Apalachee Regional Planning Council

FULL COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

Thursday – May 17, 2018

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

304th 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, Lisa Miller and Gene Wright

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 – MAY 17, 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 – March 22, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

4. Regional Brownfields Update – Tom Lewis, TerraCon

5. 2018 Legislative Session Overview - Chris Doolin, Small County Coalition

6. Executive Director’s Report
   Chris Rietow, ARPC Executive Director
   A. *Financial Report
   B. *Executive Committee Summary
   C. 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

7. Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion

8. Ex-Officio Member Updates

9. Public Comment

10. Adjournment

11. Next ARPC Board Meeting – July 19, 2018

*Items Requiring Board Action
APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
UF IFAS - North Florida Research & Education Center
155 Research Road – Quincy, FL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – March 22, 2018

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  Gene Bailey  County Commissioner  
Calhoun County  Wes Johnston  Mayor, Town of Altha  
Calhoun County  Don Stephens  Governor’s Appointee  
Franklin County  Ricky Jones  County Commissioner  
Franklin County  Brenda LaPaz  Mayor, City of Carrabelle  
Gadsden County  Brenda Holt  County Commissioner  
Gadsden County  Henry Grant  Governor’s Appointee  
Gulf County  Ward McDaniel  County Commissioner  
Jefferson County  Stephen Walker  County Commissioner  
Jefferson County  John Jones  Councilman, City of Monticello  
Liberty County  Davis Stoutamire  Governor’s Appointee  
 Wakulla County  Randy Merritt  County Commissioner  

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Virgie Bowen  FL Dept. of Transportation  
Christina Coger  NW FL Water Management District  

ARPC Staff in Attendance

Chris Rietow  Executive Director  
Zach Annett  LEPC Coordinator  
Joe Crozier  Regional Planner / Environmental  
Kwentin Eastberg  Regional Planner / Transportation  
Richard Fetchick  Regional Planner / Economic Development  
Elise Fisher  Regional Planner / Emergency Planning  
Janice Watson  Finance Director/ Loan Coordinator  

Others in Attendance

Lance Watson – Senator Marco Rubio  
Rudy Maloy – Congressman Al Lawson  
Richard Williams – CareerSource Chipola  
Austin Mount - West Florida RPC  
Kasey Cuchens – West Florida RPC  
Jerry Parrish – FL Chamber Foundation  

Mary Louise Hester – Senator Bill Nelson  
Caitlin Brongel – NW FL WMD  
Susan Estes – Opportunity Florida  
Dawn Schwartz – West FL RPC  
Greg Slay – CRTPA  
Michael Morón – Franklin County
Chairman Merritt led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked all in attendance to introduce themselves, welcomed the ARPC guests, and asked that the records show an executive quorum of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) was in attendance.

**Item 2: Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilman John Jones to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item 3: Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Mayor Wes Johnston to approve the Minutes of the January 18, 2018 ARPC Full Council Board Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stephen Walker. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item 4: Florida Chamber Foundation Presentation**

Chris Rietow introduced Dr. Jerry Parrish of the Florida Chamber Foundation. Dr. Parrish explained that the Florida Chamber Foundation has been working on the update to its strategic plan for economic development through 2030. He reported that the plan, Florida Jobs 2030, highlighted the industries that Florida has the greatest chance of succeeding in. In response to the initial objectives of the plan, the state colleges have now been tasked with producing graduates in the following fields: aviation, healthcare, manufacturing, financial professions, and distribution. Dr. Parrish discussed the Florida Scorecard portion of the Florida Chamber Foundation website and outlined practical examples for navigating the individual county pages using an informative PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed Florida population statistics and discussed trends in job growth and loss, especially in the rural areas. He led an extended discussion on how high school graduation rates and the number of children in poverty were proven indicators used by the Florida Chamber Foundation to predict the economic future of a specific county. Dr. Parrish added that the final version of the Florida Jobs 2030 report would be released within the next few months.

