with school health screenings and Ebola monitoring. The North Florida MRC membership includes more than 50 licensed medical volunteers from around the Region. An Orientation Session is scheduled for September 8, 2015.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – B – 4

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM – Vanita Anderson

Board Member Appointments: ARPC staff recommends the following appointments to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards effective July 1, 2015. All terms will end June 30th on the year listed.

COUNTY	MEMBER	POSITION	TERM ENDING
Calhoun	Thelma Batson	Elderly	2018
Calhoun	Odell Griffin	Disabled	2016
Calhoun	Vicki Davis	Public Education	2018
Calhoun	Debra Jones	Children at Risk	2018
Calhoun	Ruth Waterman	Dept of Elder Affairs	NA
Calhoun Franklin Gulf Jackson Liberty	John Vinski	Agency for Health Care Administration	NA
Franklin	Joe Blan	Disabled	2018
Franklin	Nell Massey	User	2016
Franklin Gulf	Pat Carroll	Community Action	2017
Franklin	Cathy Rutherford	Workforce Development Board	2018
Franklin	David Walker	Medical	2018
Franklin	Tasia Jones	Dept of Elder Affairs	NA
Gulf	Annie Larry	Elderly	2018
Gulf		Citizen Advocate	2018
Gulf	Marsha Lindeman	Medical	2018
Gulf	Debbie Sumner	Dept of Elder Affairs	NA
Jackson		Disabled	2017
Jackson	Mandy Griffin	Citizen Advocate	2017
Jackson		User	2016
Jackson	Ernest McNeil	Veterans	2018
Jackson	Adrienne Jenkins	Children at Risk	2018
Jackson	Kenny Griffin	Workforce Development Board	2018
Jackson	Mary Beth Gurganus	Medical	2018
Jackson	Denease Rhynes	Dept of Elder Affairs	NA
Liberty	Kay Shuler	User	2017
Liberty	Eugene Cook	Veterans	2018
Liberty	Kevin Williams	Public Education	2018

ACTION NEEDED

Motion to approve the ARPC staff recommendations to the designated local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards.

Franklin County Community Transportation Coordinator Designation Status

Steve Holmes, Executive Director of the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD), addressed the Franklin County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board at its June 2015 meeting. Mr. Holmes presented the following update on the designation status of Crooms, Inc., the Franklin County Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC).

Mr. Holmes reported that the US Dept. of Transportation/Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) reviewed the company's financial data and had determined that Crooms, Inc. was not financially solvent. As a result of the findings, Crooms, Inc. is currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds until they become solvent. CUTR presented written recommendations in a Technical Assistance Summary which was provided to the Franklin Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Members.

Earlier this year, the CTD contracted with Thomas Howell Ferguson, PA, to do Quality Assurance Monitoring throughout the panhandle. Upon the completion of the Franklin County monitoring activities on June 3, 2015, numerous findings of critical concern were noted. Some of the areas of concern included:

- lack of eligibility forms for 50% of the riders
- tracking eligible riders from intake to billing was not available for any rider
- numerous unpaid bills that were not noted on the financial reports
- no allocation for shared space and expenses of Crooms, Inc.'s various companies
- insufficient driver training
- the lack of expense adjustments based on revenues received

Mr. Holmes stated that he was not confident that Croom's, Inc. should count on additional Medicaid broker trips for funding. To receive trips from the Medicaid brokers, Croom's Inc. will have to negotiate a new rate to cover expenses while being competitive with other providers in the area. With the loss of the US Dept. of Transportation funds and Medicaid trips, the future is very bleak for Crooms, Inc. Mr. Holmes also noted that Franklin County is in a unique position and it would be very difficult for Crooms, Inc. to gain additional revenue resources as there are very few agencies within the County that are purchasing transportation service which might be a possible source of revenue. Mr. Holmes stated that based on his review of the financials provided by Croom's, Inc., the company was experiencing a minimum deficit of \$6,000/month.

Mr. Holmes stated the CTD is extremely concerned with the financial situation of Croom's Inc. However, Croom's Inc. has stated they would take actions to increase revenues and decrease their expenses. CTD staff will continue to work with Croom's Inc. and monitor the situation over the next two to three months. If it is determined that a new (CTC) is needed, the CTD will secure a CTC under an emergency contract and Transportation will continue to be provided during the transition period. Croom's Inc. could continue to provide services as an operator, but the new CTC would ultimately make that decision. Crooms, Inc. has begun addressing the findings in both reports, with the intent of keeping the CTC designation for Franklin County.

Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards

2015-2016 Meeting Schedule

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

COUNTY	TIME & PLACE	DATES
Calhoun	2 PM CT Calhoun County Senior Citizens Center Conference Room 16859 NE Cayson Street, Blountstown	September 10 November 9 February 8 June 6
Franklin	10 AM ET Franklin County Courthouse Annex Courtroom 33 Market Street, Apalachicola	September 9 November 12 February 10 June 8
Gulf	2 PM ET Gulf County ARC/Transportation Office Conference Room 122 Water Plant Road, Port St. Joe	September 9 November 12 February 10 June 8
Jackson	10 AM CT JTrans Conference Room 3988 Old Cottondale Road, Marianna	September 10 November 9 February 8 June 6
Liberty	10 AM ET Veterans Memorial Civic Center Room 13 CR 12 S. – 10405 NW Theo Jacobs Way, Bristol	September 8 November 10 February 9 June 7

AGENDA ITEM 4 – B – 5

CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. Board Members in the News
2. Apalachicola Times article re: Rep. Graham's visit to Apalachicola
3. Apalachicola Times article re: Florida / Georgia Lawsuit
4. Press Release re: Leon County Recognized as Model Local Government
5. News Service of FL article re: Florida's share in the BP Settlement
6. Notice from FDOT – FL Transportation Plan Regional Workshops

**ARPC Board Member Ed Brimner was the key note speaker at the
Wakulla County Memorial Day Observance**

Wakulla News 5/28/15



PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SNOWDEN

Dozens of Wakulla residents turned out for a Memorial Day observance on the courthouse grounds on Monday, May 25.

