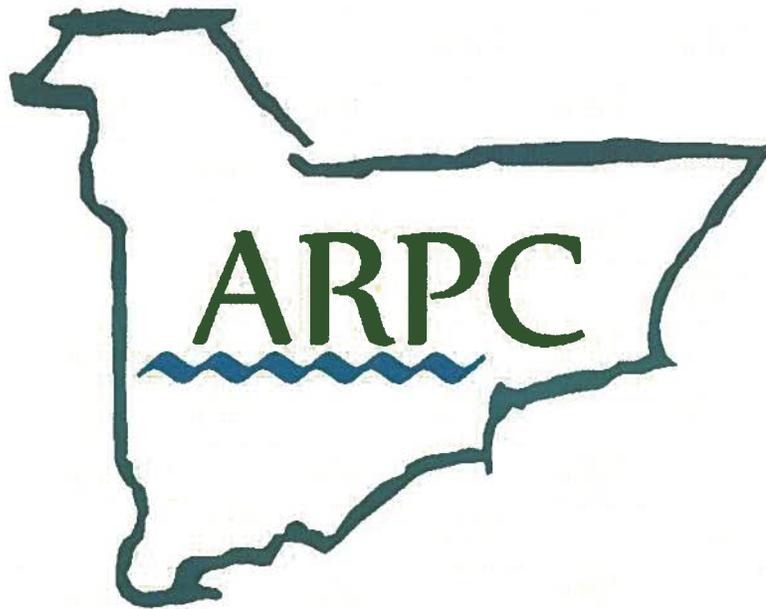


Apalachee Regional Planning Council

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday – November 19, 2015

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



289th Public Meeting

ARPC OFFICE – Conservation Centre Conference Room

2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200

Tallahassee, Florida

www.thearpc.com

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

**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

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

Calhoun County

Darrell McDougald
Wes Johnston
Don Stephens

County Commissioner
Mayor, Town of Altha
Governor's Appointee

Franklin County

Smokey Parrish
Brenda LaPaz
Dawn Radford

County Commissioners
Mayor, City of Carrabelle
Governor's Appointee

Gadsden County

Brenda Holt
Karen Bass
Henry Grant

County Commissioner
Councilwoman, Town of Havana
Governor's Appointee

Gulf County

Ward McDaniel
Tony Justice
Michael Hammond

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka
Governor's Appointee

Jackson County

Eric Hill
Gene Wright
Vacant

County Commissioner
Mayor, Town of Malone
Governor's Appointee

Jefferson County

Stephen Walker
John Jones
Vacant

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Monticello
Governor's Appointee

Leon County

Jane G. Sauls
Nancy Miller
Lisa Miller

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Tallahassee
Governor's Appointee

Liberty County

Dexter Barber
Woody Stewart
Steve Cutshaw

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Bristol
Governor's Appointee

Wakulla County

Randy Merritt
Gail Gilman
Ed Brimner

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

Ex-Officio Members

Benjamin Blich
Christina Coger
Virgie Bowen
Diane Scholz

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

**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING**

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

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

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions
2. *Approval of Agenda
3. *Approval of Minutes – October 1, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
4. Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Presentation
Steve Holmes, Executive Director
5. FDEP Nonpoint Source Funding Opportunities
Katie Britt, Grant Coordinator/ Project Manager
6. Executive Director’s Report – Chris Rietow
 - A. *Financial Report
 - B. Staff Reports
 1. *Economic Development
 2. Emergency Management
 3. *Revolving Loan Fund
 4. *Transportation Disadvantaged
 5. Technical Assistance
 6. Correspondence / Items of Interest
 - C. EDA Revolving Loan Fund Audit Update
 - D. FL New Markets Tax Credit Alliance Update
 - E. Florida Regional Councils Association Update
 - F. ARPC Website Update
7. Council Attorney Report – Ed Blanton
8. Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion
9. Ex-Officio Member Updates
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment - *Lunch will be served immediately following the meeting.*

****Items Requiring Board Action***

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

MINUTES – October 1, 2015

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

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

ARPC Board Members in Attendance:

Calhoun County	Darrell McDougald	Calhoun County Commissioner
	Wes Johnston	Altha, Mayor
	Don Stephens	Governor's Appointee
Franklin County	Brenda LaPaz	Carrabelle, Mayor
Gadsden County	Henry Grant	Governor's Appointee
Gulf County	Ward McDaniel	Gulf County Commissioner
	Michael Hammond	Governor's Appointee
Jefferson County	Stephen Walker	Jefferson County Commissioner
	John Jones	Monticello City Councilman
Leon County	Nancy Miller	Tallahassee City Commissioner
Liberty County	Dexter Barber	Liberty County Commissioner
Wakulla County	Randy Merritt	Wakulla County Commissioner
	Gail Gilman	St. Marks City Commissioner
	Ed Brimner	Governor's Appointee

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Christina Coger	Northwest FL Water Management District
Shawn Hamilton	FL Dept. of Environmental Protection
Diane Scholz	Enterprise Florida

ARPC Staff in Attendance

Chris Rietow	Executive Director
Vanita Anderson	Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinator
Bruce Ballister	Senior Planner: Economic Development
Joe Crozier	Associate Planner
Janice Watson	Finance Director/Loan Coordinator

Others in Attendance

Kent Wimmer – Defenders of Wildlife	Sheri Coven – Marlin Engineering
Brandon Bruner – FDOT	Jim McFarlane – Reef Innovations
Tim Smith – FDOT	Kent Watson – US Rep. Graham's Office

Chairman Merritt welcomed ARPC guests and asked that the records show a quorum of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council in attendance.

Item 2: Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by John Jones to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ed Brimner. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 3: Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Nancy Miller to approve the Minutes of the July 30, 2015 ARPC Full Council Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: FL Dept. of Transportation (FDOT Presentation on the Gulf Coast Parkway)

Brandon Bruner and Tim Smith of the FDOT reviewed with the Board the history of the Gulf Coast Parkway initiated by Opportunity Florida in 2005 and assumed by FDOT in 2008. They explained that the project began with 19 different alignments which have now been reduced to 5 after public workshops held during May 2014. They shared with the Board several large scale maps outlining the 5 options in detail. The FDOT team reported that they would be meeting with Bay County and with the Port Authority in the coming weeks to review the proposed alignments.

Michael Hammond reported that a Gulf County team had a successful meeting with the FDOT District Secretary and subsequently, the Gulf County Commission had agreed to compromise by supporting the Hwy 19 alternative, in spite of the fact that their preference would still be the more northerly route. Ward McDaniel pointed out that the Port of Port St. Joe was 70 miles from I-10 and that Gulf County would later be pursuing the 4-laning of Hwy 71 from I-10 to Hwy 98, which would be the closest most direct route to the Port from I-10.

Randy Merritt questioned whether or not Hwy 71 had a SIS designation. The FDOT team responded that it did not. Nancy Miller asked how much weight the Port carried in the decision making process on the proposed alignment of the Gulf Coast Parkway? The FDOT team responded that the economic environment in 2005 in reference to the Port was much different than it was today and the development of the final options had been a difficult balancing act between economic and environmental concerns. The Board discussed supporting a SIS designation for Hwy 71 and asked ARPC staff to research the best avenues to offer ARPC support for the SIS designation.

The possibility of funding the PD&E study for Hwy 71 improvements through the FDOT-TRIP program was also discussed. Chairman Merritt thanked the FDOT for their presentation and noted that ARPC staff would be in further contact with them about the previously discussed improvements to Hwy 71, stressing that it was a critical economic corridor for the Region.

Item 5: Executive Director's Report

A. Financial Report: Mr. Rietow reviewed with the Board the Budget Reports and the Reconciled Check Registers as of July 31, 2015 and August 31, 2015, included in the Board package beginning on page 13. He also reviewed with the Board the ARPC current list of accounts payable and the current check register through September 22, 2015.

A motion was made by Darrell McDougald to approve the financial reports for July 2015 and August 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by John Jones. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Staff Reports: Chris Rietow briefly reviewed the following ARPC Program Reports prepared by ARPC staff and included in the Board Package beginning on page 21. He asked the Board for any questions in reference to the Program Reports listed below.

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

Mr. Rietow reported that ARPC staff had met with EPA, Cardno and City of Tallahassee officials in reference to the ARPC's Brownfields Application in progress. He explained that the meeting had been initiated by EPA to work on making the ARPC application more competitive this year. Mr. Rietow noted that EPA highly encouraged the ARPC to continue applying for the program and shared valuable information with ARPC staff on the importance of specifically identifying potential projects in the submitted application.

Janice Watson briefly reviewed the revolving loan fund report beginning on page 29 of the Board Package noting the recent pictures of two businesses in Gulf County: Mason Dixon, and Smiley's Enterprises, which have successfully utilized the ARPC RLF Program.

Vanita Anderson reported that every five years the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) requires that the ARPC procure Community Transportation Coordinators (CTC) on a staggered schedule, and noted that this year the CTC for Calhoun County was up for renewal. Ms. Anderson presented the following proposed Selection Committee for the Calhoun County CTC Designation process and a schedule for accomplishing the task.

Vanita Anderson, ARPC TD Program Coordinator
Janice Watson, ARPC Finance Director
Sandra Register, Calhoun TDCB Administrative Committee Member
Keith Sutton, Calhoun TDCB Administrative Committee Member
Marissa Barfield, Calhoun TDCB Administrative Committee Member

09/30/15	Legal notices released
10/16/15	Deadline for letters of interest and qualifications
11/06/15	Deadline to submit proposals
11/09/15	Selection committee meeting
11/09/15	Local Coordinating Board meeting
11/19/15	ARPC recommendations to the CTD
01/16/16	CTD – CTC Designation meeting
07/01/16	Calhoun CTC Renewal Period begins

A motion was made by Michael Hammond to appoint the Calhoun CTC Selection Committee and approve the Calhoun CTC Designation Schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Gail Gilman. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

C. EDA Revolving Loan Fund Audit Update: Mr. Rietow reviewed the most recent correspondence from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in reference to the Audit of the ARPC's Revolving Loan Fund Program. He reported that all amended reports had been submitted to EDA and all required transfers from the ARPC General Fund to the ARPC Revolving Loan Fund Principal Fund had been made. Mr. Rietow also noted that the suspension of the ARPC's EDA Planning Grant had been lifted as of August 12, 2015 and that Council staff had invoiced EDA for the 4/1/15 and 7/1/15 draws on the EDA Planning Grant which are expected to be received during late October.

D. New Markets Tax Credit Program: Mr. Rietow reviewed an email from the FL New Markets Tax Credit Alliance included on page 51 which updated the Board on the status of the ARPC's application for the next funding cycle. He reviewed the suggested criteria for the advisory panel and noted that ARPC staff was in the process of contacting individuals that might be interested in serving on the committee. Mr. Rietow noted that the Grant Application announcement had not been made yet, but the New Market Tax Credit Alliance was working closely with the ARPC staff to ensure the application was ready to submit soon after the application cycle opens up.