Commissioner Brenda Holt reported that she had been traveling and doing extensive research to learn more about economic development success in other rural areas across the country. She explained that the overwhelming common theme with the best success of bringing people out of poverty, was the presence of manufacturing. Dr. Parrish replied that the Florida Chamber Foundation was in complete support of that line of thought. Commissioner Holt commented how beneficial it would be for the community colleges of Florida to offer and encourage students to obtain a manufacturing certificate as an investment in the readiness of the workforce, and also as a marketable attraction for new manufacturing companies considering locating in Florida. Dr. Parrish noted that the state of Alabama had already mandated that each community college in Alabama establish a manufacturing certification program.
Commissioner Ward McDaniel reiterated the need for a regional trade school in the Apalachee region, confirming the critical importance of having a skilled workforce ready to staff the manufacturing facilities when they come. Dr. Parrish also noted a major concern for rural counties was de-population, which ultimately effected the ability of local government to provide basic services. Chairman Merritt discussed how the Florida job rates closely parallel the housing market. Davis Stoutamire discussed Liberty County’s depressed economy and the specifics of how government owned land negatively affected the county’s ability to grow and attract industry. Chairman Merritt thanked Dr. Parrish for his presentation and for leading the discussion. Dr. Parrish shared his contact information with the Board and encouraged them to engage with the Florida Chamber Foundation and to continue bringing rural economic development concerns to his attention.

Item 5: Apalachicola River and Bay Litigation Update / River Conference Report

Joe Crozier reported that ARPC staff serving as the Coordinator for the Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition (RCSC) had assisted in the coordination of the National Apalachicola River Conference held earlier in the month in Tallahassee. He stated that keynote speakers included former U.S. Senator Bob Graham, Senior Vice-President of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Tom Kelsch, and Director of the FSU Marine Lab, Felicia Coleman. Mr. Crozier briefly summarized the information presented during the science sessions of the first day of the conference noting that the Apalachicola River had the largest forested floodplain in the country, a floodplain that ultimately fed the entire ecosystem of the river and bay. He also noted that conference emphasized how important the mussels were to the argument for the protection of the bay in addition to the oysters.

Mr. Crozier reported that the second day of the conference presented and discussed existing policies of Florida’s efforts to preserve the water quality of the river and bay. He added that statistics presented at the conference affirmed that the agricultural water usage in southwest Georgia was as heavy as the drinking water usage from Atlanta on the Apalachicola River system. Mr. Crozier closed in stating that the Apalachicola River Conference was successful in bringing renewed attention to the ecological, cultural and economic importance of the entire Apalachicola River and Bay system.

Item 6: Executive Director’s Report


A motion was made by Commissioner Brenda Holt to approve the financial reports for January 2018 and February 2018 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stephen Walker. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

6B – Staff Reports: Mr. Rietow highlighted the following ARPC Program Reports prepared by staff and included in the Board Package beginning on page 19. 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 & Elise Fisher
3. Revolving Loan Fund – Janice Watson
4. Transportation Planning – Kwentin Eastberg
5. Environmental Planning – Joe Crozier
6. Misc. Correspondence & Items of Interest

6-B-1. Economic and Community Development Update: Mr. Rietow reported that he would be working with Richard Fetchick to compile ARPC county data from the Florida Chamber Foundation website for the purpose of assembling a package of regional data for the ARPC. Chairman Merritt noted that the school data included on the website was very important as Wakulla County’s “A” schools had been one of the strongest attracters for people moving into Wakulla County. Mr. Rietow also discussed briefly the continued growth of the ARPC’s GIS program. Chairman Merritt commended staff for pursuing the establishment of the program and for the work currently being provided to Wakulla County. He encouraged staff to continue working toward the establishment of a full-time regional GIS program at the ARPC.

6-B-2. Emergency Planning Update: Mr. Rietow reported that ARPC staff had been contacted by the NE FL Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDTSTF) about facilitating an exercise with a school shooter scenario. He explained that the exercise would serve as a training opportunity for local first responders that had not been exposed to the specialized training like SWAT teams or Bomb Squads. Commissioner Walker asked if school personnel would also be included in the exercise. Mr. Rietow answered that anyone who could possibly benefit from the exercise was more than welcome to participate, but that first responders are currently the priority for the exercise.

