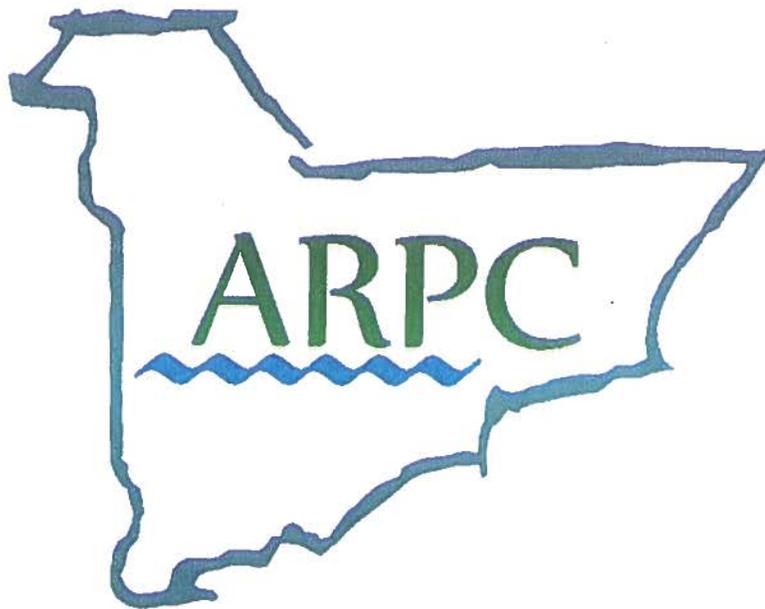


# Apalachee Regional Planning Council

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday – January 28, 2016

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



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

ARPC OFFICE – Conservation Centre Conference Room

2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200

Tallahassee, Florida

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

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

**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

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

**Calhoun County**

Darrell McDougald  
Wes Johnston  
Don Stephens

County Commissioner  
Mayor, Town of Altha  
Governor's Appointee

**Franklin County**

William Massey  
Brenda Ash  
Dawn Radford

County Commissioner  
Commissioner, City of Apalachicola  
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  
Councilman, 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**

Charles Harp  
Christina Cogger  
Virgie Bowen  
Diane Scholz

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

**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETING**

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

**THURSDAY – JANUARY 28, 2016**  
10:30 AM Eastern Time / 9:30 AM Central Time

**AGENDA**

	<u>Page #</u>
1. <u>Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions</u>	
2. <u>*Approval of Agenda</u> . . . . .	3
3. <u>*Approval of Minutes – November 19, 2015 Regular Board Meeting</u> . . . . .	4
4. <u>Big Bend Scenic Byway Presentation</u> – Del Suggs	
5. <u>Regional Economic Model Inc. (REMI) Presentation</u> – Bruce Ballister	
6. <u>Executive Director’s Report</u> – Chris Rietow . . . . .	12
A. <u>*Financial Report</u> . . . . .	13
B. <u>Staff Program Reports</u>	
1. <u>*Economic Development Planning</u> . . . . .	16
2. <u>Emergency Planning</u> . . . . .	25
3. <u>Revolving Loan Fund</u> . . . . .	29
4. <u>Transportation Planning</u> . . . . .	30
5. <u>Environmental Planning</u> . . . . .	33
6. <u>Correspondence / Items of Interest</u> . . . . .	35
C. <u>Florida New Markets Tax Credit Alliance Update</u>	
D. <u>Florida Regional Councils Association Update</u>	
E. <u>Florida National Scenic Trails Update</u>	
7. <u>Council Attorney Report</u> – Ed Blanton	
8. <u>Board Member Reports / Local &amp; Regional Issues Discussion</u>	
9. <u>Ex-Officio Member Updates</u>	
10. <u>Public Comment</u>	
11. <u>Adjournment</u> - <i>Lunch will be served immediately following the meeting.</i>	

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

**MINUTES – November 19, 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	Wes Johnston	Altha, Mayor
	Don Stephens	Governor's Appointee
Franklin County	Brenda LaPaz	Carrabelle, Mayor
Gadsden County	Karen Bass	Havana Town Councilperson
	Henry Grant	Governor's Appointee
Gulf County	Tony Justice	Wewahitchka City Commissioner
Leon County	Lisa Miller	Governor's Appointee
Liberty County	Dexter Barber	Liberty County Commissioner
	Woody Stewart	Bristol City Commissioner
Wakulla County	Randy Merritt	Wakulla County Commissioner
	Gail Gilman	St. Marks City Commissioner
	Ed Brimner	Governor's Appointee

**Ex-Officio Members in Attendance**

Paul Thorpe	Northwest FL Water Management District
Virgie Bowen	FL Dept. of Transportation
Charles Harp	FL Dept. of Environmental Protection

**ARPC Staff in Attendance**

Chris Rietow	Executive Director
Ed Blanton	ARPC Attorney
Vanita Anderson	Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinator
Joe Crozier	Associate Planner
Denise Imbler	Director of Emergency Planning Programs
Janice Watson	Finance Director/Loan Coordinator

**Others in Attendance**

Katie Britt – FDEP	Ben Pingree – Leon County EDC
James Dinkins – NMTCA	Sheri Powers – FL Commission Transp. Dis.
Chris Moran – Moran & Smith CPAs	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 Wes Johnston to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Don Stephens. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item 3: Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Gail Gilman to approve the Minutes of the October 1, 2015 ARPC Full Council Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Brenda LaPaz. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item 4: Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Presentation**

Sheri Powers of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged reported on the prestigious William G. and Bud Bell Lifetime Achievement Award received by Vanita Anderson at the 2015 State Transportation Disadvantaged Awards Banquet, held in Daytona Beach earlier in the month. Ms. Powers explained that the award was the highest honor given by the Commission each year and with more than 30 years of experience in Florida's coordinated transportation system, Ms. Anderson had overly demonstrated her commitment to the provision of mobility services for the transportation disadvantaged community. Ms. Powers noted that Ms. Anderson's long-term leadership role in advocating transportation issues had been successful in promoting the benefits of coordination of all resources and had exhibited an interest in improving accessibility of transportation services. On behalf of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, Ms. Powers formally thanked Ms. Anderson for her service to the Commission. Chairman Merritt along with the rest of the Board congratulated Ms. Anderson on her award, thanked her for her many years of service to the ARPC, and wished her all the best on her upcoming retirement.

**Item 5: FDEP Non-point Source Funding Opportunities**

Chris Rietow introduced Katie Britt of the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP), who shared a detailed presentation with the Board on several funding sources administered by the FDEP which included EPA 319(h) Grants, TMDL Water Quality Restoration Grants, and State Revolving Loan Fund Program. Ms. Britt explained that these programs represented possible funding options for the local governments of the Apalachee Region through the FDEP.

The Board thanked Ms. Britt for her presentation and asked her to contact Mr. Rietow with any FDEP funding opportunities as they are made available, and directed Mr. Rietow to share these notices and opportunities with the Board as they are received. Mr. Rietow noted that he would post Ms. Britt's presentation to the ARPC's website.

**Item 6: Executive Director's Report**

**A. Financial Report:** Mr. Rietow introduced Chris Moran of Moran & Smith CPAs and asked Mr. Moran to give the Board a summary of the FY 13/14 Audit Report, which had been accepted and approved by the ARPC Executive Committee and included in the Board package mailing under separate cover. Mr. Moran stated that the audit included an unqualified opinion and

reported that he had completed comprehensive research of previous audits in order to restate fund balance and to adjust the in-house books to agree to the audited financial statements. He explained that the ARPC financial statements now provided a clear and adequate financial position of the Council. He also noted that in the process of restating fund balance the EDA Revolving Loan Program had been broken out as a separate fund from the Council's general fund. Mr. Moran explained that during the 12-month period, the organization as a whole reported a \$14,000 loss, which basically was due to the timing of final payments on specific contracts. He reported that the new financial controls established by the Board and implemented by Mr. Rietow and Ms. Watson had greatly improved the financial accountability of the organization. Mr. Moran closed in stating that the audit contained no comments, findings, or material weaknesses.

Mr. Rietow reviewed with the Board the Budget Reports and the Reconciled Check Registers as of September 30, 2015 and October 31, 2015, included in the Board package beginning on page 15. He also reviewed with the Board the ARPC current list of accounts payable and the current check register through November 10, 2015.

**A motion was made by Karen Bass to approve the financial reports for September 2015 and October 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Rietow presented a final budget amendment for FY 14/15 included in the Board Package on page 23. He explained that this final amendment adjusted the revenues and expenditures to actual.

**A motion was made by Henry Grant to approve the Final Amended Budget for FY 14/15. The motion was seconded by Brenda LaPaz. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**

A copy of the Final Amended Budget is included to these minutes as "Attachment A".

B. Staff Reports: Chris Rietow highlighted the following ARPC Program Reports prepared by ARPC staff and included in the Board Package beginning on page 27. 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

Janice Watson briefly reviewed the Revolving Loan Fund report beginning on page 39 of the Board Package noting that the renewal of the loan to Leon Watson of Watson Baled Straw had been closed on 10/22/15. Ms. Watson explained that the Loan to Mr. Watson who operates a wholesale pine straw business based in Altha, FL provided the capital needed to keep 20 workers employed during the off-season preparing land leases which ultimately resulted in

greater yields during the harvest season. Ms. Watson reported that the ARPC Executive Committee had reviewed and approved a working capital loan to Freda and Julian Harris owners of Kids First Learning Academy in Quincy, which should be ready for closing before the end of November.

