

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

FULL COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

Thursday – January 18, 2018

10:00 a.m. ET / 9:00 a.m. CT



302nd Public Meeting

UF IFAS / North FL Research & Education Center

155 Research Road

Quincy, Florida 32351

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Randy Merritt, Chairman (Wakulla); John Jones, Past Chairman (Monticello);
Nancy Miller, Vice-Chairwoman (Tallahassee); Wes Johnston, Secretary/Treasurer (Altha)
FRCA Policy Board Members: Kristin Dozier, Gene Wright and Lisa Miller

FULL COUNCIL

Calhoun County

Gene Bailey
Wes Johnston
Don Stephens

County Commissioner
Mayor, Town of Altha
Governor's Appointee

Franklin County

Ricky Jones
Brenda LaPaz
Vacant

County Commissioner
Mayor, City of Carrabelle
Governor's Appointee

Gadsden County

Brenda Holt
Vacant
Henry Grant

County Commissioner
Municipal Representative
Governor's Appointee

Gulf County

Ward McDaniel
Charlie Pettis
Michael Hammond

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka
Governor's Appointee

Jackson County

Jim Peacock
Gene Wright
Vacant

County Commissioner
Mayor, Town of Malone
Governor's Appointee

Jefferson County

Stephen Walker
John Jones
Vacant

County Commissioner
Councilman, City of Monticello
Governor's Appointee

Leon County

Kristin Dozier
Nancy Miller
Lisa Miller

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Tallahassee
Governor's Appointee

Liberty County

Dexter Barber
Woody Stewart
Davis Stoutamire

County Commissioner
Councilman, City of Bristol
Governor's Appointee

Wakulla County

Randy Merritt
Gail Gilman
Vacant

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

Ex-Officio Members

Michael Fuller
Christina Coger
Virgie Bowen
Diane Scholz

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

**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING**

**UF/IFAS North FL Research & Education Center
155 Research Road – Quincy, FL**

**THURSDAY – JANUARY 18, 2018
10:00 AM Eastern Time / 9:00 AM Central Time**

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. *Approval of Agenda
3. *Approval of Minutes – November 16, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
4. Board Orientation: Core Programs Overview – ARPC Staff
5. Apalachicola River & Bay Litigation Update – Joe Crozier, ARPC
6. Executive Director's Report – Chris Rietow
 - A. *Financial Report
 - B. Staff Program Reports
 1. *Economic Development & Community Planning
 2. Emergency Planning
 3. Revolving Loan Fund
 4. Transportation Planning
 5. Environmental Planning
 6. Correspondence and Items of Interest
 - C. Florida Regional Councils Association Update
 - D. 2017 ARPC Goals Evaluation & Proposed 2018 Goals
7. Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion
8. Ex-Officio Member Updates
9. Public Comment
10. Adjournment –
11. Next ARPC Board Meeting – March 22, 2018

****Items Requiring Board Action***

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Leon Human Services - Conference Center
1000 W. Tharpe Street - Tallahassee, Florida

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – November 16, 2017

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Merritt called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves for the Roll Call.

ARPC Board Members in Attendance:

Calhoun County	Wes Johnston	Mayor, Town of Altha
Calhoun County	Don Stephens	Governor's Appointee
Franklin County	Ricky Jones	Franklin County Commissioner
Gadsden County	Henry Grant	Governor's Appointee
Gulf County	Ward McDaniel	Gulf County Commissioner
Jefferson County	John Jones	City of Monticello Councilman
Leon County	Kristin Dozier	Leon County Commissioner
Leon County	Nancy Miller	City of Tallahassee Commissioner
Leon County	Lisa Miller	Governor's Appointee
Liberty County	Woody Stewart	City of Bristol Councilman
Liberty County	Davis Stoutamire	Governor's Appointee
Wakulla County	Randy Merritt	Wakulla County Commissioner

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Michael Fuller	FL Dept. of Environmental Protection
Virgie Bowen	FL Dept. of Transportation
Christina Coger	NW FL Water Management District

ARPC Staff in Attendance

Chris Rietow	Executive Director
Zach Annett	Regional Planner / LEPC Coordinator
Joe Crozier	Regional Planner / Environmental
Kwentin Eastberg	Regional Planner / Transportation
Richard Fetchick	Regional Planner / Economic Development
Denise Imbler	Director of Emergency Planning Programs
Sara Thomas	Regional Planner / Emergency Planning
Janice Watson	Finance Director/ Loan Coordinator

Others in Attendance

Mary Louise Hester – Senator Bill Nelson
Bill Colona – AECOM
Cheri Bryant – Tallahassee/Leon Planning
Michael Moron – Franklin Co. Administrator

Rudy Maloy – Congressman Al Lawson
Mia Parker – Big Bend Continuum of Care
Al Latimer – Office of Economic Vitality
David Pollard – Tallahassee Int. Airport

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

Item 2: Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Councilman Woody Stewart to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mayor Wes Johnston. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 3: Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Lisa Miller to approve the Minutes of the September 28, 2017 ARPC Full Council Board Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kristin Dozier. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: Foreign Trade Zone Application Update

Chris Rietow introduced David Pollard, interim director of the Tallahassee International Airport (TLH) who outlined for the Board the long-term economic potential that the airport and the region could expect from the establishment of the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ). Mr. Pollard stated that TLH was working with a business recruiter to develop a marketing package to educate the potential businesses of the benefits of utilizing the FTZ. He explained that the TLH zone is a 60-mile radius extending out from Tallahassee and included portions of Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison and Taylor counties. Mr. Pollard noted that the FTZ was a federal program used in all 50 states which allows federal taxes and fees to be lowered, eliminated, or exempted from payment as import/export goods are moved around the country between established foreign trade zones. The Board suggested that a flyer with basic FTZ information be developed that could be shared with city and county elected officials and staff to educate them on the benefits of the zone. Nancy Miller stressed how important it was to keep the outlying counties informed of the progress because the rural counties were a vital part of the initiative because of the availability of larger land parcels, which were often the determining factor in attracting a manufacturing facility to an area within the zone. Chairman May thanked Mr. Pollard for his presentation and asked him to coordinate with ARPC staff on the progress of the TLH FTZ. Mr. Pollard closed by saying that TLH may in the future consider expanding the existing boundaries of the FTZ if the need warranted it.

Item 5: Gulf to Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone

Kwentin Eastberg, ARPC Transportation Planner presented an overview of the Gulf to Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone project. Mr. Eastberg explained that the Freight Logistics Zone (FLZ) was a grouping of activities/infrastructure associated with freight transportation-related services within a defined area that would establish FL Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) funding priority for projects within the boundaries of the FLZ. He noted that the ultimate goal of the Gulf to Gadsden FLZ was for the designation to increase the use of the Port of Port St. Joe and also revitalize the AN Railway line which connected the cities of Port St. Joe and Chattahoochee. Mr. Eastberg closed in stating that ARPC staff had assisted in the development of the final

strategic plan for the Gulf to Gadsden FLZ which included Gulf, Franklin, Liberty and Gadsden counties and was completed in June 2017.

Item 6: Big Bend Continuum of Care Overview

Mr. Rietow introduced Mia Parker, Executive Director of the Big Bend Continuum of Care (CoC). He explained that the ARPC recently became the federally designated Collaborative Applicant for the CoC which allowed the ARPC to serve as the umbrella agency for the CoC and to provide its employees work space and administrative services. Ms. Parker gave the board a brief overview of the activities and mission of the CoC. She explained that the CoC is a regional organization which promoted the coordination of community-wide goals of ending homelessness and provided funding efforts to quickly re-house homeless individuals and families. Ms. Parker stated that it was a priority of the CoC to establish a process for delivering services to the outlying counties and drastically reduce the need for program recipients to come to Leon County to be served. Commissioner Ricky Jones noted that each county school district had a homeless liaison and suggested that the CoC utilize that contact as a starting point in developing new processes for delivering services to the outlying counties. Chairman Merritt thanked Ms. Parker for her presentation and stated on behalf of the Board that the ARPC was encouraged about working with the CoC and the newly developed partnership between the two organizations.

Item 7: Executive Director's Report

A. Financial Report: Chris Rietow reviewed with the Board the Budget Reports and the Reconciled Check Registers as of September 30, 2017 and October 31, 2017, included in the Board package beginning on page 12. He also reviewed with the Board the ARPC's current list of accounts payable and accounts receivable as of November 8, 2017.

A motion was made by Davis Stoutamire to approve the financial reports for September 2017 and October 2017 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Jones. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Staff Reports: Mr. Rietow highlighted the following ARPC Program Reports prepared by staff and included in the Board Package beginning on page 17. He asked the Board for any questions in reference to the reports listed below and requested ARPC staff in attendance to briefly update the Board on any additions to their reports included in the board package.

1. Economic Development & Community Planning – Richard Fetchick
2. Emergency Planning – Denise Imbler, Zach Annett & Sara Thomas
3. Revolving Loan Fund – Janice Watson
4. Transportation Planning – Kwentin Eastberg
5. Environmental Planning – Joe Crozier
6. Misc. Correspondence & Items of Interest

B-1. Economic and Community Development Update: Mr. Rietow reported that the 2018-2022 Apalachee Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) approved by the Board at

the November 16, 2017 meeting had also been formally accepted by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). He briefly highlighted some of the on-going activities by ARPC staff in the implementation process of the CEDS. Mr. Rietow noted that a copy of the final CEDS document was posted on the ARPC website.

B-2. Emergency Planning Update: Mr. Rietow reported that ARPC staff had been contacted by the FL Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) about facilitating the meetings and preparing the Hurricane Irma After-Action-Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP). He stated that the proposal submitted to FDEM to provide the services requested had been accepted and the purchase order from FDEM was expected before the end of November. Mr. Rietow noted that his discussions continued with the FDEM about ARPC staff once again assisting with the statewide hurricane exercise.

B-3. Revolving Loan Fund: Janice Watson briefly reviewed with the Board the Loan Payment and Loan Portfolio worksheets included in the Board package beginning on page 25. Ms. Watson reported that since the last meeting a \$10,000 90-day working capital loan had been approved and closed for Pretty Girlz to be used for the purchase of additional inventory in preparation for the holiday shopping season. She also reported that a renewal of the line of credit to Watson Baled Straw had been approved and closed, noting that at the request of the business the line of credit draw had been reduced to \$30,000 for FY 17/18. Ms. Watson explained that Watson Baled Straw's reduction in the need of capital was due to sustained business growth and was a direct result of its participation in the ARPC RLF Program. She encouraged the Board to review the RLF Semi-Annual Financial Report included in the Board package on page 27, which reports the cumulative data and success of the program since its beginning in 1984.

B-4. Transportation Planning Update: Mr. Rietow updated the Board on his continued work with the FL Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) and the West FL Regional Planning Council (WFRPC) on the development of and use of Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs). He explained that a RTPO would involve the counties in both the West FL and Apalachee Regions not included in a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

A motion was made by Ward McDaniel to approve the ARPC moving forward in working with the FDOT on the establishment of a Rural Transportation Planning Organization for Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson and Liberty counties. The motion was seconded by Davis Stoutamire. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Merritt thanked the ARPC staff for its continued pursuit of the RTPO designation and emphasized the positive benefits received by Wakulla County from its the participation in the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPC).