Mr. Rietow also reported that the FL Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) had asked ARPC staff to assist in the facilitation of regional recovery tabletop exercises. The exercises would focus on disaster housing, recovery and debris management.

6B.4 – Transportation Planning Update: Mr. Rietow reported that ARPC staff continued to work with the FDOT State Aviation office to convene a regional workshop to review FL Statutes Chapter 333 in reference to airport zoning. Kwentin Eastberg stated that the workshop had been tentatively set for April 24th. A lengthy discussion ensued on the impacts of this statute to the local governments of the Region.

Mr. Rietow reviewed the proposed renewal of the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review and Public Transportation Coordination Joint Participation Agreement with the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) included in the Board package on page 65. Mr. Rietow noted that the agreement outlined the specific intergovernmental coordination and dispute resolution responsibilities of the ARPC. Chairman Merritt thanked Greg Slay, CRTPA Executive Director for the continued partnership of the CRTPA with the ARPC.

ARPC Board Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2018
A motion was made by Commissioner Brenda Holt to approve the Joint Participation Agreement between the ARPC and the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency as presented. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

6B.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 35 which included: FL Regional Councils Association (FRCA) newsletters for January and February, updated articles on: Apalachicola National Forrest Timber Harvesting, economic development updates in Gadsden, Gulf and Liberty County and a memorial tribute to long-serving ARPC Board Member and former Leon County Commissioner, Jane Sauls.

Mr. Rietow reported that ARPC staff had received requests from several municipalities for letters from the ARPC in support of Triumph funding applications. He explained that the process was very competitive and requested direction from the Board on how to proceed when these requests came in. Chairman Merritt led a discussion on a suitable process to support the application requests without showing partiality. By general consensus, the Board approved a process that required all Triumph requests for letters of support should be submitted to the ARPC staff by the county-elected ARPC Board member, as the counties are the dues paying members of the ARPC. Mayor Brenda LaPaz thanked ARPC staff for their help in preparing the economic models used by the City of Carrabelle as part of its Triumph application.

Mr. Rietow directed the Board to the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Annual Report handed out earlier in the meeting and encouraged them to read the report which outlines the successes of all regional planning councils in Florida over the past year.

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

Mayor Johnston announced that Calhoun County would be holding its Super Council meeting on March 29th. He explained that the Super Council was made up of every elected official in Calhoun County and had been an excellent forum of communication between the various local governments of the County. Mayor Johnston stated that the meeting was open to the public and encouraged anyone that could to attend and observe how beneficial it was to all.

Henry Grant asked if there were plans for Florida’s regional planning councils to seek a legislative appropriation for the next fiscal year. Mr. Rietow stated that there will be a discussion on this issue at the August FRCA Policy Board Meeting, noting that Commissioner Kristin Dozier, Mayor Gene Wright, and Lisa Miller would be representing the ARPC at that meeting.

Davis Stoutamire reported on the continuing need for a traffic signal at the intersection of Hwy 20 and Hwy 65 in Hosford, stating that due to the increased commerce at that intersection that FDOT might consider re-evaluating the situation. Mr. Stoutamire requested that the Board provide any assistance possible to assist Liberty County in the initiative.
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 May 17, 2018 at the same location.

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

APPROVED BY: THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON MAY 17, 2018

SIGNED: ATTEST:

_________________________ ________________________
Randy Merritt Chris Rietow
Chairman Executive Director

ARPC Board Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2018
AGENDA ITEM 6

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Chris Rietow

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

A. *Financial Report:* On the following pages are the following financial reports.
   - Budget Report for the month ending March 31, 2018
   - Budget Report for the month ending April 30, 2018

B. *Executive Committee Summary:* The ARPC Executive Committee met on April 12, 2018. Staff will present meeting highlights. A copy of the meeting minutes can be found following the financial report.