Vanita Anderson reported that the competitive procurement process for the Calhoun Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) had been completed and the Selection Committee unanimously recommended to the ARPC that Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit should be appointed as the CTC for Calhoun County for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2016.

**A motion was made by Woody Stewart to appoint Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit as the Calhoun County Community Transportation Coordinator for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2016 and to approve ARPC Resolution No. 2016-01 in support of the appointment. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**

A copy of the Resolution is included in these minutes as Attachment "B".

Ms. Anderson presented the following members of the Local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards appointed by Mr. Rietow since the last meeting.

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

**A motion was made by Brenda LaPaz to approve the recent appointments to the Local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. The motion was seconded by Tony Justice. 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) included in the Board Package on page 73 in reference to the Audit of the ARPC's Revolving Loan Fund Program. He reported that EDA had determined that the ARPC had met all the conditions required by EDA to resolve the accounting inaccuracies and that the suspension of the EDA-RLF Program had been lifted effective immediately.

D. New Markets Tax Credit Program: Mr. Rietow noted the project update included in the Board package on page 75 and introduced James Dinkins of the Florida New Markets Tax Credit Alliance (FNMTCA) to the Board. Mr. Dinkins explained that the new application criteria prohibited any local government or community included in a Metropolitan Service Area (MSA) from being eligible for the project if awarded. Mr. Rietow explained that this meant all of Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson and Wakulla Counties which were part of the MSA as included in the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Authority (CRTPA). Mr. Dinkins stated that the application on behalf of the ARPC was almost completed and would be submitted on or before December 16, 2015. The Board expressed their disappointment that that the CRTPA service

area would be ineligible if funded, but encouraged Mr. Dinkins to continue with the application on behalf of the remaining portion of the Apalachee Region. Mr. Rietow noted that ARPC staff had been working closely with Mr. Dinkins and his staff to provide all of the requested information for the new application which focused and on making appropriate modifications to the prior year application. Mr. Dinkins noted that the actual award of the applications may not be announced until late summer 2016.

E. FL Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Report: Mr. Rietow reviewed briefly the FRCA Intergovernmental Affairs Report for October 2015 included in the Board Package beginning on page 79. He noted that Lisa Miller, Woody Stewart, and Jane Sauls represented the ARPC on the FRCA Policy Board which was made up of three Board Members from each RPC in the State and met semi-annually. Mr. Rietow announced that the next meeting of the FRCA Policy Board would be held on January 27, 2016 in Tallahassee. Lisa Miller stated that she was serving on the FRCA Policy Board Path Forward Committee which was working to come up with direction on how to promote awareness around the State on the many valuable services provided by Florida's RPCs.

F. ARPC Website Update: Mr. Rietow reported that he had finished the overhaul of the ARPC website and encouraged the Board to refer to it often as he would continue to keep the website updated. He also stated that the ARPC Facebook page was updated daily and encouraged the Board to "like" the page to learn about current events and items of interest related to the Region.

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

Council Attorney Ed Blanton reported that there were no issues or litigation to report on at this time.

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

The Board discussed that it would be helpful for staff to prepare a summary sheet of ARPC Meetings and Staff activities to assist Board members in reporting back to their fellow commissioners and councilmen at future local jurisdiction meetings.

#### **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.

Charles Harp of FDEP introduced himself to the Board and stated that he had been appointed as the new FDEP Ex-Officio Representative on the ARPC. Mr. Harp stated that he would be working with Ms. Britt to research and inform the Board of funding opportunities as they become available through the FDEP as well as relevant information on the RESTORE Act. Chairman Merritt thanked Mr. Harp for his attendance and stated that the ARPC had missed the representation of FDEP for quite some time.

Virgie Bowen of FDOT invited the Board to a FDOT training workshop that would be held by FDOT District 3 in Chipley on January 13, 2016. Ms. Bowen noted that the morning session would cover State Transportation Programs and the afternoon session would cover Federal Transportation Programs. Mr. Rietow stated that an ARPC staff member would attend the workshop and when he received the meeting materials from Ms. Bowen he would forward the information on to the Board.

Chairman Merritt asked for any further public comments and there were none. He announced that the next ARPC Board meeting would be held on January 28, 2016 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 JANUARY 28, 2016.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

---

Randy Merritt  
Chairman

---

Chris Rietow  
Executive Director

**ATTACHMENT "A"**

As Amended 9/30/15

**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	
Small Quantity Generator Insp.	<u>56,500</u>	413,500		48.1%
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	
ARPC General Fund	<u>6,125</u>	202,175		23.5%
CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged	96,000			
FDOT - Rural Liasion	<u>25,000</u>	<u>121,000</u>	Transportation	<u>14.1%</u>

<b>TOTAL INCOME/REVENUES</b>	<b>859,225</b>	<b>859,225</b>		<b>100.0%</b>
------------------------------	----------------	----------------	--	---------------

**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

<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>	<b>859,225</b>
----------------------------------	----------------

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

ATTACHMENT "B"

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

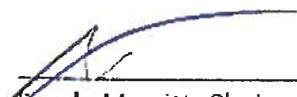
**WHEREAS**, Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit is knowledgeable of the available resources, demands, and needs of the transportation disadvantaged; and

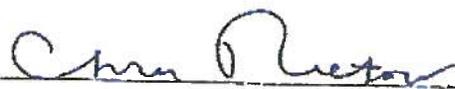
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Apalachee Regional Planning Council recommends to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc./Calhoun Transit be retained as the Community Transportation Coordinator in Calhoun County for a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

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

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

  
Kandy Merritt, Chairman

  
Chris Rietow, Executive Director

## 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 November and December 2015 as well a proposed FY 2015/16 Budget Amendment.
- B. **Staff Reports:** Detailed staff reports are included in the Board Package. Council staff is available for questions.
- C. **Florida New Markets Tax Credit Alliance (FNMTC) Update:** Recent news on the 2015-16 application for the New Market Tax Credit program. The Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund received the ARPCs application.
- D. **Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA):** Update on staff attendance at FRCA meetings.
- E. **Florida National Scenic Trails Update:** Update on the recent meetings with the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, Northwest Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity regarding the Florida National Scenic Trail gaps in the Apalachee Region.

### ACTION NEEDED

Motion to accept Financial Reports for the periods ending  
November 30, 2015 and December 31, 2015.

Motion to approve the ARPC FY 15/16 Budget Amendments

**Apalachee Regional Planning Council**  
**Budget Expenditure Report as of 11/30/15**

10/31/2015  
24,173.71

EOM 9/30/15  
1,814.96

LINE-ITEM	14/15 Budget	Current Month	FY-To-Date	Balance
<b>General Revenue</b>			<b>11/30/2015</b>	
EDA Planning Grant	63,000	-	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	4,529.66	11,130.01	46,869.99
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	3,033.50	15,852.50	52,147.50
FRCA - Admin	6,000	500.00	1,000.00	5,000.00
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	63,209.92
Accts Rec. FY 14/15	37,000	17,000.00	32,750.00	4,250.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>658,900</b>	<b>25,063.16</b>	<b>109,272.59</b>	<b>549,627.41</b>
<b>General Expenses</b>				
Accounting	1,000	12.00	24.00	976.00
Advertising	300	65.76	153.26	146.74
Audit	12,000	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Board Meeting Expenses	2,000	-	581.91	1,418.09
Contingency	-	-	-	0.00
Consultants (Contract Required)	55,000	85.00	3,881.60	51,118.40
Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI)	17,300	-	7,767.25	9,532.75
Equipment Lease - Copiers	9,600	-	1,153.92	8,446.08
Fringe Benefits	91,600	7,626.55	15,179.77	76,420.23
Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	7,700	-	2,190.50	5,509.50
IT Tech Support	2,400	170.00	240.00	2,160.00
Legal	6,000	500.00	1,000.00	5,000.00
Licenses (REMI)	4,500	-	4,500.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	500	179.30	234.50	265.50
Office Supplies	2,400	316.70	614.53	1,785.47
Postage	2,900	300.00	761.00	2,139.00
Rent	36,500	3,039.75	6,079.50	30,420.50
Salaries	386,900	28,067.83	55,817.32	331,082.68
Subscriptions & Publications	300	-	34.65	265.35
Telephone	6,000	574.37	1,040.96	4,959.04
Travel	14,000	2,291.54	3,824.81	10,175.19
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>658,900</b>	<b>49,228.80</b>	<b>111,079.48</b>	<b>547,820.52</b>
	<i>EOM 11/30/15</i>	<i>8.07</i>	<i>8.07</i>	<i>EOM 11/30/15</i>
	<b>Regions Bank Balance 11/30/15</b>			