The U.S. flag was lowered to half-staff and a memorial wreath was set in memory of those soldiers who fell in wartime.

The keynote speaker was Ed Brimner, top right, who was highly decorated during his career in the U.S. Air Force. Brimner listed the casualties in American conflicts through history, and praised average Americans who become heroes defending the nation.

David Miller, bottom right, played Taps as the wreath was placed.

- Staff report



ARPC Board Member Wes Johnston (Mayor of Altha) leads the Independence Day Walk to Liberty across the Apalachicola River Bridge Between Blountstown and Bristol

The County Record, JULY 1, 2015, Page 4

Community



Walk to Liberty

Apalachee Valley VFW Post 12010, in cooperation with American Legion Post 172 and American Legion Post 272, sponsored the annual "Walk to Liberty" Saturday morning across Trammell Bridge. Folks gathered on the Blountstown side and made the walk across to Bristol where an Independence Day program was held at the Civic Center.



Extension Agent Grant honored on retirement



Dr. Henry Grant

By Sandi Beare,
Herald Correspondent

Gadsden County officials plus staff and more from the University of Florida's IFAS station in Quincy came out last Friday evening to celebrate the retirement of Gadsden County Extension Agent Dr. Henry G. Grant, who has served the UF/IFAS station for 42 years.

See GRANT—page 10



A group of well-wishers pose with Dr. Henry Grant (c), retired extension agent.

Grant/from front page

The ceremony was opened by Yolanda Goode, who said about him: "Henry, you set the tone that made this office family."

The Extension Service office is located at the Inman Livestock Pavilion on W. Jefferson St. in Quincy. It reaches into multiple education researches on many levels and has many events open to the public.

Goode said the event was scheduled to honor a great man who has given his life in service for Gadsden County, Florida. "He had a two-year plan:

At the 20th year, he was going to do his last two years of service," she said. He kept renewing the two-year game plan, though, she indicated. "He's been a wonderful director," said Goode.

City manager of Chattahoochee Lee Garner applauded Dr. Grant for his work and said he'd enjoyed working with him over the years.

Gadsden County Development Council (GCDC) consultant Beth Kirkland thanked Grant for serving as a mentor to her and the GCDC since it formed.

During the presentations from multiple sources honoring Grant, he received several gift baskets and other gifts

from friends, including a watch from his staff at the research facility. He also received a beautiful glass sculpture of an alligator (referring to the facility's University of Florida roots) and other wonderful gifts.

Gadsden's Congresswoman Gwen Graham lauded him in a letter for his long service and said, "You have loyally and selflessly served the Gadsden County Community and the State of Florida through your work with the Appalachian Regional Planning Council, Big Bend Habitat for Humanity, Soil and Water Conservation District, West Florida Livestock Association, and the Gadsden County Development

Council ... to name a few. Your leadership and honorable service are unparalleled and leave a rich legacy for others to follow. Congratulations on reaching this extraordinary milestone; thank you for your lifelong service, and I wish you the best in years to come, Sincerely, Congresswoman Gwen Graham."

Dr. Grant thanked those present and those who could not attend for their support and good wishes. "It's been a wonderful experience. I will continue to be here; Gadsden County is in my heart," he said as he also shared the glory and introduced new UF/IFAS Extension Director Shep Eubanks.

Considering bay's needs

Graham announces bipartisan bill after oystering workday

By DAVID ADLERSTEIN
653-8894 | @ApalachTimes
Dadlerstein@starfl.com

EASTPOINT — First thing Tuesday morning, Congresswoman Gwen Graham went out for a taste of the lives of Apalachicola Bay oystermen, and when she got back, she told how she planned to revitalize support in Washington for saving those livelihoods,

Coupling a key legislative announcement she touted as bipartisan, with a workday tradition first begun by her father, former governor Bob Graham, the first-term

congresswoman spent a busy morning in Franklin County.

First, it meant riding alongside the 180 or so oystermen who are working three days a week as part of the oyster re-shelling program, which has the watermen relay shells, known as culch, out to dump overboard on the oyster bars, so that their growth over the ensuing 18 months will yield a fat harvest.

After that, accompanied by oystermen Shannon Hartsfield, president of the Franklin County Seafood Workers Association, and Kim Bodine, execu-



As Shannon Hartsfield shucks, Gwen Graham serves.

