

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday – July 31, 2014

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



281st Public Meeting

ARPC OFFICE – Conservation Center Conference Room

2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200

Tallahassee, Florida

www.thearpc.com

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

**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

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

Calhoun County

Darrell McDougald
Wes Johnston
Don Stephens

County Commissioner
Mayor, Town of Altha
Governor's Appointee

Franklin County

Cheryl Sanders
Brenda LaPaz
Dawn Radford

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Carrabelle
Governor's Appointee

Gadsden County

Brenda Holt
Delores Madison
Henry Grant

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Midway
Governor's Appointee

Gulf County

Ward McDaniel
Tony Justice
Michael Hammond

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka
Governor's Appointee

Jackson County

Kenneth Stephens
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

Davis Stoutamire
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
Paul Thorpe
Virgie Bowen
Diane Scholz

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

**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING**

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

THURSDAY – JULY 31, 2014
10:30 AM Eastern Time / 9:30 AM Central Time

AGENDA

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**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Holiday Inn & Suites - Tallahassee, Florida**

May 29, 2014

MINUTES

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

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

ARPC Board Members in Attendance:

Calhoun County	Don Stephens	Governor's Appointee
Franklin County	Cheryl Sanders	County Commissioner
	Brenda LaPaz	Carrabelle City Commissioner
	Dawn Radford	Governor's Appointee
Gadsden County	Brenda Holt	County Commissioner
	Delores Madison	Midway City Commissioner
	Henry Grant	Governor's Appointee
Gulf County	Ward McDaniel	Gulf County Commissioner
	Tony Justice	Wewahitchka City Commissioner
	Michael Hammond	Governor's Appointee
Jackson County	Kenneth Stephens	County Commissioner
	Gene Wright	Malone, Mayor
Jefferson County	John Jones	Monticello City Councilman
Leon County	Jane Sauls	County Commissioner
	Nancy Miller	Tallahassee City Commissioner
Liberty County	Davis Stoutamire	Liberty County Commissioner
	Woody Stewart	Bristol City Councilman
	Steve Cutshaw	Governor's Appointee
Wakulla County	Randy Merritt	Wakulla County Commissioner
	Gail Gilman	St. Marks City Commissioner
	Ed Brimner	Governor's Appointee

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Paul Thorpe	Northwest FL Water Management District
Diane Scholz	Enterprise Florida

ARPC Staff in Attendance

Chris Rietow	Executive Director
Vanita Anderson	Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinator
Bruce Ballister	Senior Planner: Economic Development
Denise Imbler	Senior Planner: Emergency Management
Keith McCarron	Senior Planner: Community Development
Janice Watson	Finance Officer/Revolving Loan Coordinator

Others in Attendance

Holli Revell	Swanky Baby Vintage
Kendall Wade	ARPC RLF Committee Chairman
Link Walther	CSA Ocean Sciences, Inc.
Peggy Mathews	Matthews-Webster Consulting
Steve Webster	Matthews-Webster Consulting
Sheri Coven	Florida Regional Councils Association
Parrish Barwick	Jefferson County Administrator
Shawn Wood	Gadsden Co. Emer. Management, Director
Tashonda Whaley	Gadsden Co. Emergency Management

Chairman Jones asked that the records show a quorum of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council in attendance. He requested the Board's approval to move the Revolving Loan Committee Report to the beginning of the agenda.

Item 2: Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

A motion was made by Randy Merritt to approve the amended agenda as proposed by the Chairman and also the minutes of the March 27, 2014, ARPC meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Delores Madison. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 2a: Revolving Loan Fund Committee Report

Janice Watson reported that the ARPC Revolving Loan Fund Committee had met at 9:30 am prior to the Board Meeting to review a loan application from Holli Revell. Ms. Watson introduced Ms. Revell to the Board. Ms. Revell gave a brief summary of her company and plans for expansion. Kendall Wade, RLF Committee Chairman presented the following Loan Committee recommendation to the Board.

ARPC-RLF Committee Recommendation: Approval of the loan request to Holli Revell in Bristol, FL and to fund the loan out of the EDA-RLF with the following terms and conditions:

- Loan Purpose: To expand the operations of Swanky Baby Vintage LLC
- Loan Request: \$40,000 line of credit for 60 months @ 6% with monthly interest payments on the outstanding principal balance and principal payments as payments are received on accounts receivable.
- Collateral
- a) Assignment of current and future Accounts Receivable Invoices of Swanky Baby Vintage, LLC
 - b) Second mortgage on the business property located at 14988 NW CR 12, Bristol, FL

- c) Assignment of a life insurance policy on Holli Revell in an amount equal to the amount of the loan
- d) Holli Revell will personally guarantee the loan

Job Creation:

The business will retain the one existing full-time and two existing part-time jobs and with the projected growth made possible by the additional working capital, will be able to add two additional part-time jobs that will be converted to full time by the end of 12 months.

A motion was made by Randy Merritt to approve the recommendations of the ARPC RLF Committee for the \$40,000 loan request from Holli Revell with conditions as presented above. The motion was seconded by Steve Cutshaw. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Davis Stoutamire thanked the Board for supporting a Liberty County business through the ARPC Revolving Loan Fund.

Item 3: Rural County Summit Overview Chris Rietow introduced Major Shawn Wood, Emergency Management Director for Gadsden County to the Board. Major Wood provided an overview presentation on the national speakers that he has arranged to be at the 3rd Annual Rural County Summit at the Florida Public Safety Institute on July 9-12 in Gadsden County. Speakers will include first responders from the Yarnell Hill Wildfire, Boulder Flooding Disaster and the West, Texas Hazardous Materials Incident. In addition, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Staff Sgt. Ty Carter will speak on Post Traumatic Stress. Brenda Holt noted that the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council is promoting the event and will be providing bus service to the evening receptions. Major Wood added that Gadsden County is very fortunate to be able to draw such prestigious speakers and to have this special training opportunity. He emphasized that the Rural Summit would also be beneficial to elected officials and encouraged their attendance. Major Wood concluded by thanking Denise Imbler and Chris Rietow for their help in buying into the idea and planning the event.

Item 4: RESTORE Funding Project Partnership

Chris Rietow introduced Link Walther of CSA Ocean Sciences, Inc. and explained that he had met with Mr. Walther while in Point Clear, AL to discuss a potential partnership with respect to a community resilience project. Mr. Walther gave a brief presentation on a project application that he submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on behalf of the West Florida Regional Planning Council. At that time, there were over 900 projects already submitted in the web-based portal managed by DEP. The five-year project would develop an overarching Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP) for the WRFPC region as well as individual PDRPs for each county. The PDRP helps to identify policies, operational strategies, and responsibilities for implementation that will guide decisions affecting long-term recovery and redevelopment of the community after a disaster. It focuses on opportunities for hazard mitigation and

community improvement consistent with the goals of the local comprehensive plan and with full participation of the citizens. DEP staff expressed a genuine interest in the project as it aligns with the RESTORE Act's Federal Council priority of community resilience. Mr. Walther was asked to make the project bigger, which led to the possible inclusion of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council.

Mr. Walther introduced Peggy Mathews of Mathews-Webster Consulting. Ms. Mathews gave a detailed presentation on the RESTORE Act and the different funding allocations. Ms. Mathews explained that this particular project would target the federal pot and would not compete with the County or Gulf Consortium pots. The federal pot is designated for large-scale or regional projects from Florida to Texas. The Federal Council ultimately decides which projects will be funded with the federal monies. Mr. Walther noted that if the project is not awarded through the federal pot, it may be worth applying through the Gulf Consortium pot.

A general discussion ensued regarding what obligations the ARPC would have, if any. Mr. Rietow explained that the ARPC not be financially obligated in any way. If the application was awarded, the ARPC would partner with CSA to develop PDRPs for the counties in the Region over a five-year period. CSA would provide guidance and assistance in developing capacity within the ARPC. Mr. Rietow noted that ARPC staff could potentially be expanded to handle the work load. Cheryl Sanders voiced her concerns over not having seen the application that was submitted by Mr. Walther on behalf of the WFRPC. Ms. Sanders noted that she was not opposed to the concept, but felt she needed more information to make an informed decision. Mr. Rietow apologized for not including the application with the Board Package materials. A motion was made by Davis Stoutamire to allow the ARPC to move forward with the submission of a revised application with CSA. The motion was seconded by Darrell McDougald. The motion passed, with Ms. Sanders voting against it.

Item 5: Chairman's Report Chairman Jones welcomed Gulf County Commission Chairman, Ward McDaniel to the Board and thanked him for his assistance in recent meetings with the Governor's staff in reference to restoration of RPC funding.

Per Capita Dues Structure: Chairman Jones reviewed for the Board a draft FY 2014/2015 ARPC Per Capita Dues Structure included in the Board Package on page 15, noting that it had been approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on May 8, 2014. It was suggested that the minimum balance paid by an individual County should not be lower than the \$5,000 dues that each County has always paid. Mr. Rietow noted that ARPC staff was available to attend any County Budget Workshops to discuss the new per capita dues structure.

A motion was made by Randy Merritt to approve the FY 2014/2015 ARPC Per Capita Dues Structure as approved by the Executive Committee and amended by the Full Council. The motion was seconded by Michael Hammond. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Per Capita Dues Structure is included with these minutes as "Attachment A"

ARPC By-Laws: Chairman Jones reviewed with the Board a draft ARPC By-Laws document approved by the Executive Committee on May 8, 2014 and included in the Board Package on page 17. Chris Rietow explained that the ARPC had never formally adopted by-laws before and in the past had referenced the ARPC Rules in FAC 29L as its organizing documents.

A motion was made by Michael Hammond to approve the ARPC By-Laws as approved by the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Randy Merritt. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the ARPC By-Laws is included with these minutes as "Attachment B"

Executive Director Employment Agreement: Chairman Jones reviewed for the Board a draft Employment Agreement between the ARPC and Executive Director Chris Rietow included in the Board Package on Page 23. He noted that the agreement had been prepared by Council Attorney Ed Blanton and approved by the ARPC Executive Committee on May 8, 2014.

A motion was made by Michael Hammond to approve the Executive Director Employment Agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Delores Madison. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Executive Director Employment Agreement is included with these minutes as "Attachment C".

Governor's Appointee Report: Chairman Jones thanked Governor's Appointees, Michael Hammond, Lisa Miller, and Don Stephens for their initiative in reaching out to the Governor's Office in support of the 2014 Legislative Appropriation for Regional Planning Councils. Michael Hammond, Don Stephens and Ward McDaniel discussed with the Board the details of their meeting with the Governor's Budget Director Cynthia Kelly and Office of Policy and Budget Director, Mark Kruse on May 16th. The group expressed optimism on the potential of RPC funding not being vetoed by the Governor.

Item 6: Executive Director's Report

Outreach Efforts: Chris Rietow reported that since the last Board meeting ARPC staff had held a workshop with the Calhoun County Commission on the services and functions of the ARPC. Mr. Rietow also reported that he had attended a Legislative breakfast with the Leon County Commission and spoke briefly about the ARPC on May 13th and was scheduled to formally address the Leon County Commission on June 10th. Mr. Rietow also noted the letters included on page 28-29 of the Board package sent from Ward McDaniel and Nancy Miller to the Governor in support of the ARPC. Davis Stoutamire requested that at their earliest convenience, ARPC staff make a presentation to the Liberty County Commission. Mr. Rietow agreed to schedule a meeting in Liberty County as soon as staff schedules would permit.

Southeastern Regional Directors Institute (SERDI) Training: Mr. Rietow reported that he had attended the SERDI 2014 New Director's Training and Annual Professional Development Conference in Clear Point, Alabama on May 16-19, 2014. He explained that his conference registration and travel expenses to attend the training had been reimbursed by the FL Regional

Councils Association. He gave a brief summary of the training and stated that he had made many new contacts with the National Association for Development Organizations (NADO) and had brought back valuable information to assist in implementing the economic development programs of the ARPC.

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Update: Mr. Rietow reviewed with the Board the FRCA short term action plan summarizing the efforts of ARPC Board and staff to implement the recommendations of the FRCA Strategic Assessment report included in the Board package on page 30. He also reviewed the FRCA Monthly Activity Report and Legislative Highlights.

Financial Report: Mr. Rietow reviewed with the Board the Reconciled Check Registers and Budget Revenue/Expenditure Reports for March and April 2014, included in the agenda package beginning on page 35. He also reviewed with the Board the ARPC list of accounts payable as of 5/20/14 and the draft check register through May 22nd.

A motion was made by Randy Merritt to approve the financial reports for March 2014 and April 2014. The motion was seconded by Delores Madison. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 7: Council Attorney's Report

Council Attorney Ed Blanton reported that there was no litigation or other legal issues to report since the last meeting.

Item 8: Staff Reports

Comprehensive Plan Reviews Keith McCarron reviewed with the Board the ARPC staff report on the Leon County Proposed Amendment Series 14-1ESR, included in the board package beginning on page 45. He reported that staff had no regional comments on the proposed amendment series.

A motion was made by Randy Merritt to approve and submit to the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity the ARPC staff report on the Leon County Proposed Amendment Series, 14-1ESR. The motion was seconded by Nancy Miller. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCarron announced that the deadline for FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Technical Assistance Grants was June 5th and stated that he would be available to assist any local governments in submitting their applications to DEO.

Revolving Loan Fund Ms. Watson reviewed the report on the ARPC's Revolving Loan Fund Program included in the board package beginning on page 53. Ms. Watson reviewed the fund balances and reported briefly on the status of the accounts.