Apalachee Regional Planning Council  
 Budget Expenditure Report as of 12/31/15

11/30/2015

EOM 9/30/15

8.07

1,814.96

LINE-ITEM	14/15 Budget	Current Month	FY-To-Date 12/31/2015	Balance
<b>General Revenue</b>				
EDA Planning Grant	63,000	-	15,750.00	47,250.00
Revolving Loan Fund - Admin	25,000	3,000.00	3,000.00	22,000.00
EDA Regional Score Card	10,000	-	-	10,000.00
FDACS - Rapid Response Team	65,000	-	-	65,000.00
FDACS - Animal Safety Planner	58,000	4,529.66	15,659.67	42,340.33
FDEM - Hazards Analyses	22,500	-	-	22,500.00
FDEM - HMEP Planning	20,000	-	-	20,000.00
FDEM - HMEP Training	38,400	8,560.00	8,560.00	29,840.00
FDEM - LEPC Support Staff	48,000	12,000.00	12,000.00	36,000.00
FDOH - N FL MRC Admin	26,000	7,825.00	7,825.00	18,175.00
Small Quantity Generator Insp.	35,000	-	-	35,000.00
SFRPC - Climate Change Project	10,000	-	-	10,000.00
ARPC County Dues	68,000	1,250.00	17,102.50	50,897.50
FRCA - Admin	6,000	500.00	1,500.00	4,500.00
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	63,209.92
Accts Rec. FY 14/15	37,000	12,286.43	45,036.43	(8,036.43)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>658,900</b>	<b>49,951.09</b>	<b>159,223.68</b>	<b>499,676.32</b>
<b>General Expenses</b>				
Accounting	1,000	12.00	36.00	964.00
Advertising	300	-	153.26	146.74
Audit	12,000	-	6,000.00	6,000.00
Board Meeting Expenses	2,000	-	581.91	1,418.09
Contingency	-	-	-	0.00
Consultants (Contract Required)	55,000	4,655.00	8,536.60	46,463.40
Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI)	17,300	-	7,767.25	9,532.75
Equipment Lease - Copiers	9,600	1,395.20	2,549.12	7,050.88
Fringe Benefits	91,600	5,273.10	20,452.87	71,147.13
Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	7,700	-	2,190.50	5,509.50
IT Tech Support	2,400	161.64	401.64	1,998.36
Legal	6,000	500.00	1,500.00	4,500.00
Licenses (REMI)	4,500	-	4,500.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	500	38.38	272.88	227.12
Office Supplies	2,400	131.52	746.05	1,653.95
Postage	2,900	200.00	961.00	1,939.00
Rent	36,500	3,039.75	9,119.25	27,380.75
Salaries	386,900	31,695.10	87,512.42	299,387.58
Subscriptions & Publications	300	-	34.65	265.35
Telephone	6,000	472.91	1,513.87	4,486.13
Travel	14,000	1,262.69	5,087.50	8,912.50
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>658,900</b>	<b>48,837.29</b>	<b>159,916.77</b>	<b>498,983.23</b>
	<i>EOM 12/31/15</i>	<b>1,121.87</b>	<b>1,121.87</b>	<i>EOM 12/31/15</i>
	<b>Regions Bank Balance 12/31/15</b>		<b>1,121.87</b>	

**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL FY 2015 / 2016 BUDGET - As Amended 1/28/16**

**INCOME/REVENUES:**

**Income Sub-Total by Category**

EDA Planning Grant 15/16	63,000			
EDA Planning Grant 14/15	15,750			
Revolving Loan Fund - Admin	25,000			
EDA Regional Score Card	10,000			
Jefferson County - CDBG	8,000			
Misc. Small ED Contracts	<u>1,000</u>	<b>122,750</b>	Economic Development	17.5%
FDACS - Rapid Response Team	45,000			
FDACS - Animal Safety Planner	58,000			
FDEM - Hazards Analyses	22,500			
FDEM - HMEP Planning	24,000			
FDEM - HMEP Training 15/16	38,400			
FDEM - HMEP Training 14/15	12,000			
FDEM - LEPC Support Staff	48,000			
FDOH - N FL MRC Admin	26,000			
GOMA - Franklin Resilience	17,000			
Jackson County LMS	6,500			
Small Quantity Generator Insp.	40,000			
SFRPC - Climate Change Project	10,000			
Misc. Small EM Contracts	<u>2,500</u>	<b>349,900</b>	Emergency Planning	49.0%
ARPC County Dues	68,000			
FL Regional Councils Association	40,000			
City of Port St. Joe - CDBG	8,000			
RCSC - Admin	10,000			
TCC - Wakulla Enviro. Institute	15,000			
Misc. Small TA Contracts	<u>2,500</u>	<b>143,500</b>	Technical Assistance	20.0%
CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged	<u>96,000</u>	<b>96,000</b>	Transportation Planning	13.5%
<b>TOTAL INCOME/REVENUES</b>	<b>712,150</b>	<b>712,150</b>		<b>100.0%</b>

**EXPENSES:**

Accounting	1,000			
Advertising	600			
Audit	30,000			
Board Meeting Expenses	2,000			
Contingency	24,250			
Consultants (Contract Required)	41,500			
Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI)	17,300			
Equipment Lease - Copiers	12,500			
Fringe Benefits	92,000			
Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	7,700			
IT Tech Support	2,400			
Legal	6,000			
Licenses (REMI)	9,000			
Miscellaneous	1,000			
Office Supplies	2,400			
Postage	2,900			
Rent	36,500			
Salaries	396,800			
Subscriptions & Publications	300			
Telephone	6,000			
Travel	<u>20,000</u>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>712,150</b>			

---

Randy Merritt  
ARPC Chairman

**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 aborted application of June 2015 is being re-initiated. The application process will begin again next month with the first advertised public hearing scheduled for February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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 reported that it would be impossible to get back on track in one year due to a lack of staff and out of office commitments for the current cycle of applications. FDEO hopes to open the 2015 cycle in early February of 2016 and get back on schedule the following October. ARPC staff attended an intensive three-day workshop in January which highlighted the rule changes. Any local government anticipating a 2015 cycle application should be well underway in procuring grant writing services. If any local government has a project in mind for a Neighborhood Improvement, Commercial Revitalization, or Economic Development CDBG Grant and wants to make application this cycle, the ARPC can provide those services without going through the competitive solicitation process required for private sector consultants.

Wakulla Environmental Institute: The selected contractor, Cook Brothers, Inc., is nearing completion 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. All work on the quarter mile access road, site work and the solar photovoltaic parking lot structure is complete subject to a final punch list and a final owner's inspection scheduled for January 25, 2016.

ARPC staff has continued to monitor construction and to conduct Davis-Bacon interviews from time to time. Remaining tasks include minor additions such as installation of the site's flagpole and a proposed masonry supported sign to be constructed adjacent to the US 319 right of way. TCC has yet to submit an initial request for reimbursement. Staff is working with TCC staff to rectify this deficiency and seek reimbursement of the \$1.5 million in awarded grant funding.



*View of South Entrance*



*Solar Photovoltaic Parking Structure*

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): ARPC 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 member comments on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) analysis. Although a not required update, the 2015 revision will provide more immediate data when posted at the end of the year.

Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant: ARPC staff assisted ARPC consultant, Cardno TBE, in preparing materials for the 2015 Brownfields Assessment grant application. If awarded, 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 focuses on sites in Chattahoochee, Jefferson County, Carrabelle, and Apalachicola. Other sites identified during the grant implementation 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. Brownfield Grant application approval determinations should be received by May 2016.

Jefferson County Brownfield Designation: ARPC staff assisted the Jefferson County EDC and local property owners in securing from the Jefferson Board of County Commissioners a Brownfields designation for a large acreage area encompassing the four corners of the Lloyd interchange on I-10. The process began at the request of one property owner and ballooned as the initiative gained support from adjoining property owners. The designation was approved by resolution of the Jefferson BCC in November and leads the way toward additional development incentives for those properties.

Jefferson County CDBG: An outgrowth of the Brownfield 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 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 an 85-room Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott Hotels, and provide outparcels for commercial retail and fast food sites. ARPC staff will be submitting a CDBG-ED application for this project in the upcoming CDBG cycle.

This project is stimulated by the joint initiative to bring a regional sports training/practice facility with complementary family outdoor sports and entertainment assets. The proposed "Project Game Changer" would bring a 104,000 square foot indoor practice facility, for under roof soccer, softball, tennis, basketball, rock wall, and other possible uses. Adjacent to this facility would be tree-to-tree aerial trails, zip-lines and dirt bike off road trails. At the request of the hotel/commercial developer, staff prepared a Regional Economic Model, Inc. (REMI) run on the proposed soft economic impacts of the project.

Water Wars: ARPC staff working with the Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition (RCSC) and the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Stakeholders (ACFS) continues to support the ongoing effort to bring a consensus solution to the thirty-year legal war between Florida, Georgia, and Alabama over equitable usage of the waters in the Apalachicola Chattahoochee Flint River system. The ACFS adopted a Sustainable Water Management Plan (SWMP) in June of this year by consensus vote of the 56-member stakeholders group.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is taking public comment through January 30<sup>th</sup> on its proposed update to the Apalachicola Chattahoochee Flint 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 North Georgia, and enhance preservation of endangered species.

On the following page is a draft ARPC Resolution in support of the ACFS Sustainable Water Management Plan for the ACF Basin.

**ACTION NEEDED**

Motion to Approve ARPC Resolution 16-02 in support of the ACFS - SWMP

**RESOLUTION No. 16 – 02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (ARPC)  
IN SUPPORT OF THE APALACHICOLA-CHATTAHOOCHEE-FLINT-STAKEHOLDERS' (ACFS)  
SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (SWMP) FOR THE  
APALACHICOLA CHATTAHOOCHEE FLINT (ACF) BASIN.**

- WHEREAS**, the ACFS, have considered, approved and published a SWMP for the ACF 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 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 both flood and draught conditions;
- And WHEREAS**, the ARPC finds that these recommendations to the USACE will benefit not only the six riparian counties in Florida, but will bring benefit to all stakeholders and users of the public waters in the ACF basin:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The ARPC finds the recommendations of the ACFS to be well considered and appropriate for further study by the USACE.
2. The ACFS's SWMP will benefit the update process of the USACE Water Control Manual.
3. The incorporation of the Recommendations of the ACFS SWMP will benefit future citizens of the entire ACF basin from its origins in North Georgia to Apalachicola Bay.
4. 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 Apalachicola Chattahoochee Flint Basin.

Approved by unanimous vote of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council meeting in regular session on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016.