DAVID ADLERSTEIN |
The Times

See **GRAHAM A6**

Apalachicola Times
5/28/15

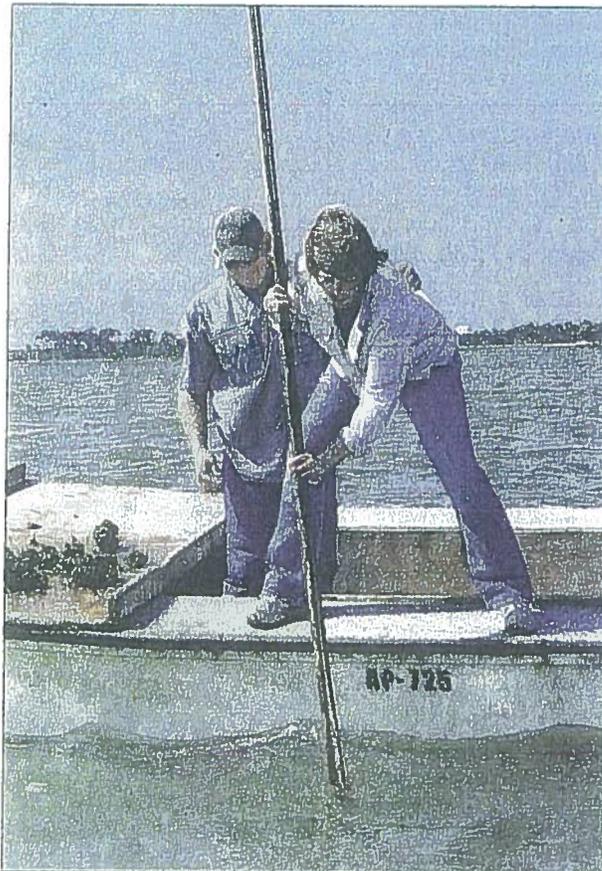
GRAHAM from page A1

tive director of CareerSource Gulf Coast, which administers the federally funded shelling program, Graham tried her hand at tonging up some oysters.

She had the scissoring motion down, but not quite the raking technique, as she managed to bring to the surface a modest assortment of fresh oysters big enough to meet the three-inch minimum length.

"I have a long way to go to develop my oystering skill sets. I've learned that oystering is really hard," she said, in a press conference on the loading dock of Lynn Martina's oyster house, once a huge supplier of oysters throughout the Southeast and now nearly entirely devoted to retail sales as a fish market and raw bar.

Even for veteran oystermen, tonging up a robust supply of oysters these days can be a difficult proposition, given the ongoing effect on the estuary's nourishing powers caused by diminished water flow from the upstream Chattahoochee and Flint rivers in Georgia and Alabama that form the tri-river system.



For decades, and exacerbated by recent drought, the states have battled to secure sufficient water from a series of locks and dams overseen by the Army Corps of Engineers, and subject to rules laid down in a water control manual that has evolved ever since the key priorities of hydroelectric power, flood control and navigation were first established in the 1940s.

Frustrated by opposition from political forces in Georgia who are determined to slake the Atlanta area's thirst for water, Florida Governor Rick Scott has moved forward in the courts, where a case now before a special master could lead to the Supreme Court becoming involved in the dispute in the year ahead.

On Tuesday, Graham (D-Tallahassee) announced a big step she was taking in the halls of Congress, unveiling details of the Apalachicola Bay Restoration Act, which she filed Thursday together with 21 Florida co-sponsors, Republicans and Democrats alike.

If eventually passed, after working its way through the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, that bill would require the Corps to consider the "commercial and recreational fisheries dependent on freshwater flows into Apalachicola Bay and adjacent waters, including the Gulf of Mexico."

This would fill a gap in the Corps' equation that Florida lawmakers have long said is sorely needed, and one which Graham promised during her campaign to work

at enacting.

In addition to securing the support of Jeff Miller, the Republican congressman to the west of Graham's district, the co-sponsors are a wide-ranging assortment stretching down to Miami's delegation.

"Apalachicola Bay is a critical part of Florida's environment and economy," wrote Rep. Vern Buchanan, from Sarasota, the bill's lead Republican co-sponsor, in a press release. "With the right management and conservation efforts, we can save it from total collapse."

The bipartisan flavor of Tuesday's gathering was evidenced by an appearance by both State Sen. Bill Montford (D-Tallahassee) and State Sen. Halsey Beshears (R-Monticello), who each represent Franklin County.

"I will tip my hat to her for his bipartisan effort to start to find a solution," said Beshears. "This tactful approach is what we need, perhaps, to get this thing down. I applaud Gwen Graham for being here and doing what she said she was going to do and following up on her campaign promises."

Montford echoed Beshears' willingness to do what he could on the state level, and underscored the threat of diminished water supply by noting that even tupelo honey trees have been affected.

"The tupelo trees are dying because the rivers are not flooding," he said. "We have less tupelo honey produced this year than in the history of North Florida."

With the introductions provided the Apalachicola Riverkeeper's Dan Tonsmeire, the news conference also heard from Apalachicola Mayor Van Johnson, as well as County Commissioner Cheryl Sanders, who repre-

sents the Carrabelle area.

"Studies after studies have all indicated that adequate freshwater flow is vital to maintaining the health and reproductive strength of Apalachicola River and Bay, which has served the employment needs of Franklin County families for generations," said Johnson. "Having an adequate supply of freshwater means unfettered opportunities to go to work and to come home at the end of the workday feeling satisfied of what has been accomplished for our families and our contribution toward the greater community.

"It means being able to provide a roof over our heads and food on the table without having to leave the community where we grew up to seek work elsewhere. It means an end to the use of self-destructive vices as coping mechanism when we don't make enough to survive after working hard each day," said the mayor. "It means being able to raise our families with pride, joy and dignity. It fulfills a desire to work hard each day, pay our bills, praise our God and to unselfishly serve our country, community and each other.

In her remarks, Graham said the bill represents an alternative to continuing the lengthy court fight that has yet to yield beneficial results for the Apalachicola river and bay.

"The special master has asked the parties to get together and try to figure this out," she said. "Litigation is awfully expensive, and it doesn't create a positive relationship. So we're taking it out of the lawsuit and bringing it back to people sitting around a table who can talk to one another and find a solution to this issue.

"This will level the playing field for Florida," Graham said. "Members of the Florida delegation from across the state are rallying to save the bay. They recognize this is a treasure to Florida; this is a treasure to our country.

"I have great friends in Georgia, and I have great friends in Alabama," she said. "This is the first step of bringing people together to be able to talk about the beauty of Apalachicola Bay."

Georgia bid to toss water lawsuit nixed

By MARGIE MENZEL

The News Service of Florida

A special master appointed by the U.S. Supreme Court to preside over Florida's long-running water dispute with Georgia has denied a bid to have the case dismissed.