Economic Development Bruce Ballister reported on his work with the two CDBG grants for North Port St. Joe, the City of Apalachicola Scipio Creek Boat Basin CDBG and EDA grants, and the recent RiverWay South Rural Summit. Mr. Ballister announced that the Economic

Development Administration (EDA) had awarded \$1.5 million to Tallahassee Community College for funding the access road into the Wakulla Environmental Institute and noted that the project would be administered by ARPC staff.

Emergency Management Chris Rietow reported on his work with the FL Division of Emergency Management on several projects including the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the Hazards Analysis Update. Mr. Rietow gave a brief report on Operation Deep Freeze a full-scale exercise held at the FSU National High Magnetic Laboratory in Tallahassee on April 28, 2014 and in Live Oak on May 8th. He explained that it was the first regional exercise held since Operation School Safety in 2008. Mr. Rietow noted that a video documentary on the exercise was being produced by WCOT and upon completion would be shown at a future Board meeting.

Denise Imbler reported that she had been working extensively with the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office on the upcoming Rural Summit discussed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Imbler also reported on her work with the Big Bend Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), the Jackson County Emergency Management Agency and its Continuity of Operations Plan, and the North Florida Medical Reserve Corps. She also noted the following exercises recently held within the Region: Gadsden County - Fire Rescue Exercise on April 5th, an Active Shooter Functional Exercise in Calhoun, Franklin, and Liberty Counties on May 16th and the Statewide Hurricane Exercise on May 19-22nd.

Transportation Disadvantaged Program Vanita Anderson reported briefly on the activities of the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program since the last Board meeting and reviewed the required deliverables for the FY 2014/2015 TD Planning Grant. She noted that the total amount of the FY 14/15 contract was \$95,848.

A motion was made by Randy Merritt to approve and authorize the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant Contract for FY 2014/2015 between the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the Apalachee Regional Planning Council as presented by ARPC staff. The motion was seconded by Delores Madison. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Anderson directed the Board to the report in the Board Package from the 2014 Florida Rodeo competition and noted that JTrans of Jackson County took top honors in the competition and would be representing Florida in the National Paratransit Rodeo in St. Paul, Minnesota on June 7th. She noted that drivers from Gulf, Calhoun and Liberty Counties also won awards at the Florida competition.

Item 9: Correspondence / Items of Interest

Mr. Rietow briefly reviewed several articles of interest in the Board package beginning on page 71, including a tax reduction summary provided by the Small County Coalition and a Legislative Summary Article from *The Florida Current*.

Item 10: Council / Public Comment

Chairman Jones announced that the next ARPC Board meeting would be held on July 31, 2014 at 10:30 am ET, in the same location.

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

APPROVED BY THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION
ON JULY 31, 2014.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

John Jones, Jr.
Chairman

Chris Rietow
Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM 4

The Florida Chamber's RPC SCORECARD



- The Site is not found on the Florida Chamber site.
- The Florida Chamber's Score
- <http://www.flchamber.com/>
- <http://www.flchamber.com/foundation/the-florida-scorecard/>
- Special URL:
- <http://floridarpcscorecard.com/>



Talent Supply & Education Innovation & Economic Development Infrastructure & Growth Leadership Business Climate & Competitiveness Civic & Governance Systems Quality of Life and Places



THE FLORIDA SCORECARD
FLORIDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

in partnership with the Florida Regional Councils Association and Florida Chamber Foundation



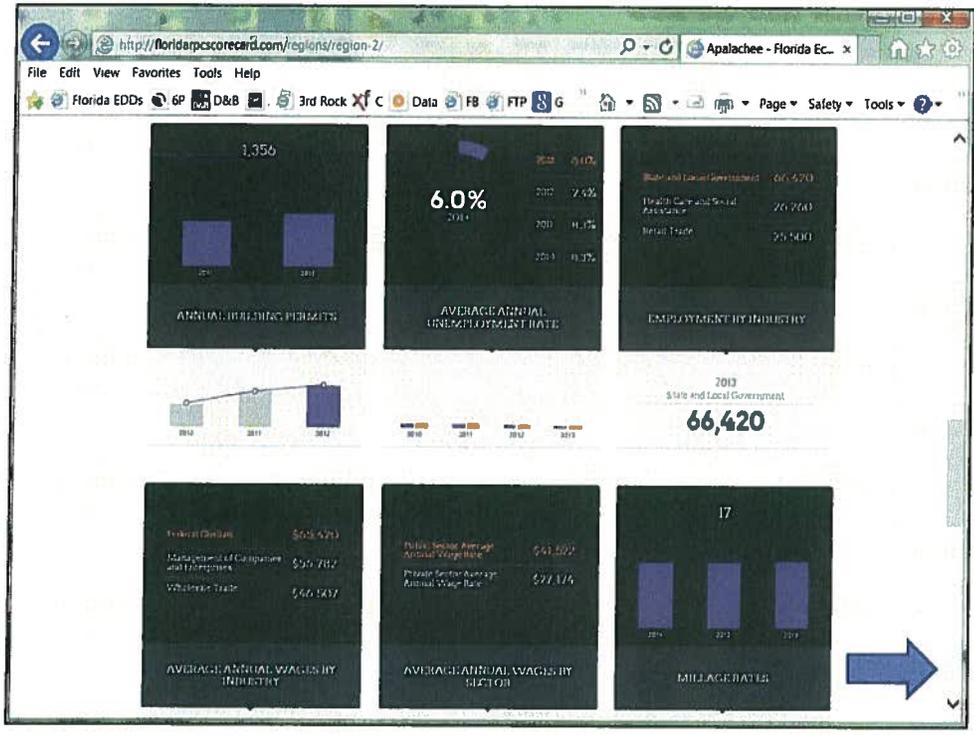
OR
 Select one of the **SIX PILLARS**
 to explore the statewide data

Choose a Pillar.

**FLORIDA 2013
 INNOVATION & ECONOMIC
 DEVELOPMENT
 Gross Domestic Products
 \$763.0b**

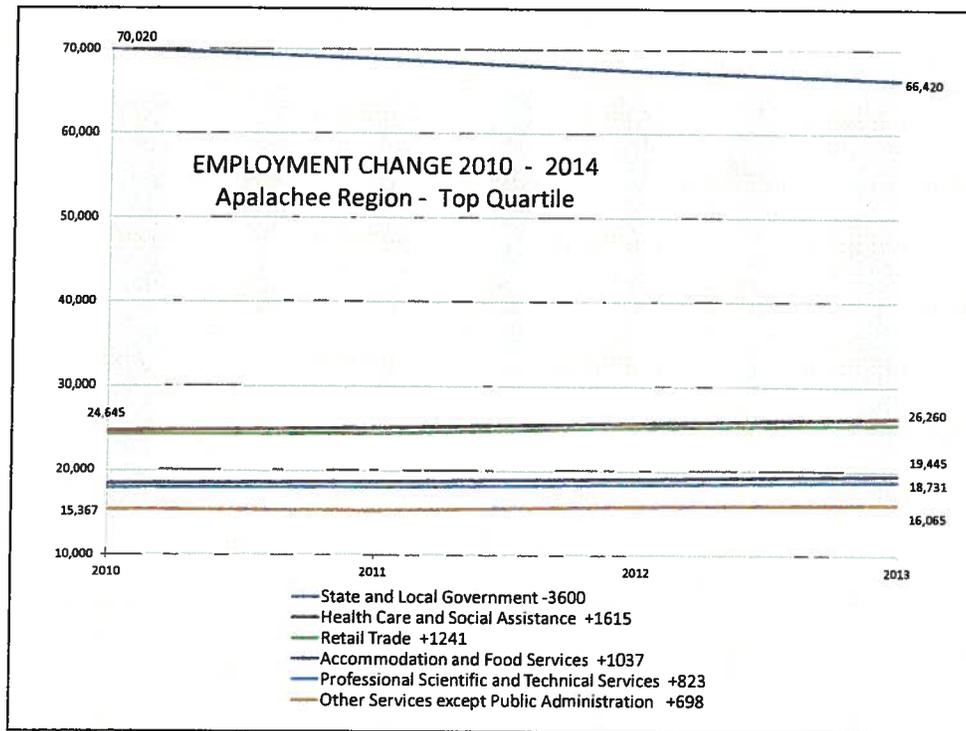
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 INNOVATION & ECONOMIC
 DEVELOPMENT
 Trade Imports
 \$102.0b**

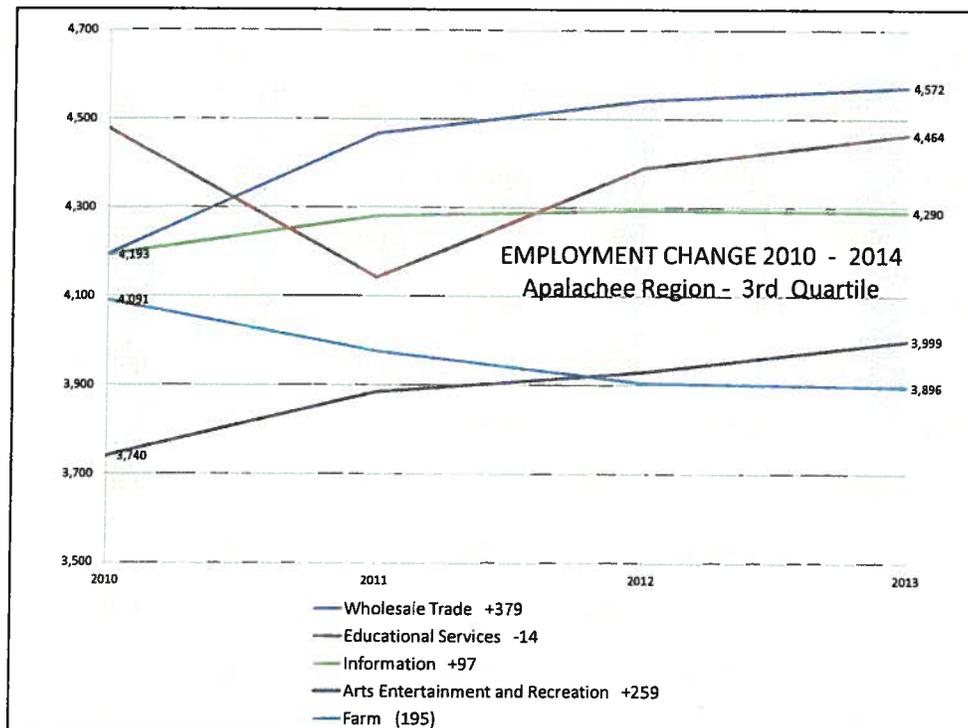
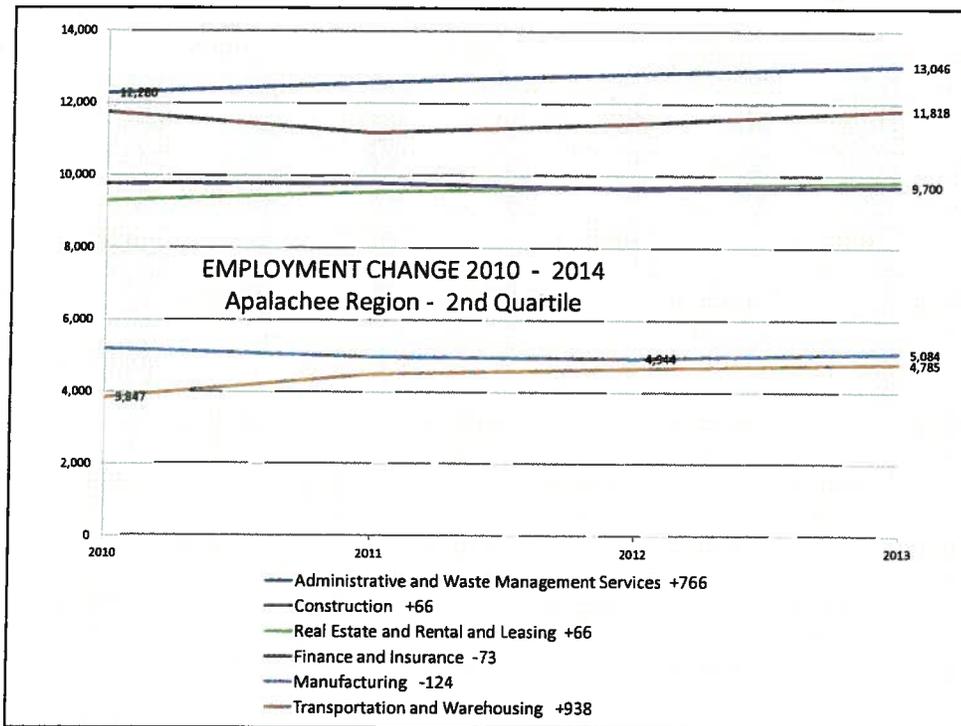
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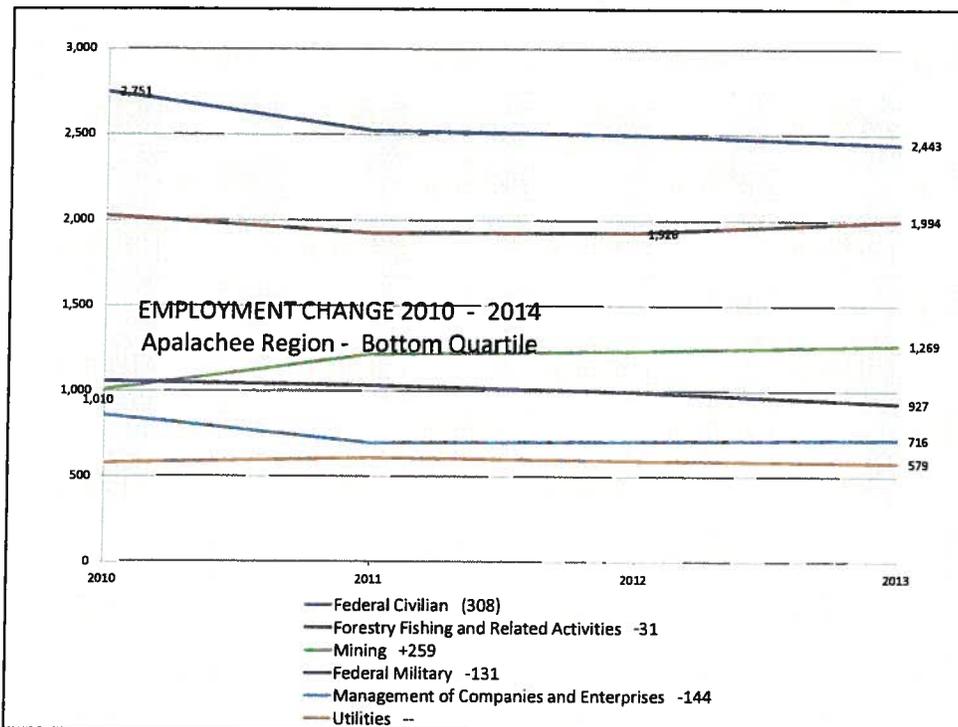