E. FL Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Report: Mr. Rietow reviewed briefly the FRCA Intergovernmental Affairs Report for July – August 2015 included in the Board Package and beginning on page 53. He noted that FRCA had been tasked with developing a plan to market Florida's RPCs, which will include general information that pertains to all of the RPCs as well as individual marketing for each RPC and the specific projects that they are currently working on.

F. ARPC Website Update: Mr. Rietow reported that he had been working to completely rebuild the ARPC website, explaining that the old one was built on a program that was outdated and very cumbersome to work with. He encouraged the Board to visit the newly developed website as well as the new ARPC Facebook page. Mr. Rietow asked the Board to feel free to offer any comments and suggestions for inclusion in the new website, which was already proving to be a more effective tool in marketing the programs of the ARPC. Ms. Watson reported that the total fees to complete the website upgrades had been less than \$300.

Item 6: Council Attorney's Report

Chairman Merritt reported that Council Attorney Ed Blanton was not in attendance and his report would be given at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Item 7: Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion

Wes Johnston reported that funding had been received for a new sanitary sewer line between Altha and Blountstown, stating that this would bring long awaited positive economic development impacts to both municipalities.

Item 8: Ex-Officio Member Reports / Public Comment

Kent Watson of US Rep. Gwen Graham's office discussed with the Board several new federal funding opportunities that may be of interest to the jurisdictions of the ARPC Region. He also noted an upcoming Big Bend Grant Writing Seminar that may be of interest to local government staff. Mr. Rietow noted that he would continue to forward to the Board all notices of opportunity as they were received from Rep. Graham through Mr. Watson. The Board thanked Mr. Watson for his continued attendance at ARPC meetings and for his notifications of grant programs as they are made available.

Diane Scholz thanked the ARPC for helping promote the upcoming FL Rural Economic Development Summit. Ms. Scholz encouraged the Board to make plans to attend. Mr. Rietow noted that he and Mr. Ballister would be attending on behalf of the ARPC.

Christina Coger reported that water quality project proposals were now due. She explained that it was a simple application consisting of 4 pages and a map which did not require the services of an engineer to prepare. Ms. Coger encouraged the Board to call her if they had any questions about the application and process.

Jim McFarlane briefly spoke to the Board about the federal funding availability for Coastal Restoration and Artificial Reef Deployments in Florida and the economic potential they provided for both commercial and recreational fishing. Mr. McFarlane noted that Florida was underserved in the deployment of artificial reefs in comparison to other Gulf of Mexico States. He handed out a map depicting the current artificial reef deployments by Florida County. Mr. McFarlane stated that he would be willing to work with any of the ARPC Coastal counties in applying for this funding, which was a relatively simple process. Mr. Rietow agreed to forward any additional information to the ARPC as it was received from Mr. McFarlane.

Chairman Merritt asked for any further public comments and there were none. He announced that the next ARPC Board meeting would be held on November 19, 2015 at 10:30 am ET, in the same location. Chairman Merritt thanked the Board for their attendance and directed staff to follow up with the Board members absent from today's meeting to encourage their attendance at the next meeting.

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

APPROVED BY THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON NOVEMBER 19, 2015.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Randy Merritt
Chairman

Chris Rietow
Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM 4

Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Presentation

Earlier this month, Vanita Anderson was presented with the prestigious William G. And Budd Bell Lifetime Achievement Award at the State Transportation Disadvantaged Awards Banquet in Daytona Beach. Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, Executive Director, Steve Holmes will be attending the Board Meeting to make a formal presentation to Vanita on behalf of the Commission.



Also, Tim Smith of Calhoun County Transit, was presented with the CTD Driver of the Year Award.



WILLIAM G. AND BUDD BELL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Vanita Anderson

With more than 30 years of experience in Florida's coordinated transportation system, Vanita Anderson has demonstrated her commitment to the provision of mobility services for the transportation disadvantaged community. Her long-term leadership role in advocating transportation issues has been successful in promoting the benefits of coordination of all resources and has exhibited an interest in improving accessibility of transportation services.



Vanita began her career with the Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association. Recognizing the need for transportation for those unable to drive or those with little or no access to transportation, she was instrumental in creating the Association's transportation department known as Calhoun County Transit. Calhoun County Transit was then designated and continues to be the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC).

Ms. Anderson then went on to work with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC), where she has served as the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinator for the past 25 years. The ARPC is the designated official planning agency for Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson and Liberty counties. She has successfully staffed each county's Local Coordinating Board, provided countless hours of technical assistance to all of the CTCs in her area and has advocated for those who depend on these services at local and statewide events.

Her continued support and commitment to the Transportation Disadvantaged Program will be missed with her upcoming retirement.



AGENDA ITEM 6

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Chris Rietow

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

- A. ***Financial Report:** On the following pages are the financial reports for September and October 2015. The ARPC FY 13/14 Audit Report is included as a separate document. ARPC Auditor Chris Moran will be meeting with the Executive Committee to discuss the audit in detail before the Board Meeting and will be giving the Board a summary report during the regular meeting.
- B. **Staff Reports:** Detailed staff reports are included in the Board Package. Council staff will be available at the meeting for questions.
- C. **EDA Revolving Loan Fund:** Update on the status of the EDA Revolving Loan Fund Audit. A letter from EDA is included in the following pages.
- D. **Florida New Markets Tax Credit Alliance (FNMTCA) Update:** Recent news on the 2015-16 application for the New Market Tax Credit program. An email from Owen Beitsch of the FNMTCA is included in the following pages and outlines recommended actions for the ARPC.
- E. **Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA):** Update on staff attendance at FRCA meetings. The following pages include the monthly intergovernmental affairs activity reports for September and October.
- F. **ARPC Website:** Demonstration on the Council's new website (www.thearpc.com) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ApalacheeRPC).

ACTION NEEDED

Motion to accept Financial Reports for the periods ending
September 30, 2015 and October 31, 2015.

Apalachee Regional Planning Council
Budget Expenditure Report as of 9/30/15

8/31/2015

EOM 9/30/14

22,410.44

7,244.76

LINE-ITEM	14/15 Budget	Current Month	FY-To-Date	Balance
General Revenue			9/30/2015	
EDA Planning Grant	63,000	15,750.00	47,250.00	15,750.00
Revolving Loan Fund - Admin	20,000	9,200.00	25,296.14	(5,296.14)
EDA Regional Score Card	-	-	-	-
Apalachicola Scipio: CDBG/EDA	50,000	-	50,000.00	-
FDACS - Rapid Response Team	10,000	-	10,000.00	-
FDACS - State Animal Response Team	7,000	-	7,000.00	-
FDACS - Animal Safety Planner	52,500	4,529.66	57,993.81	(5,493.81)
FDEM - Hazards Analyses	23,300	-	23,244.00	56.00
FDEM - HMEP Planning	27,000	22,000.00	27,000.00	-
FDEM - HMEP Training	50,600	-	38,760.57	11,839.43
Jackson Co - MCP & Ebola	14,200	-	14,200.00	-
FDEM - LEPC Support Staff	42,000	-	42,000.00	-
FDEM - RDSTF Planner	49,700	-	49,698.04	1.96
FDEM - Reg. Evacuation Update	58,000	6,750.00	58,000.00	-
FDOH - N FL MRC Admin	29,000	-	28,182.50	817.50
GOMA - Disaster Preparedness	17,000	-	-	17,000.00
Small Quantity Generator Insp.	56,500	-	56,468.24	31.76
ARPC County Dues	63,000	-	63,410.00	(410.00)
City of Midway - FDEO	25,000	-	25,000.00	-
FL Regional Councils Assoc. - Pass Thru	66,500	500.00	66,500.00	-
City of Port St. Joe - CDBG	16,000	-	16,000.00	-
RCSC - Admin	5,000	2,560.00	6,640.00	(1,640.00)
TCC - Wakulla Enviro. Institute	10,000	-	5,000.00	5,000.00
CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged	96,000	-	95,848.00	152.00
FDOT - Rural Liasion	25,000	-	25,000.00	-
Misc. Small Contracts	15,000	500.00	13,821.00	1,179.00
TOTAL REVENUE	891,300	61,789.66	852,312.30	38,987.70
General Expenses				
Accounting	1,000	14.00	998.34	1.66
Advertising	200	76.00	261.08	(61.08)
Audit	18,500	-	3,750.00	14,750.00
Board Meeting Expenses	2,000	34.25	1,754.90	245.10
Contingency	37,000	3,045.58	7,991.80	29,008.20
Consultants (Contract Required)	82,500	4,612.66	71,229.21	11,270.79
Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI)	29,800	12,399.00	29,438.95	361.05
Equipment Lease - Copiers	14,000	2,895.89	14,687.20	(687.20)
FL Regional Councils Assoc. - Pass Thru	65,000	-	64,613.87	386.13
Fringe Benefits	124,700	10,599.46	132,499.88	(7,799.88)
Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	7,700	-	8,144.00	(444.00)
IT Tech Support	3,000	333.93	3,344.58	(344.58)
Legal	6,000	500.00	6,000.00	0.00
Licenses (REMI)	8,000	-	3,285.50	4,714.50
Office Supplies	3,000	156.46	2,644.93	355.07
Postage	3,100	100.00	3,146.91	(46.91)
Rent	36,500	3,039.75	36,477.00	23.00
Salaries	419,000	42,948.76	437,683.22	(18,683.22)
Subscriptions & Publications	300	-	312.80	(12.80)
Telephone	6,000	690.84	6,258.43	(258.43)
Travel	24,000	938.56	23,219.50	780.50
TOTAL EXPENSES	891,300	82,385.14	857,742.10	33,557.90
	<i>EOM 9/30/15</i>	<i>1,814.96</i>	<i>1,814.96</i>	<i>EOM 9/30/15</i>
	Regions Bank Balance 9/30/15			