Special master Ralph Lancaster ruled Friday the federal government does not have to be a party to the case, as Georgia argued in seeking dismissal, and that the lawsuit filed by Florida in

2013 may go forward.

"Balancing the relevant factors, I agree with Florida and the United States that this original jurisdiction action can proceed in equity and good conscience," Lancaster wrote in a 27-page ruling, first reported by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Florida has asked the Supreme Court for a cap on Georgia's use of the waters of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-



RALPH LANCASTER

Flint river system, which the two states share with Alabama.

Florida long has contended Georgia takes too much water from the Chattahoochee River to meet Atlanta's growing demand. It argues that Northwest Florida's seafood industry has

suffered as a result of low freshwater flows downstream to the Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay.

In the middle of the fight is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which controls the flows and has relied on a 2011 ruling from a federal appeals court that said Georgia has a legal right to water from Lake Lanier in the northern part of the river system. In its motion to dismiss, Georgia contended that the federal government must be a party to the case because the Corps of Engineers controls five dams on the Chattahoochee

See **WATER SUIT A8**

WATER SUIT from A1

River that determine the freshwater flows downstream to the Apalachicola River Basin.

But Lancaster noted that Florida has not asked to control the level of the freshwater flows, which would have required the Corps to be a party to the lawsuit.

"It is Georgia that carries the burden to prove that any decree providing for a cap on Georgia's consumption would be ineffective absent a decree binding the Corps," he wrote.

Lancaster added that Florida had offered support for its petition to cap Georgia's water usage.

"While a minimum flow decree cannot be ruled out conclusively at this stage of the proceedings, a decree entering a cap on Georgia's consumption may be the most likely outcome in the event Florida prevails on its merits," he wrote.

The special master also found that Alabama need not be a litigant in the case before the high court.

Even as the legal moves unfold, Lancaster has urged the states to search other avenues for a solution. Two weeks ago, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal came to Tallahassee for a closed meeting with Gov. Rick Scott. Deal met with Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley in March.

Jackie Schutz, a Scott spokesman, indicated Florida will continue moving forward with the lawsuit. "We are pleased by last week's decision (by Lancaster) and will continue the litigation," she said.

Much of the economy of Franklin County in the Florida Panhandle depends on the Apalachicola Bay's seafood industry, especially its oysters. The bay historically has been an economic driver for Northwest Florida, providing 90 percent of the state's oysters and 10 percent of the nation's oyster supply.

But the bay collapsed in 2012, and the lack of freshwater combined with a historic drought and a tropical storm to produce the lowest flows in 89 years. The bay was declared a federal fishery disaster in 2013.



Leon County

Board of County Commissioners

301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 606-5302 www.leoncountyfl.gov

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 16, 2015

CONTACT: Jon D. Brown, Director
Community and Media Relations
(850) 606-5300

Leon County Recognized as Model Local Government with Eleven National Awards

Recently, Leon County Government received eleven national awards recognizing outstanding county programs and services. In addition, one of these awards was designated "Best in Category" as the most outstanding program nationwide in its award category. The National Association of Counties (NACo) presented Achievement Awards to Leon County in categories ranging from Civic Education to Information Technology. NACo's awards recognize how Leon County provides the most cost-effective, high-quality service to citizens.

"We are so proud to see our Leon County local services and programs recognized as national benchmarks for effectiveness and innovation," said Leon County Commission Chairman Mary Ann Lindley.

This year, the following Leon County Government programs and services received awards:

- **9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance**, winning best of category in Volunteer,
- **Club of Honest Citizens** in the category of Civic Education and Public Information,
- **Community Legislative Dialogue** in the category of Civic Education and Public Information,
- **Domi Station, Leon County's Startup Business Incubator** in the category of Community and Economic Development,
- **Leon LEADS: 'People Focused. Performance Driven.'** in the category of County Administration and Management,
- **Penny Sales Tax Public Education Effort** in the category of County Administration and Management,
- **Leon County Sustainable Communities Summit** in the category of County Resilience: Infrastructure, Energy & Sustainability,

(More)

- **Leon County Veterans Resource Center** in the category of Employment and Training for County Residents,
- **Procurement Connect** in the category of Financial Management,
- **Trailhassee.com** in the category of Information Technology, and
- **Leon County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Policy** in the category of Personnel Management, Employee Training and Employee Benefits.

"These national awards reflect the effort and commitment of talented and dedicated County employees who actively engage our citizens on the most important challenges and opportunities facing our community," said Leon County Administrator Vincent S. Long.

One award that stood out recognized Leon County's 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, which received highest honors as Best in Category. Through this annual program, Leon County encourages citizens to remember and honor the sacrifices of 9/11 by volunteering locally and giving back to the community. Since the 10th anniversary of 9/11, the program has consisted of a remembrance ceremony and day of service. Over the past four years, 976 volunteers have contributed over 4,400 hours of volunteer service to veterans, low-income seniors, disabled individuals and families of active-duty military personnel in the Leon County community through service projects ranging from creating "garden buckets" for growing vegetables at home to housing rehabilitation for disabled veterans.

Many of the NACo awards highlight programs, services and initiatives that have been in place for years. Such awards recognize how Leon County Government listens to citizens' needs, anticipates challenges and engages citizens to collaboratively shape the community for future generations. One such example was the multi-year penny sales tax education effort that involved hundreds of hours of citizen input to determine infrastructure projects that County residents not only need, but want. Moreover, Leon County was nationally recognized for programs such as the Sustainable Communities Summit, Community Legislative Dialogue and the Veterans Resource Center, all of which are programs or initiatives that engage many different County departments and divisions to succeed.