Mr. Rietow stated that ARPC staff continued to coordinate with the FDOT Aviation staff on hosting a workshop on the implementation of FL Statute Chapter 333 in reference to Aviation Zoning Regulations. He stated that due to the upcoming holidays the workshop most likely be held during the first quarter of 2018.

B-5. Environmental Planning Update: Mr. Rietow reported that the update to the Apalachicola River and Bay Watershed Surface Water Improvement Management (SWIM) Plan prepared by ARPC staff during 2017, had been formally approved by the Northwest FL Water Management District Governing Board. Mr. Rietow also noted that the Chattahoochee to Bristol Trail Feasibility Study prepared by ARPC staff had received a National Association for Development Organizations (NADO) Innovation Award for 2017. The Board congratulated ARPC staff on the successful completion of the SWIM plan and the NADO Award.

B-6. Other Items of Interest: Mr. Rietow directed the Board to the articles and items of interest included in the Board package beginning on page 37 which included: FL Regional Councils Association (FRCA) newsletters for September and October, and articles on the Florida/Georgia water wars, Jackson County Fee and Permit discussions and Carrabelle City Hall Plans.

C. FL Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Update: Mr. Rietow reported on the roles of the FRCA Executive Director Advisory Committee (EDAC) and the FRCA Policy Board. He briefly summarized how valuable it had been to him over the last four years to be able to meet monthly with the Executive Directors of the other nine regional planning councils of the state on a variety of issues and to develop new opportunities of maximizing the assistance of the ARPC to its respective local governments. Mr. Rietow stated that he currently served as the FRCA EDAC Vice-Chairman and also served on the FRCA legislative committee. He reported that it was the recommendation of the FRCA legislative committee to abstain from requesting a state appropriation for regional planning councils during the 2018 legislative session.

D. Tentative 2018 Board Meeting Schedule: Mr. Rietow handed out a tentative Board meeting schedule for 2018 proposing the following dates for Full Council meetings: January 18th, March 22nd, May 17th, July 19th, September 20th, and November 15th. By general consensus, the Board approved the schedule as presented. The Board directed Mr. Rietow to make sure that the proposed schedule did not conflict with meetings of the Florida League of Cities or the Florida Association of Counties.

The Board discussed the possibility of holding future Board meetings at a different location that could offer a smaller meeting room with better acoustics and would be closer to I-10 for ARPC Board members traveling to Tallahassee from the outlying counties of the Region. Henry Grant suggested the UF IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy, located at I-10 exit #181. He stated that the facility would adequately meet the needs of the ARPC Board meeting and that the IFAS Center often hosted meetings for other public organizations. The Board agreed to hold the next Board meeting at the Gadsden County location if available. Mr. Grant offered to coordinate with Mr. Rietow and the UF IFAS Center about scheduling the January 18th meeting.

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

Chairman Merritt suggested that Chris Doolin of the Small County Coalition be contacted about giving a legislative update to the Board as soon as it could be scheduled.

Lisa Miller encouraged the Board to strongly advocate for the administrative abilities of the ARPC staff and to look for opportunities for the ARPC to assist the local governments of the Region in the implementation of the TRIUMPH program and projects.

Commissioner Kristin Dozier reported that she had been asked by the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity to serve on a committee to research and promote an apprenticeship initiative for Florida. A lengthy discussion ensued on the lost value of apprenticeship and the overwhelming need for support and expansion of vocational education in Florida's high schools and community colleges, especially in the Apalachee Region. It was the unanimous consensus that the lack of vocationally trained workers especially in the rural areas was one of the biggest obstacles in attracting new companies to the area. The Board thanked Commissioner Dozier for her willingness to participate in the initiative and asked her to keep them informed on the progress and also when there were opportunities for the ARPC to offer support of the endeavor.

Chairman Merritt asked for any further Board or public comments and there were none. He announced that the next ARPC Board meeting would be held on January 18, 2018.

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

APPROVED BY: THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
 MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON JANUARY 18, 2018

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Randy Merritt
Chairman

Chris Rietow
Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM 5

USATODAY Jan. 9, 2018 – (Ledyard King)

WASHINGTON — Florida's decades-long fight with Georgia for more water reached the US Supreme Court Monday where sympathetic justices empathized with the Sunshine State and its efforts to rescue its beleaguered oyster industry.

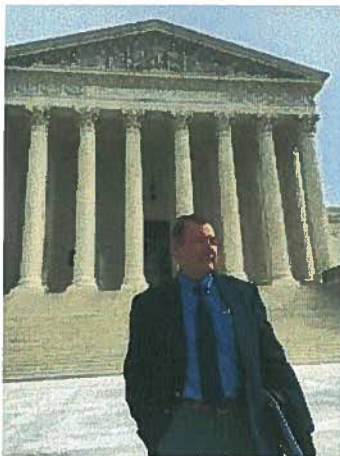
It could be months before the nation's highest court decides whether a remedy is in order and the form it should take. But several justices during oral arguments seemed to concur that Florida deserves better even as the state has lost most of the legal and political battles of what's become known as the "water wars."

U.S. Supreme Court Justice John G. Roberts Jr. Justice Elena Kagan said Florida had "common sense" on its side. Justice Sonia Sotomayor said there's "plenty of evidence on the benefits of additional water." And Justice Stephen G. Breyer said it would be "equitable" if Georgia had to share more water with its parched neighbor.

But Craig S. Primis, arguing for Georgia, said it was more complicated than that. "It's not as simple as if extra water comes in, then you just pass it through to Florida because they have articulated one concern," he told the justices. "There are multiple interests in the basin, there are multiple stakeholders, and multiple congressionally defined purposes." The case pits Georgia's growing thirst for water to fuel metro Atlanta's growth and its multi-billion-dollar agriculture industry in the state's southwestern region against Florida's need for fresh water to preserve the fragile ecology of the Apalachicola Bay that was once produced 10% of the nation's oysters.

Under congressional direction, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the first of five dams in the 1950s that diverted water away from its traditional path downstream to Florida's panhandle in order to accommodate Georgia.

The lack of water began taking a heavy toll about a decade ago when Apalachicola Bay supported several hundred oyster boats harvesting around 20 bags per day, said Dan Tonsmeire, Apalachicola Riverkeeper since 2004. Today, about a dozen boats patrol the bay, collecting about two bags of oysters daily, he said.



Apalachicola Riverkeeper Dan Tonsmeire outside the Supreme Court Monday. (Photo: Ledyard King, USA TODAY)

"The Apalachicola region has suffered serious harm," Gregory G. Garre, a lawyer representing Florida told the justices. "Not only have its oysters been decimated but really a way of life." One of the central questions confronting the court is whether an effective remedy, such as a cap on the amount of water Georgia consumes from the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin, could even be concocted.

Special Master Ralph Lancaster Jr., assigned by the Supreme Court to rule on the dispute, sided with Georgia in a decision issued in February. The Maine lawyer found that Florida had suffered harm from the decreased water flow but had not proven that such a consumption cap would provide the relief it sought, mainly because the Corps of Engineers is not a party to the lawsuit.

The Corps, which manages the dams under a "Master Manual" that spells out its federal responsibilities, is not a party to the lawsuit and cannot be compelled to redirect the water flowing through the basin, Florida A&M Law Professor Robert "Bo" Abrams wrote about the case.

"This raises the possibility that the actions Georgia might take would not significantly increase the flows to Florida," he wrote. "This is vital because in other equitable apportionment cases, the Court has clearly stated that it will not order a state to take actions that will not produce the desired benefit to the other state in the dispute." But Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. seemed to push back on that notion. He compared Florida's plight to a company which lost out on a government bid because of discrimination. "We don't require that person to show well, if I hadn't been, I would have won the contract. We just say if you were discriminated against in the process, you get a fair shot like everybody else," he said.

"It seems to me it's asking an awful lot of Florida to have to say: We know that the Corps is going to change things the way it benefits us," Roberts continued. "Instead, they just want them to say they're going to make a different decision if they've got more water to allocate." U.S. Rep. Neal Dunn, whose congressional district includes Apalachicola Bay, said he left Monday's Supreme Court hearing optimistic about a favorable outcome.

"I think the Florida legal team put a great show on, very convincingly argued that for all these many years Florida has been right on the facts, right on the law, and right on the environment," the Panama City Republican said. "That should be enough for the Supreme Court to reach out and give us some sort of redress. Reading the tea leaves and the body language, maybe we get something like that."

Georgia groups say state must curb farm water use to avoid future fights with Florida

By Bruce Ritchie

11/08/2017 01:20 PM EDT

TALLAHASSEE — Georgia environmental groups are calling on their state to implement recommendations for curbing agricultural water use to avoid future legal fights with Florida.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott in 2013 sued Georgia in the Supreme Court over water use from the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers, which flow into Florida's Apalachicola River. While recommending earlier this year that the case be dismissed, a court adviser concluded that Georgia's agricultural water use was "largely unrestrained."

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear oral arguments in the case. But the Georgia Water Coalition says that no matter the outcome, Georgia remains vulnerable to future legal challenges if it doesn't regulate its water use.

The coalition issued a report Wednesday calling on Georgia to implement a list of recommendations from a water use task force for more closely regulating water use in that state.

"This is a good thing for the whole basin," said Chris Manganiello of the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper group. "It is a response to the larger court case which Florida brought forward."

He said even if the Supreme Court case goes against Florida, another court in the future may not be as favorable toward Georgia's agricultural water use. Alabama has said it would consider suing Georgia depending on the outcome of the Florida water case.

A Georgia Environmental Protection Division spokesman said he could not comment on the litigation or the conclusions in the coalition's report. He said the task force recommendations are being evaluated for possible policy and legislative changes.

Florida says the Apalachicola River and Bay and the seafood industry there are suffering from lack of water, an argument that Georgia disputes.

In February, Supreme Court special master Ralph Lancaster wrote in a recommendation to the court that Florida had failed to show how a water-use cap on Georgia, without participation by the Army Corps of Engineers, would provide the relief Florida is seeking. The Corps operates reservoirs along the Chattahoochee River.

But Lancaster's 70-page report also found problems with Georgia's agricultural water use.

He concluded that farm water use was "largely unrestrained" and cited Florida's count that the amount of irrigated acreage in Georgia increased from 75,000 acres in 1970 to more than 825,000 acres in 2014.

"In the face of this sharp increase in water use, Georgia has taken few measures to limit consumptive water use for agricultural irrigation," Lancaster wrote.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution last March that his state needs to find new ways to measure agricultural water use.

He also said Florida "just picked numbers, I think out of air" to report how much water was being used by Georgia agriculture.

Earlier in 2016, as the case was on trial, Deal appointed the state task force to investigate unpermitted agricultural water use in Georgia.

The Georgia Water Coalition said the state task force issued draft recommendations in March that never were publicized. Those recommendations deal with agricultural water use permitting, water metering, compliance and budgeting to administer programs.