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

9/30/2015

EOM 9/30/15

Budget Expenditure Report as of 10/31/15

1,814.96

1,814.96

LINE-ITEM	14/15 Budget	Current Month	FY-To-Date	Balance
General Revenue			10/31/2015	
EDA Planning Grant	63,000	15,750.00	15,750.00	47,250.00
Revolving Loan Fund - Admin	25,000	-	-	25,000.00
EDA Regional Score Card	10,000	-	-	10,000.00
FDACS - Rapid Response Team	65,000	-	-	65,000.00
FDACS - Animal Safety Planner	58,000	6,600.35	6,600.35	51,399.65
FDEM - Hazards Analyses	22,500	-	-	22,500.00
FDEM - HMEP Planning	20,000	-	-	20,000.00
FDEM - HMEP Training	38,400	-	-	38,400.00
FDEM - LEPC Support Staff	48,000	-	-	48,000.00
FDOH - N FL MRC Admin	26,000	-	-	26,000.00
Small Quantity Generator Insp.	35,000	-	-	35,000.00
SFRPC - Climate Change Project	10,000	-	-	10,000.00
ARPC County Dues	68,000	12,819.00	12,819.00	55,181.00
FRCA - Admin	6,000	500.00	500.00	5,500.00
City of Port St. Joe - CDBG	16,000	-	-	16,000.00
RCSC - Admin	5,000	-	-	5,000.00
TCC - Wakulla Enviro. Institute	10,000	-	-	10,000.00
CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged	96,000	32,790.08	32,790.08	63,209.92
Accts Rec. FY 14/15	37,000	15,750.00	15,750.00	21,250.00
TOTAL REVENUE	658,900	84,209.43	84,209.43	574,690.57
General Expenses				
Accounting	1,000	12.00	12.00	988.00
Advertising	300	87.50	87.50	212.50
Audit	12,000	-	-	12,000.00
Board Meeting Expenses	2,000	581.91	581.91	1,418.09
Contingency	-	-	-	0.00
Consultants (Contract Required)	55,000	3,796.60	3,796.60	51,203.40
Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI)	17,300	7,767.25	7,767.25	9,532.75
Equipment Lease - Copiers	9,600	1,153.92	1,153.92	8,446.08
Fringe Benefits	91,600	7,553.22	7,553.22	84,046.78
Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	7,700	2,190.50	2,190.50	5,509.50
IT Tech Support	2,400	70.00	70.00	2,330.00
Legal	6,000	500.00	500.00	5,500.00
Licenses (REMI)	4,500	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	500	55.20	55.20	444.80
Office Supplies	2,400	297.83	297.83	2,102.17
Postage	2,900	461.00	461.00	2,439.00
Rent	36,500	3,039.75	3,039.75	33,460.25
Salaries	386,900	27,749.49	27,749.49	359,150.51
Subscriptions & Publications	300	34.65	34.65	265.35
Telephone	6,000	466.59	466.59	5,533.41
Travel	14,000	1,533.27	1,533.27	12,466.73
TOTAL EXPENSES	658,900	61,850.68	61,850.68	597,049.32
	<i>EOM 10/31/15</i>	24,173.71	24,173.71	<i>EOM 10/31/15</i>
	Regions Bank Balance 10/31/15			

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL FY 2014 / 2015 BUDGET - FINAL

INCOME/REVENUES:

EDA Planning Grant	47,250			
Revolving Loan Fund - Admin	25,300			
Apalachicola Scipio: CDBG/EDA	<u>50,000</u>	122,550	Economic Development	14.3%
FDACS - Rapid Response Team	10,000			
FDACS - State Animal Response Team	7,000			
FDACS - Animal Safety Planner	58,000			
FDEM - Hazards Analyses	23,300			
FDEM - HMEP Planning	27,000			
FDEM - HMEP Training	38,800			
Jackson - MCP / Ebola	14,200			
FDEM - LEPC Support Staff	42,000			
FDEM - RDSTF Planner	49,700			
FDEM - Reg. Evacuation Update	58,000			
FDOH - N FL MRC Admin	29,000		Emergency Management	48.1%
Small Quantity Generator Insp.	<u>56,500</u>	413,500		
ARPC County Dues	63,000			
City of Midway - FDEO	25,000			
FL Regional Councils Association	66,500			
City of Port St. Joe - CDBG	16,000			
Misc. Small Contracts	13,850			
RCSC - Admin	6,700			
TCC - Wakulla Enviro. Institute	5,000		Technical Assistance	23.5%
ARPC General Fund	<u>6,125</u>	202,175		
CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged	96,000			
FDOT - Rural Liasion	<u>25,000</u>	<u>121,000</u>	Transportation	<u>14.1%</u>
TOTAL INCOME/REVENUES	859,225	859,225		100.0%

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Accounting	1,000
Advertising	275
Audit	3,750
Board Meeting Expenses	1,800
Contingency	8,000
Consultants (Contract Required)	71,300
Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI)	29,800
Equipment Lease - Copiers	14,700
FL Regional Councils Association	65,000
Fringe Benefits	132,500
Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	8,200
IT Tech Support	3,400
Legal	6,000
Licenses (REMI)	3,300
Office Supplies	2,700
Postage	3,150
Rent	36,500
Salaries	437,700
Subscriptions & Publications	350
Telephone	6,300
Travel	23,500

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES: 859,225

Approved by the ARPC FULL Council: 11/19/15

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL FY 2014 / 2015 BUDGET - Proposed Final 9/30/15 (page 1)

	Received as of 9/30/15	Current Budget	Proposed Changes	Proposed Amended	Description
INCOME/REVENUES:					
EDA Planning Grant	47,250	63,000	(15,750)	47,250	Final Draw moved to FY 15/16
Revolving Loan Fund - Admin	25,296	20,000	5,300	25,300	Interest Income Increased
Apalachicola Scipio: CDBG/EDA	50,000	50,000	-	50,000	
FDACS - Rapid Response Team	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	
FDACS - State Animal Response Team	7,000	7,000	-	7,000	
FDACS - Animal Safety Planner	57,994	52,500	5,500	58,000	Contract funding increase
FDEM - Hazards Analyses	23,244	23,300	-	23,300	
FDEM - HMEP Planning	27,000	27,000	-	27,000	
FDEM - HMEP Training	38,761	50,600	(11,800)	38,800	Final Draw moved to FY 15/16
Jackson Co. - MCP & Ebola Exercise	14,200	14,200	-	14,200	
FDEM - LEPC Support Staff	42,000	42,000	-	42,000	
FDEM - RDSTF Planner	49,698	49,700	-	49,700	
FDEM - Reg. Evacuation Update	58,000	58,000	-	58,000	
FDOH - N FL MRC Admin	28,183	29,000	-	29,000	
GOMA - Disaster Preparedness	-	17,000	(17,000)	-	Final Draw moved to FY 15/16
Small Quantity Generator Insp.	56,468	56,500	-	56,500	
ARPC County Dues	63,410	63,000	-	63,000	
City of Midway - FDEO	25,000	25,000	-	25,000	
FL Regional Councils Asso (Pass Thru)	66,500	66,500	-	66,500	
City of Port St. Joe - CDBG	16,000	16,000	-	16,000	
RCSC - Admin	6,640	5,000	1,700	6,700	Contract funding increase
TCC - Wakulla Enviro. Institute	5,000	10,000	(5,000)	5,000	Final Draw moved to FY 15/16
CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged	95,848	96,000	-	96,000	
FDOT - Rural Liasion	25,000	25,000	-	25,000	
Misc. Small Contracts:	13,821	15,000	(1,150)	13,850	Adjust to Actual
ARPC General Revenue Fund	-	-	6,125	6,125	Covering Expenses over Revenue
TOTAL INCOME/REVENUES	852,312	891,300	(32,075)	859,225	

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL FY 2014 / 2015 BUDGET - Proposed Final 9/30/15 (page 2)

	Spent as of 9/30/15	Current Budget	Proposed Changes	Proposed Amended	Description
OPERATING EXPENSES:					
Accounting	998	1,000	-	1,000	
Advertising	261	200	75	275	
Audit	3,750	18,500	(14,750)	3,750	Adjust to Actual
Board Meeting Expenses	1,755	2,000	(200)	1,800	Audit Fees moved to FY 15/16
Contingency	7,992	37,000	(29,000)	8,000	Adjust to Actual
Consultants (Contract Required)	71,229	82,500	(11,200)	71,300	Anticipated Revenue moved to FY 15/16
Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI, & others)	29,439	29,800	-	29,800	Reduced Contract Consultant Fees
Equipment Lease - Copiers	14,687	14,000	700	14,700	Increased printing for contracts
FL Regional Councils Assoc (Pass Thru)	64,614	65,000	-	65,000	
Fringe Benefits	132,500	124,700	7,800	132,500	
Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	8,144	7,700	500	8,200	Adjust to Actual
IT Tech Support	3,345	3,000	400	3,400	Adjust to Actual
Legal	6,000	6,000	-	6,000	Adjust to Actual
Licenses (REMI)	3,286	8,000	(4,700)	3,300	REMI Costs moved to FY 15/16
Office Supplies	2,645	3,000	(300)	2,700	Adjust to Actual
Postage	3,147	3,100	50	3,150	Adjust to Actual
Rent	36,477	36,500	-	36,500	
Salaries	437,683	419,000	18,700	437,700	Adjust to Actual
Subscriptions & Publications	313	300	50	350	
Telephone	6,258	6,000	300	6,300	
Travel	23,220	24,000	(500)	23,500	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:	857,742	891,300	(32,075)	859,225	

AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 1

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – Bruce Ballister

Port St. Joe – North Port St. Joe Water II: The application process which had been on hold since the halted application of June 2015, is being re-initiated. The application process began again this month with the first advertised public hearing.

CDBG Cycle Update: The Community Planning and Development section of the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) has published a rule change and proposed revised application for approval. The 2014 cycle, normally scheduled for October/November each year, was postponed to June 2015. Roger Doherty, of CDBG said it would be impossible to get back on track in one year due to short staff and out of office commitments for the current cycle of applications. FDEO hopes to open the 2015 cycle in late January of 2016 and get back on schedule the following October. FDEO is currently deploying its staff in a series of application workshops. It is anticipated that by the ARPC Board Meeting, Mr. Doherty will have announced the actual opening and closing dates of the new cycle. Any planning efforts for a winter CDBG cycle Grant Application should begin immediately.

Wakulla Environmental Institute: The selected contractor, Cook Brothers, Inc. is well underway with construction of the new facility. EDA involvement with funding is limited to the access road its utility extensions and the site work surrounding the several million dollar building. Curbing, road base and the base coat of asphalt has been laid on the quarter mile access road. Finish grading and base are being prepared for the primary site. Final asphalt is not scheduled until all heavy equipment is delivered so closeout of the EDA grant cannot occur until approximately March of 2016 although most of the EDA funded work will be completed much earlier.

ARPC staff is continuing to monitor construction and to conduct Davis-Bacon interviews from time to time. Current status of the project is approximately 35% for the EDA portion and 30% complete overall.



Wakulla Environmental Institute (WEI) at approximately 50% construction completion.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Staff has held a series of meetings with members of the ARPC CEDS committee. The interim update will renew data on some of the data tables and incorporate committee members' comments on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis. Although not a required update, the 2015 revision will provide more immediate data when posted at the end of the year.

Brownfields: ARPC staff is assisting ARPC Consultant Cardno TBE, in preparing materials for the 2015 Brownfields Assessment grant. If successful, the grant will provide up to \$200,000 for assessment of petroleum sites and another \$200,000 for sites with toxic contamination. This year's application will focus on sites in Chattahoochee, Jefferson County, Carrabelle and Apalachicola. Other sites identified during the grant process can be added.

Benefit: Sites that have a suspected contamination based on prior uses or public perception will be given a Phase 1 audit. This process can either clear a site as non-contaminated or focus any future work on a Phase II audit which will reduce risk for any future commercial sale of the property or acquisition by a local government for public use. Having a Phase 1 audit performed for free begins the process of converting Brownfields properties to productive re-use.

Jefferson County CDBG: For the past two months, staff has been assisting efforts in Jefferson County to adopt a resolution designating parcels surrounding the Lloyd I-10 interchange as a Brownfields area. The designation will permit those owners to claim additional points in grant applications, and provide additional incentives as they seek development or redevelopment of those parcels. This designation has been passed by resolution. An outgrowth of this effort is a proposed redevelopment of the Capital City Travel Center located in the southwest corner of the I-10/SR 59 interchange. The truck stop/convenience store combo was one of the first constructed after completion of I-10 in the 1970s and is no longer competitive with newer installations. The proposal will redevelop the existing travel center, construct a new hotel, and provide outparcels for commercial retail and fast food sites. ARPC staff will be submitting a CDBG-Economic Development application in the next cycle.