**BY:**

**ATTEST:**

---

Randy Merritt  
Chairman

---

Chris Rietow  
Executive Director



## Economic Impact Analysis of the Proposed Lloyd Crossing Mixed Use Development - Phase 1

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council has been requested to perform an economic analysis of the proposed sports development and associated commercial developments to be located in the southwest corner of the Interstate 10 and State Road 59 intersection in Lloyd, Florida. The analysis was performed on the latest edition REMI economic analysis modeling software by Regional Economic Models, Inc. Amherst, MA.

The analysis is limited to the impacts induced by additional employment at the sports park and the new commercial activities. Ad valorem or other taxable value changes on these or adjacent properties are not included in this report.

Values for employment for the sports components and the proposed Marriott Fairfield Inn & Suites were provided by the development team. Employment data for the proposed retail, fuel service, and restaurant sites are from the website, BuildingJournal.com which provides regionally weighted average values for employees per square feet and includes data on retail and restaurant facilities. Timing is a factor for a multi-use facility and conservative estimates are used for timing of completed facilities. Some facilities may come on sooner, but the eventual impacts can be noted. The CDBG process and the need to prepare adequate construction plans as well as the proposed FDEP Brownfields work that will demolish the exiting travel center to permit replacement construction come to bear on start of construction. Assuming a late summer start for construction, first actual employment for some of the facilities is anticipated for occupation in 2017 with additional components coming online in the next two years. Using employment data provided in the most recent presentation for the sports complex, Phase 1 employment levels are considered to flatten out by 2022. New additions may increase local levels. With sound planning and permitting results as well as good responses from as yet uncommitted commercial tenants, these dates might be accelerated.

**Figure 1 – Construction Sequencing as Modeled<sup>1</sup>**

Type	Employment	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Food & Accom	Marriott <sup>2</sup>	15	25	25	25	25	25
Food & Accom	Travel Center <sup>2</sup>	20	40	40	40	40	40
Food & Accom	Fast Food <sup>3</sup>	10	20	20	20	20	20
Food & Accom	Restaurant <sup>3</sup>		10	20	20	20	20
<b>Food &amp; Accom. Tot</b>		<b>45</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>105</b>
Recreation	Sports Building <sup>2</sup>	10	28	34	42	46	51
Recreation	Ent. Village <sup>2</sup>	8	8	10	12	13	15
<b>Recreation Tot</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>66</b>
Retail	Retail 10K <sup>3</sup>	8	16	16	16	16	16
Retail	Retail 20K <sup>3</sup>		12	24	24	24	24
<b>Retail Tot</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>
		<b>71</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>211</b>

<sup>1</sup> Actual sequence and buildouts may vary slightly.

<sup>2</sup> Employment values provided by developer

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.buildingjournal.com/construction-estimating.html>

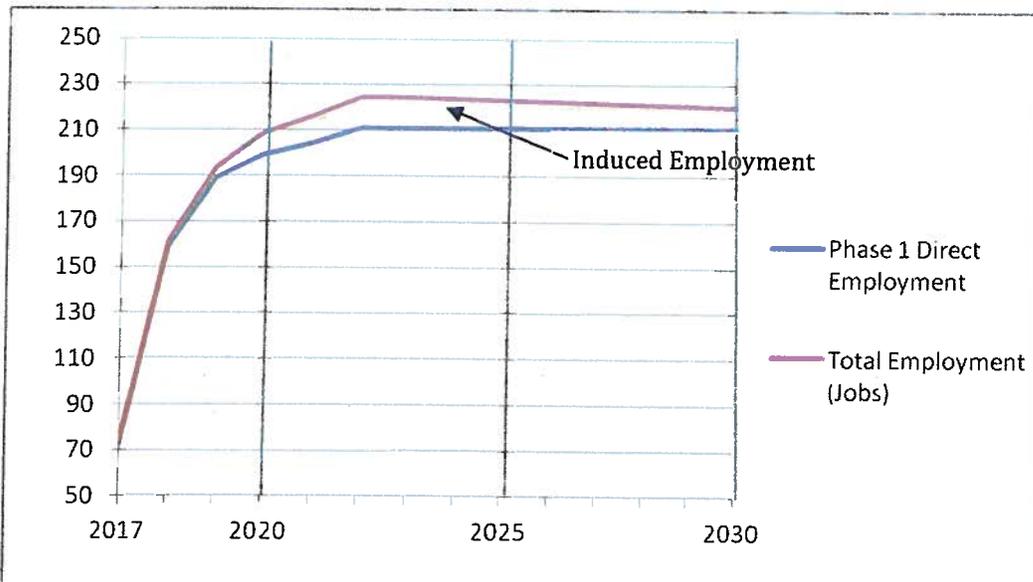
Shading indicates partial employment in first year

The REMI<sup>®</sup> model developed by Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. uses standard industry metrics to compute the economic impacts of changes in a local economy within its regional context. Much of the data is from standard government sources such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census and others as well as state-of-the-art data on the interrelationships of commercial and industrial demand models. The model computes demands, imports, exports, material needs and products for any new commercial activity. New employment in a restaurant or hotel, as examples, have typical commercial service demands. These demands result in reflected or induced additional commercial activity. Restaurants demand food products, as an obvious example, but all business activity draws on the surrounding area for goods and services. Some of these demands will require additional employment, consumption and services. New employees have new payrolls to spend throughout the local economy.

As construction in the region is dominated by Leon County based firms, construction impacts would be minimal and temporary, although some labor may be locally obtained to supplement crews. Construction impacts of around \$40M were not modeled.

Using the employment data in Figure 1 above, the model predicted the Total Employment line shown below. The difference between Phase 1 Direct and Total Employment is an induced demand in Jefferson County only.

**Figure 2 – Direct and Total New Employment (Chart)**



**Figure 3 - Direct and Total New Employment (data)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Phase 1 Direct Employment	71	159	189	199	204	211	211	211	211
Total Employment (Jobs)	73	161	194	209	216	224	224	224	223
Induced	2	2	5	10	12	13	13	13	12

The REMI model predicts about a 5-6% additional employment will be induced in Jefferson County due to the new project. The model also predicts a drop in total employment in Leon County, reflecting, it is hoped, a recapture of employees who currently migrate from Jefferson to Leon on a daily basis for work.

**Economic Impacts**

In addition to the above increase in direct and induced employment, there are substantive impacts on the economy due to the additional payroll, costs of goods demanded, and other reflected impacts throughout the local economy. Figure 4 presents these data to 2025 after which, effects tend to flatten out and second phases will have had additional impacts. Definitions for each impacted variable follow.

**Figure 4 - Economic Impacts Induced As a Result of Projected Employment**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Value Added	2.11	4.99	6.31	6.94	7.35	7.76	7.94	8.09	8.22
Personal Income	1.35	3.59	5.33	6.80	8.08	9.35	10.38	11.32	12.29
Output	3.47	8.13	10.20	11.18	11.81	12.43	12.72	12.97	13.18
Gross Domestic Product	2.10	4.98	6.29	6.92	7.32	7.73	7.91	8.06	8.20
Disposable Personal Inc.	1.13	3.02	4.50	5.77	6.89	7.99	8.91	9.74	10.60

All values are in 2016 Millions of dollars

**Total Value Added:** The sum of value added for private non-farm industries, state and local government, federal civilian, federal military, and farm sectors. By 2020 the additional economic impact of salaries, supplies and materials supplied by Jefferson County is almost \$7 million and it is anticipated to increase to over \$8.2 million by 2025.

**Personal Income:** Income received by persons from all sources. It includes income received from participation in production as well as from government and business transfer payments. It is the sum of compensation of employees (received), supplements to wages and salaries, proprietors' income with inventory valuation adjustment and capital consumption adjustment (CCAdj), rental income of persons with CCAdj, personal income receipts on assets, and personal current transfer receipts, less contributions for government social insurance. The project is expected to increase total personal income in Jefferson County by \$9.4 million by 2020 and by \$12.3 million in 2025.

**Total Output:** The sum of output for private non-farm industries, state and local government, federal civilian, federal military, and farm sectors. The REMI model predicts an increase in total output of \$11.2 million in 2020 increasing to \$13.2 million by 2025. For reference, the 2020 predicted output for Jefferson County without the project is \$458 million, or a 2.4% increase over expected levels without the project.

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The market value of goods and services produced by labor and property. The proposed project is anticipated to increase Jefferson County's GDP by \$6.9 million in 2020 for a positive change of 2.5% over baseline.

These various indicators provide a glimpse of how the addition of employees, and their associated businesses, in the proposed commercial sectors might affect the overall economy of Jefferson County. It is anticipated that some of the employment, around 25, might come from Leon County and about 2 might come from Madison County. The reduction in labor force from Leon, might certainly be from Jefferson employees currently working out of the county. The developer may increase this effect by imposing local hiring policies. But simple economics may provide the incentive. Almost certainly, many of the employees traveling to Leon on a daily basis could fill these positions.

This employment capture effect has a bonus for Jefferson County in that the new Jefferson County payrolls are more likely to be captured by the local market. The REMI model is not sufficiently refined to capture the effects of a local food store in the project that would relieve an existing food desert or the variations in fuel pricing and driver behavior. There will always be some trips to the larger market opportunities in the Tallahassee/Leon County market. However, there is a near certainty that additional goods and services will be procured locally by workers who are no longer required to make that additional mileage trip on a daily basis.

Although the model will run projections out to 2050 and beyond, runs were only performed through 2035 and these truncated for reporting purposes to 2025. Economies vary for a wide variety of reasons. It unreasonable to expect a steady state background effect within the larger context of national and international trends. Therefore, and particularly in the light of anticipated Phase II developments that will add to these impacts, that data are only reported through the 2025 horizon.