	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Employment Sector	2010	2011	2012	2013	
2	State and Local Government -3600	70,020	68,874	67,167	66,420	-3,600
3	Health Care and Social Assistance +1615	24,645	25,009	25,604	26,760	1,615
4	Retail Trade +1241	24,259	24,326	25,096	25,500	1,241
5	Accommodation and Food Services +1037	18,408	18,627	19,023	19,445	1,037
6	Professional Scientific and Technical Services +923	17,908	17,981	18,317	18,731	923
7	Other Services except Public Administration +658	15,367	15,244	15,750	16,065	658
8	Administrative and Waste Management Services -766	12,280	12,588	12,839	13,046	-766
9	Construction +66	11,752	11,185	11,442	11,818	66
0	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing +66	9,303	9,551	9,659	9,835	66
1	Finance and Insurance -73	9,773	9,796	9,636	9,700	-73
2	Manufacturing -124	5,208	4,979	4,944	5,084	-124
3	Transportation and Warehousing +938	3,847	4,498	4,659	4,785	938
4	Wholesale Trade +379	4,193	4,467	4,542	4,572	379
5	Educational Services -14	4,478	4,142	4,389	4,464	-14
6	Information +97	4,193	4,281	4,294	4,290	97
7	Arts Entertainment and Recreation +259	3,740	3,884	3,929	3,999	259
8	Farm (195)	4,091	3,976	3,905	3,896	-195
9	Federal Civilian (208)	2,751	2,524	2,499	2,443	-208
0	Forestry Fishing and Related Activities -31	2,025	1,924	1,926	1,994	-31
1	Mining +259	1,010	1,217	1,236	1,269	259
2	Federal Military -131	1,058	1,033	994	927	-131
3	Management of Companies and Enterprises -144	860	698	707	716	-144
4	Utilities -	579	610	592	579	-

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Employment Sector	2010	2011	2012	2013
2	State and Local Government -3600	70,020	68,874	67,467	66,420
3	Health Care and Social Assistance +1615	24,645	25,009	25,604	26,260
4	Retail Trade +1241	24,259	24,326	25,096	25,500
5	Accommodation and Food Services +1037	18,408	18,627	19,023	19,445
6	Professional Scientific and Technical Services +823	17,908	17,981	18,317	18,731
7	Other Services except Public Administration +698	15,367	15,244	15,750	16,065
8	Administrative and Waste Management Services +766	12,280	12,588	12,839	13,046
9	Construction +66	11,752	11,185	11,452	11,818
10	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing +66	9,303	9,554	9,699	9,835
11	Finance and Insurance -73	9,773	9,796	9,636	9,700
12	Manufacturing -124	5,208	4,979	4,944	5,084
13	Transportation and Warehousing +938	3,847	4,498	4,659	4,785
14	Wholesale Trade +379	4,193	4,467	4,542	4,572
15	Educational Services -14	4,478	4,142	4,389	4,464
16	Information +97	4,193	4,281	4,294	4,290
17	Arts Entertainment and Recreation +259	3,740	3,884	3,929	3,999
18	Farm (195)	4,091	3,976	3,905	3,896
19	Federal Civilian (308)	2,751	2,524	2,499	2,443
20	Forestry Fishing and Related Activities -31	2,025	1,924	1,926	1,994
21	Mining +259	1,010	1,217	1,236	1,269
22	Federal Military -131	1,058	1,033	994	92
23	Management of Companies and Enterprises -144	860	698	707	716
24	Utilities -	579	610	592	579







Questions?

- Talent Supply & Education
- Innovation & Economic Development
- Infrastructure & Growth Leadership
- Business Climate & Competitiveness
- Civic & Governance Systems
- Quality of life and Places



AGENDA ITEM 6

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Chris Rietow

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

- A. **Outreach Efforts:** Report on recent activities by staff to promote the Council as a technical assistance resource and educate member local governments on the value of the Council.
- B. **FL Regional Councils Association:** Summary on staff efforts to implement the recommendations of the FRCA Strategic Assessment report, including the new quarterly newsletter.
- C. **ARPC RESTORE Act Application Update:** A brief update on the current status of the application progress. The application previously submitted by CSA, Inc. on behalf of the West Florida Regional Planning Council is included.
- D. ***Financial Report:** On the following pages are the financial reports for May and June 2014 and a FY 13/14 Budget Amendment approved by the Executive Committee on July 25, 2014.

ACTION NEEDED

Motion to accept Financial Reports for the periods ending May 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014 and the Amended Budget for FY 13/14.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - B



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

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: May 2014

OUTREACH

- Along with Mario Taylor (Northeast Florida Regional Council), met with Linda McWhorter (Florida Division of Emergency Management) to discuss several priority projects and funding opportunities.
- Began developing FRCA's first electronic quarterly newsletter, which will be issued in June as the "Summer 2014" issue.
- Met with Sal Nuzzo (Florida Chamber Foundation) to provide input and offer assistance pertaining to a Military and Veterans Summit being hosted by the Florida Chamber Foundation in August.
- Thanked Gray Swoope and Al Latimer for identifying the Florida Regional Councils Association as a Partner Entity on the Enterprise Florida website, which has been a work in progress.
- Provided assistance to the U.S. Census Bureau, which is planning a Local Update of Census Addresses Workshop for the 2020 Census in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in Enterprise Florida's monthly conference call for its economic development partners, and attended the 2014 State Hurricane Exercise as FRCA's representative to Emergency Support Function 18 – Business, Industry, and Economic Stabilization.
- Served as a panelist at a national Executive Directors Training Workshop, which was hosted by the National Association of Development Organization, Southeast Regional Directors Institute (SERDI), and others, and also served as a panelist at SERDI's Annual Training Conference, which were held in conjunction with one another.
- Distributed funding announcements from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity pertaining to its Regional Rural Development Grants and from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Labor, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Contacted Florida's Congressional members asking them to oppose the Pompeo amendment that would have eliminated the U.S. Economic Development Administration's entire budget (the amendment failed).
- Provided support on several fronts to help prevent a veto of regional planning council funding (still awaiting action by the Governor).
- Issued a post-session legislative update that included several variations of FRCA's bill tracking reports.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Developed a FRCA Membership Benefits and Services document that will be provided to all regional planning council board members.
- Developed an Orientation Packet that will be delivered via email to all new FRCA Policy Board members.
- Continued to prepare for the June FRCA meetings, which will be held in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference; August FRCA meetings, which will be held in conjunction with the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference; and, October FRCA meetings, which will be held in conjunction with the Florida Chamber Foundation's Future of Florida Annual Conference.



Sheri Coven
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
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MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: June 2014

OUTREACH

- Staffed a booth in the exhibit hall at the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference, which took place June 17-20, 2014.
- Provided FRCA Policy Board members with the new FRCA Membership Benefits document and FRCA fact sheet that will be given to all new Policy Board members as well as new regional planning council board members going forward.
- Sent a note to Jesse Panuccio, Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, stating that in spite of the Governor's veto, the regional planning councils looked forward to an ongoing, productive partnership with the Department and continued implementation of the *State Strategic Plan for Economic Development*.
- Completed FRCA's first electronic quarterly newsletter; awaiting an email distribution list from the Florida Association of Counties before it can be released.
- Responded to a request from the Florida Energy Office to issue a letter from FRCA, which was provided by Brian Teeple, Chair of the FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee, supporting its application to the U.S. Department of Energy for a State Energy Planning Grant.
- Reached out to staff from the Florida Division of Emergency Management in person and by email to help resolve issues associated with a variety of contracts between the Division and the regional planning councils.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in Enterprise Florida's monthly conference call for its economic development partners, as well as teleconferences hosted by the Florida Transportation Commission, Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council, and Florida Local Government Coalition.
- Attended the 2014 National Association of Regional Councils Annual Conference.
- Attended the Small County Coalition Annual Meeting.
- Accepted an invitation from the Florida Chamber Foundation for FRCA to serve as a partner for its September 29-October 1, 2014 Future of Florida Forum and participated in the first planning committee conference call to begin setting the Forum's program.
- Distributed funding announcements from Florida Sea Grant, National Endowment for the Humanities, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and U.S. Department of the Interior.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Helped FRCA President Patty Asseff prepare and distribute a message from her to the FRCA Policy Board members regarding the veto of regional planning council funding.
- Met with the new Legislative Director of the Florida Association of Counties, Lisa Hurley.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Addressed website maintenance issues.
- Prepared the April meeting summaries; participated in the June FRCA meetings; worked with the Florida League of Cities on logistics for the August FRCA meetings, which will be held on August 14-15, 2014, in conjunction with its annual conference in Hollywood; and, worked with the Florida Chamber Foundation on logistics for the October FRCA Meetings, which will both be held on October 1, 2014, in conjunction with the Future of Florida Forum in Lake Buena Vista.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - C

FLORIDA GULF OF MEXICO RESTORATION **Submit by Email**
PROJECT SUBMITTAL FORM

Form Purpose and Instructions:

- To assist the project proposal and review process, please complete this Submittal Form. Completion of the Form will contribute to the appropriate information being completely and accurately submitted for each project.
- Take as much space as needed for each question, but please keep responses as focused as possible. It may assist you to review all the questions before addressing any one question.
- If you have multiple projects – please submit one Form for each project.
- When you have completed the form hit the submit button in the upper right hand corner. Once your Form is successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation email from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Submit all back-up maps, information, etc. to Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us
- To submit updated information, please fill out this form and update fields as needed.

All of the following are **Required Fields** for project updates

New Project **Update to Previous Submittal** **Project #**

Project Name

Contact Information: *(Include at least one name, phone number, email address, and organization name if applicable)*

Terry Joseph, Executive Director
West Florida Regional Planning Council
(850) 332-7976
terry.joseph@wfrpc.org

Project Location:

(Include a map, if possible, and the city, county, watershed, longitude/latitude dec.deg, Parcel # if Applicable)

Florida Panhandle counties

Project Description:

(Describe all aspects of the project)

All of the counties within in the West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC) have been impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. While there was physical damage in coastal counties, all counties suffered economically due to the reduced tax revenue that tourism generates for the local economies. In the wake of the oil spill, the region received a good deal of negative branding by the media, even though physical impacts to the coastal beaches were far less than had been expected and clean-up actions occurred immediately. It took years for the visiting public's confidence to be restored and for tourism to return to pre-spill levels. According

to Florida TaxWatch, the oil spill caused a reduction in gross sales in NW Florida by \$454 million from the months of May through September of 2010 alone. Since the tourism industry is only second to the military as a job generator, this loss of revenue had a severe impact on northwest Florida and its residents. Although the local economy has almost returned to pre-spill levels, the lack of sustained growth combined with the economically stunted businesses that survived the spill, has had a profound and lasting negative impact on the region. In addition to a man-made disaster such as Deepwater Horizon, Panhandle counties have been impacted by numerous hurricanes and flooding events caused by severe rainfall. Figure 1 provides details on the Florida Panhandle counties.

Storm surge heights from Bay County to Escambia County can be significant due to the shallow offshore bathymetry. Such storms do not only impact the coastal resources, but also the infrastructure (e.g., roads, schools, public buildings) and housing. Hurricane Ivan, a Category 4 hurricane, struck the western Florida Panhandle in 2004, creating billions of dollars of damage and as a result of that major storm, there were a number of significant issues that have created long-term impacts and slowed the speed of recovery. They included lack of housing for displaced residents as well as individuals outside the community assisting in the rebuilding of the community; lack of contractors, especially roofers; job loss; lack of job training programs to ensure skill diversity; massive piles of debris; marina vulnerability; and lack of sufficient veterinarians to attend to large and small animals.