The coalition says the state has moved forward to require meters for agricultural water use along the Flint River and the Suwannee River, which also flows into Florida. Georgia Environmental Protection Division spokesman Kevin Chambers confirmed the state is implementing task force recommendations on those rivers.

Manganiello said other recommendations from the task force are not being implemented. He said the coalition had to file several records requests just to get the draft recommendations.

Chambers did not answer questions about the status of the recommendations or whether the state was "sitting on" some of them, as Manganiello claimed.

Manganiello said he wants to make sure the task force recommendations are implemented. And he's worried that they won't be if Georgia thinks it doesn't have to implement them.

"The recommendations the state has developed are an appropriate and good path to take," Manganiello said. "And I'm concerned because the state has not discussed all of these recommendations publicly — that they may not take the right path by implementing all of them."

Apalachee Regional Planning Council
Budget Report as of 10/31/17

Bal. 10/31/17

23,473.85

Bal. 9/30/17

19,497.51

LINE-ITEM	FY 17/18 Budget	November 2017	FY-To-Date as of 11/30/17	Budget Balance
General Revenue				
EDA Planning Grant	70,000	-	17,500.00	52,500.00
Revolving Loan Fund - Admin	25,000	-	-	25,000.00
Misc. Small ED Contracts	-	-	-	-
FDACS - Animal Safety Planner	30,000	1,250.00	4,100.00	25,900.00
FDEM - Hazards Analyses	22,000	-	-	22,000.00
FDEM - HMEP Planning	25,000	-	-	25,000.00
FDEM - HMEP Training	12,500	-	-	12,500.00
FDEM - Hurricane Ex 2018	35,000	-	-	35,000.00
FDEM - LEPC Support Staff	79,000	19,495.38	19,495.38	59,504.62
FDOH - N FL MRC Admin	26,000	-	-	26,000.00
Misc. Small EP Contracts	4,000	-	-	4,000.00
NWFWMD - SWIM Plan	28,500	-	28,468.00	32.00
EPA - Brownfield	6,000	-	-	6,000.00
FDEP - SQG Inspections	40,000	-	-	40,000.00
RCSC - Admin	10,000	-	-	10,000.00
ARPC County Dues	68,440	11,289.50	11,289.50	57,150.50
Big Bend CoC - Admin	30,000	-	-	30,000.00
FRCA - Admin	60,000	3,600.00	3,600.00	56,400.00
QGAA - Admin	26,400	4,400.00	4,400.00	22,000.00
PSJ - CDBG	51,000	-	-	51,000.00
Misc. Small TA Contracts	11,000	-	-	11,000.00
CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged	159,370	14,008.08	42,556.34	116,813.66
Big Bend CoC - Pass Thru	-	41,076.99	76,783.11	(76,783.11)
TOTAL REVENUE	819,210	95,119.95	208,192.33	611,017.67
General Expenses				
Accounting	1,000	-	22.00	978.00
Advertising	600	399.42	446.42	153.58
Audit	15,000	-	-	15,000.00
Board Meeting Expenses	3,000	416.68	416.68	2,583.32
Contingency & Project Pass-Thru	20,310	1,422.30	1,894.39	18,415.61
Consultants (HMEP-T CDBG HurrEx)	46,000	4,752.00	4,752.00	41,248.00
Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI & Other)	22,500	4,959.25	4,959.25	17,540.75
Equipment Lease - Copiers	14,500	959.05	2,678.79	11,821.21
Fringe Benefits (FICA, CHP & FRS)	120,000	10,639.07	19,925.77	100,074.23
Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	10,500	-	2,689.00	7,811.00
IT Tech Support	7,500	1,125.36	1,125.36	6,374.64
Legal	2,000	-	-	2,000.00
Licenses (REMI)	4,500	-	-	4,500.00
Miscellaneous	500	-	-	500.00
Office Supplies	3,500	335.62	479.65	3,020.35
Postage	2,500	382.00	482.00	2,018.00
Rent	38,000	3,163.59	6,327.18	31,672.82
Salaries	460,000	36,120.00	70,124.00	389,876.00
Subscriptions & Publications	300	34.65	34.65	265.35
Telephone & Internet	7,000	606.41	1,366.42	5,633.58
Travel	40,000	4,599.25	8,643.30	31,356.70
Big Bend CoC - Pass Thru	-	42,280.33	94,924.16	(94,924.16)
TOTAL EXPENSES	819,210	112,194.98	221,291.02	597,918.98
	Bal. 11/30/17	6,398.82	6,398.82	Bal. 11/30/17
	Operating Acct. Balance 11/30/17		6,398.82	

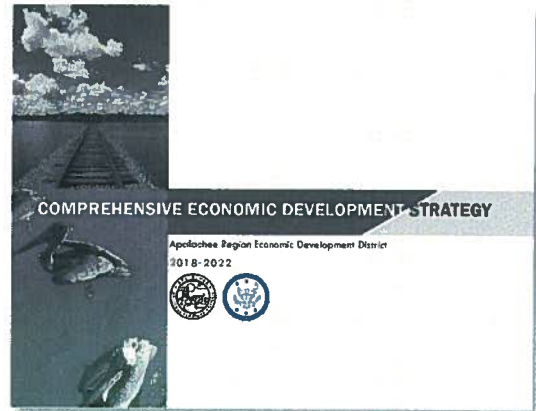
AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 1

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Richard Fetchick and Bruce Ballister

2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update:

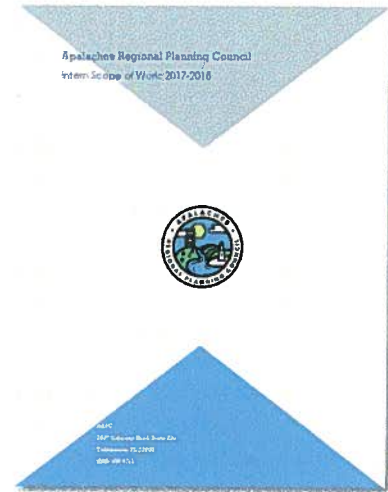
ARPC staff is working to coordinate with regional partners and implement objectives from the ARPC Comprehensive Regional Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).



- **Objective 1.5: Promote Apalachee Outdoor Recreation** ARPC staff has provided data analysis and map making services for RiverWay South, the regional outdoor tourism promotion group. RiverWay South has provided a scholarship to send ARPC staff to Chicago in February to promote the Region at a tourism trade show.
- **Objective 1.12: Promote Arts Group-School Board interactions to advance STEAM (*science, technology, engineering, arts and math*) careers** ARPC staff is collaborating with local arts group SOUP Experimental to assemble a project that unites researchers at the Magnetic Laboratory, Leon High School, and FSU Master of Fine Arts Candidates to convey the outcomes of groundbreaking scientific exploration occurring in the county, through art.
- **Objective 2.5: Emphasize environmental entrepreneurship** ARPC staff is in the beginning stages of project development with the Frenchtown Heritage Hub and Apalachee Region local farmers. The project would create a food distribution and value-add center in Tallahassee for agricultural products.
- **Objective 2.9 Connect entrepreneurs to funding** ARPC staff is finalizing a USDA Rural Business Development Grant to add \$125,000 to the ARPC Revolving Loan Fund for lending to small businesses.

ARPC Internships: To expand the services offered to counties, ARPC staff is at various stages of intern development:

- **GIS** – GIS Intern Sarah Hibbard has been assisting with Wakulla County floodplain Community Rating System (CRS) map updates, and will be helping Gadsden County with Comprehensive Plan Maps and other GIS services.
- **Communications** – Staff will further coordinate with FAMU School of Journalism & Graphic Communication to bring on an intern to help with ARPC media in the new year.



Northwest Florida Forward: ARPC staff continues to organize meetings and help coordinate activities for the Quality of Place Council. The main activities include tracking the development of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. funds and a webinar series:

- **December 2017** – ARPC staff hosted Britney Moore of FDEP Office of Greenways and Trails, who gave an update on Trail Town planning. Ms. Moore shared Trail Town typographies and steps to build a Trail Town locally. ARPC staff also gave a presentation on small funding sources for place building, which they will pursue in 2018.

Other Technical Assistance: ARPC ED staff continues to assist regional partners with Comprehensive Planning, Intergovernmental Coordination and other tasks.

- **Comprehensive Planning** – Staff reviewed amendments occurring in Wakulla County.
- **Economic Analysis** – Staff has begun preliminary data gathering and methodology development for an impact study of the Apalachicola River. It includes maritime industries such as transportation and fishing as well as recreation and hospitality.
- **Impact Fee** – Staff conducted a literature review and built a preliminary methodology for a Parks and Recreation Impact fee. The results will be provided to ARPC counties upon completion.

Regional Coordination: ARPC staff participated in the following events –

- **2017 Florida Rural Economic Development Summit** – The Summit, held in St. Augustine, brought together participants from all three Rural Areas of Opportunities in Florida. ARPC staff obtained a scholarship from Opportunity FL to attend.
- **CareerSource Talent and Innovation Summit** – ARPC staff attended the single-day event at the Turnbull Conference Center which presented workforce development goals and needs for the Region.

ACTION NEEDED

Motion to approve the submittal of the USDA RBDG application for additional RLF Funds.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 2

EMERGENCY PLANNING PROGRAM

Denise Imbler - Zach Annett – Sara Thomas

Regional Hazardous Materials Program



The ARPC staffs the Apalachee Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) which is responsible for implementing the federal Emergency Planning and the Community Right-To-Know Act for the ARPC Region. The four primary activities of the Apalachee LEPC are hazardous materials planning, training, emergency exercises and public outreach.

Quarterly Meetings

The most recent quarterly meeting of the Apalachee LEPC was held on November 29th, 2017 at the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. ARPC staff is currently preparing for the next LEPC meeting which is tentatively scheduled for February 2018 at the Leon County Public Safety Complex. ARPC staff will be attending the next quarterly meetings of the State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials being held on January 16-17, 2018.

Hazardous Materials Training

ARPC staff coordinated the following courses during the quarter to train first responders and officials who play a role in hazardous materials incidents:

- 8-hour HAZWOPER Refresher course - December 4, 2017
- 24-hour HAZWOPER Operations course - December 5-7, 2017
- 3-hour Gasoline Tanker Response courses – December 14 & 15, 2017

Additionally, multiple 4-hour awareness courses to train close to 140 employees with Leon County EMS are currently being scheduled. All training opportunities and registration links are posted on the ARPC website at www.thearpc.com.



Annual Exercises



ARPC staff continues to work with FSU faculty and staff to develop a tabletop exercise for the National High Magnetic Field Lab. This includes serving on the planning team, assisting with scenario development and exercise documentation, as well as serving as lead facilitator during the exercise. The exercise has been postponed due to Hurricane Irma but will take place in 2018.

2017 and 2018 Planning Projects

2017 - ARPC staff developed and updated each county's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for incidents involving the transportation of flammable liquids, chlorine, and anhydrous ammonia. The SOPs will be incorporated into each county's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan as well as the Apalachee LEPC Response Plan. The completed project has been submitted to Florida Division of Emergency Management for final approval.

2018 – ARPC staff will facilitate a comprehensive tabletop exercise as the 2018 planning project. The exercise will be multi-jurisdictional in scope and will exercise two functional areas of the Apalachee LEPC Response Plan.