These national awards recognize not only effective services, but highlight the successes of Leon County Government during the slow economic recovery. Since the Great Recession, the County has managed to reduce its budget while at the same time exceeding expectations with key infrastructure projects and citizen engagement. Leon County remains committed to strengthening what works, abandoning what does not, receiving citizen feedback, leveraging partnerships and listening to changing needs.

Founded in 1970, the annual NACo Achievement Award Program is an award series that recognizes innovative county government programs that increase services to county residents. Leon County will be recognized at NACo's 80th Annual Conference in July in Charlotte, North Carolina.

For more information, contact Shington Lamy, Assistant to the County Administrator, at (850) 606-5300 / LamyS@LeonCountyFL.gov or Jon D. Brown, Director of Leon County Community and Media Relations, at (850) 606-5300 / cmr@LeonCountyFL.gov.

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FLORIDA NETS MORE THAN \$3 BILLION IN MULTI-STATE BP SETTLEMENT

By JIM TURNER
THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, July 2, 2015..... Florida will land about \$3.25 billion as part of a multi-state federal settlement with BP over widespread damages caused by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster.

The deal announced Thursday requires London-based BP to pay \$18.5 billion in economic and natural resources damages to the five Gulf Coast states affected by the disaster, which pumped at least 3.9 million gallons of oil off the coastlines of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

Sen. Don Gaetz, who as Senate president pushed for the creation of a consortium to oversee the bulk of the settlement funds, said the money will help boost economic development throughout the Panhandle, now largely reliant on tourism and the military industry.

"This could be game changer," said Gaetz, a Republican from Niceville. "Just as the Deepwater Horizon was the worst economic disaster to befall our area, this settlement could be the best economic opportunity in our times. This kind of money allows you to build out our current economy in northwest Florida, as well as being able to development entire economic sectors that don't exist today."

Florida stands to receive \$2 billion for economic damages, the most of any Gulf Coast state, and \$680 million for restoration projects. The deadly explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig and ensuing massive spill affected the environment, tourism and the fishing industry along the Gulf of Mexico but its effects rippled throughout the state.

Louisiana, hardest-hit by the environmental impacts of the disaster, is slated to receive \$5 billion for restoration projects, the most of any of the five states in the settlement.

Florida is also in line for \$572 million as part of the 2012 Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Act, with that figure potentially growing to \$1.25 billion.

Triumph Gulf Coast Inc., a non-profit corporation created by the Legislature in 2013, will manage 75 percent of the economic damages money. Triumph, set up to help the eight Panhandle counties most economically impacted by the spill, is expected to award the money over 30 years for recovery efforts. The legislature will distribute the remaining 25 percent.

"This agreement will help Florida implement key projects and invest in environmental priorities to keep our state beautiful," Gov. Rick Scott said in a release.

Under the agreement, Florida will receive an initial payment of \$400 million next year, with subsequent disbursements of about \$100 million annually through 2033.

The governor's office and other state environmental agencies deferred to the attorney general's office when asked how the state would use the money.

"We will be working closely with our partner agencies to determine the next steps moving forward," Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokeswoman Katie Purcell said.

Attorney General Pam Bondi announced the settlement during a press conference at the Port of Tampa Bay on Thursday.

Environmentalists, still reeling from how the Legislature divvied up voter-approved water and land conservation money for the new budget year, are hopeful that the BP cash will be used appropriately as it's slowly dispersed over the next two decades.

With \$2 billion earmarked for economic recovery efforts, Audubon Florida Executive Director Eric Draper said that the remainder of the spending should be steered toward environmental projects.

"Although Florida wasn't impacted by that much oil, we have significant amount of environmental degradation associated with water quality problems and even lack of fresh water flow," Draper said. "This money could be spent anywhere from the Caloosahatchee River all the way to the Panhandle."

The agreement --- potentially the largest environmental settlement in U.S. history --- is "an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate and expand the response to the devastating harm caused by the spill, and to build lasting resilience into the essential ecosystems of the Gulf," a group of national and local environmental organizations said in a joint press release.

"While we await key details, one thing is clear: As soon as the settlement is final, it will be time to put that money to work," the statement from the Environmental Defense Fund, National Wildlife Federation, National Audubon Society, Ocean Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation said.

Business lobbying groups also hailed the settlement.

"Five years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, we still do not know the extent of the damage done to the Gulf, however this is a first step in making our industry whole," Carol Dover, president and CEO of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, said in a press release.

BP, which has spent more than \$20 billion responding to the spill and claims, saw its value drop by a third after the maritime disaster.

The agreement is "a path to closure for BP and the Gulf," BP Chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg said in a statement.

"It resolves the company's largest remaining legal exposures, provides clarity on costs and creates certainty of payment for all parties involved," Svanberg said. "In deciding to follow this path, (BP) has balanced the risks, timing and consequences associated with many years of litigation against its wish for the company to be able to set a clear course for the future."

In April 2013, Bondi filed a lawsuit against BP Exploration & Production Inc., BP America Production Co., and Halliburton Energy Services, Inc., seeking \$5.48 billion for lost revenue --- past and future --- from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The lawsuit sought actual and potential lost tax revenue caused by the spill. Bondi filed the lawsuit after the company ignored a settlement offer.

Thursday's announced settlement with BP doesn't end the state's lawsuits against rig owner TransOcean and contractor Haliburton Energy Services. The agreement also doesn't help those who opted out of a 2012 class action settlement to pursue individual property damage and medical claims.

The portion of the settlement dealing with the economic loss claims still requires final approval from all of the parties involved, and a consent decree dealing with natural resources damages and Clean Water Act claims will require court approval.

Join the conversation...