# Up to \$1.5M sought to redevelop

## Lloyd business

As Ballister explained it, CDBGs are federal allocations distributed through the state as grants for infrastructure and other improvements. Developers, however, cannot apply or administer these grants; only local governments could do that, he said. Which was why it required the involvements of the commission and ARPC, the first as the applying entity and the second as the administering agency, he said.

Other conditions of the funding, Ballister said, were that the project had to benefit low-to-moderate-income people and that it had to create so many jobs. Kundra, Ballister said, planned to demolish his current travel store and restaurant and replace the building with a modern fuel station and various restaurants and shops, as well as a second motel, among other upgrades. All told, Ballister said, the project would

create 170 jobs over a period of a couple of years. He said the CDBG required a three-way agreement among the ARPC, the commission and the developer. Should the number of promised jobs fail to materialize, however, it would be the developer who would be on the hook, he said.

As for the ARPC's part, it was that of program administrator, he said. He said the maximum that could be applied for in the CDBG economic development category was \$1.5 million.

Ballister said the cycle for applying for the grant was January through March, and the process would require two public hearings. He recommended the hearings be set in December and January, after which the board could approve the application.

The board gave Ballister the go-ahead to proceed with the application preparation.

**LAZARO ALEMAN**  
ECB PUBLISHING, INC.

The Jefferson County Commission recently gave the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) the nod to begin the application process for a federal grant on behalf of a local businessman who wants to redevelop his commercial property in Lloyd.

Bruce Ballister, with the ARPC, told the commission on Tuesday morning, Nov. 3, that now Arun Kundra's Capital City Travel Center property has been designated a Brownfield. Kundra wanted to proceed to the next step in the process and apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to begin implementing his ideas.

A Brownfield, per Florida Statute, is defined as real property whose expansion, redevelopment or reuse may be complicated because of actual or perceived environmental contamination.

A Brownfield area or district, per statute, is a contiguous piece of property made up of one or more Brownfield sites, some of which may not be contaminated, and all of which has been designated as a Brownfield by a local government resolution, a step already taken here.

On Oct. 20, following what were essentially four public hearings, the Jefferson County Commission approved a resolution

**See LLOYD Page 3**

## LLOYD from page 1

designating 18 parcels on both sides of I-10 and SR-59 in Lloyd as the Lloyd Interchange Brownfield District.

A Brownfield designation serves as a redevelopment tool that can, if used properly, according to the experts, promote economic development, encourage

creation and reduce health and environmental hazards, among other things.

The Brownfield designation also makes such properties eligible for various state and federal monetary and regulatory incentives designed to encourage and facilitate the voluntary cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated commercial and industrial

## AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 2

### EMERGENCY 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 district. 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 same location. Staff will be coordinating an E-Plan How-to-Comply workshop for facilities that are required to annually submit their chemical inventory reports. The workshop will be held immediately prior to the LEPC meeting.

Staff attended the quarterly meetings of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for Hazardous Materials in Daytona Beach, Florida on January 19-20, 2016. Although unable to attend in person, recently retired Chief Tom Quillin of the Leon County Emergency Medical Services and longtime Apalachee LEPC Vice Chairman received the Thomas Yatabe Award for his many years of dedicated service.

#### Hazardous Materials Training

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

Date	Course	Location	Hours	Participants
12/11/15	4-hr Awareness	Tallahassee Community College	4	7
1/20-22/16	2016 HazMat Symposium	Daytona Beach/ Volusia Training Center	N/A	5

Staff worked with Tallahassee Community College and the FL Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) staff to sponsor a 4-hr HazMat Awareness Level Refresher course on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Staff also worked to receive state approval to send four Tallahassee Fire Department HazMat Team personnel and one Leon County EMS personnel to attend the 2016 HazMat Symposium in Volusia County. The Apalachee LEPC will be paying for registration, lodging and per diem by via its training funds. All training is posted on the ARPC website at [www.thearpc.com](http://www.thearpc.com).

### HMEP Planning Project

ARPC staff has begun the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Planning project. Over the next six months, staff will conduct a Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study. This will involve roadside surveys on US-90, US-19, US-319, US-231, and I-10. This highway placard survey is intended to provide information to first responders on which hazardous materials are moving through the Region. The survey will be complimented with data from local railways. The last Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study was completed in 2009.

### LEPC Emergency Plan Update

Staff completed the update the 2015 District 2 LEPC Emergency Plan. The LEPC plan was tentatively accepted by the FL Division of Emergency Management and was formally approved at the October 9<sup>th</sup> State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials. The Plan has been posted to the Council's website at <http://thearpc.com/what-we-do/emergency-planning/lepc/>.

### 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 for the Leon County Public Safety Complex (PSC). The PSC houses a number of essential services for the County. The Initial Planning Meeting (IPM) has been postponed due to recent staffing changes at the PSC. The exercise scenario will involve a nearby train derailment that releases a toxic plume.

### **Emergency Planning Program**

Staff has completed the update to the Jackson County Local Mitigation Strategy and has begun working with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on a series of drills 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. In the coming months, staff will be updating the county Emergency Manager's Toolkit plans and the Tallahassee/Leon County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan.

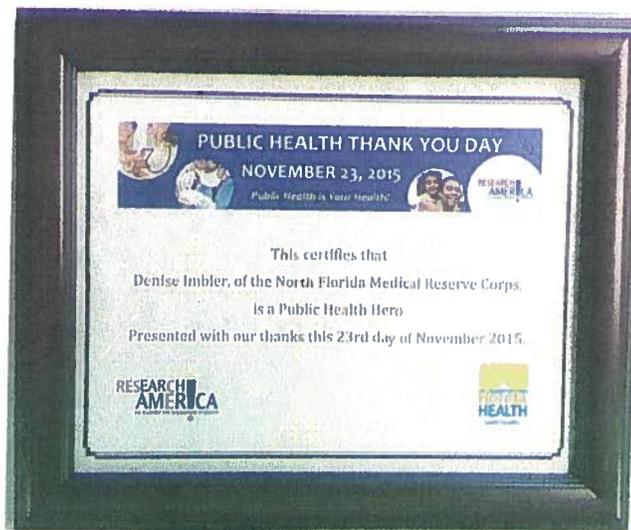
The ARPC recently received a 2015 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations for its lead role in the planning and execution of the Operation Deep Freeze exercise. The large full-scale exercise was developed for the North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force and held in May of 2014.

Staff has partnered with ER Assist – Disaster Grant Services on a pilot project that will develop a free FEMA-approved Debris Management Plan for one of the Region's local governments. If this project is successful, the ARPC will attempt to provide the service to other interested members.

### **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 County Public Health Departments with school health screenings, flu vaccination clinics and

Ebola virus detection monitoring. The MRC sponsored two courses, Active Bystander Training and Disaster Triage. The MRC was honored by the Leon County Health Department at the first Public Health Thank You Day with a "Public Health Hero" Award. The North Florida MRC membership includes more than 50 licensed medical volunteers from around the Region. The next Orientation Session will be held in March 2016.





PROJECT TITLE:  
**Operation Deep Freeze**

ORGANIZATION:  
**Apalachee Regional  
Planning Council**

PROJECT PARTNERS:  
**North Florida Regional  
Domestic Security Task Force**

RECOGNIZING INNOVATIVE  
APPROACHES TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Terry Bobrowski, President

Joe McKinney, Executive Director

## AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 3

### REVOLVING LOAN FUND REPORT – Janice Watson

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

- FY 15/16 Loan Payments & Loan Fund Balances

The worksheet on the following page summarizes the loan payments from October 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015.

Please note the bottom of the worksheet which describes the current balances in the RLF Loan Principal and Interest Bank Accounts as of 12/31/15 and cumulative activity in the bank accounts since 10/1/15.

- RLF Loan Portfolio Re-Cap

This worksheet is a re-cap of all the outstanding loans of the RLF Program, both the EDA-RLF loans and the Small Business RLF Loans are included in this list.

- Loan Closing

The loan to Freda and Julian Harris owner/operators of Kids First Academy in Quincy was closed on November 25, 2015.



**AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 4**

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM – Kwentin Eastberg**

Introduction

Kwentin Eastberg is the ARPC’s new Transportation Planner. He has taken over the duties as the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinator, while seeking additional funding opportunities to expand the Council’s transportation program. He is a recent graduate from Florida State University with a Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning and also has experience working with ArcGIS.

Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program

The TD program is set to have its 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 4 Quarterly meetings early next month. Staff is actively preparing agendas as the Community Transportation Coordinators (CTCs) are submitting their documentation for the meetings. This month deliverables include the CTC Quarterly Report, Rate Worksheets and FTA applications. Below is a list of dates and times for each county.

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

Calhoun County has been notified about the Board's decision dated November 19, 2015 that the **Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc. /Calhoun Transit** was approved to be the CTC for the County.

Local Agency Transportation Symposium (1/13/21)

ARPC staff attended this day long meeting in Chipley, FL hosted by FDOT to discuss several State and Federal transportation funding programs. Most notable are outlined below (Please note that these are not related to the TD program.):

**State Programs:**

- **Small County Outreach Program (SCOP)**

All 5 counties the ARPC serves for TD are also eligible for funding from this program. The SCOP program is designed to assist small county governments in repairing or rehabilitating county bridges, paving unpaved roads, etc. Roads must be county roads with the primary criteria addressing the physical condition of the road. Solicitation starts Feb 2016, deadline for application-spring 2016 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 funding.