Water Wars: ARPC Staff continues to support the ongoing effort to bring a consensus solution to the thirty-year legal war between the states of Florida, Georgia, and Alabama over equitable usage of the waters in the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, Flint (ACF) River system. The Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, Flint Stakeholders, Inc. (ACFS) adopted a Sustainable Water Management Plan (SWMP) in June 2015. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is taking public comment on its proposed update to the ACF Water Control Manual (WCM). To date, the WCM update has not recognized the million plus dollar investment by the ACFS in modeling the three-river basin that if effected would modify control regimes to provide adequate fresh water in Apalachicola Bay, increase potable water supplies in northern Georgia, and enhance preservation of endangered species. Immediately following this report are the proposals of the ACFS - SWMP for improved management of the ACF watershed and a basin wide management organization that would inform the USACE on a continuing basis.

ACTION NEEDED

Motion to approve a Resolution in support of the ACFS – SWMP

RESOLUTION No. 16 – 02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
APALCHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE
APALACHICOLA–CHATTAHOOCHEE-FLINT-STAKEHOLDERS’
SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ACF BASIN.**

WHEREAS, the Apalachicola Chattahoochee Flint Stakeholders (ACFS), have considered, approved and published a Sustainable Water Management Plan for the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, Flint watershed, and;

WHEREAS, the ACFS has expended years of effort and significant private funds to understand the flow regimes, environmental and ecological factors, hydropower requirements, recreational and navigational needs and other stakeholder considerations , and;

WHEREAS, the fifty-six diverse members of the ACFS Governing Board has approved by consensus vote a Sustainable Water Management Plan (SWMP) that considers and respects the needs of all of the stakeholders, and;

WHEREAS, the SWMP contains specific recommendations for consideration by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the update to its Water Control Manual for the ACF basin, and;

WHEREAS, the public comment period is currently underway, and;

WHEREAS, these recommendations will substantially improve the management of the waters in the ACF basin in flood and draught conditions for all users of these public waters;

And WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council finds that these recommendations to the USACE will benefit not only the six riparian counties in Florida, but will bring benefit to all users in the ACF basin:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE APALCHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL THAT:

Section 1. The Apalachee Regional Planning Council finds the recommendations of the ACFS to be well considered and appropriate for further study by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Section 2. The ACFS’s Sustainable Water Management Plan will benefit the US Army Corps of Engineers’ updating process.

Section 3. Incorporation of appropriate recommendations or the ACFS, SWMP will benefit future citizens of the entire ACFS basin from its origins in North Georgia to Apalachicola Bay.

Section 4. The Board of Directors of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council recommends the review team of the US Army Corps of Engineers’ Mobile District should seriously consider the Recommendations contained in the Apalachicola–Chattahoochee-Flint-Stakeholders’ Sustainable Water Management Plan for the ACF Basin.

By majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council this 19th day of November, 2015.

BY:

ATTEST:

Randy Merritt
Chairman

Chris Rietow
Executive Director

CHAPTER 7.

Implementation

Achieving the ACFS' vision for improvements to conditions in the Basin requires implementation of the recommendations identified and detailed in Chapter 6. What follows are general implementation actions, not necessarily the full recommendations, grouped by the suggested responsible party.

United States Army Corps of Engineers:

- Study incentivizing return flows to federal multi-purpose reservoirs in the ACF Basin by crediting such flows to the appropriate users, taking into consideration the location and timing of returns and potential Basin impacts, including water quality and hydropower generation. Such a study should have as its goals improving the availability of water throughout the Basin and minimizing the need for new reservoirs (1.3.2).

- Adopt a policy of adaptive management in the revisions to the Water Control Manual, with the involvement of the states and stakeholders in the ACF Basin, implementing the following suite of actions taken together as a starting point to improve operations of the federal reservoirs on the Chattahoochee River (2.1):
 - Raise the winter pool rule curve at West Point Lake from 628 ft to 632.5 ft.
 - Define new zones to coincide with the USACE reservoir recreational impact zones and then only release water from an upstream reservoir when the downstream reservoir is in a lower zone.
 - Adjust hydropower requirements to achieve more flexibility.
 - Provide two pulsed water releases to achieve 9,000 cfs at Chattahoochee, FL for two weeks each, one in May and one in July.²²

- Study and implement, if feasible, a 2 ft increase in the rule curve at Lake Lanier (2.2).

- Study and implement, if feasible, modifying the calculation of Basin Inflow to account for consumptive use, taking overall system operations into account (2.3).

²² Pulses were modeled as 9000 cfs flows at Chattahoochee FL (not as an additional 9,000 cfs) – as well as 14,000 cfs – and only during periods when flows fell below 9,000 cfs (thus not reducing flows to 9,000 cfs when flows otherwise would have been higher).

- Add a flow control node in the WCM at Columbus. This recommendation is contingent on the implementation of Recommendation 2.1 above and is not a standalone recommendation (2.4).
- Work with the USFWS and other appropriate federal or state agencies to consider the Apalachicola River, Floodplain and Bay freshwater flow needs (2.5).
- Update the Water Control Manual on a regular schedule, with a process for amending the WCM on a more frequent basis (2.6).
- Perform necessary field and design studies to confirm water flows needed and to define improvements to provide a reliable navigation channel with and without dredging, including time and conditions when full 9 ft commercial channel is or may not be available and the degree to which such improvements can be done while preserving or enhancing aquatic habitat (2.7).
- Perform necessary channel maintenance to maximize channel availability both in high flow without dredging for full 9 ft channel depths and for sub-optimal channel depths (e.g. a 7 ft channel). Studies outlined in recommendation 2.7 should consider channel modifications that will enhance channel availability during lower flow periods (2.8).
- Utilize predictive drought indicators in the revised Water Control Manual. Various combinations of predictive drought indicators can be used that allow operation decisions to be made in drought years that enhance system flows while still preserving adequate reservoir storage during the drought. As a starting point for discussion, drought management planning discussions should consider (3.2):
 - Triggers based on drought conditions (antecedent inflow, areal precipitation, and soil moisture), streamflows, time of year, and remaining storage in federal reservoirs.
 - The RIOP uses composite storage alone as a drought trigger. USACE should also consider the state of the Basin (how dry or wet) in triggering drought operations. A drought index should be developed to guide the decision based on the predictive drought indicators selected (e.g. antecedent Mean Areal Precipitation and/or soil moisture). In addition, USACE should use regional sub-basin drought indicators (e.g. for the Apalachicola River, Apalachicola Bay, the middle Chattahoochee or the Flint) to consider changes in operations rather than waiting for designation of drought in the entire ACF Basin.
- Develop special operations to address extended drought (multi-year) conditions in the Basin, based on the proactive, predictive triggers and responses as recommended above (3.4).

- In cooperation with the states, improve and further refine the UIF data set currently available for the ACF Basin. These refinements should assess the timing of the relationship among precipitation, evapotranspiration and flow; whether farm ponds supplement, reduce, or do not meaningfully alter low flows during droughts; and other items as determined appropriate by USACE. (4.1).
- Contribute to the knowledge in the ACF Basin by implementing the full instream flow assessment described on page 83, taking into consideration the natural variability of the ecosystem's hydrologic regime (magnitude, timing, duration, frequency and rate of change) as a framework for the EIS for the revisions to the Water Control Manual, as well as other studies described in Table 6.3.

Other Federal Agencies:

- Contribute to the knowledge in the ACF Basin by providing funding for and/or implementing the studies described in Table 6.3 (4.2 and 4.3) *(All)*.
- Contribute to development of predictive drought indicators and triggers for drought management control in collaboration with USACE and the States (3.1) *(National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Geological Survey, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Environmental Protection Agency and others)*.
- Develop effective guides for channel usage by all river travelers including facilities to support electronic boat guidance (2.9) *(US Coast Guard)*.

The states of Alabama, Florida and Georgia:

- All appropriate agencies within each state should report status and outcomes of use and return policies, regulations, and practices that affect water quantity and quality in the Basin and report progress so that states can share successes with all water users in the Basin (1.1.1).
- Implement water use efficiency and conservation policies and practices that will achieve (1.2.1):
 - Reduced impacts to stream flow of consumptive use from agriculture by 15% overall through a suite of management practices that minimize water loss from agriculture including equipment retrofits, identification of source switching opportunities, and tillage practices including sod-based rotation;
 - 80% efficiency by 2020 of all center pivot irrigation systems in the ACF Basin;
 - More efficient cooling towers;
 - Increased use of xeric landscaping;
 - Improved commercial and industrial water conservation;
 - Conservation rate structures for residential water users;

- Water efficient toilets when old ones are being replaced;
 - Water utility programs to assess and reduce water system leakage;
 - Limitations on non-agricultural outdoor water use during dry periods;
 - Local government or permitted utility long-range water supply plans, which include the following components: a description of the water system, anticipated needs and how they will be met (including specific conservation targets), storm water management systems, system water loss and integrity, and public information/education to highlight water management concerns;
 - Encouragement for experimentation for programs with the potential to improve water conservation and efficiency.
- Collaborate in the development of a drought management plan, perhaps in the context of a regional Memorandum of Understanding, that includes the following: (1) defines drought conditions, using NOAA as a resource, (2) identifies triggers for actions, (3) delineates responses by water use sector, and (4) documents changes in operational strategies (3.1).

In doing so, also collaborate with USACE, USGS, USFWS, EPA and NOAA (NIDIS) to develop a mechanism for determining drought triggers and to develop an ongoing evaluation of drought conditions in the Basin. Additionally, the states should develop appropriate conservation actions throughout the Basin and work with USACE to develop appropriate changes in operations when flows and levels reach drought conditions in sub-regional portions of the ACF Basin. Such a mechanism should recognize that reservoir operations and other actions taken by people may create drought-like conditions for some users even when the Basin as a whole is not in drought. Graduated drought mitigation actions should be considered for sub-basins not experiencing drought to help address conditions within sub-basin(s) experiencing drought.

- Contribute to drought management planning discussions in the context of the WCM and regional drought management planning, considering triggers based on drought conditions (antecedent inflow, areal precipitation, and soil moisture), time of year, and remaining storage in federal reservoirs (3.1).
- Through financing or other mechanisms, facilitate the augmentation of instream flows through the use of existing storage in existing reservoirs constructed, owned or operated by local governments, especially in the Upper Flint (3.3) (*Georgia*).
- Contribute to the knowledge in the ACF Basin by providing funding for and/or implementing the studies described in Table 6.3 (4.2 and 4.4).