Florida Transportation Plan Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan

Tuesday, August 11, 2015
Panama City

Gulf Coast State College
Student Union East Conference Room
5230 West U.S. 98
Panama City, FL 32401
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Wednesday, August 26, 2015
Vero Beach

Indian River State College - Mueller Campus
Richardson Center
6155 College Lane
Vero Beach, FL 32966
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Tuesday, September 1, 2015
Miami

FDOT District 6 Auditorium
1000 N.W. 111 Avenue
Miami, Florida 33172
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Wednesday, September 2, 2015
Tampa

FDOT District 7 Auditorium
11201 N. Malcolm McKinley Drive
Tampa, Florida 33612
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Regional Workshops

Florida's transportation system supports the nation's 4th largest economy and 3rd largest population, provides 540,000 jobs, and directly affects our daily lives. In previous workshops, we have asked 'where do we want to go?' It's now time to talk about how we get there.

Please join us to share your thoughts about Florida's long-range transportation policy, goals, and objectives.

Hosted by



For more information and to register:
www.FloridaTransportationPlan.com



Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Paula San Gregorio at Toll Free 1-866-374-3368, extension 4800 or 850-414-4811 at least seven days prior to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - C

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

TO: James F. Murley, Executive Director

CC: Rhonda Noah, Chief Administrative Manager

FROM: Samuel S. Goren, General Counsel
David N. Tolces, Assistant General Counsel
Brian J. Sherman, Assistant General Counsel

DATE: June 16, 2015

RE: South Florida Regional Planning Council ("SFRPC") / Impacts of Chapter 2015-30, Laws of Florida on Regional Planning Councils

Chapter 2015-30 Laws of Florida, was enacted on May 14, 2015 as a result of Governor Scott's signature (hereinafter the "Act"). The Act specifically designates ten (10) regional planning councils ("RPC") within the State of Florida, and their revised borders as a result of the dissolution of the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council, and revises the RPC's duties under state law. This memorandum is intended to provide an overview as to the revised statutory duties of the SFRPC as amended by the Act, which became effective upon becoming law on May 14, 2015.

The Act eliminates many RPC statutory duties and responsibilities that had either already been accomplished, or could be performed without specific statutory authority. As a result, the statutory provisions governing RPC's are now more in line with the current status of RPC's as multi-purpose regional entities, and not just "planning councils." Some of the statutory authority which the RPC's retained following the enactment of Chapter 2015-30, Laws of Florida, include, but are not limited to the following provisions of Florida Statutes:

- Review of the compatibility of development with existing military installations; (Section 163.3175, F.S.);
- Review and comment on Comprehensive Plans and Plan Amendments;(Section 163.3184 F.S.);
- Review of Sector Plans; (Section 163.3245, F.S.);
- Continue to exercise the following powers and duties as provided in Section 186.505, F.S.:

(8) To accept and receive, in furtherance of its functions, funds, grants, and services from the Federal Government or its agencies; from departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of state, municipal, or local government; or from private or civic sources. Each regional planning council shall render an accounting of the receipt and disbursement of all

funds received by it, pursuant to the federal Older Americans Act, to the Legislature no later than March 1 of each year.

(9) To receive and expend such sums of money as shall be from time to time appropriated for its use by any county or municipality when approved by the council and to act as an agency to receive and expend federal funds for planning.

(10) To act in an advisory capacity to the constituent local governments in regional, metropolitan, county, and municipal planning matters.

(11) To cooperate, in the exercise of its planning functions, with federal and state agencies in planning for emergency management as defined in s. 252.34.

(12) To fix and collect membership dues, rents, or fees when appropriate.

(13) To acquire, own, hold in custody, operate, maintain, lease, or sell real or personal property.

(14) To dispose of any property acquired through the execution of an interlocal agreement under s. 163.01.

(15) To accept gifts, grants, assistance, funds, or bequests.

(16) To conduct studies of the resources of the region.

(17) To participate with other governmental agencies, educational institutions, and private organizations in the coordination or conduct of its activities.

(18) To select and appoint such advisory bodies as the council may find appropriate for the conduct of its activities.

(19) To enter into contracts to provide, at cost, such services related to its responsibilities as may be requested by local governments within the region and which the council finds feasible to perform.

(20) To provide technical assistance to local governments on growth management matters.

(21) To perform a coordinating function among other regional entities relating to preparation and assurance of regular review of the strategic regional policy plan, with the entities to be coordinated determined by the topics addressed in the strategic regional policy plan.

(22) To coordinate land development and transportation policies in a manner that fosters regionwide transportation systems.

(23) To review plans of independent transportation authorities and metropolitan planning organizations to identify inconsistencies between those agencies' plans and applicable local government plans.

(24) To use personnel, consultants, or technical or professional assistants of the council to help local governments within the geographic area covered by the council conduct economic development activities.

(25) To provide consulting services to a private developer or landowner for a project, if not serving in a review capacity in the future, except that statutorily mandated services may be provided by the regional planning council regardless of its review role.

- Develop Strategic Regional Policy Plans (Section 186.507, F.S.);
- Provide for a dispute resolution process for disputes related to land development (Section 186.509, F.S.);
- Provide support to Metropolitan Planning Organizations upon request, (Section 339.175, F.S.);
- Review certifications of intent to mine, (Section 378.411, F.S.);
- Participate in the evaluation of the establishment of Areas of Critical State Concern (Section 380.045, F.S.);
- Review Florida Quality Developments (Section 380.061, F.S.);
- Recommend review of development in Areas of Critical State Concern by the Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission (Section 380.07, F.S.);
- RPC's review the siting of universities and campus master plans (Section 1013.30, F.S.)