- **Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP)**

This program also serves 4 out of 5 counties (excluding Franklin, due to population size). The SCRAP programs is also for servicing county roads and funding is strictly reserved for projects that involve resurfacing or reconstructing roads, only.

- **County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP)**

This program has its own set of criteria as well, but counties qualifying as Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) counties can waive the 50% of local match project cost requirement. This program is geared towards providing grants to counties if their proposals/projects help relieve traffic congestion on the State Highway System. Including those projects that help enhance or create economic benefits, projects that help attract public-private partnerships, or projects geared at improving intermodalism and safety.

- **Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP)**

This program is on a larger more regional scale, providing regional travel through inter-local agreement. Current partners in our Region. "Bay, Gulf, Holmes, Washington RTA," the "Chipola RTA", and the "Franklin-Liberty RTA," The CRPTA is also a TRIP partner.

### Federal Programs:

- **MAP-21, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP):**
  - **Transportation Enhancements**
    - Includes 9 eligible activities some of which include the planning, design and construction of infrastructure that provide safe routes for non-drivers, historic preservation, and environmental mitigation.
  - **Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)**
    - Sustained efforts by parents, schools, community leaders and local, state, and federal governments to improve the health and well-being of students by enabling and encouraging them to walk and bicycle to school.
    - 5 E's to SRTS: Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, Evaluation
  - **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**

### Transportation Disadvantaged Awareness Day @ the Capitol (1/21/2016)

ARPC staff spent most of the day outside in the Capitol courtyard for the TD Legislative Awareness Day. Representatives from many counties and CTCs were there to show support including several from our Region. Staff helped to prepare and give out roughly 600 lunches to supporters and legislators alike.



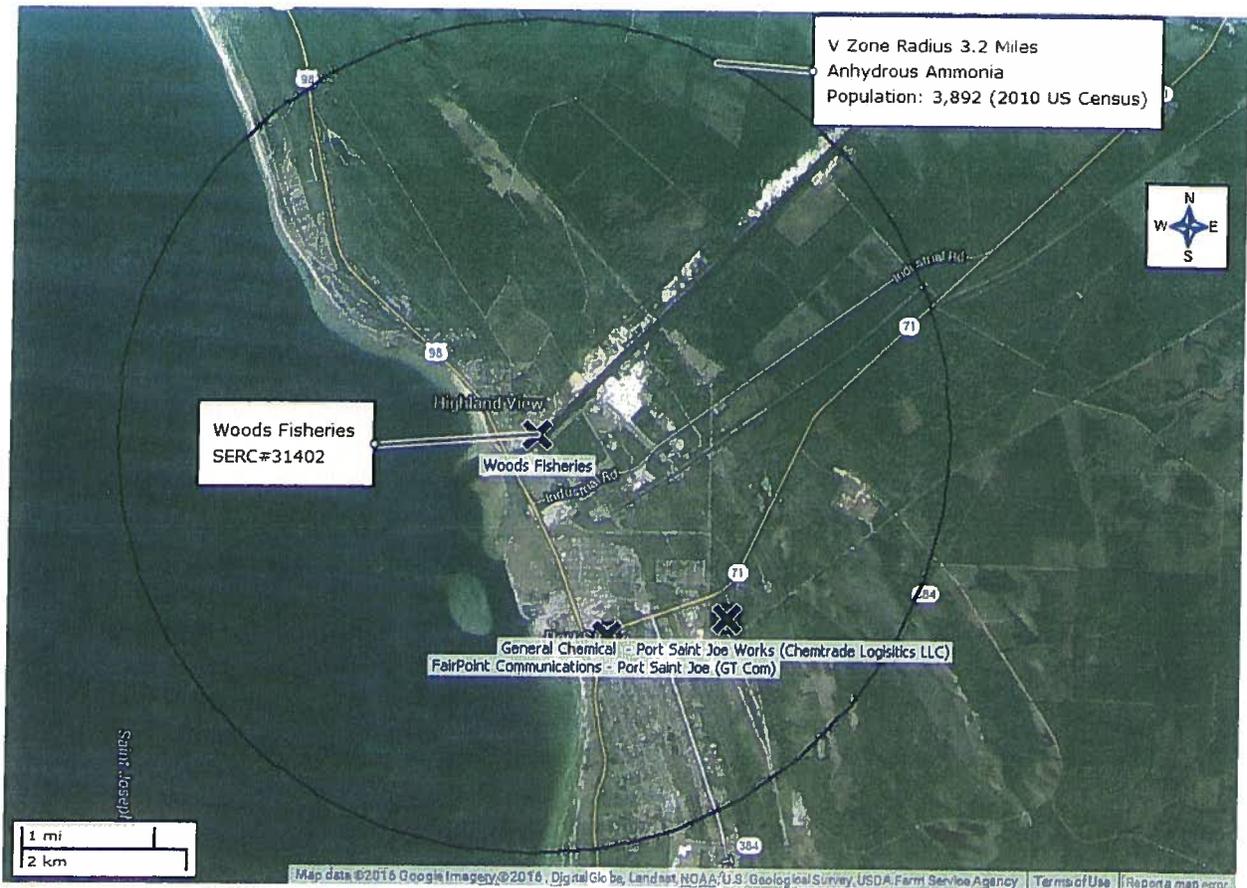
The purpose of this event is to raise awareness to the legislators about the need for public transit and the TD program and the funding needs associated along with these programs. This was echoed by public speakers in the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged board meeting that took place later that afternoon.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 5**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING – Joe Crozier**

**Hazards Analysis (HA) Program**

ARPC staff has completely roughly 90% of the required visits for the 2015-2016 County Hazards Analysis program. Currently, DEM is reviewing the first half of the deliverables and ARPC will submit the remainder of the data ahead of schedule. Gulf County was the most recent focus, with locations such as Woods Fisheries, Raffields Fisheries, and Lighthouse Utilities facilities visited.

During the third week of January, two separate releases occurred in the ARPC region. The first occurred at Woods Fisheries in Port St. Joe, at approximately 8:00 PM on 1/13/2016. A pop off valve on the roof released anhydrous ammonia for approximately 15 minutes. A large cloud of gas was visible from US-98 during this time. The Gulf County Volunteer Fire Department responded, blocking off the area as staff from Woods and Raffields Fisheries worked to control the leak. The Bay County HazMat team was also requested, arriving after the leak was controlled. OSHA and EPA have reported a list of findings related to safety concerns and risk management to work toward safer future operation. Staff visited this facility the next morning and the staff was very receptive to any suggestions and criticism.



The second release occurred at the Apalachicola Water Treatment Plant. This facility, located just south of the Apalachicola Airport had one of its 150 lb. chlorine cylinders leak from a tiny hole in the bottom. This caused a voluntary evacuation of the area and local officials requested assistance of the Tallahassee Fire Department HazMat Team.



### **Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program**

ARPC staff has begun work on the SQG program for 2016. The contract was approved by the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) during the third week of January and staff immediately began reviewing files and conducting the required field work. Gulf County was the first to be visited for the 2016 contract. Over the next six months, small quantity generators in Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jefferson, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla, and for the first time, Gadsden County, will be the subject of Compliance Assistance Visits. Additionally, notification letters will be sent to all Gadsden County facilities in the FDEP record system.

### **Upcoming Opportunities**

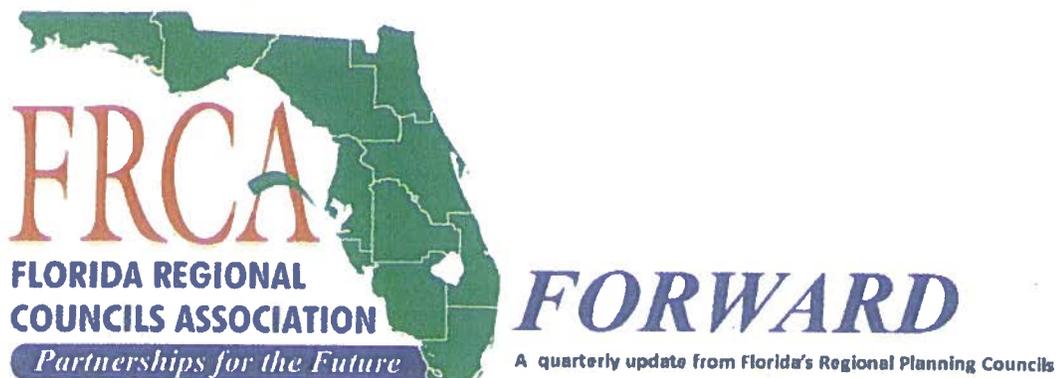
ARPC has been following a number of environmental grant opportunities for 2016. Currently, ARPC staff is seeking a pilot location to apply for a TMDL Water Quality Restoration Grant from FDEP and will be working to apply for a DEO Technical Assistance grant to develop a plan to create a hiking trail from Chattahoochee to Bristol. The trail was identified as an untapped resource during Gadsden County's recent Competitive Florida asset mapping process.