- Establish more consistent permitting and better water use and return reporting to inform water management in the ACF Basin, reviewing their policies for consistency with the following desired objectives (4.5):
 - Water withdrawal permits for all groundwater and surface water withdrawals in the Basin will be required for users greater than 100,000 gallons per day.
 - All permitted municipal and industrial water users (including both surface and groundwater) self-report daily water withdrawals in electronic format on a monthly basis. All permitted agricultural users (including both surface and groundwater) self-report water withdrawals in electronic format annually. States should report status and outcomes of use over time to the public.
 - All water dischargers self-report daily water discharges in electronic format on a monthly basis.
 - Permit issuers should develop usage benchmarks calculated in a consistent way.
 - Establish a consistent, strong permit enforcement program.
 - Perform a comparative evaluation of the water use regulatory and permitting systems and consider adopting approaches that would enhance water availability for the existing and future uses/needs in the ACF Basin.
- Participate in a transitional organization that brings together stakeholders with state and federal agency representatives to develop a common vision and framework for a future permanent transboundary institution to facilitate sustainable and adaptive management of the Basin that shares water equitably among stakeholders, balancing economic, ecological and social values (5.1).

Local Governments, Utilities and other Permit Holders:

- Water users should implement actions that maximize water returns where ever possible. This can include, among other actions (1.3.1):
 - Increasing connections to centralized sewer treatment, where feasible;
 - Storm water management strategies that increase groundwater infiltration;
 - Minimizing land application, where possible;
 - Retrofitting and/or minimizing interbasin transfers (i.e. returning flows back to their basin of origin), where feasible.

ACFS and/or Other Stakeholders:

- All stakeholders in the Basin should promote education and public awareness of issues associated with sustainable water management planning and implementation (1.1.2).
- Encourage local, state and federal agencies and the private sector to cooperate to support economically feasible and environmentally sensitive development that would support commercial and recreational benefits from navigation (2.10).
- Work with state and federal partners to establish a transitional organization that brings together stakeholders with state and federal agency representatives to develop a common vision and framework for a future permanent transboundary institution to facilitate sustainable and adaptive management of the Basin that shares water equitably among stakeholders, balancing economic, ecological and social values (5.1).
- Support local, state and federal partners in securing funding to complete the additional studies recommended in Table 6-3.
- Review and revise the Sustainable Water Management Plan on a 5 to 10 year schedule (5.2).

AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 2

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT and DOMESTIC SECURITY PLANNING

Chris Rietow and Denise Imbler

Regional Hazardous Materials Program

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

The most recent quarterly meeting of the Apalachee LEPC was held on October 20, 2015 at the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. The LEPC reviewed hazardous materials facilities in Calhoun and Gulf Counties. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2016 at the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. Staff attended the quarterly meetings of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for Hazardous Materials in Sandestin, Florida on October 8-9, 2015.



Chief Tom Quillin (left) and LEPC Chairman Kevin Peters

Hazardous Materials Training

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

Date	Course	Location	Hours	Participants
10/30/15	8-hr OSHA Technician Level Refresher	TFD Training Division	8	16

Staff worked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the FL Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) staff to sponsor an 8-hr HazMat Technician Level Refresher course on October 30th. Staff worked to schedule an 8-hr HazMat Operations Level Refresher course for fire department personnel in Jefferson County on January 23, 2016. Staff has also scheduled a 40-hr HazMat Technician Level course for February 1st -5th, 2016 in Tallahassee. All training is posted on the ARPC website at www.thearpc.com.

HMEP Planning Project

Staff will be conducting a Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study for the next planning project beginning in January 2016. The six-month project will involve collecting data on the movement of hazardous materials being transported via highway and rail through the Region. This information will allow for hazardous materials training to be tailored to the most likely release scenarios.

LEPC Emergency Plan Update

Staff worked to update the 2015 District 2 LEPC Emergency Plan. The draft plan update was completed and submitted to Division staff on June 30th. The LEPC plan was tentatively accepted by the FL Division of Emergency Management and was formally approved at the October 9th State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials.

LEPC Biennial Exercise

Every other year, the LEPC is required to hold an exercise that tests the Apalachee LEPC Emergency Plan. Staff has begun planning to hold a tabletop exercise in the fall for the Leon County Public Safety Complex (PSC). The PSC houses a number of essential services for the County. The exercise scenario will involve a nearby train derailment that releases a toxic plume. The biennial exercise will most likely be held in mid-December.

Emergency Management Program

Staff is working with Jackson County to update the Jackson County Local Mitigation Strategy and with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on a series of drill and a full-scale exercise for their rapid response team. Staff is also working with the other Regional Planning Councils on an outreach project for coastal flood hazard assessment tools.

North Florida Medical Reserve Corps

Staff continues to serve as the Coordinator for the North Florida Medical Reserve Corps which serves an eight-county region in the Big Bend. The North Florida MRC volunteers support Leon County Public Health with school health screenings, flu vaccination clinics and Ebola virus detection monitoring. The MRC is being honored by the Leon County Health Department at their first Public Health Thank You Day. The North Florida MRC membership includes more than 50 licensed medical volunteers from around the Region. The next Orientation Session will be held on December 2, 2015.



MRC volunteer Pat Kitchen
Helps at the flu vaccination
clinic.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 3

REVOLVING LOAN FUND REPORT – Janice Watson

Attached are the following Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) updates for Board review:

- RLF Loan Portfolio Re-Cap

The following worksheet is a re-cap of all the ARPC's outstanding loans.

The loans on pages 1 and 2 were made through the EDA-RLF Loan Fund.

The loans listed on page 3 were made through the Small Business Loan Fund.

- Watson Baled Straw

The loan renewal to Leon Watson was closed in the ARPC office on 10/22/15. Mr. Watson operates a wholesale pine straw business based in Altha, FL and maintains forestry land leases in Calhoun and Jackson Counties. He employs an average of 20 workers which now have year-round employment due to the continued working capital assistance provided by the ARPC EDA Revolving Loan Fund during the off-season of the business.



AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 4

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM – Vanita Anderson

Competitive Procurement Process – Calhoun County

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) requires that every five years the planning agency competitively procure a Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) as promulgated in Chapter 287, *Florida Statutes*.

The ARPC began this process on October 2, 2015, by advertising for Request for Qualifications from Interested Parties in the local newspaper, the Florida Administrative Register, the ARPC website and the CTD website for agencies/firms interested in coordinating transportation services in Calhoun County as the CTC. Two proposers, Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit and Good Wheels, Inc., responded and both were found to be qualified to serve as the CTC.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to the two proposers on October 16th with a deadline to submit a response by November 3rd. Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit was the only response received by the November 3rd deadline.

The Selection Committee met on Monday, November 9th to review the Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit proposal to ensure compliance with the RFP. The Selection Committee assures the ARPC that the Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit proposal was rated fairly, impartially and comprehensively and was responsive to the questions asked in the RFP. The Selection Committee agreed that Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit met the requirements of Chapter 427, Florida Statutes and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code. Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit is the current Community Transportation Coordinator and has exhibited the skills and abilities to continue as the Community Transportation Coordinator. Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit responded to the request as the Community Transportation Coordinator that will provide all of the requested transportation services.

The Selection Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the ARPC that Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Calhoun County.

ACTION NEEDED

Motion to approve the Selection Committee recommendation to recommend to the FL Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged the appointment of Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Calhoun County, effective July 1, 2016 for a five-year term and to authorize ARPC Resolution No. 2016-01 in support of the appointment.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
RECOMMENDING A COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR FOR CALHOUN COUNTY
TO THE
FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED**

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is the designated official planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged program in Calhoun County; and

WHEREAS, as part of their statutory duty must recommend to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged a Community Transportation Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council has considered the need to supply services under this program that best meet the demand in a cost-effective and cost-efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the existing Memorandum of Agreement between the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the current Community Transportation Coordinator expires on June 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit has proven itself to be a highly effective Community Transportation Coordinator for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit is knowledgeable of the available resources, demands, and needs of the transportation disadvantaged; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Apalachee Regional Planning Council recommends to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit be retained as the Community Transportation Coordinator in Calhoun County for a five year period beginning July 1, 2016.

***Duly adopted by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council Board of Directors
on this 19th day of November, 2015.***

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Randy Merritt, Chairman

Chris Rietow, Executive Director

Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Appointments

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

COUNTY	MEMBER	POSITION	TERM ENDING
Calhoun	Clarissa Medina	Community Action	2017
Liberty	Clarissa Medina	Community Action	2017
Franklin		User	2016

ACTION NEEDED

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

Franklin County Community Transportation Coordinator Designation Update

At the October 26, 2015 meeting of the FL Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, the Franklin County Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) designation to Croom's, Inc. was terminated effective December 1, 2015.

This decision was based on poor financial management, vehicle maintenance deficiencies, non-compliance with substance abuse management responsibilities, inadequate administrative capabilities and non-compliance with Florida Statute and Florida Administrative Code requirements to serve as a CTC.

ARPC staff, the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged staff and the FL Dept. of Transportation staff provided technical assistance to Croom's, Inc. to assist in resolving the problems, but Croom's, Inc. was unable to provide a Corrective Action Plan to satisfy the concerns of the FL Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the FL Department of Transportation.

A declaration and order of emergency was sent out by the FL Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged on October 30, 2015 seeking a Community Transportation Coordinator for Franklin County, effective December 1, 2015 and ending November 30, 2016. Responses to the RFQ were due November 6, 2015.

An update on the emergency designation will be provided at the ARPC Board Meeting.

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM

**Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards
2015-2016 Meeting Schedules**

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

COUNTY	TIME & PLACE	DATES
Calhoun	2 PM CT Calhoun County Senior Citizens Center Conference Room 16859 NE Cayson Street, Blountstown	September 10, 2015 November 9, 2015 February 8, 2016 June 6, 2016
Franklin	10 AM ET Franklin County Courthouse Annex Courtroom 33 Market Street, Apalachicola	September 9, 2015 November 12, 2015 February 10, 2016 June 8, 2016
Gulf	2 PM ET Gulf County ARC/Transportation Office 122 Water Plant Road, Port St. Joe	September 9, 2015 November 12, 2015 February 10, 2016 June 8, 2016
Jackson	10 AM CT JTrans Conference Room 3988 Old Cottondale Road, Marianna	September 10, 2015 November 9, 2015 February 8, 2016 June 6, 2016.
Liberty	10 AM ET Veterans Memorial Civic Center Room 13 - CR 12 South 10405 NW Theo Jacobs Way, Bristol	September 8, 2015 November 17, 2015 February 9, 2016 June 7, 2016

AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 5

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UPDATE – Joe Crozier

Hazards Analysis (HA) Program

The second deliverables have been submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for the 2015/2016 County Hazards Analysis program on Friday, October 30th. This year, approximately **80 facilities** within the Region were selected by FDEM for verification. Today, the Council is **ahead of schedule** having submitted approximately 2/3 of the requested data associated with the contract.

As a general refresher, these facility verifications vary from sulfuric acid back up battery banks, gaseous chlorine tanks for residential well sites, to larger operations. All of the facilities, whether publically or privately operated must report extremely hazardous substance inventories to FDEM. The ARPC then ensures the reporting quantities are accurate before updating or creating vulnerable zone area maps, site plans, and other data to be made available to first responders in case of spills or releases.