C. *Staff Reports:* Staff program reports are included on the following pages. Staff will be present at the meeting to answer any questions and report on any additional program updates.

**ACTIONS NEEDED**

*Motion to accept Financial Reports for the periods ending March 31, 2018 and April 30, 2018.*
### Apalachee Regional Planning Council

**Budget Report as of 3/31/18**

<table>
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<th>LINE-ITEM</th>
<th>FY 17/18 Budget</th>
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**TOTAL REVENUE**

819,210 149,981.76 773,591.78 45,618.22

### General Expenses

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**TOTAL EXPENSES**

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*Bal. 4/30/18 = 72,661.32  72,661.32  Bol. 4/30/18*  
Operating Acct. Balance 4/30/18 = 72,661.32
APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (ARPC)
Executive Committee Meeting
ARPC Office – 2507 Callaway Road, Tallahassee, FL

Executive Committee Minutes – April 12, 2018

ARPC Executive Committee Members in Attendance:
Randy Merritt, Chairman
Nancy Miller, Vice-Chairwoman
Wes Johnston, Secretary/Treasurer
Kristin Dozler, FRCA Policy Board Member
Gene Wright, FRCA Policy Board Member (by phone)
Lisa Miller, FRCA Policy Board Member

Others in Attendance:
Chris Rietow, Executive Director
Janice Watson, Finance Director/RLF Coordinator
Richard Fetchick / Economic Development Planner
Tim Sloan / RLF Applicant
Stacey Copeland / RLF Applicant (by phone)

Chairman Merritt called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and asked that the records show a quorum of the ARPC Executive Committee was in attendance.

Item 1: Minutes
Chris Rietow presented the minutes from the Executive Committee meetings held on June 23, 2017, October 2, 2017, October 12, 2017 and February 12, 2018.

A motion was made by Lisa Miller to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee meetings held on June 23, 2017, October 2, 2017, October 12, 2017 and February 12, 2018. The motion was seconded by Nancy Miller. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 2: Revolving Loan Fund Applications

Stacey Copeland / Rejuvenate “U” Massage Studio: Ms. Watson presented a loan application for review from Stacey Copeland, owner of the new business, Rejuvenate “U” Massage Studio in Chattahoochee (Gadsden County). She explained that Ms. Copeland had requested a loan of $7,500 to be used for the purpose of renovating her downtown business location and to purchase the equipment and supplies necessary to open the business. Ms. Watson noted that Ms. Copeland planned to continue her employment with Massage Envy in Panama City until the new business was self-sustaining. Ms. Copeland called into the meeting and the Committee interviewed her and reviewed the application documents with her. Ms. Watson explained that Ms. Copeland was offering the ARPC a 1st mortgage on a 16-acre parcel she owned near Greensboro, FL. The Committee discussed the collateral documents presented and agreed that there was adequate equity in the land to serve as collateral for the loan.
Ms. Watson offered a RLF staff recommendation of approval of the $7,500 loan to Stacey Copeland for the purpose of opening Rejuvenate “U” Massage Studio in Chattahoochee, FL, at an interest rate of 6% for a term of five (5) years, secured by a 1st mortgage on her Greensboro property. She stated that the amortized monthly principal and interest payment would be $150 per month and would begin 90-days after closing to allow time for the renovations to be completed and the business to open.

A motion was made by Nancy Miller to approve the loan request from Stacey Copeland with the terms as presented by ARPC staff. The motion was seconded by Lisa Miller. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Tim Sloan / Sloan Family Grain Works:** Ms. Watson presented a loan application for review from Tim Sloan, owner of the new business, Sloan Family Grain Works, in Monticello (Jefferson County). She explained that Mr. Sloan had requested a loan of $10,000 to be used for completing leasehold improvements to his craft soda and tea brewing facility, for purchasing point of sale equipment and for working capital. Ms. Watson noted that Mr. Sloan planned to continue his handyman self-employment while operating the new business on evenings and weekends. The Committee interviewed Mr. Sloan and reviewed the financial pro-forma statements and loan application documents. There was an extended question and answer period to determine loan eligibility as well as to educate the Committee on the technical aspect of specialty soda/tea brewing process and marketing plans to promote the business. Chairman Merritt thanked Mr. Sloan for his time in answering the Committee’s questions and stated that Ms. Watson would contact him later in the day on the Committee’s decision. The Committee discussed the loan application at length, focusing on loan terms, potential for re-payment and collateral.