In the chaos and disruption following a disaster, when response changes to recovery and immediate life-safety tasks have been concluded, communities often struggle to regain normalcy. Long-term recovery can continue for years. While it is impossible to eliminate damage resulting from disasters, it is possible to reduce the potential damage by preparing for such an event prior to its occurrence. Community recovery experiences can be ones of missed opportunities, disconnects, and difficulty in implementing repair and redevelopment. Anticipation of man-made or natural disasters is the first step in effective hazard mitigation and risk reduction. The next step is to develop a tested and practiced set of instructions and procedures for post-disaster response and recovery. While all Florida Panhandle counties have emergency response plans and local mitigation strategies, most have not yet developed pre-disaster recovery and redevelopment plans. These county-developed plans and strategies are myopic insofar as they focus on specific county/community concerns and needs and do not take into account the regional nature of recovery. Through pre-planning at a regional level, recovery can occur sooner.

The International Recovery Platform's 2012 Guidance Note on Recovery succinctly states the reasons for developing pre-disaster recovery plans and their suggested content. According to the Guidance, these plans need to consist of a series of decisions and actions to be taken before and after a disaster in order to accomplish the following:

- Identify and Establish Shared Recovery Goals, Objectives, and Strategies – To guide post-disaster decision-making, ensure that relief and recovery activities align with long-term development goals, address actual needs, and enhance resilience to future disasters.
- Develop and Have Ready the Capacity to Plan, Initiate, and Manage – An efficient, adaptive, and well-coordinated recovery effort that progresses towards the recovery goals.

Operationally, post-disaster recovery and redevelopment plans consist of three main components:

1. Developing goals, objectives, and strategies for post-disaster recovery based on informed disaster scenarios;

2. Creating a recovery organizational structure that assigns post-disaster roles and responsibilities; and
3. Planning and implementing pre-disaster actions that will expedite and strengthen post-disaster planning and implementation.

Further, it is important to understand that pre-disaster planning does not replace post-disaster planning due to the unpredictable nature of hazards.

One of the primary charges of WFRPC is to help its counties and municipalities to be more resilient and sustainable and, as such, the WFRPC aims to refine its internal expertise and add to its capacity to assist its counties in developing long-term post-disaster recovery and redevelopment plans. This will ensure that the region is able to recover more quickly to a stable and functional state given the inevitable changes that result from major disasters, whether man-made or natural. WFRPC has been involved with disaster/emergency management planning over the years and, most recently, participated in the development of a Statewide Regional Evacuation Study. Although the WFRPC has a long history of planning for the region, it has minimal direct experience in long-term recovery planning and seeks to enhance knowledge and expertise to assist member governments in developing long-term disaster recovery and redevelopment plans.

To expand its knowledge and capabilities to provide such assistance, the WFRPC proposes to work with CSA Ocean Sciences Inc. (CSA). CSA has extensive experience in recovery planning as well as in other areas of emergency management planning. In addition to CSA staff, CSA will also assemble a team of supporting expertise in specific areas of long-term recovery and implementation, local recovery management, economic and business recovery, and housing and infrastructure recovery. CSA prepared a handbook for the State of Florida titled Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning – A Guide for Florida Counties. In addition, the firm also prepared a number of disaster recovery plans for numerous Florida counties as well as the City of Panama City.

The proposed project seeks to achieve a series of objectives:

1. Develop and expand capacity and expertise within WFRPC to assist its counties in preparing long-term disaster recovery and redevelopment plans;
2. Prepare a regional long-term post-disaster recovery strategy;
3. Prepare seven county long-term recovery and redevelopment plans;
4. Assist counties in the implementation of each long-term recovery plan; and
5. Build on existing studies and plans related to disaster recovery, such as Local Mitigation Strategy, County Emergency Operations Plans, local comprehensive plans and land development codes, environmental protection programs, debris management plans, and disaster housing strategy.

Prior to initiating the development of the seven county plans, WFRPC will prepare a regional long-term post-disaster strategy. This regional strategy will provide the overarching recovery guidance for the West Florida Region and will address issues that transcend county boundaries. Following the completion of this regional strategy, the WFRPC will develop recovery and redevelopment plans for each county in its seven-county region. The seven county plans will focus on those issues that are most relevant to their particular needs. While all the county plans will have some common issues, it is vitally important for each plan to be tailored to address specific recovery needs and issues based on government and citizen input. For example, major urban centers do not have the same priorities for long-term redevelopment as rural or suburban areas; coastal communities will have different hazard vulnerabilities than inland communities;

and there will be variances in local government capacity, economies, and socioeconomic factors that also must be considered.

Stakeholder involvement is also a cornerstone of this project. Buy-in for each county plan can only be achieved through the involvement of the governing officials and staff as well as the involvement of key stakeholder groups in each county starting from day one of the planning effort. For each county, an early task will be designing a public outreach strategy that ensures the involvement of all interested parties. The development of a post-disaster recovery and redevelopment plan provides a valuable communication and educational process for local elected officials, staff, and community stakeholders to help them understand the complexity of the decisions that will need to be made to allow the community to redevelop after a major disaster and will demonstrate what actions must be taken well in advance of another catastrophic event. WFRPC, which is composed of local elected officials from cities and counties in the region, will establish a committee to review, comment, and guide the Regional Strategy.

While it is hoped that another oil spill like Deepwater Horizon will never again impact Florida's western counties, it can be guaranteed that the region will experience more hurricanes, some with devastating impacts such as Hurricane Camille and Hurricane Katrina. Now is the time, under "blue skies" conditions, that WFRPC counties and municipalities begin to develop long-term recovery and redevelopment plans.

Estimated Project Costs:

(Describe the estimated costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations/maintenance. Identify other secured funding sources such as matching funds, in-kind contributions or state/federal dollars. In addition, if possible, complete and submit the Cost Appendix Sheet associated with this Form)

Over the course of this 5-year project, the Regional Disaster Recovery Strategy and county plans will be developed and implemented. The initial 3 years of funding will be used for the preparation of the Regional Disaster Recovery Strategy and the seven county disaster recovery and redevelopment plans. In Years 4 and 5, WFRPC will work with its local governments and other collaborating stakeholders interested in implementing actions identified in the disaster recovery and redevelopment plans. In addition to WFRPC labor costs, funds will be used for printing, to conduct meetings and workshops, and for retaining the services of CSA Ocean Sciences Inc. The total cost for plan development (first 3 years) is \$1,394,400. Additional funding (\$414,300) in Years 4 and 5 will enable the Council to assist the counties in collaborating with local partners and stakeholder groups to begin implementing their disaster recovery and redevelopment plans.

Because there is no field work involved with this project, our anticipated contingency is \$10,000 rather than 10% of our total cost. Assuming a \$10,000 contingency, this means the total project cost is \$1,964,685 rather than the total cost automatically calculated by the Cost Appendix Sheet below (\$2,150,153.50), which includes a 10% contingency.

Other Funding:

(Indicate if the project is submitted for any potential funding or if it may be used to leverage additional funding, if so, please describe the funding source [e.g. State/Federal Grants])

Additional outside funding is not anticipated; however, the Council intends to leverage the RESTORE funds in several ways:

- The time of the Executive Director as well as the WFRPC Council Members will be contributed as in-kind;
- The grant will underwrite only a portion of the staff salaries; and
- It is anticipated that a Council RESTORE Subcommittee will be established for at least the life of

the grant, possibly longer (to be determined).

Technical Feasibility:

(Describe the technologies involved and any relevant past experience or proven success with similar projects)

This project will involve preparing a regional recovery strategy and seven county recovery and redevelopment plans. Another major objective of the project is to enhance the existing staff skills in the area of emergency management and recovery planning for WFRPC. To accomplish this objective, WFRPC intends to collaborate with CSA, a firm with extensive experience in disaster recovery and redevelopment. CSA has assembled a team of experts with national and international experience in long-term recovery planning to meet the project objectives: Laurie Johnson, Laurie Johnson Consulting and Research; Mickie Valente, Valente Advisors; Peggy Mathews, sole practitioner; and Florida State University, Department of Urban & Regional Planning. The CSA team has both the skills and experience necessary to prepare regional and local recovery and redevelopment plans as well as train WFRPC staff on long-term recovery. The CSA team has experts not only in natural hazards but with experience in oil spill disasters. Training of WFRPC staff will involve working closely with the CSA team throughout the project, participating in the development of both the regional recovery strategy as well as the county plans. Following completion of the plans, WFRPC staff will work with the various counties and municipalities to provide technical assistance and assist local governments in implementing their disaster recovery and redevelopment plans.

CSA served as the prime consultant that developed the handbook Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning – A Guide for Florida Communities for the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Department of Community Affairs in 2010 through a State post-disaster redevelopment planning initiative. In addition, CSA has also prepared a series of county post-disaster recovery and redevelopment plans. Hillsborough County has received high praise from Roy Wright, Deputy Associate Administrator for Mitigation at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). CSA has staff with extensive experience with the oil industry and, in particular, oil spills. Ms. Valente has been highly successful in developing economic development stakeholder programs and effective strategies to rebuild communities after economic disruption. She has worked in both the U.S. and Canada. Ms. Johnson has a wide breadth of experience and particular expertise in areas of recovery implementation, insurance, and finance. She has extensive experience with major and catastrophic disasters, having worked in Japan following the Kobe earthquake & tsunami (2001) and Fukushima (2011), in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina (2005), and in Christchurch, New Zealand (2011). Ms. Mathews, a native North Floridian, is intimately familiar with the natural resources of the region. She has an extensive background in natural resource management, working with state and federal environmental agencies in research, resource protection, and regulation. The CSA team also includes the Florida State University Department of Urban and Regional Planning, which has recently completed a project that included the development of a post-disaster housing capacity model that determines the maximum capacity of host communities to accommodate evacuees.

Following a torrent of devastating storms in 2004 and 2005, the state of Florida reviewed how best to mitigate future damage and protect its citizens. Working with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the Department of Homeland Security began re-evaluating the 11 regions' evacuation studies using consistent methodologies. In 2006, the state contracted the WFRPC and the other regional planning councils to develop a Statewide Regional Evacuation Study (SRES). The completed evacuation study contained several analytical components: behavioral,

region transportation network, critical facilities, hazards, demographics, and shelters. When the final study results were released, David Halstead, Division of Emergency Management Director; Julie Dennis, Division of Community Planning Liaison for the Department of Community Affairs; and Ed Ward, District 2 Emergency Coordination Officer for the Florida Department of Transportation, each acclaimed their support for the study as the guiding document for all future state determinations.

The WFRPC team includes Ms. Terry Joseph, Executive Director; Ms. Kathy Ahlen; and Mr. Mike Reistad. Ms. Joseph brings 29 years of regional planning experience and has a background in Biology and Coastal Zone Studies. Ms. Ahlen serves as the staff to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to assist regional emergency managers in their preparation for regional and local events as well as to act as the Exercise Coordinator to test and exercise the LEPC Comprehensive Emergency Plan. She has assisted and planned numerous local and regional exercises, including a biennial LEPC hazardous materials exercise, as well as assisted with county hazmat and hurricane exercises and the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) with an Interoperability (I/O) Training Exercise. She and additional WFRPC planners, with the assistance of the Florida National Guard and several first responders from around northeast Florida, carried out this exercise funded by the Department of Emergency Management and facilitated with the expertise developed here in the Panhandle. Mr. Reistad has a background in environmental management and has over 25 years of experience in the federal government where he has worked on a variety of national-level programs and policies and currently works on various environmental issues within the Panhandle counties.

Conflicts or Complements to Existing Efforts:

(Describe any ongoing activities in the project implementation area, if the project is part of another plan, and why the project does or does not interfere with that work. Please consider how the project may complement existing local, regional, and state efforts/plans/objectives)

The proposed project strongly complements the existing long-term recovery efforts being promoted by the federal and state governments. The State of Florida implemented a planning initiative in 2007 to 2010 that resulted in the preparation of several post-disaster redevelopment plans, including Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning – A Guide for Florida Communities. A number of other post-disaster redevelopment plans funded by the State have been prepared by numerous local governments. In addition, FEMA has been a strong proponent, urging local governments to pre-plan prior to a disaster event.

Florida's planning initiative influenced the development of FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF). As expressed in the NDRF guidance, "Pre-disaster recovery planning enables local, State, Tribal governments to effectively direct recovery activities and expedite a unified recovery effort. Pre-disaster plans provide a common platform to guide recovery decisions and activities. When done in conjunction with local and regional comprehensive and community development, pre-disaster planning helps identify recovery priorities, incorporate hazard mitigation strategies in the wake of a disaster and articulate post-disaster options. By integrating and coordinating planning initiatives, a community further increases local resilience."

Due to the inherent variability between the counties, these regional- and county-specific plans will contain components that will apply to every county within the State of Florida. The finalized components of this project will be transportable, transferable, and scalable to any county within Florida and will serve as a model for regional pre-disaster resiliency planning nationally.

Complies with Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Laws/Regulations:

(Describe any concerns or potential conflicts)

The Federal government has been working diligently over the past decade to develop guidance encouraging local governments to develop plans in a pre-disaster mode. The U.S. Congress enacted the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, which provides the legal basis for FEMA mitigation

planning requirements for state, local, and Indian Tribes as a condition of mitigation grant assistance. Since that time, FEMA has recognized the need and benefits derived from pre-planning for long-term recovery. As a result, the agency has developed the National Disaster Recovery Framework that serves as guidance and provides a flexible structure that enables disaster recovery managers to operate in a unified and collaborative manner.

Readiness for Implementation:

(Describe if the project has had any design or permitting work started or completed [attach permits or design work]. Please address any issues that may delay start or finish of the project)

This project is ready for implementation immediately. The first task will be the development of a detailed scope of work that will include a review of specific county plans (such as debris removal, emergency housing, and restoration of critical services) to determine the extent to which the county seeks to utilize regional assets. Also, WFRPC will create a post-disaster recovery committee comprising elected officials that make up the WFRPC Board, which will provide project oversight, coordination with local planning efforts, and development of the Regional Disaster Recovery Plan.