Outreach

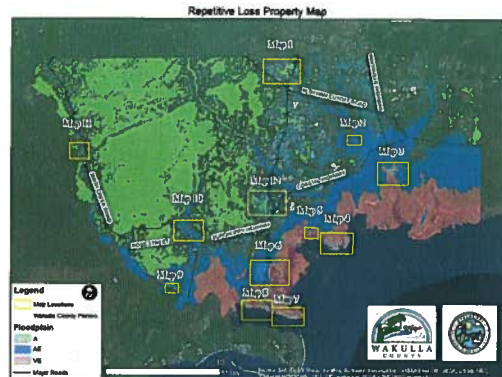
ARPC staff has been working with the Tallahassee Chapter of the Safety Alliance for Excellence to provide a presentation outlining the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and the Florida LEPC program. The presentation has been scheduled for January 12th.

Wakulla County Community Rating System Mapping Project

ARPC staff assisted the Wakulla County Planning Department by updating the following maps related to its Community Rating System (CRS) program:

- Historical/Nuisance Flooding
- Repetitive Loss Properties
- Open Space
- Drainage Ditches

Implementation of the CRS program provides savings on flood insurance policies for county residents.



North Florida Medical Reserve Corps



ARPC staff continues to serve as the Coordinator for the North Florida Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) which includes an eight-county region in the Big Bend. Staff provided a presentation on disaster response and the MRC network at a recent meeting of the Students Interested in Global Health at the FSU College of Medicine.

Staff also assisted the Florida Department of Health in Leon County coordinate volunteer assistance with two public health initiatives: school health screenings and influenza clinics. The screenings identify potential chronic health issues in primary school students while the influenza clinics help reduce the spread of the virus within the community. The next North Florida MRC Orientation is scheduled for January 31st.

State Agricultural Response Team

ARPC staff serves as the planner for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services State Agricultural Response Team (SART). As the SART planner, staff assists with planning and documentation of monthly meetings as well as any additional SART activities. During December and January, staff assisted with tracking volunteer hours and drafting an After-Action Report for the response to Hurricane Irma.

**Regional Evacuation Zones**

ARPC staff continues to work with county emergency management agencies to update county evacuation zones and regional evacuation plans following Hurricane Irma. Staff will meet with emergency management directors after each LEPC meeting for continued coordination.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 4

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM – Kwentin Eastberg

Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program

ARPC staff has successfully completed the 2nd Quarter deliverables on the FY 17/18 TD Planning Grant from the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

The TD Local Coordinating Boards with the Community Transportation Coordinators (CTCs) for all eight counties will hold their respective 3rd Quarter meetings throughout the month of February. The TD meetings are public and all interested parties are invited and encouraged to attend. The 3rd quarter meetings will include the annual evaluation of each CTC along with standard board meeting items. Future meeting dates can be found on the following calendar.

General Transportation Planning

The Transportation Planning Program at the ARPC continues its involvement throughout the Region. Since the last Board meeting, ARPC staff has reached out to the Commuter Services of North Florida and the West Florida RPC Ride On program to discuss possible future partnerships when it comes to vanpooling or ride sharing option for the Region. ARPC staff also attended a meeting with FDOT transit programs personnel, Commuter Services of North Florida, WFRPC Ride On, and Enterprise Rental Car to discuss each program and determine where there might be possible overlap between each organization.

Other Items of Interest

ARPC staff volunteered at the Quincy Farm Share in Gadsden County on December 15th. This is a great event that provides food for needy families during the holidays and staff helped to bag up cans of corn and soy milk for needy families. The first car lined up at 8:00 pm, approximately 12 hours the night before the event just to be sure they could receive food. Other items included Powerade, fresh vegetables, bread, snacks, blankets and others necessary items. There were also folks from various organizations handing out flyers to people to offer further assistance.



ARPC staff, Kwentin Eastberg & Sara Thomas (not shown), preparing to load food supplies into the trunks of cars.

**Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards
2017 - 2018 Meeting Calendar**

COUNTY	SEPTEMBER 2017	NOVEMBER 2017	FEBRUARY 2018	JUNE 2018
Calhoun 1:00 PM CT Senior Center, 16859 NE Cayson Street, Blountstown	5 Tuesday	7 Tuesday	6 Tuesday	5 Tuesday
Franklin 10:00 AM ET Courthouse Annex, 33 Market Street, Apalachicola	6 Wednesday Update ***10:30 AM***	15 Wednesday	7 Wednesday	6 Wednesday
Gadsden 2:00 PM ET Edward J Butler Gov't Complex, 2 nd Floor Conf. Room, 9 B East Jefferson Street, Quincy	21 Thursday	30 Thursday ***Update*** Havana Public Library 203 5 th Ave E, Havana, FL	15 Thursday	21 Thursday
Gulf 1:00 PM ET Gulf Transp. Office, 122 Water Plant Road, Port St. Joe	6 Wednesday	15 Wednesday	7 Wednesday	6 Wednesday
Jackson 10:00 AM CT JTrans, 3988 Old Cottondale Road, Marianna	5 Tuesday	7 Tuesday	6 Tuesday	5 Tuesday
Jefferson 10:00 AM ET Commission Annex 435 West Walnut Street, Monticello	21 Thursday	30 Thursday	15 Thursday	21 Thursday
Liberty 3:30 PM ET Civic Center, 10405 NW Theo Jacobs Way, Bristol	5 Tuesday	7 Tuesday	6 Tuesday	5 Tuesday
Wakulla 10:00 AM ET Senior Citizens Center 33 Michael Drive, Crawfordville	18 **Monday**	13 **Monday** Update ***1:00PM***	14 Wednesday	20 Wednesday

AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 5

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROGRAM – Joe Crozier

Brownfields

ARPC staff attended the 2017 National Brownfields Training Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This conference, funded by the U.S. EPA, provided diverse and applicable brownfields training. Due to the scale and scope of the conference, information was available relevant to the Apalachee Region's economic and geographical circumstances. EPA representatives have planned to visit potential brownfields assessment sites in the Apalachee Region in January 2018.



The Carrie Furnaces are extremely rare examples of pre-World War II iron-making technology. Tourism of these National Historic Landmarks are a key economic stimulus for the Pittsburgh area.

Gulf of Mexico Alliance

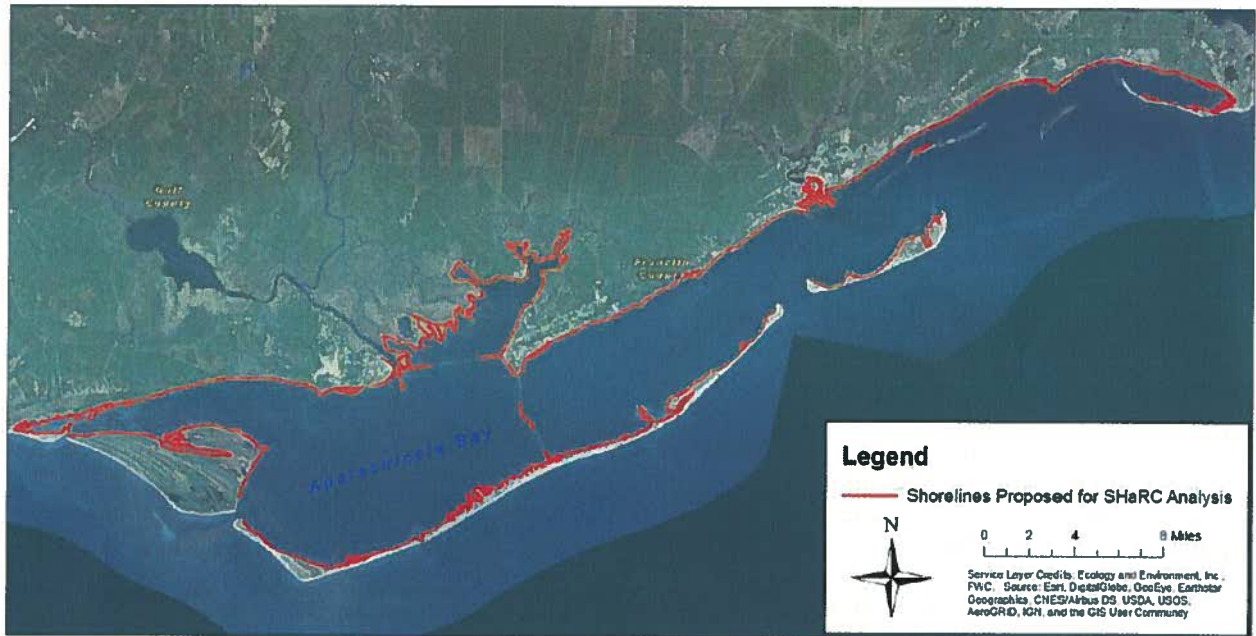
The ARPC was a sponsor for the Fall 2017 Gulf of Mexican Alliance (GOMA) Coastal Resilience Team meeting in Pensacola. The team has collaborated on projects that provide enhancements for coastal communities, ecosystems, and economies to become more resilient to coastal hazards. Pensacola's living shoreline project, known as Project GreenShores, was discussed and toured alongside other local resiliency projects and improvements.



The GOMA Coastal Resilience Team on the steps of the T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum. This museum is housed in the three-story Mediterranean Revival architecture of the former Pensacola City Hall and was built in 1907.

Florida Coastal Management Program

ARPC staff submitted a grant application to the Florida Coastal Management Program to complete a coastal resiliency and restoration analysis of the Apalachicola Bay shoreline. This analysis was designed to systematically develop a prioritized list of estuarine areas within the bay that are best suited (i.e., from an environmental, anthropogenic, and cost efficiency standpoint) for shoreline restoration/stabilization projects which upon implementation, will improve sustainability and protect vulnerable infrastructure and the communities that depend on it. Letters of support were provided by Franklin County, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Apalachicola Riverkeeper, and The Nature Conservancy.



Shoreline Habitats and Resilient Coasts (SHaRC) Project Area



Denise & Joe

November 22, 2017

Thank you both for all your hard work and time that was set aside to help us plan for the 2017 GOMA Coastal Resilience Fall Meeting.

We appreciate the sponsorship from the council and we could not have done it without you both.

Sincerely,
Daphne Vivrette Kristin Kapisiris

AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 6

CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. Wakulla County to Abandon Airport – November 2017
2. Carrabelle City Hall & Island View Park – November 2017
3. Apalachicola River Magic – November 2017
4. Triumph Application Updates Gulf & Franklin Counties – November 2017
5. Eastern Dry Dock Project / Gulf County – December 2017
6. Gadsden County Apprenticeship Forum – December 2017
7. FL Regional Councils Association Newsletters – November & December 2017

County to abandon airport

Citing liability issues thanks to statute changes, board to turn over county airport to Tarpine residents

By NANCY IMPERIALE
Senior Reporter

Wakulla County commissioners voted Monday night to abandon the county's ownership of the Wakulla County Airport in Panacea.

County officials will now be working with state transportation officials to transfer ownership to the

Tarpine Homeowners Association, which represents the fly-in community where the airport resides.