Ms. Watson offered a RLF staff recommendation of approval for the $10,000 loan to Tim Sloan to fund the opening Sloan Family Grain Works in Monticello at an interest rate of 6% for a term of five (5) years, secured by a lien on the brewery equipment and the two personal vehicles. She stated that the amortized monthly principal and interest payment would be $200 per month and would begin 90-days after closing to allow time for the renovations to be completed and the business to open. The Committee discussed at length the applicant’s requested amount of working capital.

A motion was made by Lisa Miller to approve a loan of $7,500 to Tim Sloan for the purpose of opening Sloan Family Grain Works in Monticello, FL with the following terms and conditions: the loan proceed checks for leasehold improvements would be made payable to the contractors; the loan would be at 6% interest for a period of 5 years; the brewing equipment and the two personal vehicles would be used as collateral for the loan; and the Committee would re-visit the loan after the business opens to re-evaluate an additional loan of $2,500 to be used for working capital. The motion was seconded by Nancy Miller. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Marlowe Logging:** Ms. Watson presented a loan application for review from Leo Marlowe, owner of Marlowe Logging in Quincy (Gadsden County). She explained that Mr. Marlowe had
paid off his original loan of $40,000 from the ARPC in January, which had been used to start the business in 2014, and the new loan application for $26,000 was for the purchase of a portable saw-mill to expand the service currently being offered by the business. Ms. Watson reported that Mr. Marlowe had made timely payments on his previous loan from the ARPC and that the ARPC currently held a 1st mortgage on Mr. Marlowe's personal home.

Ms. Watson offered a RLF staff recommendation of approval for the $26,000 to Leon Marlowe to fund the expansion of Marlowe Logging in Quincy at an interest rate of 6% for a term of (10) years, secured by the existing 1st mortgage on Mr. Marlowe’s personal home. She noted that the down payment of $1,000 on the equipment and the shipping costs would be paid by Marlowe Logging.

A motion was made by Kristin Dozier to approve the loan request from Leo Marlowe with the terms as presented by ARPC staff. The motion was seconded by Randy Merritt. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 3: Financial Report
Mr. Rietow presented the Budget Report and reconciled check register for the period ending March 31, 2018.

A motion was made by Kristin Dozier to approve the financial report for March 2018 as presented. The motion was seconded by Lisa Miller. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Portfolio Report
Ms. Watson briefly reviewed the RLF Portfolio Report included in the meeting materials on page 32. She stated that the report was for information only and noted that as of March 31, 2018, and before the loan disbursements approved earlier in the meeting there was $127,701.13 in RLF principal account available for re-lending.

Item 5: ARPC Lease Renewal
Mr. Rietow reported that the ARPC’s current lease for office space would expire in August 2018 and reviewed with the Committee the proposed lease renewal. He explained that the new price per square footage for year one would be $15 per square foot and the new lease would be for an additional five years with an opt-out clause at the end of three years. By general consensus the Committee approved the new lease as presented and authorized Mr. Rietow to sign the new lease.

Item 6: Other Business from Committee Members
Chairman Merritt noted that the Committee had suggested previously that a presentation on implementation practices for civil citations be scheduled for a future Full Council meeting. Mr. Rietow noted that Chris Doolin of the Small County Commission would be presenting a Legislative Update at the May Full Council meeting but agreed to coordinate with Leon County Sheriff Walt McNeil about a possible presentation at the July Full Council meeting.
Kristin Dozier briefly reported on her recent meeting with ARPC staff and Dr. Nick Place, Dean of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). Commissioner Dozier commended ARPC staff for their presentation and input at the meeting and noted that Dr. Place was very encouraged about the numerous opportunities for partnership between IFAS and Florida Regional Planning Councils. Commissioner Dozier agreed to keep the Committee informed as the dialogue continues with Dr. Place and IFAS. The Committee thanked Commissioner Dozier for her initiative and continued work with establishing the new partnership with IFAS.