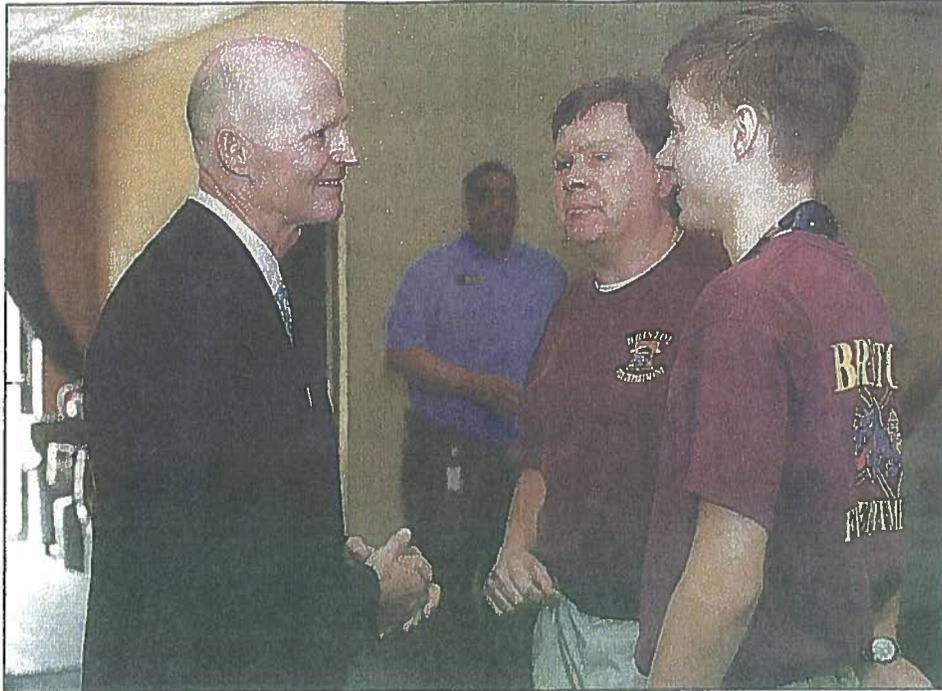
Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program

The ARPC **has been allocated a sequential grant** by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). This financial assistance will be used to complete the Small Quantity Generator Assessment, Notification, and Verification Program work for the seven counties in the Region that were served last year **with the addition of Gadsden for FY 2015-2016**. The applicable waste-generating businesses of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla counties will be visited over the following months to validate compliance with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) protocols.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 6

CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. Board Members in the News
2. Email follow-up with FDOT on the SIS Designation for Hwy 71
3. Article relating to the District Court of Appeal's Opinion on the proposed expansion of Creek Entertainment in Gretna (Gadsden County)
4. Article relating to the progress of the RESTORE Act Funding
5. Article on the FDEO Executive Director's visit to Calhoun County
6. Article on recent progress of the Port of Port St. Joe
7. Notice from the US Dept. of Agriculture for grants to Veterinary students
8. Press release from Rep. Gwen Graham on the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act recently passed by the US House of Representatives



Gov. Scott shows appreciation to Bristol Fire Dept. Firefighters

Bristol Firefighters Steve and Heath Cutshaw attended the Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) 13th annual First Responder Appreciation Luncheon on Sept. 10.

Governor Scott made a surprise visit and spent a good amount of time visiting with the Cutshaws. The Governor expressed his appreciation to the father/son team (pictured above) and especially expressed thanks to the younger Cutshaw (Heath) for volunteering his time helping protect life and property of those who live in his community.

The event took place at the Tallahassee

Automobile and Collectibles Museum.

Although hosted by LCSO, dozens of other organizations were present at the event, including several police departments, sheriff's offices, fire fighters, paramedics and even military. Hundreds of officials from counties all across the area were at the event.

The first annual event began in late 2001. The event is meant as a tribute to all the men and women who serve the public. Organizations were able to have lunch and honor each others' hard work and dedication.

Chris Rietow

From: Smith, Tim <Tim.Smith@dot.state.fl.us>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 3:58 PM
To: Chris Rietow
Subject: RE: Meeting Agenda

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hey Chris,

I looked into SR 71 being on the SIS. The corridor is not on the SIS due to not meeting the criteria. I have listed the issues below.

1. Currently the Average AADT along the highest 50% of the corridor does not exceed the 6,000 vehicle threshold.
2. The existing Truck Volumes along the corridor do not exceed the minimum required for SIS criteria.
3. US 98 is not on the SIS where SR 71 intersects. The corridor must connect to two SIS Facilities.

Let me know if I can help in any way.

Thanks,
Tim Smith, P.E.
District ISD Manager
Phone: 850-330-1516
Email: Tim.Smith@dot.state.fl.us

From: Chris Rietow [mailto:CRietow@theapc.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 12:34 PM
To: Smith, Tim; brandon.bruner@dot.state.fl.us
Subject: RE: Meeting Agenda

Tim & Brandon,

Just wanted to thank you both for taking the time to come and present to the Council today. I thought the presentation went well and hopefully we can provide assistance/support with the selection of one of the preferred alternatives. We are always looking for ways to work with our partner agencies, so please don't hesitate to contact me if there's anything we can do to help.

Have a great weekend!

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Rietow, Executive Director/ District 2 LEPC Staff
Apalachee Regional Planning Council
2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 488-6211 ext. 102
Fax: (850) 488-1616

NEWS SERVICE FLORIDA



COURT REVERSES COURSE, RULES AGAINST SLOT MACHINES

BY DARA KAM
THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, October 2, 2015.....In an unusual legal move that sent ripples throughout the state's pari-mutuel industry Friday, an appellate court reversed itself and decided that a Northwest Florida racetrack cannot have slot machines without the authorization of the Legislature.

The ruling by a three-judge panel of the 1st District Court of Appeal sided with Attorney General Pam Bondi and Gov. Rick Scott's administration, which sought a rehearing after a 2-1 ruling this spring in favor of Gretna Racing in Gadsden County.

As they did in the earlier opinion, the judges Friday asked the Florida Supreme Court to weigh in on the issue of whether pari-mutuels can have slot machines if local voters approve, or if the games require the express say-so of the Legislature.

Rehearings are commonly sought by lawyers on the losing sides of issues but are rarely granted.

The Gretna case is even more unusual because Judge Nikki Ann Clark, who joined Judge Robert T. Benton in May's majority opinion, retired while the request for rehearing was pending. The May ruling would have given the small Northwest Florida facility permission to add slot machines after Gadsden County voters approved them.

The court decided against granting Bondi's request for an "en banc," or hearing before the full appeals court, in favor of a rehearing before a three-judge panel with a new member. Judge Ross L. Bilbrey on Friday joined the 32-page majority opinion authored by Judge Scott Makar, who wrote a scathing dissent in May.

The case hinges on a semantic analysis of a 2009 law establishing eligibility for slot machines at pari-mutuels. The 2009 law, which went into effect the following year, was an expansion of a 2004 voter-approved constitutional amendment that authorized slot machines at seven existing horse and dog tracks and jai-alai frontons in Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

The 2009 change allowed a Hialeah track, which wasn't operating at the time the amendment was approved, to also operate the lucrative slots. The law in question consists of three clauses, including one that deals with counties outside of Broward and Miami-Dade.

State regulators last year denied the Gretna racetrack a slots license, arguing the Department of Business and Professional Regulation was "not authorized to issue a slot machine license to a pari-mutuel facility in a county which ... holds a countywide referendum to approve such machines, absent a statutory or constitutional provision enacted after July 1, 2010, authorizing such a referendum." The agency justified its decision with a non-binding opinion by Bondi.

Lawyers for Gretna argued that the statute does not include the word "enacted," and other counties do not need prior authorization from the Legislature to get the requisite voter approval for slots.

But, in Friday's ruling, Makar wrote that Bondi's interpretation of the law was "spot on."

"The alternative view, which would restructure the statute and change its meaning to allow slot machines to be deployed on a statewide basis without any clear authority to do so, is inconsistent with principles of statutory and constitutional construction, legislative intent, and the history of laws prohibiting slot machines in the State of Florida," he wrote.

Makar also raised the question of whether the Legislature has the authority to approve slot machines outside of Broward and Miami-Dade counties, based on a previous Florida Supreme Court ruling in a case known as "Greater Loretta." That opinion, which dealt with an interpretation of Florida's 1968 Constitution, found that "all other lotteries -- including bolito, cuba, slot machines, etc., are prohibited." Makar asked the Supreme Court for guidance.

"So which is it? Are slot machines a form of lottery that only the people may approve via constitutional amendment? Or are slot machines not prohibited as lotteries under (the state Constitution's) article X, section 7, which may be legislatively authorized statewide without constitutional authority?" Makar wrote.

Makar also asked the court to settle the issue of the 2009 law. Voters in five other counties --- Brevard, Lee, Hamilton, Palm Beach, and Washington --- have also approved referendums authorizing slots at local pari-mutuels. State regulators have denied applications for slots in four counties, and the Palm Beach Kennel Club has an appeal pending. Tracks in Lee and Brevard counties are likely to appeal as well.

In an opinion concurring in part with Makar, Bilbrey wrote that he ended up on the three-judge panel thanks to "the luck of the draw." The former Pensacola circuit judge joined the appeals court in January after being appointed by Scott.

Addressing the circumstances surrounding the rehearing, Bilbrey acknowledged that "the judgment of a retired colleague is entitled to some deference." But, he wrote, "a successor judge is not required to always vote identically to the predecessor on rehearing."

The Gretna facility, owned by the Poarch Creek Indians and a handful of investors, has been mired in controversy since its inception. Florida officials granted the track the country's first pari-mutuel license for rodeo-style barrel racing, but a court later decided that gambling regulators erred when they awarded the license.

"We are disappointed with this reversal, and we look forward to a review from the Florida Supreme Court where we feel this issue will be resolved in our favor," the tribe said in a statement following Friday's ruling.

In his dissent Friday, Benton argued that gambling regulators' interpretation of the law "would render superfluous the entire third clause" of the statute that deals with "any licensed pari-mutuel facility in any other county."

The agency's interpretation would mean that a referendum authorizing slots could only be held if the Legislature passed another law, Benton pointed out.

"But that was the status quo" before the 2009 law was enacted, Benton wrote. "There was no need or purpose in enacting a statutory provision to state the obvious," he wrote.

David Romanik, a lawyer who represents Gretna and is a part owner of the facility, said he was disappointed in the court's decision to "overrule its own very well-reasoned original opinion, but grateful that the Supreme Court will have the opportunity to review this issue of great statewide importance."

But an association that represents horse breeders and trainers lauded the ruling.

"Justice has been served today in Florida. Simply, the 2012 Gadsden County slot referendum never should have been approved, inasmuch as it was based upon the pretext of 'pari-mutuel barrel racing' --- the licensing of which was ultimately ruled in 2013 to be an overstep of regulatory authority," Florida Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association President Bill White said in a statement.

--END--

10/2/2015

NEWS SERVICE FLORIDA



LAWMAKERS SORT OUT DETAILS OF OIL SPILL MONEY

By MARGIE MENZEL
THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, October 20, 2015.....With billions of dollars coming to Florida in reparation for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, a Senate panel Tuesday tried to get a better feel for how the money will be spent.