Environmental Benefits:

(Describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project. If possible, describe potential environmental performance measures [e.g. pollutant reduction]. Please address any potential environmental impacts associated with implementing or maintaining the project [e.g. loss of a habitat or conversion of habitat from one type to another during implementation])

In addition to affecting the built environment, disasters also impact the natural environment. Five of the counties in the WFRPC area are situated directly on the Gulf of Mexico, with Holmes and Washington Counties situated to the north of Bay County. The coastal counties extend from Panama City on the east to Pensacola on the west and have felt the impacts of many hurricanes. Storm surge, beach erosion, and high winds are always a major concern when hurricanes are approaching. These storms have caused significant damage over the years and will continue to be a threat. Inland areas suffer damage resulting from hurricanes, too; however, it is the impacts resulting from wind and flooding that can have a dramatic impact on these areas. Storms do not necessarily have to be hurricane strength to cause damage. This region is all too familiar with storms that stall and cause major flooding, especially in low lying areas and rivers and creeks (e.g., Blackwater Creek and the Choctawhatchee River) that have overflowed their banks following a major rain event.

When conditions prevail, sewer systems and storm drains become overtaxed and water distribution lines rupture, potentially resulting in contamination. The highways and dirt roads that connect the region are shut down as roads tumble into creeks and bridges collapse. U.S. 98, following the coast, has repeatedly had issues of overwash or had segments destroyed as a result of hurricanes, while dirt roads in Holmes and Washington Counties have washed away as a result of flooding. From a man-made hazard perspective, an incident such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill can create lasting environmental problems such as oil entrained in the water

column or tar balls (soft clumps of weathered oil mingled with sand, shells, and other beach material) on the beaches or, worse, oil penetrating the coastal marshes, which are vital nursery areas and critical habitat for several marine and avian species.

A stronger, more resilient community can be rebuilt after a disaster by protecting or enhancing local environmental quality. Enhancement strategies may take the form of the following:

- Preservation/restoration of natural resources;
- Protection of open space;
- Management of stormwater runoff; and
- Prevention/remediation of pollution.

In addition to the physical effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the national media quickly and repeatedly spread the message to the general public that oil was covering the beaches following the incident. This national level misinformation caused a significant decline in tourism and, although these statements were never true, this idea “branded” the region and significantly impacted the region’s economy, especially tourism-dependent industries such as marinas, charter boats, hotels, and restaurants not just in the Panhandle, but statewide. One of the lessons that was learned was that the region needed a communication strategy that would allow officials to quickly respond to misinformation and make sure media reports portray the reality of the situation.

From an environmental perspective, pre-disaster recovery planning affords communities an opportunity to protect their natural resource assets from damaging effects of hazards as well as the chance to keep the tourism industry, a major economic engine in the Panhandle, intact following a disaster.

Economic and Social Benefits:

(Describe the economic and social benefits including those related to the project’s improved ecosystem services and any estimates on jobs created or preserved)

The geographic location of the seven counties that are served by the WFRPC imposes considerable vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards. As has been demonstrated throughout the region’s history and, most recently with the landfall of Hurricane Ivan and the BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico, the implications for the economic core and social fabric of the affected communities can be devastating.

The region has seen first-hand the direct impact that comes when a major hurricane makes landfall and destroys built infrastructure, homes, and commercial facilities. It has also witnessed the more insidious effects of a man-made accident that put tar balls on white sand beaches and resulted in widespread oil slicks covering the beaches—and for which long-term environmental damages are still unknown. Communities that have endured such high-visibility events must also counter the potential economic impacts of investor uncertainty and brand damage that accompany an increased risk perception following such events.

The document Potential Impact of the Gulf Oil Spill on Tourism prepared by Oxford Economics states, “A review of disasters affecting tourism destinations reveals that the impact endures beyond the resolution of the crisis itself due to brand damage and ongoing traveler misperceptions.” The article notes the value of conducting pre-disaster planning, which allows a community to address many of the post-event challenges that can be anticipated based on the prior experiences of communities impacted by major disasters. For instance, a comprehensive pre-disaster plan should address common communications and public relations challenges by developing messaging strategies and community branding campaigns that can be implemented

to ensure internal and external audiences are receiving accurate information and to monitor and dispel misperceptions about communities that can arise through mainstream and social media outlets.

According to *Holistic Disaster Recovery* (2005), prepared by Natural Hazards Center at University of Colorado, and *Draft Guidance Note on Recovery – Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning* (2012), it is beneficial to have a recovery plan so that an organizational structure is in place to execute recovery activities more quickly and effectively. Communities that do not plan in advance for major community and economic disruptions can also miss opportunities to engage additional resources, particularly from the private sector, that may be committed to support community recovery. In *Holistic Disaster Recovery*, the writer notes, “In the initial aftermath of a disaster, many offers of assistance are forthcoming from public and private sources. This window of opportunity closes as attention drifts elsewhere. Successful economic recovery maximizes these potential opportunities by moving quickly and responsively to take advantage of them.”

Business and job retention, the core indicators of economic recovery, are inextricably related to housing recovery, infrastructure restoration, and the reconstitution of health and social services. Because the communities' economy requires the capital investment and participation of private-sector organizations and industry, economic recovery cannot happen without the active engagement of for-profit and non-profit private-sector organizations.

Sustainable economic recovery planning should focus on the rebuilding of damaged structures as well as the resumption of business activity and retention of the local workforce. This requires engagement of economic development and other private-sector members familiar with the economic interdependencies and distinct characteristics of the local economy. Among other considerations, economic revitalization must take into account limited resources of small businesses, the need to resume the economic engines of the community, factors that influence decisions of major employers regarding possible relocation, and opportunities to train dislocated or unemployed workers to fill the gaps that can occur in the changed market conditions after a major disaster. In essence, pre-disaster recovery planning can help a community prevent a secondary economic disaster that occurs when a permanent employer relocation or shutdown occurs, major supply chains are disrupted, or other factors that occur in the business community cause a major and possibly enduring disruption in the local and regional economies.

The seven counties that compose the region served by WFRPC also make up the Economic Development District (EDD), which is a district also serviced under the umbrella of WFRPC. Any pre-disaster economic recovery plan for the region should incorporate the objectives and strategies of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) produced through the engagement of the economic development and other organizations engaged with the EDD. For instance, the CEDS identifies the major economic drivers—including tourism—of the region. The pre-disaster recovery plan should identify the vulnerabilities posed to that industry by hurricanes, oil spills, or other hazards. The pre-disaster plan should also take into account the distinct challenges to economic recovery and economic resiliency implied by the nature of the industries that drive the local and regional economies.

For instance, because of their experiences with past disasters, the west Florida communities should be familiar with the post-disaster patterns that mark the recovery of the tourism industries following hurricanes or other events and should establish recovery and resiliency measures to address those known challenges. Often immediately following an event, the usual visitors will not return. However, the government and private-sector workers who visit to support response and recovery in a community may fill the rooms at lodging establishments and replace the

revenue gaps seen by restaurants and other businesses that primarily cater to tourists.

Likewise, the rebuilding of homes, businesses, and infrastructure that occurs during the recovery period will also generate economic activity and tax revenues for a period of time. However, those short-term economic drivers are not sustainable and may temporarily mask the degree of economic impact to the community. Therefore, a pre-disaster plan should take the expected short-term, so-called "false economy," effects into account and recommend strategies to assess the economic impact and address the challenges that must be met, such as beach and dune restoration, rebuilding of roads and other infrastructure, and promoting the community's recovery to attract tourists again.

Availability of insurance, or lack thereof, can also have a significant impact on housing and commercial real estate prices and business values which can negatively impact real estate mortgage and business loan transactions. The state insurance crisis has bled into Florida's bond ratings and, as such, adversely affects the ability of any county to finance redevelopment following a significant disaster event.

A more diverse economy is a more resilient economy. However, industry diversity also presents new challenges to address in pre-disaster preparation, post-disaster recovery, and long-term redevelopment. Those challenges and opportunities presented by the resources that new industry clusters provide should be addressed by a resource and action agenda. For instance, many of these high-value added industries depend on higher capital investment in facilities and equipment, which would require more capital investment to rebuild if damaged or destroyed in an event.

In the same respect, the highly skilled workforce needed to attract and grow many of these companies are often young and drawn from a broad geographic area; they are more likely to have greater dependence on public infrastructure such as roads and schools in order to re-engage with their employers after a disaster. In addition, because these high-growth companies and their highly skilled employees are courted by communities across the country and the world, both the employers and employees are more likely to relocate should the community not instill confidence in its recovery and future commitment to resiliency. In addition, having a recovery plan in place has been found to assist in recruiting businesses. The business community looks for certainty. Thus, a prepared community not only benefits from having a recovery plan in place, but serves as an incentive in attracting businesses to the community. Also, those local businesses that already have continuity plans in place certainly benefit themselves, but also provide a social benefit to its employees—employment in the wake of a catastrophic event. Resumption of existing business is essential to a county's economic recovery after a disaster, especially since these existing jobs provide the primary incentive for most residents to return and rebuild quickly.

By collaborating on a plan for business recovery, greater economic resiliency can be achieved, overall community recovery can be accelerated, and opportunities to advance existing strategic economic development goals realized.

Community Resilience:

(Describe if the project assists Florida's ability to anticipate, withstand, or recover from hazards or threats [e.g. hurricane preparedness, establishing living shorelines])

Community resilience is the essence of the proposed project. It is the intent of this project that by pre-planning for recovery and redevelopment from a disaster, WFRPC and its member counties and municipalities will be able to anticipate, withstand, and recover from hazard threats (e.g., oil spills, hurricanes, and flooding) more rapidly. Instead of repeated damage and continual demands for federal disaster assistance, resilient communities proactively protect

themselves against hazards, are more self-sufficient, and become more sustainable.

This regional sustainability will involve developing an overarching regional strategy that focuses on coordination, communication, and technical assistance led by WFRPC. The project also involves the development of seven county recovery and redevelopment plans that address key issue areas such as housing, land use, financial management, infrastructure, vulnerable populations, environmental resources, health and social services, transportation, and inter-governmental coordination—all folded into a county recovery and redevelopment plan with the overarching goal of achieving long-term resilience and sustainability.

Public Acceptance:

(Describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to the project)

There is no known opposition to undertaking this project. On the contrary, we expect this to be widely embraced as a cornerstone of this project is based on implementing extensive public outreach throughout the project. Based on past history, the public clearly understands the ramifications posed by the impacts resulting from natural hazards, especially hurricanes, and man-made events such as oil spills; therefore, developing pre-disaster plans for significant disasters will enable west Florida communities to reduce potential impacts of these disasters and to be able to recover more quickly.

Additional Information you wish to provide:

(Please include any maps, designs, drawings, photos or background resources that may assist in completely and accurately understanding the project. If these are too large to attach here, please email them to

Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us

Cost Appendix Sheet

Cost Item

Cost Estimate

Planning

Contracts	996,170
Feasibility	
Engineering, Design, Land Rights & Bid Prep	
Restoration Plan	631,800
Site Visits & Cost of Site Selection	
Administration, Overhead and Indirect	50,000
Other	176,965
Planning Subtotal:	1,854,935

Construction

Contracts	
Administration & Mobilization/Demobilization	
Other	
Construction Subtotal:	

Monitoring

Contracts	
Data Collection	
Monitoring Administration	
Other	
Monitoring Subtotal:	

Project Cost

Supervision	99,750
Subtotal:	1,954,685
Contingency (<i>traditionally calculated at 10% of the subtotal</i>)	195,468.5
TOTAL:	2,150,153.5

Estimated Costs by Year

Year 1	620,829
Year 2	452,198
Year 3	355,010
Year 4	268,324
Year 5	268,324
Year 6	