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

_________________________   _______________________
Randy Merritt                 Chris Rietow
Chairman                      Executive Director
AGENDA ITEM 6 – C – 1

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE
Richard Fetchick and Bruce Ballister

2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update:
Staff is working to coordinate with regional partners and implement objectives from our Regional Economic Strategy.

EDA Disaster Supplemental – This newly released funding is intended to help communities respond to the impacts of environmental disasters during 2017. Over $147 Million is available to communities in the Southeastern Region. ARPC staff is excited to collaborate with the Region to develop projects.

- **Objective 1.2: Increase Employee and Business Resilience**
  Staff continues to collaborate with Franklin TDC to develop an EDA grant for Long-term Recovery Strategies. Staff is beginning coordination with City of Tallahassee incubator DOMI station toward a submission to the Disaster Supplemental as well.

- **Objective 1.11: Connect arts groups to placemaking**
  Staff is assisting Leon County arts group SOUP Experimental and Cat Family to prepare an application to the Call2Arts grant. This funding would create a new contemporary art museum within the CRA.

- **Objective 1.5: Promote Apalachee outdoor recreation**
  Staff is working to connect the Apalachicola Riverkeeper with the St. Johns Riverkeeper group to share experiences and insights about river stewardship and promotion.

- **2.10 Improve connectivity within the Regional Food System**
  Staff has begun collaboration with IFAS toward developing ideas for an EDA-Agriculture project in our Region, such as a shared commercial kitchen or food product incubator.
**ARPC Internships:** To expand the services offered to counties, staff is at various stages of intern development:

- **GIS –** GIS Intern Sarah Hibbard has provided numerous services to Gadsden and Wakulla counties over the past 5 months. ARPC staff developed a DEO TA grant application centered around GIS services for the entire Region that will, if awarded, bring Ms. Hibbard on full-time.

**Northwest Florida Forward:** Staff continues to organize meetings and help coordinate activities for the Quality of Place Council. The main activities include tracking the development of Triumph Incorporated funds and a webinar series:

- **April 2018 –** Staff organized a webinar featuring Tony Biblo of *StepsAhead Planning*, who discussed economic development and community planning as they intersect through a deliberative, participatory process. His webinar is recorded and available at the ARPC site: [http://thearpc.com/what-we-do/economic-development/ec-dev-media/](http://thearpc.com/what-we-do/economic-development/ec-dev-media/)

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

- **Economic Analysis –** ARPC staff has composed five economic analyses for communities pursuing Triumph applications, to assist with quantifying the jobs and GDP outputs from their proposed projects.

- **Comprehensive Planning –** ARPC staff reviewed amendments occurring in Tallahassee/Leon County. Staff is nearing completion of an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) for the City of Chattahoochee.
• Florida Resilient Coastlines Program, DEP – ARPC staff created a proposal to assess sea level rise vulnerability for Carrabelle, Franklin, and Gulf counties, and to develop optional goals-objectives-policies for inclusion in their respective Coastal Management Elements. The grant has been awarded and staff has begun coordination with the three local governments.

• Focus Groups and Economic Development Plans – ARPC staff designed and facilitated four focus groups meetings seeking to crowdssource insights from young professionals and the business community in Stuart, FL. A survey monkey was also designed that received over 160 responses. ARPC staff synthesized this into three Action-Oriented Insights Reports for the City of Stuart.

• DEO TA Grants – Staff developed a regional online GIS mapping proposal, called Apalachee Online, which will digitize planning, story, and analysis maps for all eight rural counties of the Apalachee region.
  o ARPC staff also co-developed a proposal to update Land Development Regulations and write an economic development element for City of Sopchopy.