The vote is in response to changes in Chapter 333 of the Florida Statutes passed by last year's Florida Legislature concerning airport zoning regulations.

The changes were mostly minor, but one

provision now requires that if any government operates an airport and has not paid to conduct a noise study - which Wakulla has not - it must not allow houses or schools within an area measuring one-half the length of the runway on either side and at the ends.

So in Wakulla that means there are cur-

rently an estimated 287 properties in violation of the statute with a combined value of \$14.29 million in Tarpine, The Refuge at Panacea and Tarpon Shores subdivisions.

County Attorney Heather Encinosa met with state Department of Transportation officials "to discuss the possibility of a legislative modification

this year to allow the Wakulla Airport some leeway in complying with the state requirements," she told commissioners Monday.

"DOT indicated they had spent years working on this statutory rewrite and they didn't want to open it up again to the legislative process," Encinosa said.

So "unless the coun-

Turn to Page 3A

County to abandon airport

From Front Page

the Tarpine Homeowners Association.

The measure passed 5-0.

Tarpine Homeowners Association Vice President Steven Fults was not surprised by the vote.

"I think most everyone can agree the Florida Legislature really blundered when they updated Chapter 333," Fults said. "They never saw the unintended consequences of their actions. Too often this is the case with government regulations."

The Wakulla Airport sits on about 17 acres in Panacea. About 18 aircraft are based there, Fults said, and several pilots also leave cars there so they can "fly in, drop off their airplane, grab their car and spend a week or weekend," he said.

"We also have a lot of use

by the military and special ops groups," he added. "Blackhawk helicopters and a lot of the other special ops people like to use the airport."

There are about 30 homes in Tarpine right now, Fults estimated, but the community has more than 100 lots.

"Part of the problem with selling lots in there is, when you come to a fly-in community, you expect to find an airport," Fults said. "When prospective buyers in Wakulla find out the airport has a provisional license and its future is in limbo, so to speak, they pass and go to a fly-in community that has an airfield they own. So this is ultimately going to be a good thing for the county."

Fults said Tuesday that the homeowners in Tarpine hadn't discussed the vote yet but would be getting together soon.

"I can honestly say I tried

my best to keep the county airport a county airport," Fults added. "I can also honestly say I'm glad to see the change in ownership."

One resident appeared before commissioners to speak against the transfer.

"If anybody thinks the State of Florida is going to come in and shut down 200 [low-use] airports over noise, that's a fallacious thought," argued resident Clay Kuersteiner. "It's not going to happen..."

"If a noise study is done," he added, "they're going to find the greatest noise impacts to the area around the airport is Surf Road, the Ochlockonee Bay and the river with the boats going back and forth, the highway with the motorcycles and semis, and the airports all up in the marsh. The lowest impact noise-wise is actually going to be the airport."

CITY HALL

From Page A1

At the Nov. 2 Carrabelle city meeting, City Hall relocation was discussed for the 33rd time at a public assembly, but this time commissioners voted 3-2, with Mayor Brenda La Paz and Keith Walden opposed, to allow Allen and Mathes to continue to investigate the GUSC building for 30 days and bring a report back to the Dec. meeting.

The swing vote in the two polls was newly elected Commissioner Tony Millender.

"I much prefer the location of GUSC," he said. "I am not convinced about the (condition of the) facility. The GUSC building is 25-years old. I don't know if it has termites. I don't know if we'd have more dollars in the GUSC building (or the 12th Street location). I like the concept of the new building. I'm not an engineer but you can look at the GUSC building

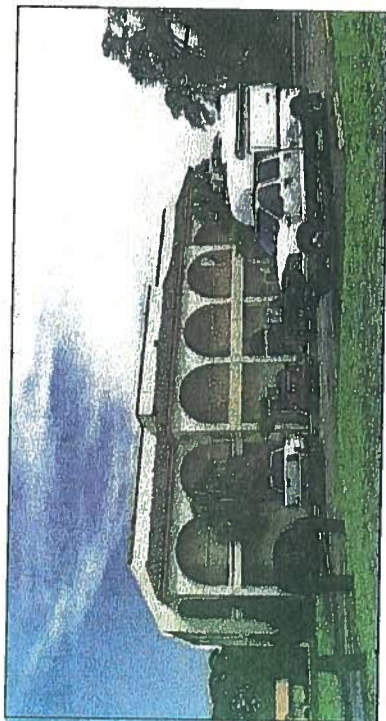
and see it's on higher property. "I've seen significant flooding in Carrabelle and I've never seen water on GUSC building. Property," Millender said.

He said he voted to support consideration of the GUSC site in November because public opinion seemed to support use of the GUSC building. At the latest meeting, Allen asked for further discussion of the GUSC building, saying that Bruce Roberts, chief financial officer for GUSC had contacted him and offered to negotiate.

In an interview after the city meeting, Allen said he told Roberts to make his best offer as he would not be given a second chance. Allen said Roberts told him the building was about to go into foreclosure.

La Paz argued against further consideration of the GUSC building.

"How can we get an engineer and architect in there in 30 days?" she asked. "We know the price is going to



Could the former GUSC corporate headquarters become the new Carrabelle City Hall? [LOIS SWOBODA | THE TIMES]

come back less (than the 12th Street building) but will we be comparing apples to apples? I have said (12th Street) is not the ideal location but it is located at the 'gateway to the city'."

Allen told commissioners, "We don't know the cost of upgrading the GUSC building. I've heard talk on the street that the building is in bad shape. There are others, including the county building inspector, who say it's fine."

He argued the building

would provide enough space to house city offices on the first floor, and thus did not require an elevator for compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. He said the upper floor could provide space for storage or be rented out as office space to generate income.

The GUSC building contains four offices and a small conference room on the first floor as well as a vault which could be used for sequestering property impounded by police and

a large central lobby that could be used as a meeting room. There is also a drive-through building located at the front of the property.

Allen said the 12th Street property proposed for City Hall contains wetlands which might pose a problem during wet weather. He said Roberts volunteered to pay to have the GUSC building inspected for termite infestation and structural integrity.

"I feel the public would appreciate a referendum. I have no doubt the public would prefer the GUSC building," Allen said.

Walden said he believed it was too late to change plans for a new City Hall. "I wish Mr. (Bruce) McCormick had come in (with an offer) six months ago, but he didn't."

Allen responded, "What do you do if you're driving to New York City and find out you've taken the wrong road? Do you keep going or do you turn around and go in the right direction?"

Work underway on Island View Park

By Lois Swoboda
The Apalachicola Times
lswoboda@starfl.com
850-653-1819

Equipment is now at work on the site of the old El's Court Motel, east of Carrabelle, converting the vacant land into the much-anticipated Island View Park.

At the Nov. 7 county meeting, former County Planner Alan Pierce outlined to commissioners the funding source for the upgrade. He said that, while the county does not normally spend money to acquire new property, he was informed of a grant for wetlands preservation by Doug Hattaway, a senior project manager for the Trust for Public Lands.

Hattaway told Pierce about federal funding earmarked to preserve coastal hammocks, i.e. groves of deciduous trees predominated by oaks. The El's Court site is surrounded by coastal hammock, which has been designated as an endangered ecosystem.

Hattaway urged Pierce to seek the funding rather than allow the rare biome to be purchased by commercial developers.

Pierce said another consideration in acquiring the property was public safety, since US 98 makes a

A16 Thursday, November 16, 2017 | The Times

EL COURT

From Page A1

dangerous bend there where fatal accidents have occurred. He said a park will draw less traffic than a commercial site.

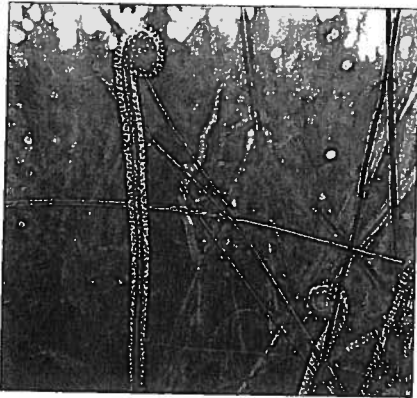
Pierce said initially all the county had to do to qualify for 100 percent funding for the purchase was plant oak trees in the open area. But later he became aware of additional state funding which would pay for improvements to the site including installation of pavers, creation of a parking lot and repair of the docks. The main uses of the park will be as a launch for paddlers, fishing and net-casting.

He said the improvements to the park are funded by money from the Deepwater Horizon legal settlement, one of five such projects in the Panhandle.

Pierce said he had tried to access the same state funding in aid of street relocation on Alligator Point but was unable to do so.

"These are two sources of funding that just happened to become available at the right time. We have never been able to access them before," he said.

See EL COURT, A16



The Apalachicola River winds approximately 110 miles from the bottom of a dam on the Florida-Georgia line to the Gulf of Mexico. Along its course, it carves through immense bluffs peppered with the bones of ancient marine mammals, meanders past forests that seem to stretch to infinity, snakes through a labyrinth of dark floodplain forest and, ultimately, pours into the Gulf of Mexico where it nourishes one of the most productive estuaries on earth.

LEFT: A carnivorous sundew unfurls its leaves to snare flying insects. RIGHT: Peter holds a brown water snake while paddling up a tributary of the Apalachicola River. LIZ SPARKS PHOTOS



DISCOVER A LITTLE APALACHICOLA MAGIC RIGHT HERE IN THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE

I don't know about you, but when I'm out in nature, I'm seeking moments of magic. These are instances when time seems to freeze and the most basic, but powerful, emotions take over once nature decides to spontaneously pull the curtain back and unveil something extraordinary.

These days, I'm based in Tallahassee where the opportunities to encounter a magical experience seem limitless. Perhaps this is true, but I'm going to let you in on a little secret. Your likelihood of being mystified by the natural world increases significantly the closer you get to a river that I have fallen deeply in love with: the Apalachicola.

The Apalachicola River winds approximately 110 miles from the bottom of a dam on the Florida-Georgia line to the Gulf of Mexico. Along its course, it carves through immense bluffs peppered with the bones of ancient marine mammals, meanders past forests that seem to stretch to infinity, snakes through a labyrinth of dark floodplain forest and, ultimately, pours into the Gulf of Mexico where it nourishes one of the most productive estuaries on earth.

Not surprisingly, a rich diversity of life finds a home in and along the Apalachicola. In fact, the Apalachicola Basin has been labeled as one of only six biodiversity hotspots in the United States. Two tree species, the critically endangered Florida torreya and the slightly less rare Florida yew, live only in the steep woodlands along the eastern edge of the river's 10 or so miles downstream from the dam. Over 40 species of reptiles and amphibians call the surrounding area home. The endemic, bright-orange fireback crayfish, the secretive torreya trapdoor spider and the widest diversity of carnivorous plants in the U.S. round out the fascinating species list in this sliver of Florida.