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL FY 2013 / 2014			Budget Balance
Income Statement 6/30/14		Oct 13 - June 14	6/30/2014
INCOME/REVENUES:	BUDGET		
County Dues	45,000	40,000.00	5,000.00
EDA Planning Grant	63,000	63,000.00	0.00
EDA Regional Score Card	10,000		10,000.00
Revolving Loan Fund - Admin	20,000	18,795.64	1,204.36
Apalachicola Scipio: CDBG/EDA	30,000	9,000.00	21,000.00
FDEM - ComTraning Course	4,000	4,000.00	0.00
FDEM - Hazards Analyses	21,000	9,507.60	11,492.40
FDEM - Annual Haz Mat Planning	20,000	6,062.26	13,937.74
FDEM - HMEP Training	32,000	16,618.58	15,381.42
FDEM - Local Emer. Planning	41,000	32,985.57	8,014.43
FDEM - RDSTF Planner	60,000	63,653.04	(3,653.04)
FDEM - Reg. Evacuation Update	15,000	5,000.00	10,000.00
FDEM - RDSTF Exercise	46,000	21,169.05	24,830.95
FDOH - N F. MRC Admin	28,000	20,175.00	7,825.00
Jackson - SHSGP / COOP	10,000	3,750.00	6,250.00
Leon County POD Exercise	1,000	1,695.50	(695.50)
Small Quantity Generator Inspections	30,000	21,600.00	8,400.00
Port St. Joe Water - CDBG	38,000	26,000.00	12,000.00
CTD - Transportation Disadvantage	96,000	69,066.72	26,933.28
Energy Resilience Study	9,000	9,604.54	(604.54)
FDACS - Animal Safety Planner	10,000	7,256.52	2,743.48
FDOT - Liasion	25,000	18,750.00	6,250.00
RCSC - Admin	5,000	2,000.00	3,000.00
Collected FY 12/13 Receivables	30,000	29,671.59	328.41
FDACS - Pass Thru	50,000	35,958.01	14,041.99
FRCA - Pass Thru	104,000	80,000.00	24,000.00
TOTAL INCOME/REVENUES	843,000	615,319.62	227,680.38
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
Accounts Payable (Old)	36,000	30,384.00	5,616.00
Accounting	1,050	909.81	140.19
Advertising	350	332.95	17.05
Audit	15,000	4,000.00	11,000.00
Board Meetings	2,000	663.96	1,336.04
Consultant (HA & HMEP)	28,500	18,302.35	10,197.65
Contingency	38,900	1,006.45	37,893.55
Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI)	17,500	9,980.80	7,519.20
Equipment Lease - Copiers	9,900	3,852.44	6,047.56
Fringe Benefits	109,500	80,946.59	28,553.41
Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	13,600	7,868.00	5,732.00
IT Tech Support	1,800	680.00	1,120.00
Legal	6,000	3,000.00	3,000.00
Licenses (REMI)	6,300		6,300.00
Miscellaneous	1,000	621.39	378.61
Office Supplies	2,500	1,699.64	800.36
Postage	2,200	1,952.81	247.19
Rent	27,000	21,215.70	5,784.30
Salaries	353,200	285,472.23	67,727.77
Telephone	4,700	2,873.32	1,826.68
Travel	12,000	14,504.61	(2,504.61)
FDACS - Pass Thru	50,000	36,149.00	13,851.00
FRCA - Pass Thru	104,000	80,392.00	23,608.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:	843,000	606,808.05	236,191.95
		10/1/13 Starting Cash	4,092.75
		Plus Revenues Oct 13 - Apr 14	615,319.62
		Minus Expenses Oct 13 - Apr 14	606,808.05
		Cash Balance as of 6/30/14	12,604.32

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL FY 2013 / 2014 BUDGET - As Amended 7/31/14

INCOME/REVENUES:	Current	Proposed Changes	Amended as 7/31/2014	Description
County Dues	45,000	(5,000)	40,000	Calhoun County
EDA Planning Grant	63,000		63,000	
EDA - Regional Score Card	10,000	(10,000)	0	Funds not avail until 14/15
Revolving Loan Fund - Admin	20,000		20,000	
Apalachicola Scipio: CDBG/EDA	30,000	(11,000)	19,000	Funds not avail until 14/15
FDEM - ComTraning Course	4,000		4,000	
FDEM - Hazards Analyses	21,000		21,000	
FDEM - Annual Haz Mat Planning	20,000		20,000	
FDEM - HMEP Training	32,000		32,000	
FDEM - Local Emer. Planning	41,000		41,000	
FDEM - RDSTF Planner	60,000	11,000	71,000	Adding 12/13 funds received
FDEM - Reg. Evacuation Update	15,000	5,000	20,000	Adding new contract
FDEM - RDSTF Exercise	46,000	(1,500)	44,500	Adjusting to actual
FDOH - N F. MRC Admin	28,000		28,000	
Jackson County - SHSGP / COOP	10,000		10,000	
Leon County POD Exercise	1,000	700	1,700	Adjusting to actual
Small Quantity Generator Insp.	30,000	(8,400)	21,600	Funds not avail until 14/15
Port St. Joe Water - CDBG	38,000	(7,000)	31,000	Funds not avail until 14/15
CTD - Transportation Disadvantage	96,000		96,000	
Energy Resilience Study	9,000	600	9,600	Adjusting to actual
FDACS - Animal Safety Planner	10,000	(500)	9,500	Adjusting to actual
FDOT - Liasion	25,000		25,000	
RCSC - Admin	5,000		5,000	
Collected FY 12/13 Receivables	30,000		30,000	
FDACS - Pass Thru	50,000	(5,000)	45,000	Adjusting to actual
FRCA - Pass Thru	104,000		104,000	
TOTAL INCOME/REVENUES	843,000	(31,100)	811,900	
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
Accounts Payable (Old)	36,000	(4,500)	31,500	Adjusting to actual
Accounting	1,050	(100)	950	Adjusting to actual
Advertising	350	50	400	Adjusting to actual
Audit	15,000		15,000	
Board Meetings	2,000	(600)	1,400	Adjusting to actual
Consultant (HA & HMEP)	28,500	10,500	39,000	HA, HMEP and FSU Intern
Contingency	38,900	(38,900)	0	Funds not avail until 14/15
Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI)	17,500	800	18,300	Adjusting to actual
Equipment Lease - Copiers	9,900	(3,600)	6,300	Adjusting to actual
Fringe Benefits	109,500	(4,000)	105,500	Adjusting to actual
Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	13,600	(3,100)	10,500	Adjusting to actual
IT Tech Support	1,800	(600)	1,200	Adjusting to actual
Legal	6,000		6,000	
Licenses (REMI)	6,300	(6,300)	0	Purchase moved to 14/15
Misc. Expenses	1,000	(350)	650	Adjusting to actual
Office Supplies	2,500	(800)	1,700	Additional office supplies
Postage	2,200	100	2,300	Increased postage fees
Rent	27,000	3,000	30,000	Adjusting to actual
Salaries	353,200	14,800	368,000	1 employee back to full time
Telephone	4,700	(500)	4,200	Adjusting to actual
Travel	12,000	7,000	19,000	Adjusting to actual
FDACS - Pass Thru	50,000	(4,000)	46,000	Adjusting to actual
FRCA - Pass Thru	104,000		104,000	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:	843,000	(31,100)	811,900	

AGENDA ITEM 8 - A

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT REVIEWS

Informational Summary

Jackson County Proposed Amendment Series 14-01 ESR: The proposed amendment series contains text changes related to a new Economic Development Element including goals, objectives and policies. The attached staff report summarizes the proposed amendment series.

ACTION NEEDED

Motion to approve draft staff report, as may be amended by the Board, and forward to Jackson County and the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity.

**ARPC REVIEW OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
PROPOSED AMENDMENT SERIES 14-01 ESR**

Introduction

The proposed Jackson County Amendment Series 14-01 ESR was received at the offices of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) in July 2014. The amendment series contains text changes including one goal, two objectives and associated policies related to a new Economic Development Element.

Staff Analysis

PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT

Economic Development Element Amendments: This amendment included a new Economic Development Element including one goal, two objects and 12 polices.

Goal 1: Enhance the economic prosperity of all citizens of Jackson County and expand and diversify the County's tax base without compromising rural quality of life.

Objective1: Achieve a diversified and sustainable economic base in Jackson County to minimize the vulnerability of the local economy and to provide economic opportunity for all segments of the population.

Policies 1.1 – 1.7 are summarized as follows:

Policy 1.1 promotes and supports the goals and objectives of the Jackson County Development Council in recruitment and expansion of targeted industries.

Policy 1.2 directs the County to implement the goals of the Tourist Development Council and promote Jackson County as a tourism destination.

Policy 1.3 directs the County to promote tourism, including eco-tourism, agri-tourism, heritage tourism and tourism-related businesses.

Policy 1.4 directs the County to expand its economic base by encouraging entrepreneurship through partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce, Chipola College, Chipola Regional Workforce and related organizations.

Policy 1.5 directs the County to promote economic development efforts that build on, complement and support existing commercial, industrial and agricultural assets.

Policy 1.6 directs Jackson County to encourage and allow flexibility in the development of "homebased businesses" consistent with public health, safety and nuisance concerns.

Policy 1.7 directs the County to evaluate and ensure that new or expanding businesses will contribute to maintaining a clean environment and will be located in areas with appropriate land use and infrastructure.

Objective 2: Provide an economic development strategy for Jackson County.

Policies 2.1 – 2.5 are summarized as follows:

Policy 2.1 directs the County to pursue an integrated and coordinated approach to economic development based on citizen and other stakeholder input that focuses on the needs of the County and its municipalities.

Policy 2.2 directs the County to coordinate its economic development activities with its municipalities and the appropriate agencies and economic development organizations.

Policy 2.3 directs the County to pursue and utilize incentive programs such as Tax Abatement, Enterprise Zones, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Policy 2.4 directs the County to support and promote educational, vocational, technical training and internship opportunities to meet the needs of existing and new employers.

Policy 2.5 directs the County to coordinate its economic development efforts with Enterprise Florida, Opportunity Florida, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the Strategic Regional Policy Plan of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council such that its economy grows based on its foundational clusters like agriculture together with new industries in targeted sectors like agribusiness, logistics and distribution, renewable energy and sustainable building products.

Comments:

Proposed Policy 2.5 directs the County to coordinate its economic development efforts with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). The ARPC recommends Jackson County delete the specific reference to the SRPP, as shown below, in order to encourage the broadest possible coordination on economic development issues.

Policy 2.5: Jackson County shall coordinate its economic development efforts with Enterprise Florida, Opportunity Florida, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the Strategic Regional Policy Plan of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council such that its economy grows based on its foundational clusters like agriculture together with new industries in targeted sectors like agribusiness, logistics and distribution, renewable energy and sustainable building products.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Apalachee Regional Planning Council Board find the proposed plan amendment series 14-01 ESR consistent with the Apalachee Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - B

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Informational Summary – Keith McCarron

Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program: ARPC staff contracts annually with Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty and Wakulla counties to implement their Small Quantity Generator Assessment, Notification and Verification (SQG) Program as required by s. 403.7234 and s. 403.7236 Florida Statutes. Updated contracts have been received from Calhoun, Franklin, Jackson, Liberty and Wakulla counties and the required on-site verification visits are currently being conducted by staff. ARPC staff is actively pursuing funding from the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection to cover the cost of these assessments for 2015.

FL Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) Work Program Liaison: The ARPC works annually with the FDOT, District 3 to gathering input for the five-year FDOT Work Program in the following five rural counties not served by a metropolitan planning organization: Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, and Liberty. Staff has been meeting with local government officials and county commissions to assist them in understanding the FDOT's Work Program process, to identify projects and priorities and to promote consistency between the Work Program and local government plans. Staff will compile a final report with information gathered at these meetings and forward it to FDOT District 3 Planning staff in late September.

FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant Applications: ARPC staff assisted member local governments with the preparation of DEO Community Planning grant applications. The DEO funding is intended to assist counties and municipalities in meeting the requirements of the Comprehensive Planning Act, in addressing critical local planning issues, and promoting innovative planning solutions. Staff assisted two communities (Town of Havana and City of Carrabelle) in drafting proposals by the June 6, 2014 deadline. Proposals are currently under review and awards will be announced by the end of July 2014.

Northwest Florida Brownfields Workshop: ARPC is co-sponsoring a Brownfields Workshop in cooperation with the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection and the West FL Regional Planning Council on August 13, 2014. The workshop will be held at the Washington County Agricultural Center, 1424 W. Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida. It will include informative presentations and panel discussions associated with Brownfields law, economic incentives and grant funding. The Workshop is free but pre-registration is required at the following link:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/northwest-florida-brownfields-workshop-tickets-12158072121>

ACTION NEEDED

None

**FREE
WORKSHOP**

**Designating
Brownfields
Sites**

Closure

**Funding
and
Incentives**

Bonus
**EPA Grant
Writing
Session**

NORTHWEST FLORIDA BROWNFIELDS WORKSHOP

**8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday, August 13**

**Washington County Agricultural Center
1424 Jackson Avenue
Chipley, Florida**

*Earn FBPE approved
Professional
Development Hours
for attending!*

The workshop will include presentations and panel discussions associated with Brownfields updates to Florida law, liability protection, economic incentives, assessment funding and grants and site closure using institutional controls.

TRANSFORMING NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S COMMUNITIES

[Click here to
register now](#)

For more information please contact Brandy Smith at (850) 595-0695.



AGENDA ITEM 8 - C

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Informational Summary

Port St. Joe – North Port St. Joe Water I: The selected contractor, GAC Construction has sub-contracted to Pickron Excavating of Blountstown to do a majority of the work. Initial visits have been made to confirm that Davis Bacon requirements are being met. The project has been met with some delays, some from the weather and some from GAC Construction. The original completion date was late June with rain dates extending the project to July 1. The City granted a thirty day extension to complete without imposing liquidated damages.

Port St. Joe – North Port St. Joe Water II: The City of Port St. Joe has approved a contract with the ARPC to prepare a CDBG application package for the next funding cycle. A first public hearing was held on May 20th. Previously, ARPC staff completed the survey work for the project last year and has recently verified that the survey work can be used in the upcoming grant cycle.

CDBG Cycle Update: The Community Planning and Development section of the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has published a rule change and proposed revised application for approval. The public hearing process will not conclude in time for a normal application cycle beginning in October. It is anticipated that the next FY 2015 cycle will open in January or February. There will be a CDBG implementation workshop in Ocala on August 19-21 for local governments with an open application. Any local government with an active grant should send its respective grant representative to that workshop as rules will be changing.

City of Apalachicola – Scipio Creek Boat Basin: The project has been awarded \$1,855,000 from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and \$484,596 from the DEO's CDBG program. The City of Apalachicola is contributing an additional \$215,000. The project is underway with significant process already accomplished on new dock construction and rehabilitation of the electrical system. The project is over 50% complete. EDA payments are now being released which has been a necessary component to moving the project forward and easing the cash flow problems experienced by the City in trying to cover the upfront costs of the project.