Additionally, the Council is being considered for an expanded role in the coordination of the Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition (RCSC) to assist in exploring opportunities and challenges related to the Apalachicola Chattahoochee Flint River Basin and its stakeholders. These projects will potentially be the foundation for improving and expanding an environmental program at the ARPC which will ultimately be beneficial to the local governments of the Apalachee Region.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 6**

**CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS OF INTEREST**

1. Florida Regional Councils Association Newsletter – December 2015
2. Recent Articles relating to the FL Supreme Court's Opinion on the proposed expansion of Creek Entertainment in Gretna (Gadsden County)



*December 2015*

**A Message from Our President**

**Trainers & Tools: Building Coastal Flood Hazard Resiliency in Florida**

**FDOT Appoints RPC Directors for I-75 Relief Corridor Study**

**Sustainable Communities: Enhance Central Florida**

**Community Resiliency Work Continues in Satellite Beach**

**Tri-Rail Coastal Link**

**Village of North Palm Beach Charette**

**FRCA Introduces New Directors**

**Southwest Florida RPC Moves to New Location**

**Calendar**

**A Message From Our President**

In the last quarter of FY 2014-15, the RPCs provided wide-ranging technical assistance to counties and cities around the state. In that quarter alone, more than 450 activities were performed in support of economic development, land use, transportation, infrastructure, housing, water, energy, natural resources, workforce or community development at the local and regional levels.

While the RPCs focus on issues within their regions primarily, they often collaborate on statewide initiatives that have a broader impact. Two such initiatives are the Coastal Flood Hazard Resiliency training program and the I-75 Relief Task Force, a transportation study to put forward



recommendations for a proposed Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida corridor. Both are discussed in this newsletter.



The roles of the RPCs have evolved and diversified in recent years, but the common threads remain -- supporting the vibrant growth of Florida's economy and contributing to quality of life for all Floridians.

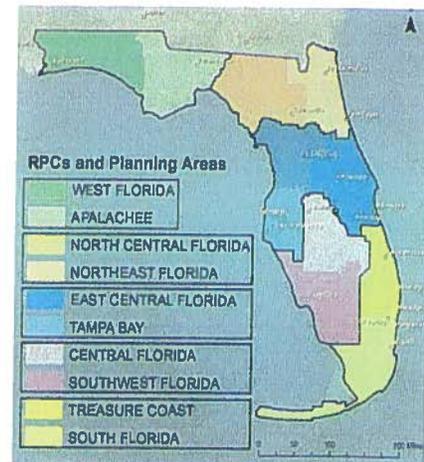
On behalf of FRCA, best wishes for a joyous holiday season and prosperous new year.

*Lee Constantine*

Lee Constantine  
President, FRCA

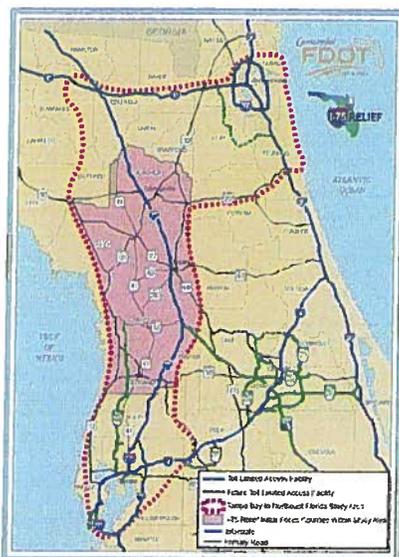
## Trainers & Tools: Building Coastal Flood Hazard Resiliency in Florida RPC Communities

A new 18-month project of special merit is involving all [Florida RPCs](#). The Trainers & Tools: Building Coastal Flood Hazard Resiliency in Florida's Regional Planning Council Communities project has been initiated as part of NOAA's Florida Coastal Management Program's (FCMP) Coastal Zone Enhancement Grant (Section 309), which supports the statewide Community Resiliency Initiative coordinated by DEO. The Initiative is designed to integrate sea level rise adaptation into current planning mechanisms including local comprehensive plans, local hazard mitigation plans and post-disaster redevelopment plans. For more information about the program, contact Program Manager Keren Bolter, [kbolter@fau.edu](mailto:kbolter@fau.edu).



*Coastal Flood Hazard Resiliency Planning Areas*

## FDOT Appoints Four RPC Directors for I-75 Relief Corridor Study



Four RPC directors have been appointed to the new Interstate 75 (I-75) Relief Task Force. Scott Koons of [North Central Florida RPC](#), Brian Teeple of [Northeast Florida RPC](#), Hugh Harling of [East Central Florida RPC](#) and Avera Wynne of [Tampa Bay RPC](#) will join 18 others from the public and private sectors to provide input to FDOT regarding the Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Future Corridor Study. Task Force members will make consensus recommendations regarding multimodal transportation solutions that will:

- provide relief to I-75 for passengers and freight,
- improve travel safety and reliability,
- improve statewide and regional connectivity
- and enhance economic development opportunities.

Portions of the four appointees' regions encompass Alachua, Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion and Sumter Counties, the counties that will be the focus of the Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Future Corridor Study.

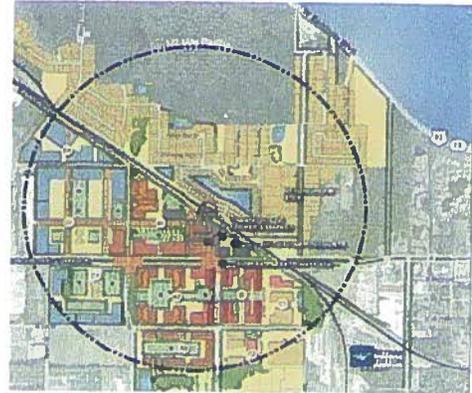
Jim Wood, FDOT State Transportation Development Administrator, said, "The RPC directors bring invaluable perspectives and insight to the Task Force. The regional planning councils have a 50-year history with planning, land use and transportation issues in Florida. They understand the value of long-range, large-scale planning for making decisions about future transportation corridors in the context of economic development, environmental stewardship, and land use decisions."

## Sustainable Communities: Enhance Central Florida

The East Central Florida RPC recently completed work on the Enhance Central Florida project, which focused on development of the region's new SunRail commuter rail system, and specifically on access to station areas and their potential for transit-oriented development.

Station areas were developed for six of 12 Phase 1 SunRail stations. An Affordable Housing Study and Fair Housing Equity Assessment were completed for the six-county region, and the Parramore Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan was developed as well. A key element of the planning process was local citizen participation.

The three-year effort involved more than 26 consortium partners from county and municipal governments, transit providers, transportation agencies, housing and healthcare organizations and the development community. Results of the planning effort are intended to inform future transit and related development investment and spark employment opportunities in the region.



*Station area planning focused on transit-oriented development.*

## Community Resiliency Work Continues for Satellite Beach

The City of Satellite Beach spans a barrier island on Florida's east coast that is particularly vulnerable to the hazards of storm surge and shoreline erosion. In 2013, the City Council adopted comprehensive plan amendment language incorporating sea level rise and proposing designation of an Adaptation Action Area (AAA) for the protection of residents, the prevention of property damage and the reduction of flood insurance premiums. In partnership with East Central Florida RPC, the City received the DEP Coastal Partnership Initiative Grant in 2014 to further refine its AAA policies, conduct a more thorough analysis of hazards, and further engage residents and businesses in resiliency planning.

The City and its partners in the project then submitted a proposal to SeaGrant to continue its coastal resiliency planning efforts, using the information and developments from the project as a basis. The City of Satellite Beach is viewed as a model for the state and a Florida pilot community for coastal resiliency.

## Tri-Rail Coastal Link to Bring Mobility, Economic Development to South Florida Region

Communities of the Treasure Coast and South Florida regions will soon benefit from work performed under a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) planning grant. Over the next two years, planning for future train station areas will help to position local governments along Tri-Rail's proposed Coastal Link passenger rail corridor to attract new development, improve mobility options, and increase access to employment centers.

The FTA grant was awarded jointly to Treasure Coast RPC, South Florida Regional Council, and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.



*Future Tri-Rail Coastal Link train station concept*

## Village of North Palm Beach Charrette & Master Plan



Under a cooperative agreement with the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Village of North Palm Beach, the Treasure Coast RPC (TCRPC) will soon complete master planning efforts for the Village, including a US 1 lane reduction project. Master planning efforts such as this are intended to better prepare and position municipalities to create jobs, attract economic development opportunities and improve quality of life for residents.

The Village of North Palm Beach Master Plan will be developed using a design charrette process in January and February 2016. With the assistance of TCRPC professionals, citizens will study the many challenges faced by the community and propose specific solutions. The resulting master plan will represent the citizens' vision for growth in their community.

## FRCA Introduces New Directors in South and West Florida Regions

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) has announced new directors in two Florida regions.



*Isabel Cosio Carballo, SFRC*

**Isabel Cosio Carballo, MPA**, has been named Executive Director of **South Florida Regional Council (SFRC)**. Ms. Carballo joined SFRC in 1996, serving as SFRC's Director of Public Affairs for the past four years. She was Regional Coordinator for the "Eastward Ho!" initiative and spearheaded, in partnership with Treasure Coast Regional Council and other stakeholders, the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership and successful application to the U.S. HUD inaugural Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. She also collaborated in the Seven50: Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan, a seven-county, 50-year plan that lays the groundwork for the region's future. Carballo said, "In partnership with our community and regional stakeholders, we are going to work collaboratively to benefit generations to come. Our focus is on diversifying the economy, strengthening our communities, increasing opportunity for

all residents, and enhancing the environment and quality of life throughout the region." Carballo replaces former SFRC Executive Director Jim Murley who was recently appointed Chief Resilience Officer of Miami-Dade County.

**Austin Mount** has joined **West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC)** as Executive Director. Mr. Mount joined WFRPC from the Kaysinger Basin Regional Planning Commission (KBRPC), which serves a region comprising seven counties and 50 cities in West Central Missouri. He served KBRPC for more than 12 years, most recently as the Commission's Executive Director. Previously, Mount served in private industry. Mount said, "As Executive Director at WFRPC, my focus is delivering value and customer service to local governments and the communities of West Florida." Mount replaces retired WFRPC Executive Director Terry Joseph.