This life serves as a magnet for me whenever I get the urge to wander (always). I spend a lot of my free time driving the dirt roads that traverse Apalachicola National Forest, taking friends on hikes in the region and donating blood in the depths of the floodplain swamps that line the river. These moments, with the

BY PETER KLEINHENZ
Interpretive Writer and Planner
with the Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

exception of mosquito encounters, are fantastic, but they aren't magic. For that, I need to take you a bit farther downstream.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) manages 63,257 acres of the lower Apalachicola River in aptly named Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area (ARWEA). It doesn't get much more wild than this in Florida. Wet prairie, pine flatwoods and miles of swamp only accessible by boat define this protected area. It was in the latter region where one of my most memorable magic moments in Florida took place.

I was paddling down Saul's Creek, a sizable tributary of the Apalachicola, in a kayak next to my co-worker, Liz Sparks. We were scouting "Trip 12," the newest of 12 paddling trails available within ARWEA. While days like that really don't feel like work, there was, in fact, work to be done. Liz and I needed to check out smaller tributaries that fed the creek to see if any made sense as side trips. With the sun's rays kept in check by a light breeze, we turned our boats to the northeast and made our way up Johnson Creek.

An open canopy of tupelo, bald cypress and cabbage palm rapidly closed. Trees bent over the sluggish brown water, shading the bright, happy day into one that was quieter and more introspective. Liz hung back behind me 30 or 40 feet. All was silent, save for the wind tickling the leaves and the sound of paddles slicing through the water. The width of the creek became inversely proportional to the size of the cypress trees that rose up from the muck around us. This was wild.

We stopped when the stream became so shallow that we had to scoot across fallen tree trunks. A few small rivulets emanated from the depths of the swamp. Liz followed one. I stayed put.

With no sounds of traffic, planes or other people, my mind wandered. How many people had been back here lately? There were no beer cans, no discarded fishing line and, really, no sign of people whatsoever. As such, it was easy to go back in time.

I imagined being in the same spot 200 years before. My eyes scanned the trunks of the larger cypress trees as I pictured an ivory-billed woodpecker emerging from the swampy shadows to land on one of them. Ah, what it must have been like to have had this silence broken by a flock of screeching Carolina parakeets feeding in the canopy above. Surely, it was not uncommon for Native Americans to quietly paddle up this swampy backwater in pursuit of fish and game. For just a few minutes, the species and people that have long fascinated me were present, in spirit if not in form. It was magic.

Liz came back into view. She too must have had a reflective moment, since we exchanged few words until we arrived back in the main channel of Johnson Creek. The water carried us away from this place, a place that has managed to stay with me far longer than I thought a swamp ever could.

In an age when even earth's wildest places are changing, it's comforting to know that at least one window to the past remains clear. Sure, much of the Apalachicola Basin has undergone significant change over the years. But, in this forgotten corner deep within ARWEA, the past and present seem one and the same. That, to me, is magic.

While you can certainly visit Trip 12 like I did, 11 other paddling trips permit access to much of ARWEA, where magic moments can be plentiful. Several other paddling trails exist throughout the state. With cooler weather upon us, there is no better time to explore a wildlife management area near you. Whether you're a hunter, photographer, bicyclist or simply want to experience a moment of magic yourself, you can help us celebrate 75 years of Florida wildlife management areas by checking out a wildlife management area this fall. See you out there!

Triumph application to focus on port

By Tim Croft

The Port St. Joe Star
850-227-7827 | @PSJ_Star
tcroft@starfl.com

The Port of Port St. Joe has for years been identified as a key component to unlocking the region's economic development.

Triumph Gulf Coast has for two years been identified as a potential funding source for doing just that.

The county, joined by the Port St. Joe Port Authority, will submit two projects for consideration during

Triumph's pre-application window a request for funding to assist Eastern Shipbuilding in it plans to expand into Gulf County.

"We all believe that standing up this port, getting it operational, is transformational, not only transformational for the county but transformational for the region," said Warren Yeager, executive director of the Gulf County Economic Development Coalition.

And "transformational change" is the mantra of Triumph Gulf Coast,

established by the Florida Legislature to oversee the disbursement of some \$1.5 billion across an eight-county region in the next 15 years.

Triumph currently has the first \$300 million installment of the BP fine dollars, 5 percent of which is earmarked each of the eight counties, including Gulf.

Each county will have an annual piece of 4 percent in the ensuing years; those county allocations represent, in total, just 40 percent of the funding Triumph Gulf

Coast will receive.

The Triumph board, which includes Jason Shoaf of Port St. Joe, established the pre-application process last month as a mandatory step for funding out of that first-year allocation.

Yeager said the county would pursue the nearly the entire \$15 million, with the hope of leveraging into additional Triumph dollars from the 60 percent represented by the county allocations.

See PORT, A5

PORT

Continued from A1

Those dollars would be directed toward establishing a floating dry dock along the federally-authorized shipping channel, a project carrying an estimated cost of \$20-\$30 million.

Earlier this year, the county received a state appropriation of \$5 million toward the dry dock, with an additional \$1 million in state dollars for dredging around the dry dock.

The dry dock is seen as the final step toward the long-proposed expansion of Eastern Shipbuilding operations into Gulf County.

Having the BOCC and Port Authority join together on the pre-application is considered another positive.

The two municipalities as well as Gulf District Schools have all submitted letters in support of the proposal.

Eastern has leased from the St. Joe Company a portion of the bulkhead on the former paper mill site for several years

and also owns land along the Intracoastal that was formerly a proposed barge terminal for the Port St. Joe Port Authority.

During a special meeting on Tuesday, the BOCC formally received from Eastern officials an "unsolicited proposal" under a Florida statute aimed at facilitating public-private partnerships for economic development.

The proposal is largely exempt from public records, but in short strokes it would be the entry to a partnership by which the county would construct and own the floating dry dock with Eastern as the operator.

Tuesday the BOCC established an advertising and public comment timeline, with the proposal to be taken up in more detail next month.

The expansion of Eastern is seen by local officials as the quickest way to kick-starting port development, a shorter and more direct route than dredging of the shipping channel with the hope that the collaboration between St. Joe and the Port Authority bears additional fruit.

The company and agency each have one client, the same client,

an international shipper of wood chips.

The company is leasing a portion of the paper mill site bulkhead from St. Joe as well as a portion of the former Arizona Chemical property from the Port Authority.

One of the mandates in the Triumph legislation is that county commissions consult with other local governing bodies, and partner where feasible, on Triumph projects and applications.

Industrial Park lease

County commissioners approved on Tuesday a lease agreement with Cherokee Air for the Industrial Park in Dalkeith.

Empty the past three years, the Industrial Park has been deemed to the county by U.S. Rural Development.

Cherokee Air entered into a three-year lease agreement, paying \$2,200 a month.

The company will create 15 new jobs at the facility and is examining options for expanding its operations in the county.

The BOCC also granted Cherokee a right of first refusal to purchase the Industrial Park.

Port Authority joins county Triumph application

By Tim Croft

The Port St. Joe Star | 850-227-7827
@PSJ_Star | tucroft@starfl.com

Strength in numbers, ducks in a row, pick one and apply it to last week's action by the Port St. Joe Port Authority.

A newly-constituted board approved co-sponsorship with the Board of County Commissioners of an

application to the Triumph Gulf Coast board aimed at kick-starting development at the Port of Port St. Joe.

The application seeks at least \$15 million, the county's direct allocation from the first year of Triumph funding, to construct a dry dock to be used by Eastern Shipbuilding.

The dry dock, 120-foot wide and 400-foot long, would be constructed in the

turning basin of the shipping channel, directly off the bulkhead on the former paper mill site, according to preliminary specs.

In very simple terms, Eastern would construct hulls on the dock, which would then be lowered to allow the hull to sail to another yard for fitting.

The dry dock could also be used to fit or repair ships. Eastern is expected to

advertise and bid on the design of the facility shortly, said Port Authority chair Guerry Magidson.

Eastern would build the dry dock, which would be jointly owned by the county and Port Authority.

Magidson said an operational agreement among the parties, Eastern, St. Joe Company (owner of

See BOARD, A7

BOARD

From Page A1

of the mill site and bulkhead, county and Port Authority, was being drafted and would spell out the operations and responsibilities connected to the dry dock.

He added that the agreement will include incentives for Eastern, which announced more than five years ago expansion into Gulf County, to create jobs, the more jobs the lower the lease payments on the dry dock, Magidson said.

At some point in the coming months, the plan must be presented to the public for a comment period, according to county attorney Jeremy Novak.

The first phase of the Triumph process was a pre-application due this week; the

pre-application is being used by the Triumph board to analyze eligibility of individual projects.

The Triumph board last week agreed to hire a consultant to assist with that analysis.

The leading candidate was the head of the Haas Institute at the University of West Florida, which examines economic trends in Northwest Florida.

The Institute has also performed past studies to assess the potential for economic development through the Port of Port St. Joe.

Co-sponsoring the pre-application highlights that the county and Port Authority need each other to fully develop the port.

The county has assets in staff and funding, as well as the final say over applications to Triumph Gulf Coast, and the Port Authority offers access to state transportation infrastructure dollars the

county could not apply for or receive.

The dry dock is seen as the most direct path to sparking port development and effectively puts dredging, the shipping channel, for which permits were secured nearly two years ago, on the "back burner," Magidson said.

The most significant hurdle to dredging in the short-term was the \$50-plus million price tag for dredging and construction of spoil disposal infrastructure.

That price tag has caused state officials to balk, Magidson said, especially compared to the price tag of the dry dock, which is estimated at half that.

Magidson said he was continuing to pursue the possibility of federal funding for the dredging and said if the permits, which sunset in five years, lapse before dredging begins re-application should be easier than the initial

application.

Further, Magidson pointed to a recently-completed Freight Logistics Zone declaration for Gulf counties, which highlights the value to the region and the state of the Port of Port St. Joe.

The goal of the study that produced the declaration was to provide opportunities for state investment in the region's rail corridor, which links among other assets the Apalachicola Airport and the port.

"That is the centerpiece, the port," Magidson said.

On another front, officials with the Port Authority's tenant, International Wood Group, indicated they could begin shipping out of the port in the first quarter of 2018, Magidson said.

A road connecting the former Arizona Chemical site to the paper mill property bulkhead is

we are going to have jobs soon," Magidson said. "And we should see activity at the port in the first quarter of next year."

New board

With two new members, Patrick Farrell and Steve Newman, the Port Authority, full for the first time in months, elected officers for the coming year.

Magidson will remain as chairman with Matt Terry the vice-chair. Jessica Rish will continue as treasurer with Newman secretary.

nearly complete.

The company, an international shipper of wood pellets, has agreed to foot half the cost of improvements to the industrial scales, fencing, lighting and fire suppression equipment on the Arizona Chemical site.

The Florida Department of Transportation is paying the other half of the \$72,000 cost.

St. Joe Company also reported continued interest in companies wishing to locate at the port.

"I am very optimistic

Triumph outlines stricter terms

Matching funds, accountability required

By Lois Swoboda
The Apalachicola Times
lswoboda@starfl.com
850-653-1819

Local officials watched an eye-opening presentation on Triumph funding earlier this month, where they learned local projects will require some tweaking to qualify.

On Nov. 7, Triumph's General Counsel Scott Remington visited the county to clarify the expectations and goal of the Triumph board.