Midway EAR Based Amendments: The ARPC has been requested to assist the City of Midway in preparing an EAR based Amendment to its Comprehensive Plan. There are also issues with the absence of a zoning map at City Hall. ARPC staff will be providing assistance to the City on these projects as funds are identified and designated for the project. The City is applying to DEO for the funding to pursue the project.

Wakulla Environmental Institute: The EDA has issued the contract documents to Tallahassee Community College (TCC) for signature. ARPC staff held initial meetings with TCC staff and project consultants in June, and is currently preparing the first checklists for EDA review.

ARPC staff has also been notified that the National Association of Development Organizations has awarded the TCC project a planning excellence award for 2014. A press release for the award was submitted to local media and can be viewed in the pages following this report.

Havana Planning: From time to time, the ARPC provides planning services on call for the Town of Havana. The ARPC is reviewing the Town's Land Development Code to seek responsible modifications to its severe restrictions on variances. These will be presented in appropriate public hearings in the near future. ARPC staff has forwarded the proposed changes to the Town Manager for review prior to holding public hearings.

Tallahassee / Leon EDC: ARPC staff has been contacted by the Tallahassee / Leon Economic Development Council to provide assistance in developing an Economic Development Action Plan. The EDC also wants to become recognized as a "Six Pillars Community" per the standards of The Florida Chamber and Enterprise Florida. ARPC staff assisted the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity in developing its Economic Development Plan in 2011 and is uniquely qualified to perform the requested assistance. Additionally, ARPC staff has requested assistance from the original DEO staff involved in that project to assist the ARPC in its efforts. The proposal is still pending approval.

Action Needed

None



Contact: Joe McKinney, Executive Director
202.624.7806 | jmckinney@nado.org

For Immediate Release
July 25, 2014



Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Receives

National Association of Development Organizations 2014 Innovation Award

WASHINGTON, DC – The Apalachee Regional Planning Council, based in Tallahassee, Florida, has received a 2014 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation for the *Wakulla Environmental Institute* project.

The Wakulla Environmental Institute, a project of regional importance of Tallahassee Community College, will develop and train the next generation of environmental professionals, tour guides and park managers. The new campus, located south of Crawfordville, Florida, will offer associate degrees and certificate programs. Many of the programs will be offered online to facilitate career development of working adults. Many, by their nature, will require active field work as students take courses in Natural Resources Conservation and Management, Environmental Regulation and Compliance, and even Professional Diving. Future programs will provide A.S. degrees in Hospitality and Tourism Management, Aquaculture Management, Parks and Leisure Services, Agribusiness Management, and Recycling.

In addition to its wide range of environmentally significant curricula, the WEI campus is being designed as net neutral, with solar PV power banks and onsite well and waste treatment. Although current permitting requirements will demand hookups to water and electricity, the campus' main building is being designed to be "off-grid." Looking forward, this expansion of Tallahassee Community College's offerings will be as important to environmental and hospitality education as the College's Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy is to statewide public safety education. The Apalachee Regional Planning Council is pleased to work with Tallahassee Community College to bring this project to completion.

"For 28 years, NADO's Innovation Awards have recognized regional development organizations for their hard work and commitment to promoting economic development in rural and small

metropolitan communities across the country. Award recipients have created innovative solutions that build on the unique strengths and challenges of their regions, all while continuing to promote sustainable economic growth not only now, but for many years to come,” said NADO President Peter Gregory, executive director of the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission in Woodstock, VT.

NADO is a Washington, D.C.-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery and comprehensive strategies. The association’s Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation’s regions and local communities. Award winners will be showcased during NADO’s 2014 Annual Training Conference, August 23 - 26 in Denver, Colorado.

For more information about the award-winning project, contact the Apalachee Regional Planning Council at 850-488-6211 x102.

###

Since 1967 the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has provided advocacy, education, networking, and research for the national network of 540 regional development organizations. NADO members provide professional, programmatic and technical assistance to over 2,300 counties and 15,000 municipalities. 400 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 390 | Washington, DC 20001 | 202.624.5948 | info@nado.org | NADO.org

AGENDA ITEM 8 - E

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT and DOMESTIC SECURITY PLANNING

Informational Summary

Regional Hazardous Materials Program

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council staffs the District 2 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) which is responsible for implementing the federal Emergency Planning and 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 July 30, 2014 at the Tallahassee/Leon Public Safety Complex. The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2014 at the same location. Staff attended the quarterly meetings of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for Hazardous Materials in Singer Island, Florida on July 17-18, 2014. The next round of SERC meetings will be held on October 2-3, 2014 in Tallahassee.

Hazardous Materials Training

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

Date	Course	Location	Hours	Participants
7/31/14	8-hr Technician Level Refresher	TFD Training Division Facility	8	N/A

Staff worked with Florida State University and the Tallahassee Fire Department to schedule one 8-hr Technician Level Refresher course for July 31, 2014. Staff is working with Liberty and Franklin Emergency Management personnel to schedule Awareness level courses to spend the remaining training funds for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

Hazards Analysis Update

Each year, staff visits 50% of the Region's (excluding Jackson and Wakulla Counties) Section 302 facilities to verify Extremely Hazardous Substances (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. On June 30th, staff completed all contractual requirements as required by the Division of Emergency Management.

Staff continued working with staff from the North Central Florida Regional Council to finalize a Scope of Work for the Florida Regional Planning Councils to take over the management of

the Hazards Analysis Program from the Division of Emergency Management (DEM). Staff met with Division personnel on June 9th to continue efforts. A cost estimate was developed and submitted to the Division on June 11th. Staff is continuing negotiations with the Division on the project.

HMEP Planning Project

Staff selected the *Hazards Analysis Facility Summary* for the District II LEPC's annual Federal Fiscal Year 2013-14 HMEP planning project. This project will result in a hard copy binder of organized facility data to be used by dispatchers. Staff also reviewed the Microsoft Access 2010 database application that was developed by District 11 and determined integration with the District 2 planning project is not a worthwhile endeavor. The project will be completed in September 2014 and hard copies will be given dispatchers in each of the Region's counties.

Biennial LEPC Exercise

The LEPC is required to facilitate an exercise every other year to test the District 2 LEPC Emergency Plan and to satisfy the requirements of the LEPC Staff Support contract. Staff held its LEPC biennial exercise on June 4, 2014 at the Tallahassee Fire Department Training Division facility. The functional exercise was coordinated with CSX Transportation and involved a train derailment that resulted in the release of hazardous materials in downtown Tallahassee. The exercise had 25 participants and staff is in the process of completing the HSEEP-compliant After Action Report/Improvement Plan.



The District 2 LEPC held its biennial exercise on June 4, 2014 at the Tallahassee Fire Dept. Training Division facility in coordination with CSX Transportation.

Staff is also assisting Tallahassee Community College with a hazardous materials tabletop exercise that will be held in September. Staff attended exercise planning meetings on May 2nd and May 30th.

Domestic Security Program - Region 2 Domestic Security Task Force

Seven domestic security task forces were formed in Florida after the events of September 11, 2001 and in accordance with F.S. 943.0312. The main responsibilities of the Task Forces are to improve Florida's ability to detect and prevent terrorist threats, collect and disseminate intelligence and investigative information, protect critical infrastructure, coordinate the delivery of training and support the purchase of proper equipment for first responders and

Task Force response teams. ARPC staff serves as the Emergency Management Planner for the Region 2/North Florida RDSTF.

Exercises

Staff assisted in the development and facilitation of Operation Deep Freeze, a regional full-scale exercise which took place on April 28 and May 1, 2014. Staff completed the After Action Report/Improvement Plan and will present a short documentary completed by WCOT at a future Board meeting.

Planning

The Planner assisted Region 2 counties in applying for residual domestic security funds and continues to assist Region 2 counties with the SHSGP funding process. The Planner assisted with the development of the Region 2 Training and Exercise Plan (MYTEP). The RDSTF Planner serves as the Coordinator for the Big Bend Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) and has worked with the Leadership Group to develop a strategic plan and response procedures to enhance operational organization of the volunteer organizations in the region. The COAD has formed a working group to develop a regional mass feeding strategy. The Planner will be updating the "EM Toolkits" a subset of the Regional Evacuation Study after new SLOSH runs for the Region are complete.

Meetings and Workshops

The RDSTF Planner assisted with the development of the 3rd Annual Rural County Summit which took place July 9 – 13, 2014 at the Florida Public Safety Institute. This year the Summit focused on emergency response in a small community and featured guest speakers from:

- West, Texas (Fertilizer Plant Explosion)
- Yarnell, Arizona (Wildfire)
- Boulder, Colorado (Flooding)
- Blue Ribbon Fire, North Florida

The RDSTF Planner attended the following meetings since the May Board meeting:

- Big Bend Healthcare Coalition Conference Call, May 21, 2014
- RDSTF Planner Conference Call, May 28, 2014
- Public Health Preparedness Summit, June 3 – 4, 2014
- Big Bend COAD Leadership Council Meeting, June 13, 2014
- 3rd Annual Rural County Summit, July 9 – 12, 2014
- State Working Group Funding Committee Meetings, July 22 – 23, 2014

Emergency Management Program

The ARPC has received funding to update inundation maps for the impacted counties in the Region and will be working with county emergency management directors on the project. Staff will be assisting the FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services in updating the Standard Operating Guideline for the State Animal Response Team. Staff has received grant

funds from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to conduct outreach and assist the business community in Franklin County to develop or enhance disaster preparedness plans.

North Florida Medical Reserve Corps

Staff continues to serve as the Coordinator for the North Florida Medical Reserve Corps which serves an eight county region in the Big Bend. The North Florida MRC membership includes more than 50 licensed medical volunteers from around the region.

ACTION NEEDED

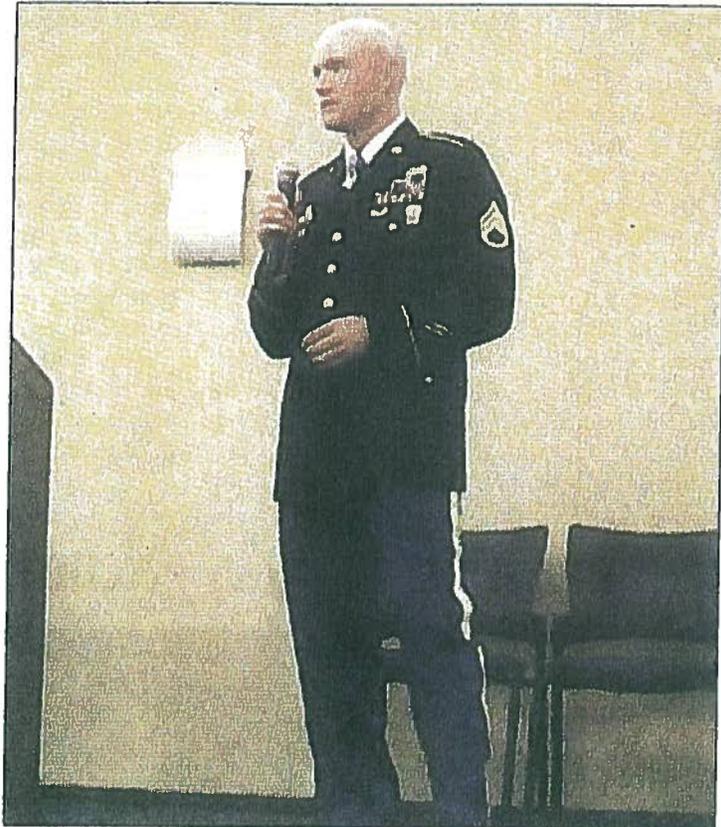
None

Disaster summit huge success

By Sandi Beare
Herald Correspondent

Emergency responders ranging from the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office, regional firefighters, EMS, police, fish and wildlife preservationists, U.S. Forestry Service, emergency management directors and staff, and other disaster volunteers met over four days last week to talk about how rural areas can better respond to disasters, of which no two are ever alike. The 3rd Annual Rural County Community Disaster and Emergency Response Summit drew crowds from all over the region as leaders discussed the Yarnell Hill, AZ fires, Boulder, CO floods and the West, TX fertilizer plant explosions.

Florida is naturally exposed to hurricanes and remains one of the states most likely to rank at the top of the nation in lightning strikes and tornadoes each year. What happens in events like the 1994 massive floods that hit this area? Who can get to those in peril and how? The 1994 flooding made Fairbanks Ferry Road impenetrable and residents in the area, some sitting on roofs, had to be ferried out by boats. The same event saw downtown Bainbridge



Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Ty Carter, a staff sergeant in the US Army, spoke Saturday during the Rural Disaster and Response Summit hosted by the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office.

under water. A few years back, this area experienced parts of four hurricanes. Trees fell on houses and some residents experienced severe damage to homes and property.

Disasters like these were mentioned at this summit. Re-

cent disasters like Florida's Blue Ribbon fires, Yarnell Hill fires in Arizona, Boulder, Colorado floods, and West, TX fertilizer plant explosions were dissected to identify mistakes

See SUMMIT—page 2

Summit/from front page

made, to find answers on how to learn from them and ensure those mistakes aren't made in future events. "Rural counties have very little in resources. We've got a lot of ingenuity but not much in resources," said Gadsden Sheriff's Maj. Shawn Wood.

Florida Senator Bill Montford welcomed visitors to the Northwest Florida region and Gadsden County. "Our system could not work without volunteers. Thank you for all who put their lives on the line every day. We're at a point in this country and Florida where we finally recognize the risks you take. We owe a great deal of dedication and respect to all of you," said the senator.