*Austin Mount, WFRPC*

## Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council Has Moved

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council has relocated to new offices. Please note SWFRPC's new address, telephone and fax numbers:

**Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council**  
**1400 Colonial Boulevard, Suite 1**  
**Fort Myers, Florida 33907**  
**Phone: (239) 938-1813 Fax: (239) 938-1817**  
**Email: [Mwuerstle@swfrpc.org](mailto:Mwuerstle@swfrpc.org)**  
**Website: [www.swfrpc.org](http://www.swfrpc.org)**



## Calendar

### 4th Annual Hazardous Materials Symposium

The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) Emergency Preparedness Department is planning the 4th Annual Hazardous Materials Symposium on January 20 - 22, 2016 in Daytona Beach, Florida. ECFRPC and other planning councils and agencies are collaborating on the Symposium, which will provide 133 classroom and hands-on trainings, a HazMat Team Competition and vendor exhibit over two and a half days. More information is available at [www.flhazmatsymposium.org](http://www.flhazmatsymposium.org).

### 2016 FRCA Partners Meetings Schedule - 1st Quarter

FRCA hosts six Partners Meetings each year. To propose a presentation for a future Partners' meeting, contact [director@flregionalcouncils.org](mailto:director@flregionalcouncils.org).



DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Jan. 27, 2016	9:00 am-12:00pm	Hotel Duval, Tallahassee, FL
Feb.12, 2016	9:00 am-12:00 pm	Tallahassee City Hall, Tallahassee Room, Tallahassee, FL
Mar. 11, 2016	9:00 am-12:00 pm	Tallahassee City Hall, Tallahassee Room, Tallahassee, FL

### 2016 Meetings & Events Calendar

FRCA is pleased to share a calendar of state and national meetings and conferences of interest to our members, partners and affiliates. [Click to view the 2016 Calendar.](#)

## FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION

*Partnerships for the Future*

Contact: Director  
850-487-1426  
[director@flregionalcouncils.org](mailto:director@flregionalcouncils.org)  
[www.flregionalcouncils.org](http://www.flregionalcouncils.org)

## SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE ON SLOT MACHINES

By DARA KAM  
THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, December 1, 2015..... The Florida Supreme Court will decide whether a Gadsden County racetrack should be allowed to have slot machines without the express permission of the Legislature, in a case with widespread implications for gambling throughout the state.

The court on Tuesday accepted jurisdiction in the Gretna Racing case after a split appellate court reversed itself on the issue in October.

In the Oct. 2 decision, the 1st District Court of Appeal ruled that the Northwest Florida racetrack cannot have slot machines without the authorization of the Legislature, even though voters in the county approved the lucrative slots.

A majority of a three-judge panel 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 both decisions, the appellate judges 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.

The Supreme Court's ruling will likely affect gambling operations in Gadsden and at least five other counties --- Brevard, Hamilton, Lee, Palm Beach and Washington --- where voters 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 were expected to appeal as well.

In Tuesday's order, the Supreme Court gave Gretna Racing's lawyers until Dec. 21 to file initial briefs in the case. The state must file its response within 20 days, and Gretna has another 20 days after that to reply. Tuesday's order also said the court would schedule oral arguments separately.

Most industry insiders expected the Supreme Court to take up the case.

"I would have been surprised if they had denied it," said Phil Padovano, a lawyer who

retired from the 1st District Court of Appeal earlier this year. Padovano may represent one of the interested parties in the Gretna case in the future.

"Here you have a 2-1 (appellate) decision with a very strong dissent, a very well-reasoned dissent. I'm not saying that the court's going to agree with that, but it doesn't surprise me that the court would want to take a look at this and answer the question," he said.

The rare reversal in the Gretna case came after 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 Gadsden County facility permission to add slot machines.

The appellate 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 in October joined the 32-page majority opinion authored by Judge Scott Makar, who wrote a scathing dissent in May.

The unusual procedural history of the case probably had little impact on the justices' decision to consider the broader question, Padovano said.

"I don't think it's a very positive thing for the 1st District to be reversing itself by nothing more than a change in court personnel. But I don't think that really had a lot to do with it. It seems to me, and this is just my opinion, but if the court thought that this was clearly the right decision, they might have been more inclined to simply deny review. I'm not saying that they won't ultimately think it's the right decision. They might. But the decision to accept review basically just says that they think there's a serious enough question there to be investigated and to be decided in the Supreme Court," he said.

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.

The Gretna 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.

"We are obviously pleased and are looking forward to discussing the rules of English grammar and stare decisis with the Supreme Court soon," Marc Dunbar, a lawyer representing the Gretna racetrack who is also one of its owners, said in an email Tuesday. "Stare decisis" is a legal term referring to the policy of courts to abide by principles established by precedent.

In the October 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.

But in a strongly-worded dissent, Judge Robert T. Benton --- who authored the May opinion that would have granted slots to the Gretna facility --- 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."

A Supreme Court decision in favor of Gretna would not only affect pari-mutuels in other counties, but could shrink state coffers.

Under a 20-year agreement finalized in 2010 between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the state, the tribe has exclusive rights to operate slot machines, outside of pari-mutuels in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. The state reaps about \$120 million a year from the revenue-sharing agreement.

"That's the big elephant in the room," said Wilbur Brewton, a veteran lobbyist whose clients include Calder Race Course. "It's going to be really interesting if the Supremes rule that you could have referendums throughout the state ... but if they do, then that's where we'll go."

## RURAL COUNTY POINTS TO HIGH STAKES IN SLOTS ISSUE

By JIM SAUNDERS  
THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, **December 22, 2015**..... Rural Gadsden County might seem an unlikely legal battleground for slot machines.

But as the Florida Supreme Court considers a potentially far-reaching case about slot machines at a pari-mutuel facility in the Gadsden County City of Gretna, local officials hope they can help sway the court in favor of a voter-approved gambling expansion.

The Supreme Court on Friday approved a request from the City of Gretna to file a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of allowing lucrative slot machines at the pari-mutuel, Gretna Racing. That was followed Monday by Gadsden County seeking to formally intervene in the case or, at a minimum, be allowed to file a friend-of-the-court brief that would back a 2012 slots referendum in the County.

In a motion filed last week, the City pointed to the economic stakes of allowing slot machines at the pari-mutuel. It said a "master plan" ultimately envisions building one or more convention hotels, along with restaurants and shops.

"The City of Gretna has a vital economic interest in ensuring that the master plan will come to fruition and the success of the plan depends on the issuance of the (slots) permit that is at issue in the case before the court," said the motion, written by Philip Padovano, a former 1st District Court of Appeal Judge representing the City.

The Supreme Court agreed Dec. 1st to decide whether Gretna Racing should be allowed to have slot machines without the express permission of the Legislature. The racetrack took the case to the Supreme Court after a divided 1st District Court of Appeal in October sided with Attorney General Pam Bondi and Gov. Rick Scott's Administration in ruling that legislative approval was needed for slots.

The October ruling undid an earlier ruling from the appeals court that favored Gretna Racing.

The issues in the case focus on disputed interpretations of a 2009 gambling law. But while ground zero in the case is Gadsden County --- which is west of Tallahassee and had a population last year of roughly 46,000 people --- the outcome could also determine whether slot machines are allowed in Brevard, Hamilton, Lee, Palm Beach and Washington counties.

In each of those counties, voters approved referendums to allow slot machines. In its motion to intervene Monday, Gadsden County argued it had the right to authorize a referendum that would clear the way for slots.

"In the majority opinion, the First DCA (District Court of Appeal) found that Gadsden County did not have the authority to authorize the conduct of a binding gambling referendum without further statutory or constitutional authorization, and that the referendum was a non-binding expression of voter sentiment," the motion said. "The majority opinion on these points is contrary to established Florida law."

The Supreme Court has not set a date for oral arguments in the case. Attorneys for Gretna Racing filed a brief Monday outlining their positions on the legal issues, and the State is expected to reply in mid-January.

Already lining up with the State, however, is No Casinos, Inc., which has received approval to file a brief with the Court.

"The movant (No Casinos) is concerned that if this expansion of gambling devices is allowed (and by logical extension, allowed for similar facilities in other counties), that will lead to proliferation of such devices, and will generally encourage casino-type gambling, contrary to the public interest and contrary to the law," the Orlando-based group said in its motion seeking to file a brief.

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

**STAFF**

**Chris Rietow** Executive Director / Apalachee LEPC Staff  
[CRietow@thearpc.com](mailto:CRietow@thearpc.com)  
850-488-6211 x. 102

**Bruce Ballister** Senior Planner / Economic Development  
[BBallister@thearpc.com](mailto:BBallister@thearpc.com)  
850-488-6211 x. 100

**Joe Crozier** Regional Planner / Environmental  
[JCrozier@thearpc.com](mailto:JCrozier@thearpc.com)  
850-488-6211 x. 104

**Kwentin Eastberg** Transportation Planner / TD Coordinator  
[KEastberg@thearpc.com](mailto:KEastberg@thearpc.com)  
850-488-6211 x. 105

**Janice Watson** Finance Director / Revolving Loan Coordinator  
[JWatson@thearpc.com](mailto:JWatson@thearpc.com)  
850-488-6211 x. 103

**Denise Imbler Whitlock** Director of Emergency Planning Program  
[DImbler@thearpc.com](mailto:DImbler@thearpc.com)  
850-488-6211 x. 101

**Ed Blanton** Council Attorney  
610 Summerbrooke Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32312  
[efb825@aol.com](mailto:efb825@aol.com)  
850-224-1020