In order to apply for Triumph funding, he told county commissioners, applicants must file a preapplication, which Triumph will assess and return with suggestions for bringing the project more in line with the goals of the program.



Parrish



Pierce



Remington

Preapplications need not be vetted by the county before being reviewed by Triumph, but final applications will receive higher priority consideration if they are recommended by the county commission.

Susan Skelton, executive director of Triumph, had initially announced that to be considered

for funding at the December Triumph meeting, preapplications needed to be received on or before Nov. 15.

At the local meeting,

Remington said there is no tight timeline for application for funding, and that it is unlikely any projects will be awarded funds before next year. "This is just one opportunity to apply. There will be many more," he said.

Remington assured the assembly that \$15 million is earmarked for Franklin County but said projects must meet Triumph criteria and there is no mandate to award the grants within a set period of time.

Commissioner Smokey Parrish, who has represented the county at meetings relating to the Deepwater Horizon settlements including Triumph, said he believed Triumph would attempt to award the funds in a timely fashion to demonstrate to the state legislature the program is running efficiently.

See TRIUMPH, A2

TRIUMPH

From Page A1

"The law made Triumph and the law can take it away if we are not good stewards," said Remington. "There's no telling what will happen at the next meeting of the state legislature." He Remington told attendees the general category of economic development was removed from the goals of Triumph at the last board meeting.

He said the general mission of Triumph is to maximize estimated economic benefits for the region, increase household income to a level above the national average, and leverage or further enhance regional resources, including schools, military installations and research facilities.

He said a successful proposal will partner with local government, tourism development organizations or educational institutions; benefit the environment and have clearly measurable outcomes

to allow Triumph to assess the success of the venture.

Triumph funds cannot be used to replace funding already awarded by another grantor, for example, from the state or from an agency of the federal government.

Most important, projects must provide matching funds and the required match could be more than 100 percent of the money requested from Triumph. He said an in-kind match, or funds from another grant or government program might be acceptable, and that he did not believe any proposal lacking matching funds would be awarded.

Remington said it was likely Triumph funds would be meted out only after the match had been spent and the proposal had demonstrated it was viable.

He said Triumph hopes to leverage the available \$1.5 billion to be invested into \$5 billion or even \$10 billion of regional economic impact.

In addition, Triumph projects must demonstrate long-term impact. If a proposal promises to create 30

jobs, the jobs must continue to exist once the Triumph money has been spent. If a proposal proves unsustainable in the long term, Triumph can ask that funds awarded be repaid.

Remington said before funds are awarded, each recipient will sign a contract specifying the role they will play in the plan for the expected outcome of the proposal.

Projects could provide an ad valorem tax reduction for a class of individuals but not for individual businesses.

"Triumph doesn't want to see winners and losers," he said. Impact fees for new development or businesses cannot be paid with Triumph funds. Infrastructure projects may be funded but not to benefit a specific employer.

Disaster response and recovery projects will be considered. Projects are expected to employ current residents whenever possible.

Although specific companies cannot be benefited by Triumph projects a few target industries will receive

preferential consideration: aerospace technology, defense technology, financial services, transportation, artificial intelligence, cyber security, information technology, manufacturing and robotics. Remington said Triumph will seek to promote "industry clusters" similar to North Carolina's "Technology Triangle" and "Silicon Valley" on the West Coast.

Remington said applicants to Triumph would benefit from studying the "Development of a Regional Economic Transformation Strategy" posted online by "Florida's Great Northwest."

Remington said Triumph is in the process of selecting an economic advisor; a scoring entity and an economist who will advise the governing board on matters including the average wage and household income in the Panhandle.

He advised entities seeking Triumph funds to seek guidance from an economist and/or an expert as well.

The three rural counties of greatest opportunity,

Franklin, Gulf and Wakulla can access Triumph funds to be spent on experts to help with their planning, engineering and preparation for additional funding.

All minutes, agendas etc. are posted online at My Florida Triumph.com, as are the proposals submitted as of Nov. 15.

Cities, schools also to apply for funds

Eleven preapplications are listed to have originated in Franklin County, with a total tally of \$18.33 million.

Five are from Apalachicola's municipal government, and these include \$2.66 million for improvements to the city's water system; \$1.75 million to renovate the former Apalachicola High School a.k.a. The Van Johnson Center for Excellence; \$900,000 to construct a solar power farm; \$400,000 to construct and renovate affordable housing; and \$500,000 to expand and update dockage in the city.

See TRIUMPH, A6

Eastern dry dock project moves forward

By Tim Croft

The Port St. Joe Star
850-227-7827 | @PSJ_Star
tcroft@starfl.com

The Board of County Commissioners during a special meeting on Tuesday, formally moved ahead a project to construct a dry dock facility at the Port of Port St. Joe.

The dry dock would be constructed by Eastern Shipbuilding, which would operate the facility under a

lease arrangement with the county.

The county would be the owner of the facility.

And to ensure that the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. board understands the county's priority, commissioners unanimously approved a resolution that establishes the dry dock project as the county's only project for consideration from first-year Triumph funding.

"We're trying to drive

jobs," said Commissioner Phil McCroan. "We all need to get behind this project.

"We've gotta have it. For anybody to not see that something is wrong."

The resolution was in part, assistant county administrator Michael Hammon said, based on letters of support from both municipalities, the Port St. Joe Port Authority and Gulf District Schools.

All have signed off in support of the dry dock project,

though those entities have also discussed applications for Triumph funding.

Tuesday's resolution reiterated that for county commissioners, the dry dock is the only project up for funding, at least this year.

"It is our No. 1 and only project," Hammond said.

Further, the county also approved the framework of a joint operating

See EASTERN, A2

agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation which will allow the county to access a \$6 million legislative appropriation earmarked for the dry dock project.

Under a state statute facilitating the creation of a public-private partnership, this one between county and Eastern Shipbuilding, much information remain confidential and proprietary.

In broad strokes, the dry dock would be 120-feet by 400-feet and constructed within the turning basin of the federally-authorized shipping channel off the bulkhead on the former paper mill site.

The legislative appropriation includes \$1 million for dredging the area around the dry dock to a depth of 45-feet, according to required advertisement for the project.

Cost estimates have eclipsed \$25 million, though the final price tag will be known after engineering and design.

That work was the subject of board action Tuesday.

Commissioners approved putting out a request for qualifications for engineering and design of the dry dock and additionally will seek request for qualifications for an engineering firm to serve as inspector to the design work, essentially serving as the county's engineer for the project.

Hammond said the dollars for engineering and design, he estimated \$700,000, would be coming from the state appropriation.

In addition, county attorney Jeremy Novak said he would continue to work with Eastern representatives on a "comprehensive" agreement governing the construction and operation of the dry dock.

Responding to public questions, Novak said Eastern would be responsible for future maintenance of the dry dock and Eastern officials have indicated use of the dry dock does not solely depend on the success and future of a \$10 billion Coast Guard contract Eastern is working under.

The lease structure, Novak added, would be structured around job creation. The dry dock facility, Hammond added, was never seen as a revenue-generator for the county.

"The hope is they will create enough jobs... that it will be a job engine," Hammond said.

Eastern's lease payments would be based on jobs created, with more jobs meaning smaller lease payments, fewer jobs translating into higher lease payments.

"It is all tied to jobs and to a specific number of jobs," Novak said.

The final agreement and specifics of the lease arrangement will be subject to public review and comment as the project moves ahead.

The county is seeking \$15 million, the entirety of the first-year base payment due the county, from Triumph Gulf Coast, the board established to disburse some \$1.2 billion in BP fine dollars in eight Northwest Florida counties.

"2018 is going to see a big jump-stawrt to this county," said Commissioner Ward McDaniel.

Students and Employers Share Experiences at the Gadsden County Development Council December 18 Apprenticeship Forum

On December 18, the GCDC held an Apprenticeship Forum at Creek Entertainment Gretna.

Attendees were greeted by Gadsden County BOCC Chairwoman **Brenda Holt**, BOCC Vice Chair **Dr. Anthony Viegbesie**, and Gadsden Commissioner **Eric Hinson**, who also serves as one of three elected officials who direct CareerSource Capital Region.

Over 40 individuals representing employers, career seekers, higher education, workforce development and state and local governments gathered to learn more about the value to both career seekers and employers in the expanded area of apprenticeships.



Left, Robin Barber and right, William Alexander of All Pro

Ms. Angela Sapp, Director of Career & Technical Education at Gadsden Technical Institute introduced successful Apprenticeships through her program. Students and managers from Super Lube, All Pro Equipment, and CalMaine Foods provided testimony to the valuable 'earn while you learn' program afforded through Apprenticeships.



Left, Cristian Castenada and right, Jimmy Weeks of Gadsden Technical Institute

A panel including **Elisia Norton**, Director of ApprenticeshipUSA from CareerSource Florida, **Ted Norman**, State Director of Apprenticeships for FL Department of Education and **Dr. Sylvia Jackson**, Director of Secondary Education for Gadsden County Public Schools was moderated by **Jim McShane**, CEO of CareerSource Capital Region. The panel shared a new statewide grant that will allow Florida to expand the industries using Apprenticeships from the traditional construction trades to include Advanced Manufacturing, IT and Healthcare.

Attendees also learned the value of Registered Apprenticeship programs that have private sector Apprenticeship Sponsors.

Beginning in January, staff from the GCDC, FL DOE, and CareerSource Capital Region will work with Gadsden Technical Institute to formally register their Apprenticeship program. They will also seek conversations with area employers to identify apprenticeship sponsors and apprenticeship openings.





GCDC Chairman Antonio Jefferson named Florida Economic Development Council's
Richard L. McLaughlin Volunteer of the Year

On December 13 at the Rural Economic Development Summit held in St. Augustine, GCDC Chairman **Antonio Jefferson** received the Florida Economic Development Council's Richard L. McLaughlin Volunteer of the Year award for the Northwest Florida Region.

The award was presented to Mr. Jefferson by **Richard Williams, Executive Director of Opportunity Florida**.

Please join the GCDC in congratulating Antonio when you see him and thanking him for his service to both Opportunity Florida and the Gadsden County Development Council.

North Florida Second Chance Employer Summit

Tuesday, January 23, 2018
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Tallahassee, FL

Turn someone's life around with a second chance at a job.
Learn from employers, law enforcement representatives, and community partners about the benefits of hiring a formerly incarcerated individual.

For more information, call **Amy Alexander or Ken Tucker** at [\(850\) 942-8430](tel:8509428430)



FORWARD

A monthly update from Florida's Regional Planning Councils



West Florida RPC Hosts 2017 Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium



The Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium provides a forum for leadership in transportation to explore cross-organization collaboration, develop lasting local and regional partnerships, share best

practices, and give innovators a platform to inspire others. This event brings professionals and policy-makers together to openly discuss ways to adapt current transportation issues into innovative and improved economic and environmental realities.

On November 8-9, more than 150 attendees gathered at the Sheraton Bay Point Resort in Panama City Beach to attend the 2017 Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium hosted by WFRPC. A diverse and unique collection of panel discussions and special speakers filled the day-and-a-half event with valuable and cutting-edge information on topics including complete streets, public transportation, intelligent transportation systems, emerging transportation technologies, public involvement, tourism, freight, and more.