Drew Bartlett, deputy secretary for ecosystem restoration at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, told members of the Senate Agriculture Committee that the money will flow through several channels.

The 2010 spill in the Gulf of Mexico directly damaged the state's tourism and fishing industries as well as its environment, but also had indirect effects as far away as the Florida Keys.

That's partly why senators were interested in one of the buckets of money Bartlett described, \$364 million that Florida counties will divide under what is known as the federal RESTORE Act. Seventy-five percent of the money, or \$273 million, goes to the eight hardest-hit counties --- Escambia, Okaloosa, Bay, Walton, Santa Rosa, Franklin, Gulf and Wakulla.

The other 25 percent, or \$91 million, goes to 15 counties, ranging from Taylor to Monroe, along the coast.

"The environmental damages were largely seen in the Panhandle area," Bartlett said. "But when you get to recreation and economic damages, during that time when the newscasts were showing the oil spill ... a lot of vacations were canceled. We saw a lot of loss of economic revenue in counties throughout the Gulf."

"Was it fear, or actual economic damage to those counties?" asked Sen. Eleanor Sobel, D-Hollywood.

"In the southern counties, it was fear," he replied.

Committee Chairman Bill Montford, D-Tallahassee, asked whether any of the money was earmarked for county commissions to make their own decisions about projects to fund.

"Who blesses these decisions?" he asked.

Under the RESTORE Act, the U.S. Department of the Treasury has a direct relationship with the coastal counties, said Mimi Drew, a Florida trustee for the National Resource Damage Assessment and a representative to what is known as the RESTORE Council.

"The coastal counties develop the plan, send it to Treasury," Drew said. "When Treasury is comfortable with the plan, then the funding goes directly to those counties."

The deadly explosion aboard the drilling rig owned by BP and operated by Transocean is considered the largest marine oil spill in the history of the industry. It killed 11 people and sent millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, taking months to cap and seal the well.

"We lost more than 50,000 birds, more than 50,000 sea turtles," Bartlett said. "Much of the shoreline was impacted by oil, and a slick was detected the size of Virginia."

Florida will collect \$680 million from the National Resource Damage Assessment and \$356 million from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for restoration projects. It will also net at least \$676.5 from the RESTORE Act, formally known as the 2012 Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act.

Much of the money will be paid over a 15-year period. Both BP and Transocean will contribute to each fund.

Additionally, the state will receive \$2 billion for economic damages, which will flow through the Attorney General's Office.

Triumph Gulf Coast Inc., a non-profit corporation created by the Legislature in 2013, will help the eight Panhandle counties most economically impacted by the spill. It is expected to award 75 percent of the economic-damages money over 30 years for recovery efforts, while the Legislature will distribute the rest. Under the agreement, Florida will receive an initial payment of \$400 million next year, with subsequent disbursements of about \$100 million annually through 2033.

--END--

10/20/2015



DEO Executive Director meets with chamber members & local leaders

BLOUNTSTOWN - Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Executive Director Jesse Panuccio met with Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce Director Kristy Terry and other local leaders at a roundtable session Oct. 13 at Blountstown High School.

"We talked about the challenges we face as a rural area in regard to economic development," Terry said. After she pointed out the difficulties of being competitive with larger communities for business and industry, Panuccio urged her to look into resources his agency has to offer that could help attract new business to Calhoun County.

Terry said it was nice to have the chance to sit down and talk face-to-face with the DEO director about Calhoun County's future.

Also taking part in the meeting was School Superintendent Ralph Yoder; Thomas Flowers, who was representing the county commission as well as the credit union; Blountstown City Manager Traci Hall; Terri Waldron of Van Lierop Insurance Agency and Calhoun County Assistant School Superintendent Vicki Davis. Panuccio followed that meeting with another, talking with students in an economics class at the high school.

JOHNNY EUBANKS PHOTO

Port Authority begins 'massive project'

By TIM CROFT

227-7827 | @PSJ_Star
tcroft@starfl.com

Since securing state and federal permits to dredge the federally-authorized shipping channel, it has been widely understood within the Port St. Joe Port Authority that before the first turn of the shovel there had to be a place for its contents to go.

The Port Authority last week formally moved ahead on the construction of that place, or more accurately places.

A joint participation agreement was formalized between the Florida Department of Transportation, the Port Authority and the board's engineer on the dredge project, Hatch Mott MacDonald, to design the infrastructure to accommodate some 5 million cubic yards of spoil.

Enough, said Tommy Pitts, project manager with Hatch Mott, to raise a five-mile stretch of highway about 20 feet.

"This is a massive project," Pitts said.

The design/engineering work will be funded by a \$1 million grant from the FDOT which recently released the money after lobbying from local and state officials that the spoil sites were a

necessary next step.

"This needs to be done," said Port Authority chair Eugene Raffield. "(State officials) realized this is something we can't wait on. It was a smart decision for (state officials) to make."

"This is very encouraging from the state side. I am excited."

For starters, the spoil areas, which will include the old paper mill site as well as land owned by

The St. Joe Company along the Intracoastal Canal, must be in place prior to dredging.

Hatch Mott will be charged with ultimately providing a work order and scope of work by which the Port Authority will go out for bid on the construction.

Billy Perry of Hatch Mott said there is extensive geotech and

See PROJECT A2

PROJECT from page A1

survey work involved.

Pitts said it would take four to six months to complete, with a mission to make the project, permitted and scope of work in hand, "shovel ready" which is crucial to leverage for outside funding.

"This will allow you to put it out for bid and begin construction," Pitts said.

Secondly, the design and scope of work on construction of the spoil sites is one of the last cost certainties for the bottom line of the overall dredging project, essential to the development of the Port of Port St. Joe.

"This will get us as close to a number as you can get for the total cost of the project," Raffield said. "Then (state officials) will know what the state can do and what needs to be asked from Triumph."

The funding of the dredge project, which this year was permitted for the next five years, remains contingent on a signed contract with a user for the port, state officials have long told the Port Authority.

Unlocking funding already earmarked by the Florida Legislature for improvements to the Genessee Wyoming rail line that would link the Port of Port St. Joe to Chattahoochee and points north, also hinges on a customer.

The state has set aside \$20 million for the dredge project, but local authorities have been told the money may be used elsewhere until the port is ready to begin the construction of the spoil sites and in turn the dredging.

Raffield expressed confidence in two key factors in the equation.

One is that The St. Joe Company, the Port Authority's collaborator in port development, is close to contracts that would be contingent on an operational port and an improved and clear rail line.

And that funding to develop the Port of Port St. Joe will be found when the proverbial

ducks are in a row.

"Meetings have been going well," Raffield said. "I think St. Joe is close with two companies, one that would get the rail going and another that would get the port dredging going.

"It's an all-day, every day happening to get this port going."

Florida Gov. Rick Scott has placed an emphasis on the state's ports and has recently encouraged collaboration among ports to bolster the state's position, particularly with an expanded Panama Canal set to open in the near future.

The Florida Legislature has already set aside, for now, the dredge dollars and more than \$3 million for rail improvements along the Genessee Wyoming line.

Further, local economic development officials are looking at Triumph Gulf Coast and the almost \$2 billion it will receive by legislation from the federal settlement with BP and which is focused on "regional" projects that spur economic growth.

"This is the most important thing we've got, this port, and everybody knows that," said board member Leonard Costin.

Chris Holley, executive director of the Economic Alliance of Gulf County, said a key was getting the port development project "shovel-ready."

"There is a lot of interest to see this port get going," said Holley.

Port Authority officers

The Port Authority is awaiting appointments to fill the two seats on the board that technically term-ended this month.

Johanna White, who has served for more than 13 years, and Leonard Costin, completing his first four-year term, are leaving the board.

The appointment of replacements is in the hands of Gov. Rick Scott.

This is from the US Department of Agriculture:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6, 2015 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture today awarded more than \$4.5 million to 49 American veterinarians to help repay a portion of their veterinary school loans in return for serving in areas lacking sufficient veterinary resources. The awards, made through the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) administered by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), will help fill shortages in 26 states.

"Rural America is challenged with recruiting veterinarians", said Dr. John Clifford, Chief Veterinary Officer for the USDA. "These professionals often face high student loan debt, leading them to work in locations with larger populations and higher pay. This program offers loan-repayment assistance to veterinarians, allowing them to fill shortages and work in rural areas, ultimately improving the well-being of livestock and providing an abundant and safe food supply for America."

Veterinarians are critical to America's food safety and food security and to the health and well-being of both animals and humans. Studies indicate there are significant shortages of food animal veterinarians in certain areas of the country, and in high-priority specialty sectors that require advanced training, such as food safety, epidemiology, diagnostic medicine and public health. A leading cause for this shortage is the heavy cost of four years of professional veterinary medical training which leaves current graduates of veterinary colleges with a mean debt burden of \$135,283.

Recipients are required to commit to three years of veterinary service in a designated veterinary shortage area. Loan repayment benefits are limited to payments of the principal and interest on government and commercial loans received for attendance at an American Veterinary Medical Association-accredited college of veterinary medicine resulting in a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree or the equivalent. Loan repayments made by the VMLRP are taxable income to participants. Also included in the award is a federal tax payment equal to 39 percent of the loan payment to offset the increase in income tax liability.

This is the third year NIFA has made renewal awards through VMLRP. Previous awardees with educational debt surpassing \$75,000, the maximum award amount, are eligible to apply for a renewal award. Renewal applications follow the same competitive review process as new applications, and submission of a renewal application does not necessarily mean the veterinarian will receive continued VMLRP benefits.

In fiscal year 2015, NIFA received 137 applications and made 49 awards. An online map is available describing each shortage area filled in FY 2015.

Participants are required to serve in one of three types of shortage situations. Awardees filling Type 1 shortages areas must dedicate at least 80 percent of their time to provision of food animal veterinary services. Type 2 shortages are rural areas in which awardees are obligated to provide food animal veterinary services at least 30 percent of their time. Type 3 shortage areas are dedicated to public practice and awardees must commit at least 49 percent of their time.

NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and seeks to make transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges.

Chief Kent T. Watson
Economic Development Liaison
Rep. Gwen Graham (FL-02)
300 South Adams St, Suite A-3
Tallahassee, FL 32301
T: 850-891-8610



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
GWEN GRAHAM
FLORIDA'S 2ND DISTRICT FOR

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Contact: Matt Harringer, Communications Director

matt.harringer@mail.house.gov | 202-225-5235

NDAА PASSES HOUSE WITH GRAHAM INITIATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Representatives Gwen Graham joined an overwhelming bipartisan majority to pass the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in the House of Representatives by a 370-58 vote. The NDAA provides an increase to military spending and includes several important provisions amended to the bill by Rep. Graham, who serves on the House Armed Services Committee.

“The men and women serving in North Florida and across the world deserve to know they have our full support. The National Defense Authorization Act finally starts to reverse sequestration’s harmful cuts and sets us on a path toward fully funding our military,” Rep. Graham said. “We still have more work to do, but this bill will ensure our nation’s military remains the strongest on earth. I urge the Senate to pass the bill as soon as possible and for the president to sign it promptly.”