Florida Forest Service member Casey Crowe addressed the Blue Ribbon fires near the Suwanee Forestry Center in Hamilton County. "Emergency response is inherently dangerous. God forbid that something like this could happen again but we must be prepared," said Crowe while mentioning that part of a firefighter's job is to check the weather reports every day.

"There's no one thing ... there's a combination of things. La Nina brings extremely dry conditions and drought. In 2011 the country had the highest fire activity on record. There were 440 active fires in Florida. The guys were stretched tight - we had management teams throughout the state. We then had 16 active fires in Suwanee district. On June 20th wildland fires (with longtime burning and extra fuels) hit a hardwood cu-

tover where stumps were left high. (The fires) grew exponentially and quickly. The firefighters had no escape route and had to leave on foot," said Crowe in listing some of the main problems identified. Two firefighters were lost in the fire. "We've moved forward...it's a process. It's not something you get over," said Crowe.

Jim Karels, director of the Florida Forestry Service, addressed the Yarnell Hill, AZ fires that killed 19 firefighters. Karels was appointed to a special investigative unit that identified what went wrong in that disaster. That non-criminal investigation spent 90 days with a total of 58 members. The toughest part, he said, was that there were no survivors. "We had to evaluate the event and get out of hindsight mode. We tried to walk in those firefighters' minds and actions," said Karels. A half-acre start quickly became an 8,000 acre fire. The firefighters were surrounded within two minutes, he said. When the fire hit them, they were 600 yards from safety, said Karels.

All eyes were on Staff Sgt. Ty Carter as he took the stage to talk about his military career and his reactions after multiple deployments to Afghanistan. Sgt. Carter, spokesperson for the Obama Administration on Post Traumatic Stress, received the Medal of Honor from the president on August 26, 2013.

He quickly made it clear that in his mind PTSD should be PTSI...or, not Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as if something is wrong with those who acquire it,

but PTS Injury. "Drop the 'D,'" he said right at the beginning as he went on to describe his journey after seeing his roommate and friends die in a firefight from hell.

"We'd been through six months of firefights; this one was different. This one, right from the start, we knew that this was the day that everything would go wrong," said Carter. And it did. His position was to support and protect the advance team. They needed ammunition. 'Under intense fire, Carter carried ammunition 100 meters across open ground from near his barracks to a Humvee, soon returning across the same distance to retrieve machine gun oil and more ammunition, crossing again, under fire, to resupply the battle position,' states an Army narrative. By the time reinforcements were able to land, nearly 2/3 of the 53 coalition soldiers had been killed or wounded.

The enemy penetrated the camp's rear perimeter, and Carter crawled to another vehicle to get more weapons and ammunition. "They were attacking my home - our base was our home. They invaded our barracks and stole personal items...a picture of my daughter...a journal I'd kept for eight years," he said.

He went back under fire to try to save the life of one of his unit, a friend. That friend was able to receive last rites before dying while under medical care. Carter said that he told the man's mother at the soldier's service that he was profoundly sorry he couldn't do enough. "I failed," he told her. She made it clear that she understood he couldn't save her son's life, but that he had given her son the chance to believe he could get home,

and to receive last rites.

It took Carter 2½ years of counseling that he had initially refused, saying "I'm all right."

Carter is currently stationed as a staff noncommissioned officer with the 7th Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. He expects to retire in the near future and plans to continue reaching out to help those with PTSI in any way he can. He's made this his mission.

AGENDA ITEM 9

CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS OF INTEREST

Informational Summary

Attached is a selection of articles assembled by ARPC staff that may be of interest to the Board.

1. Florida Energy Resiliency Report
2. Havana Herald Article on Commissioner Holt's presentation to the US Senate Committee in Washington DC
3. Liberty Journal Article depicting Councilman Woody Stewart as he led the Independence Day walk across the Apalachicola River Bridge from Blountstown to Bristol.

ACTION NEEDED

None



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2014

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FLORIDA ENERGY RESILIENCY REPORT

The Report was prepared by Florida's eleven Regional Planning Councils.

Tallahassee, FL, July 15, 2014– The Florida Energy Resiliency Report was prepared by Florida's eleven Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) in their capacity as Economic Development Districts (EDDs). The effort was a result of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill that led to the discharge of an estimated 206 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The scope of the Energy Resiliency Report allowed the RPCs to thoroughly analyze Florida's robust energy needs and concerns. Over 3,000 survey results and nine statewide workshops were held to create discussion and future scenarios. Twenty-one Case Studies were analyzed to identify early adopters and programs for new energy resiliency solutions. These results combined with confabs and discussions between the RPCs developed 27 strategies to help Florida become more energy resilient.

The statewide Energy Resiliency Study is about creating a more diverse energy supply and the actions that we take in advance or before an energy event to reduce or minimize the impact of an interruption to Florida's energy supply.

Bruce Ballister, Senior Planner – Economic Development

Becoming more energy resilient will allow the state to recover from an energy supply disruption or shortage. Shortages and disruptions are most common during disasters. The location and geography of Florida contributes to a significant risk for natural disasters such as hurricanes, heavy rain events, tornadoes, major wild fires and droughts. Solving energy related issues before they happen results in tremendous tax receipt, rate payer, and business continuity savings. The diversification of energy sources through the increased use of domestically available renewable energy is a critical element in enhancing energy resiliency in Florida. Florida needs to be innovative when planning for energy. Diversity in Florida's future energy supply could come from a variety of technologies that would not only create thousands of jobs locally, but would also allow for greater resiliency should current sources of oil, coal, natural gas, and nuclear power become reduced in supply or too expensive to remain viable.

There is no shortage of foreseeable risks that could cause disruptions to the energy sector. Given America's ongoing dependency on foreign sources of crude oil, external events such as instability in the Middle East, South America, and West Africa can cause price volatility.

Potential energy producing scenarios were modeled and analyzed using the leading econometric forecasting model to show the pros and cons of policy decisions before they are made. Additionally, a number of case studies on early "green" adopters were compiled to help convey the costs, savings, and experiences of individual projects.

To view the report in its entirety visit www.florida-energy.org.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Chris Rietow at 850-488-6211 or email at CRietow@thearpc.com.

Holts speaks to senate committee



Commissioner Brenda Holt speaks to a senate committee in Washington, D.C. about Social Security office closings.

**By Byron Spires,
Herald Editor**

County commissioner Brenda Holt was one of four individuals who testified in front of a Senate Special Committee on Aging held on June 18 in Washington, D.C.

The following is from testimony given by Holt at the meeting:

"I am here today to see if anything can be done to restore the (Social Security) field office to our community. But if that cannot be accomplished, then I want to make sure that other communities like ours at least get a fighting chance," Holt told the committee.

See HOLT—page 14

Holt from front page

She continued by saying, "I want to make sure Social Security remembers that even if it no longer has a physical presence in our community, it still needs to find ways to serve us going forward. Our needs matter, and we won't just be cast aside. Our seniors have paid their dues, now it is time for this country to help them."

Holt said the whole process has been very sad to watch. "We never had an opportunity to weigh in as a community to try to save our office."

The Social Security Administration (SSA), she explained, did not do much of anything to inform the community of the closure.

In fact, she said, sometimes she still stops when she sees people trying to get into the closed SSA building in Quincy to tell them that it is permanently closed.

Holt told the committee that her fellow commissioners, State Representative Alan Williams and other community partners were able to get a conference with SSA Commissioner Carolyn Colvin on March 25, a few days before the office was to shut down.

"They told us they would be saving \$3.2 million over 10 years if they closed the office," she said.

Holt stated that the \$15,000 a month they were paying was too

compromised, leading to possible identity theft.

"We have a lot of special-needs citizens here, so that unit won't work for everyone," Holt said. "We have people who can barely read because of vision problems. Or people with hearing problems, or poor comprehension problems. The computer is not the answer for many of these people."

Holt said many people had worked hard their whole lives, but they were still financially restricted and that issue wasn't going away any time soon.

In his opening statement, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson of Florida, chairman of the special committee on aging, stated: "It is my sincere hope that we leave here with a plan to actually ensure that our most vulnerable populations are not left high and dry. That is certainly the feeling that still exists today in Gadsden County, Florida, where Social Security packed up shop with little notice and even less thought about how to serve this poor and rural community moving forward."

National Council of Social Security Management Associations president Scott Hale gave testimony regarding the reduction of SSA offices and the need for face-to-face services.

His organization resolutely advocates for the American public to have the option to visit a field office to speak face-to-face with an SSA representative.

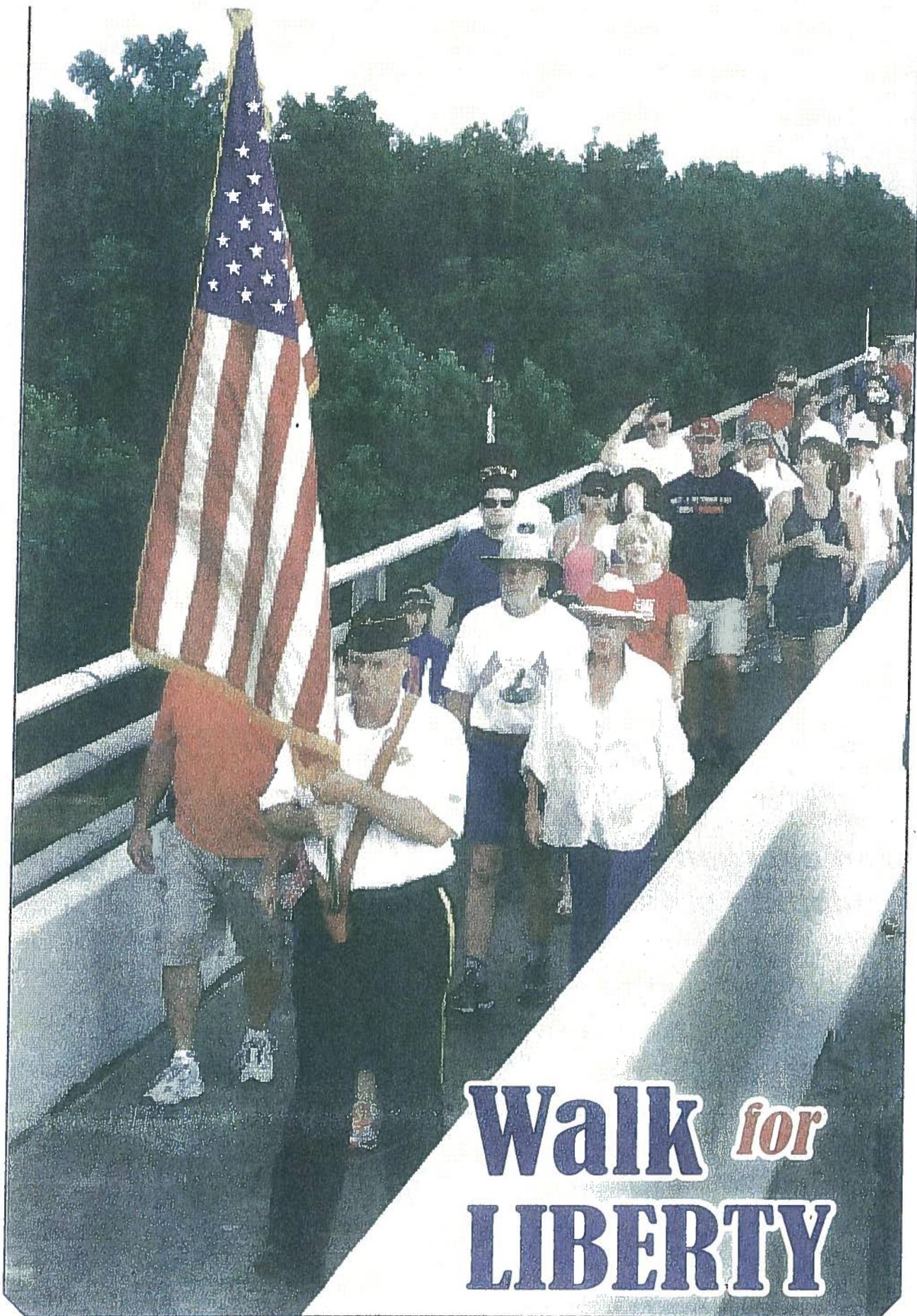
sentative if that is their preference.

Senator Susan M. Collins of Maine stated, "The Social Security Administration has been pushing for years to reduce the face-to-face services it provides through its field offices and to force beneficiaries to interact with the agency online or over the phone. While I don't object to providing services this way where it's appropriate, I am concerned that the SSA has not sought public input, and it is not taking into account the impact on the beneficiaries they are supposed to be serving."

In response, Nancy Berryhill, SSA deputy commissioner of operations, gave the following testimony: "Our budget affects our ability to deliver services, regardless of service delivery channel. For the three years before FY 2014, we received an average of nearly a billion dollars less than what the President requested for our administrative budget, including for program integrity work. That level of underfunding has prevented us with challenges in providing the public the level of service it expects."

She added, "We still have fewer (employees) than we had in FY 2010, our workloads remain high, and we also must balance service with our important stewardship work."

HAVANA
HERALD
6/26/14



Local veterans and patriotic citizens held an early Independence Day celebration with Saturday's annual Walk for Liberty, crossing the bridge on foot from Calhoun County into Liberty County. Afterwards, the group gathered at **56** rans Memorial Civic Center in Bristol for a special program.

DOMENICK ESGRO PHOTO