Special guest speakers included Jay Trumbull, Chairman, Florida Transportation Commission and Phillip Gainer, P.E., Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation, District 3. Keynote speakers were Dr. Monica Scamardo of Variate Consulting and Michael Willis of Color Nine Group, LLC.

Apalachee RPC Partners with the Big Bend Continuum of Care

The Apalachee RPC recently became the federally designated collaborative applicant for the Big Bend Continuum of Care (CoC), a regional organization that promotes the coordination of community-wide goals of ending homelessness. This includes providing funding efforts to quickly re-house homeless individuals and families. Additionally, the CoC promotes access to mainstream program benefits to support self-sufficiency.



ARPC staff worked closely with the CoC Board for several months to ensure a smooth transition and the new partnership was completed in June of 2017. This arrangement allows the Apalachee RPC to serve as the umbrella agency for the CoC and to provide their employees work space and administrative services. The CoC region overlaps most of the Apalachee RPC region and through the use of shared resources, there is increased potential to collaborate on funding opportunities to address community needs. The ARPC is proud to partner with the CoC and is looking forward to working with our new friends.

Tampa Bay RPC Hosts AFTER THE STORM: A Forum to Develop a Legislative Action Plan for Recovery

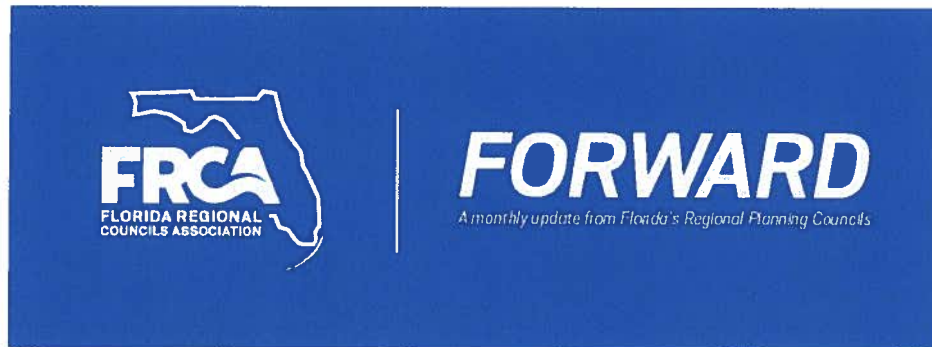
On November 13th the Tampa Bay RPC hosted AFTER THE STORM: A Forum to Develop a Legislative Action Plan for Recovery to on November 13th at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg. The Forum provided a venue for local elected officials and members of the Tampa Bay RPC to interact with local Emergency Management professionals, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Economic Development Administration to identify legislative action items to assist communities during recovery after a major storm event.



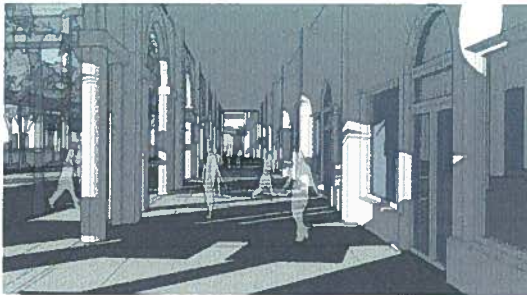
At the request of our member governments, the Forum was designed to offer a venue for local government elected officials to share experiences or challenges faced before, during and after Hurricane Irma with a goal of developing initiatives for a legislative action plan that will be submitted to the Governor and

the Bay Area Legislative Delegation (BALD) for consideration.

The Council recognizes the challenges Hurricane Irma presented to the Tampa Bay region and is desirous of assisting member governments by identifying specific needs that can be conveyed to the State Legislature as the Fiscal year 2018 budget is being developed.



Treasure Coast RPC Assists with Area Master Plan



Arcade View of New TRCL Commuter Station

The Treasure Coast RPC is working with the City of Delray Beach on a Tri-Rail Station Area Master Plan Charette. The Tri-Rail Coastal Link (TRCL) commuter rail project is currently anticipated to include up to twenty-

five stations along the Florida East Coast Railway Corridor between the City of Miami and the Town of Jupiter. Establishing transit-oriented development (TOD) land use patterns along the corridor and around these stations is a local decision and critical to the success of passenger rail service.

Working together, the Treasure Coast and South Florida Regional Planning Councils were recently awarded a \$1.25 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration to work with motivated local governments in the corridor on community planning and land use activities supporting TOD. Seven cities along the TRCL commuter rail corridor were selected to receive TOD planning services through a competitive grant process, which required a local funding match.



Axonometric View of TRCL Station Area Mixed-Use Development Proposal

Land use, zoning code, urban design, and visioning work began in August 2017 with the City of Delray Beach's Station Area Master Plan Charrette. The charrette consisted of seven days of public involvement and community engagement activities resulting in a TOD master plan for the station area. Assessments were also provided for the station area related to water/sewer infrastructure capacity, affordable housing, bicycle/pedestrian connectivity, and opportunities to develop a TOD business fund to generate a sustainable revenue stream for operations and maintenance.



TRCL Commuter Station Site Plan

Other cities selected under the grant include:

- City of Wilton Manors Station Area Plan
- City of Miami TOD Overlay Zones
- City of Hollywood Station Area Master Plan Charrette
- City of North Miami Beach Station Area Plan
- City of Oakland Park TOD Form-Based Code
- City of Palm Beach Gardens Station Area Plan

All work is expected to be completed by June 2019.

Heartland Regional Transportation Disadvantaged Summit

On November 15, 2017, the Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) hosted the Heartland Regional Transportation Disadvantaged Summit with the Central Florida RPC and the Southwest Florida RPC. The event brought together staff, volunteers, users of the system, community partners, and interested citizens.

Executive Director of the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, Steve Holmes, began the Summit with a discussion on the future of the coordinated system, changing customer expectations, emerging technologies, and ability to manage a cost-efficient system. The Summit also created a forum for attendees to learn about the services provided throughout the region and the Heartland Rural Mobility Plan that is currently being updated by FDOT District One.

The Heartland Counties of DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee are brought together as members of the HRTPO to provide regional transportation planning. Within these six counties, the rural public transportation and the Transportation Disadvantaged program is operated through two Designated Official Planning Agencies, three Local Coordinating Boards, two Community Transportation Coordinators, and many service providers. The Central Florida RPC provides staff services to the HRTPO.

U.S. Department of Commerce Supports Disaster Recovery Efforts in Florida



The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding \$943,000 in grants to support five disaster economic recovery coordinator positions that will work to support economic recovery efforts in Florida in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

"The Commerce Department is working diligently to provide aid to local businesses and communities after this year's tragic hurricane season," said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. "Along with the efforts of local partners, the entire Administration has endeavored to ensure that American communities will not be left behind after a devastating disaster strikes."

The investments announced today include:

- \$200,000 to the Northeast Florida Regional Council of Jacksonville, Florida,
- \$200,000 to the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council of Fort Myers, Florida
- \$200,000 to the Central Florida Regional Planning Council of Bartow, Florida
- \$174,704 to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council of Orlando, Florida
- \$168,000 to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council of Pinellas Park, Florida

The grants will go toward the hire of a Disaster Recovery Coordinator for each locality who will support enhanced recovery efforts by helping coordinate the efforts of local governments, economic development organizations, and individual business. This project will also provide direct assistance in navigating and accessing the myriad of resources, available from multiple participants, to aid in recovery and resilience activities.



EVALUATION OF 2017 ARPC GOALS

I. Return financial stability to the Council		Not Achieved	Partially Achieved	Achieved	Notes
a.	Restore the Operating Budget to the historical level of \$60,000 in reserves.		X		Began FY 2018 with \$19,500 in reserves. Should see significant progress in 2018.
II. Educate and market the Council's services and capabilities to member counties and municipalities		Not Achieved	Partially Achieved	Achieved	Notes
a.	Develop a new logo to help rebrand the Council			X	Logo completed and well received.
b.	Create an annual report that summarizes the programs and the accomplishments of the Council	X			Lack of available ARPC staff time to work on the task.
c.	Prepare and distribute a Regional Directory which includes all of the Region's local governments and other regional partners		X		Regional Directory almost finished. Will be distributed in the first quarter.
d.	As funding permits, attend at least one BOCC meeting per month for each of our nine-county members to better understand local and regional issues			X	Consistent effort made by ARPC staff to attend BCC meetings on a regular basis, but conflicts sometimes arise.
III. Grow and expand the capabilities of the Council		Not Achieved	Partially Achieved	Achieved	Notes
a.	Establish a Rural Transportation Planning Organization for the rural counties within the Region not represented by the CRTPA	X			FDOT is currently studying how rural counties are served/underserved and will provide recommendations in near future.
b.	Determine the feasibility of becoming a Local Area Program (LAP) Certified entity to assist the Region's local governments in need			X	Not feasible with current funding and staffing levels.
c.	Expand the RLF Program by increasing the principal base with USDA funds	X			Currently applying for USDA RBDG funds.

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Serving Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson,
Liberty, Leon and Wakulla counties and their municipalities



Proposed 2018 Apalachee Regional Planning Council Goals

- I. Return financial stability to the Council
 - a. Restore the Operating Budget to the historical level of \$60,000 in reserves
- II. Educate and market the Council's services and capabilities to member counties and municipalities
 - ~~a. Develop a new logo to help rebrand the Council~~
 - b. Create an annual report that summarizes the programs and the accomplishments of the Council
 - c. Prepare and distribute a Regional Directory which includes all of the Region's local governments and other regional partners
 - ~~d. As funding permits, attend at least one BOCC meeting per month for each of our nine county members to better understand local and regional issues~~
- III. Grow and expand the capabilities of the Council
 - a. Establish a Rural Transportation Planning Organization for the rural counties within the Region not represented by the CRTPA
 - b. Expand the RLF Program by increasing the principal base with USDA funds
 - c. Expand the Council's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities to better serve member local governments that are without access to GIS assistance

OFFICE

2507 Callaway Rd, Ste 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

CONTACT

850.488.6211
www.thearpc.com

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200

Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone (850) 488-6211 - Fax (850) 488-1616

www.thearpc.com

STAFF

Chris Rietow

Executive Director

CRietow@thearpc.com

850-488-6211 x. 102

Zach Annett

Apalachee LEPC Coordinator

ZAnnett@thearpc.com

850-488-6211 x. 107

Joe Crozier

Regional Planner / Environmental

JCrozier@thearpc.com

850-488-6211 x. 104

Kwentin Eastberg

Regional Planner / Transportation

KEastberg@thearpc.com

850-488-6211 x. 105

Richard Fetchick

Regional Planner / Economic Development

RFetchick@thearpc.com

850-488-6211 x. 100

Denise Imbler

**Director of Emergency Planning /
FRCA Statewide Coordinator**

DImbler@thearpc.com

850-488-6211 x. 101

Sara Thomas

Regional Planner / Emergency Planning

SThomas@thearpc.com

850-488-6211 x. 106

Janice Watson

Finance Director / Loan Coordinator

JWatson@thearpc.com

850-488-6211 x. 103