The legislation includes three important national defense initiatives Rep. Graham amended to the bill: the [US-Israel Anti-Tunnel Defense Cooperation Act](#); [support for military divers](#); and a portion of the [VETS Act](#).

“By working with Democrats and Republicans, we’ve had great success in passing our North Florida initiatives in the National Defense Authorization Act. We’re going to recognize our military divers, take care of our veterans and help our closest ally in the Middle East, Israel.”

In addition to funding existing programs, the bill revamps the military’s retirement benefits structure, gives service chiefs greater control over procurement decisions, beefs up cyber-security efforts and provides greater funding to defeat ISIS.

“We must be tough and smart on national security. That means investing in more security at home and defeating ISIS without getting dragged into another civil war.”

###

AGENDA ITEM 6 – C



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economic Development Administration
Atlanta Regional Office
401 W. Peachtree St., N.W., Suite 1820
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-3510

October 1, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Rietow:

In January 2015 EDA suspended the RLF Program operated by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council as a result of accounting inaccuracies.

In a July 22, 2015 letter, EDA determined the conditions to be met by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council in order to resolve the accounting inaccuracies including submitting corrected RLF reports back to March 2012 and repaying the RLF Program \$47,522. As of the date of this letter, EDA has determined that the Apalachee Regional Planning Council has met all conditions.

As a result of these findings, EDA is lifting the suspension of the RLF program effective immediately, and the RLF may resume lending activities. EDA would also like to thank the Apalachee Regional Planning Council for its diligence in resolving these matters. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. Tom Pellegrino, RLF Program Administrator at 404-730-3028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Philip Paradice, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

H. Philip Paradice, Jr.
Director, Atlanta Region

Chris Rietow

From: Owen Beitsch <o.beitsch@gaiconsultants.com>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 6:13 PM
Cc: Mark Lawson (mlawson@markglawson.com); Jim Lang
Subject: [suspected SPAM] TAX CREDIT UPDATE

Importance: Low

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The CDFI Fund announced on Wednesday October 21st the 2015 NMTC applications would be due electronically on December 16, 2015. A date for the awards themselves is tentative but might not occur until August of 2016, much later than the spring window experienced in much of the program's history. A complete copy of the CDFI's Notification of Allocation Authority (NOAA) can be found at <https://www.cdfifund.gov/Documents/NOAA%2015%20-%20correct%20signature.pdf>. More information can be found at a variety of other websites.

Continuing the theme of our prior messages, we are reviewing your prior application to see what modifications are appropriate. The focus, of course, is on three things: projects which will attract the attention of the CDFI reviewers, changes in investment strategy to parallel preferences described by CDFI, and necessary adjustments to your advisory board.

- Your project list will include those which may have advanced in their priority, new projects requiring funding, or other pipeline initiatives you wish to highlight. It is possible projects identified in last year's application will simply stay as previously described. We have communicated with some members of the FNMTCA about these projects already.
- At the conference in Chicago, there were several announcements which appear to affect the way money is actually invested and accounted for by each approved CDE. These are technical details which may be addressed, in most cases, by the way questions are answered in the application itself.
- The board matter is more complicated as I had detailed in my earlier messages. You already know our current thinking on this issue. We have acted to create an umbrella organization whose members and board should fulfill CDFI's requirements and match your planned operating footprint. In the alternative, you can create your own advisory board which matches the criteria outlined. To clarify and emphasize, the *advisory board* is not the same as the *governing board* and you probably identified people last year for that body.

On this very challenging board issue, we have heard from only a limited number of FNMTCA members about their preferences or interests.

Now that the NOAA is officially released, we are moving ahead with plans to assist in getting your application filed in a timely manner. Within the next ten days you will receive a list of needed information you must provide as well as a number of related attachments or instructions which will launch your application process officially. Included will be certain signature pages, affidavits, other disclosures and information requests about projects and people. The answers or responses provided will yield data for the final application very comparable in many respects to that generated last year. A

notable exception to last year's needs will be the biographical profiles specific to persons identified as advisory board members.

We will send our further information and any directions to you in a *separate* message which you can expect in about ten days. All of the requested documentation will be due to us on a date certain which will be clearly stated. The time thereafter will be used to confer with you, where necessary, about clarifications or details. Without much of it, we will won't be able to help you submit a meaningful application. In the absence of certain signatures and disclosures, we will neither start nor submit the application.

Our expectation is you will commit to this process for the coming year. Now that the time is actually here to organize, we assume you are prepared to deal with the exchange of data as you did last year.

On the other hand, if for unforeseen reasons, you simply opt *not to submit* an application in this cycle, we would welcome this knowledge as quickly as possible.

Best wishes.



Owen Beitsch, PhD, FAICP, CRE

Senior Director, Economic and Real Estate Advisory Services

618 E. South Street, Suite 700

Orlando, Florida 32801

T 407.423.8398 ext. 3151

C 407.808.5686

E o.beitsch@gaiconsultants.com

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Intergovernmental Affairs Activity Report *September 1-30, 2015*

Following is an overview of activities and work performed during the month of September 2015.

OUTREACH

Met with Sean Lewis, Development Representative, DEO – see meeting report attached.

Prepared for and represented FRCA at the APA Florida Chapter Annual Conference/Exhibition.

Prepared news release announcing FRCA officers for Policy Board President comment.

Met with Stephen James and Eric Poole of Florida Association of Counties.

Attended a Florida Society of Association Executives Roundtable.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

Monitored news and distributed notices, news of interest, grants information to Executive Directors.

Coordinated and provided staff support to Path Forward Committee. Met with Chair Barbara Todd to plan committee organization. Drafted presentation for Chair to deliver at first Committee meeting.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

n/a

OPERATIONS

Completed Summary of July Business Meeting for Chair approval.

Updated FRCA 2015/16 Meetings Calendar

Produced Draft Annual Report for EDAC review.

Planned September EDAC and Partners Meetings.

Florida Regional Councils Association
Director, Intergovernmental Affairs Activity Report
September 2015

Confirmed 4th Quarter 2015 through 1st Quarter 2016 hotel room blocks and meeting spaces.
Scouted alternate locations for January 2016 Policy Board Meeting

Updated FRCA Communications Plan



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Intergovernmental Affairs Activity Report

October 2015

Following is an overview of activities and work performed during the month of October 2015.

OUTREACH

Participated in October 16 REDI Meeting.

News Releases:

- Distributed FRCA 2015-16 Leadership news release and encouraged RPCs to distribute regionally.
- Prepared news release draft announcing RPC appointments to the I-75 Relief Task Force for EDAC review.

Extended invitations to key partners for November 13 Partners meeting. Distributed meeting notice/invitation to interested parties.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

Reviewed EDA's new grant procedures, and consulted with EDA Georgia-Florida Representative regarding the eligibility of a new RPC statewide datacenter, for EDA funding.

Arranged FRCA Sponsorship and attendance for the 2015 Rural Economic Development Summit 11/15-17.

Gathered RPC data for DEO First Quarter RPCs' Report.

Participated in Path Forward Committee meetings.

Monitored news and distributed notices, news of interest, grants information to Executive Directors.

Revised draft RPC brochure in preparation for discussion at Nov. 12 EDAC Business Meeting.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

n/a

OPERATIONS

Completed Summaries of September EDAC Business and Partners Meetings for Chair Approval.

Planned November EDAC and Partners Meetings, including draft agendas, meeting logistics, meeting notice/invitations, and coordination with hotels and facilities, etc.

Updated FRCA 2015/16 Meetings and Conferences/Events Calendars.

Completed Final Draft of FRCA Annual Report for approval.* Drafted recommendations for a more efficient procedure for future annual reports.

Prepared preliminary Agenda for January 2016 Policy Board Meeting for Chairman.

Maintained/updated FRCA Website. Reviewed website and outlined recommendations for near term improvements and updates, for discussion/approval at Nov. 12 Business Meeting.

Worked on summary of July Policy Board Meeting.



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Contact: **Martha Lord**
850-487-1426
director@flregionalcouncils.org

For Immediate Release

Florida Regional Councils Association Announces New Leadership

October 19, 2015, Tallahassee, Fla. - Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) has announced its new officers for FY 2015-16. Lee Constantine, Seminole County Commissioner and Chairman of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council has been elected President of FRCA, Barbara Sheen Todd, a gubernatorial appointee to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has been elected First Vice-President and Carolyn Spooner, City Commissioner, City of Starke has been elected Second Vice-President. Michael Busha, Executive Director of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council has been elected Chair of FRCA's Executive Directors Advisory Committee. Together, Constantine and Busha will guide the FRCA alliance of the 10 statewide regional planning councils in fulfilling its mission to support economic development and improved quality of life for all Floridians. Constantine, Todd, Spooner and Busha will each serve a one-year term.

Mr. Constantine stated, "Our councils are uniquely positioned to recognize and tackle issues that have broad regional and statewide impacts while helping local governments meet the needs of their communities."

Mr. Busha said, "I'm looking forward to another strong year from the regional planning councils, providing award-winning services to our local governments and bringing communities together to create a more competitive and innovative Florida." The regional planning councils perform a variety of functions and services at the local, regional and state levels for the public and private sector, and spearhead important regional initiatives related to:

- Economic Development & Job Creation
- Transportation
- Emergency Preparedness & First Responder Training
- Community Planning & Visioning
- Brownfields Cleanup & Redevelopment
- Energy & Community Resiliency
- Grant Writing & Management
- Natural Resources
- Education

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) is the statewide organization of the 10 regional planning councils (RPCs). FRCA strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity, and improves the consistency and quality of RPC programs, adding value to state, regional and local initiatives. Visit www.flregionalcouncils.org for more information about FRCA and Florida's 10 regional planning councils.

-more-



Lee Constantine
President, FRC,
Seminole County RPC



Barbara Sheen Todd
First Vice President, FRCA,
Tampa Bay RPC



Carolyn Spooner,
FRCA Second Vice-President,
North Central Florida RPC



Michael Busha
Chair, FRCA Executive Directors
Advisory Committee,
Treasure Coast RPC

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Phone (850) 488-6211 - Fax (850) 488-1616
www.thearpc.com

STAFF

Chris Rietow CRietow@thearpc.com 850-488-6211 x. 102	Executive Director / District 2 LEPC Staff
Vanita Anderson VAnderson@thearpc.com 850-488-6211 x. 106	Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinator
Bruce Ballister BBallister@thearpc.com 850-488-6211 x. 100	Senior Planner – Economic Development
Joe Crozier JCrozier@thearpc.com 850-488-6211 x. 104	Associate Planner
Janice Watson JWatson@thearpc.com 850-488-6211 x. 103	Finance Director / Revolving Loan Coordinator
Denise Imbler Whitlock DImbler@thearpc.com 850-488-6211 x. 101	Director of Emergency Planning Program
Ed Blanton 610 Summerbrooke Drive Tallahassee, FL 32312 efb825@aol.com 850-224-1020	Council Attorney