In order to bring the statutory provisions in line with the activities of the RPC's the following duties and responsibilities were repealed as a result of the adoption of 2015-30, Laws of Florida:

- The requirement that electric utilities to provide RPCs with advisory reports on their plans for electric utility substation development.
- The requirement that RPCs must establish and conduct a cross-acceptance negotiation process with local governments.
- The requirement that RPCs make a joint report and recommendations to the appropriate legislative committees; however, RPCs must still make individual reports to the state land planning agency.
- The specific mandate that RPCs recognize the special character of the Cross Florida Greenways State Recreation and Conservation Area, and the state's greenways and trails, because this statute does not appear to be necessary.
- The requirement that RPCs review urbanized area transportation plans and any other planning products stipulated in Section 339.175, Florida Statutes, and provide written recommendations.
- The requirement that RPCs directly assist local governments that are not part of a metropolitan area transportation planning process in the development of the transportation element of their comprehensive plans.
- The requirement that an RPC notify a local government if it does not receive a biennial report from a developer related to a DRI.
- The statutory option that an RPC hold an informational public meeting if a local government elects not to do so with respect to electrical power plant and transmission line siting.
- The requirement that an RPC prepare a report regarding the impacts of a proposed electrical power plant and its consistency with the strategic regional policy plan.
- The requirement that RPCs participate in land use and certification hearings regarding a proposed power plant facility.
- The requirement that RPCs prepare a report on the impacts of a proposed electrical transmission line or corridor and its consistency with the strategic regional policy plan.
- The requirement that RPCs participate in land use and certification hearings regarding a proposed electrical transmission line or corridor.

- The requirement that RPCs to assist the Department of Environmental Protection in site selection, public awareness, and program coordination related to amnesty days for purging small quantities of hazardous wastes.
- The requirement that RPCs to present a report on the impacts of a proposed natural gas transmission pipeline or corridor and the pipeline or corridor's consistency with the strategic regional policy plan.
- The requirement that RPCs participate in a certification hearing regarding siting of natural gas transmission pipeline corridors.
- The statutory authorization for a community residential home and a local government to utilize dispute resolution procedures provided by an RPC.
- The authorization for the Department of Juvenile Justice and local governments to utilize dispute resolution procedures provided by an RPC.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if we can provide any additional assistance or if you have any other questions.

SSG:DNT:BJS

AGENDA ITEM 4 - E



Florida New Markets
Tax Credits Alliance, Inc.,
Office of the Program Manager
618 East South Street
Suite 700
Orlando, Florida 32801

June 17, 2015

Chris Rietow
Apalachee Regional Planning Council
2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303-5268

Re: CDFI Fund Decision

Dear Mr. Rietow,

The CDFI is in the process of announcing its New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) allocations. The community development entity or CDE with which you are acting as a controlling entity will not be receiving an allocation. CDFI has determined to disqualify all of those entities with advisory board members serving more than one CDE. CDFI has decided the several people comprising your advisory board constitutes an impermissible "common enterprise" with other CDEs participating with the Florida New Markets Credit Alliance.

This issue was first raised in December, just prior to the holidays, and we complained to our Florida Senators and members of the Congressional delegation. A short extension was begrudgingly granted, because a response was not feasible between the notice at the end of the day on Friday before Christmas and noon on Christmas Eve. The required response was detailed, of some length, and submitted timely before the New Year after Senatorial intervention. The CDFI then waited until after the internal time frame late this spring, in which it typically makes the first cut for more in depth consideration, to write back and announce its decision and provide its reasoning in response.

The explanation given for CDFI's determination is the advisory board of Judge Manalich of the 20th Judicial Circuit, Mayor Roy Tyler from Haines City and Matt Ubben, President of Floridians for Better Transportation (meeting state-wide credentials requirements and each qualified as "low-income representatives" *in accordance with the CDFI criteria for a CDE advisory board*) had the ability to veto a decision made by your individual governing board if the decision

conflicts with New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) program rules or regulations and return the decision back to the governing board for reconsideration. Thus, they exercised common control over multiple CDEs.

We believe this is a misinterpretation of the concept of control under federal tax law or Florida corporate law, and we are disheartened by the finding, moreover because this issue and the rationale given by CDFI to disqualify your CDE was *not raised* in the last round of submissions. In particular, we went to great lengths to disclose this same circumstance to CDFI in the first set of submissions in 2013 with virtually the identical advisory structure.

The structure which was carefully explained in our December response-submission to CDFI and, as well understood by our subscribers, made it abundantly clear (1) the *advisory* nature of the CDE's common *advisory* board members was based upon the CDFI's own definitional structure and (2) the similarities between the FNMTCA and another prominent national organization active in the tax credit industry. This other national organization is well known to CDFI as CDFI apparently and informally relies on it as an industry ally to speak ably and to influence Congress regarding the attributes of New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC). Further, even a superficial analysis of the structure used by your CDE shows that the "veto" provision CDFI staff used to justify its disqualification decision is not, in any other context, an indicia of common control, but rather a means to assure compliance with CDFI's own structure.

The CDFI disqualification communication was rather autocratic and emphatically stated its decision was deemed irrevocable and not able to be contested. We were advised: "The CDFI Fund will not address any protests of this final determination." While there are always ways to address and to advance further appeal rights despite such a staff announcement, because the process in future years is so subjective and because it would likely not have been in the best interests of any members to kick the hornet's nest by challenging the determination further, we instead re-group.

We intend to highlight and use (1) the illogical analysis and poor treatment by CDFI of these Florida entries, (2) the manner in which it was hurriedly brought to our attention over the holidays, (3) our full, in depth and prompt response, and (4) the CDFI announcement then months later at a crucial decision-point in the process (which would have literally taken 'an act of Congress' to reverse) – all as a means to take the high road with our Florida Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. We may want our Florida Congressional delegation to informally intercede, after the allocations are announced, and to do this with some ire in the next 30-40 days when CDFI is most vulnerable to re-appropriation.

We believe the applications submitted last fall were very targeted and thorough in terms of their content and mission. The opportunity now presented is that each application remains substantively viable, subject to even more improvement, and then reissue. Obviously much of the information embodied in this past application can be incorporated in a new application for a coming round although other projects can be added as the approach is amended and restated

to comply. As you can see, we are strongly considering a process where we make our Congressional delegation aware of our efforts appropriately.

At this point, the most likely goal is to recast each application in such a way as to pass the earliest reviews and be judged on the merits solely of the projects themselves. Of course, there is no assurance the NMTC program will be re-authorized either. Accordingly, over the next 30-40 days, we will develop what we view as the best alternative(s) and proffer it to you for review and comment.

With the many informational sources continuing to show Florida as one of the two largest of the grossly underfunded and targeted states, we anticipate beginning, with your support, a concerted effort to ask for positive attention from CDFI through our collective Florida Congressional delegation. If our analysis reveals that Florida is over-rewarded in this upcoming round with NMTC allocations to other entities from outside of Florida, we may well have reason to wonder about underlying motives in this process working against the interests of our in-state applicants.

It appears a collective and louder voice must be heard in Washington and Tallahassee this coming year. We are going to reach out shortly with a survey to seek your input, ability, and appetite to have as component of these strategy efforts to secure NMTC allocations focus on the collective and bi-partisan power of our Florida Congressional delegation. As well, we have also attempted for two straight years to modify Florida legislation in this regard. We will be looking to advance both opportunities if that is something you choose to support in a collective and coordinated manner.

Through its 15 CDEs, Florida's effort is representative of 43 counties and 11,925,137 people - almost two thirds of Florida's population - affected by this poor treatment by CDFI. We believe the various institutional and government participants, who are at the center of the Florida NMTC Alliance, are best positioned to identify projects of strategic importance to local economic development in Florida. Concurrently, if that message alone does not resonate, we will continue to pursue state and federal NMTC opportunities - through current allocations controlled by organizations outside of Florida but with a mission to invest here - for all 15 participants with whom we endeavor to assist. .

If there is another story to tell or reiterate, it is that first time applications are rarely funded. All but a handful of those submitted last fall were new players. While this past year's effort is something of a cautionary and disappointing tale, the system seems to recognize the organizations with persistence and patience although demand is at an all-time high. That by itself may be the reason for the scrutiny over details of control. All said, we will try again and you should be thinking now about new and specific projects you want to highlight this coming year and add to those of last year. Some of the potential offerings, only in their incubation stages this past year, certainly remain worthy of support, and other opportunities will almost

*Chris Rietow
Apalachee Regional Planning Council
June 17, 2015
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certainly have emerged. Projects closely linked to job creation or other federal initiatives are likely to be a priority.

In the next several days please look for a short survey to each of the CDEs involved and seeking input. Please look for this and respond thoughtfully. Of course, you may call and speak with Jim Lang, corporate and tax counsel for FNMTCA, at any time. Personally, I can best contribute at this point simply by conveying that this extraordinary work and effort has been frustrating, and the best path is to just try again.

Many thanks for supporting these efforts to serve and access the NMTC process to serve Florida's economic development.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Owen Bartsch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Owen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bartsch".

Sincerely,

CHARM Workshop

Community Health and Resources Management

Tuesday, June 2, 2015 | 10 - 2pm

Franklin County Emergency Management Office, Apalachicola, FL

Hosted by Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

***How will growth and development impact your community?
What will this mean for public services and safety?***

Mapping for future growth

A workshop for resource managers, local officials, planners, developers, community members and others interested in collaborative planning and public participation for coastal resiliency. CHARM helps decision makers gather input and educate the public about the “what-ifs” of long term growth and planning. Workshop participants collaborate over a live table-top interface and use local mapping data to plan hypothetical growth scenarios for their community. Real time feedback allows participants to see the consequences of their planning decisions. The planning support tool encourages collaborative problem solving and no GIS experience is needed to participate in a CHARM workshop.



**Where: Franklin County Emergency Management Office
28 Airport Road, Apalachicola, FL 32320**

Limited seating. Please register by May 25th at <http://gulfalliancetraining.com/detail.aspx?id=90>

The workshop is free. Participants can bring their lunch or bring \$10 and lunch will be provided. For more information please contact Anita Grove at 850-670-7708 or Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us or Margo Posten at 850-670-7719 or Margaret.Posten@dep.state.fl.us



Coastal C.H.A.R.M.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

A “what-if” scenario mapping tool that brings planners, developers, resource managers, elected officials, local and regional agencies, employees, business owners and community members together to actively participate in community planning activities.

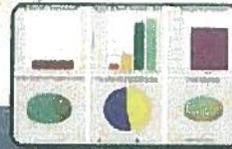
How many homes are vulnerable to flooding? Surges? In 20 years? Where?

What if development were higher density here, and lower there?

How does this impact the water quality of the Bay?

Where on the coast should we encourage development? Avoid it?

What new demand for city resources will we see in 10 years? 20 years?



The Coastal CHARM Program is a Texas A&M University program that seeks to bring the power of scenario planning and mapping to communities around the Gulf dealing with coastal hazards, sustainability and resiliency. CHARM was developed with funding from the US EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Office and NOAA's National Sea Grant Program.

<http://tcwp.tamu.edu/charm/>

This workshop is part of a series of Gulf-wide workshops offered by the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Training Program, a partnership between NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserves located in the Gulf of Mexico, including Apalachicola Reserve in Eastpoint, FL; Grand Bay Reserve in Moss Point, MS; Mission-Aransas Reserve in Port Aransas, TX; Rookery Bay Reserve in Naples, FL; Weeks Bay Reserve in Fairhope, AL; and Weeks Bay Foundation in Fairhope, AL.



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