Regional Coordination: ARPC staff participated in the following events –

• CareerSource Capital Region, Strategic Doing Retreat – ARPC staff participated in a hands-on workforce development collaboration initiative featuring the Purdue University Agile Design Lab. The meeting galvanized partnerships and ideas between CareerSource staff, the local Community Action Agency, The Florida Chamber Foundation, and ARPC.

• Gadsden County Development Council – Staff participated in the monthly board meeting of the GCDC.

• Opportunity Florida – Staff attended the monthly board meeting for Opportunity Florida, where Opportunity Zone Census Tract designations were discussed.

• Riverway South (Explore NW Florida) – Staff continues to coordinate and provide assistance to the regional tourism promotion group by way of writing memos synthesizing VISIT Florida information and preparing surveys for the group.

**ACTION NEEDED**

None
AGENDA ITEM 6 – C – 2

EMERGENCY PLANNING PROGRAM
Denise Imbler - Zach Annett – Elise Fisher – Chris Rietow

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 May 10, 2018 at the Liberty County Emergency Operations Center in Bristol. FSU Emergency Management and Homeland Security’s Drone Program gave a presentation on the use of drones in hazmat incidents. ARPC staff is currently preparing for the next LEPC meeting which is tentatively scheduled for August at the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. ARPC staff will be attending the next quarterly meetings of the State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials being held on July 12-13, 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:

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<td>1/16/17-1/19/17</td>
<td>2018 HazMat Training Symposium and Competition</td>
<td>Daytona Beach</td>
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<td>2/17/18</td>
<td>4-hour Awareness Course</td>
<td>Franklin County</td>
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<td>3/1/18</td>
<td>(2) 4-hour Awareness Courses</td>
<td>Leon County</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>8-hour Tech Refresher Course</td>
<td>Wakulla County</td>
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<td>Wakulla County</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>4/9/18 – 4/11/18</td>
<td>(3) 3-hour Response to Gasoline Tanker Incidents</td>
<td>Leon County</td>
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Additionally, staff has coordinated a 40-hour Technician Level Course to take place in Leon County from July 16-20th. All training opportunities and registration links are posted on the ARPC website at [www.thearpc.com](http://www.thearpc.com).

**Exercises**

ARPC staff served as the lead planners and facilitators for a tabletop exercise held at the National High Magnetic Field Lab in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season. Staff assisted with planning meetings, scenario development, exercise documentation and exercise evaluation. The exercise which took place on April 24, 2018, included participants from the Mag Lab as well as the City of Tallahassee Utility Department, Leon County Emergency Management and the Florida State Police Department.

**2018 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Planning Project**

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

**Outreach**

ARPC staff provided a presentation outlining the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and the Florida LEPC program to the Tallahassee Safety Alliance for Excellence as well as Leon County’s Volunteer Fire Department Chiefs. The presentations took place on January 12th and April 17th respectively. Additionally, the Apalachee LEPC was asked to set up hazardous materials shelter-in-place demonstrations at both the Wakulla County and Leon County Build-Your-Bucket events taking place as community outreach events for hurricane season.

**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.
MRC volunteers participated with the Department of Children & Families Farm Share event on May 4, 2018. Volunteers helped with registering participants and loading food in the cars. The MRC Coordinator has arranged several different volunteer and training opportunities in May and July including: Leon and Wakulla counties ‘Build-Your-Bucket’, Leon County ‘Safety Fair’, Leon County ‘Press the Chest’, and a ‘Mental Health First Aid’ training course.

A new volunteer orientation was held on April 17, 2018, during which one new volunteer was recruited. The Coordinator is working closely with the Department of Health in Leon County to explore additional volunteer and training opportunities for MRC volunteers.

**State Agricultural Response Team**

ARPC staff provides planning support to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) State Agricultural Response Team (SART). Staff assists with planning and documentation of monthly meetings as well as any additional SART activities. During March and April, ARPC staff assisted with planning and facilitating the FDACS Incident Management Team Training and Exercise. Staff served on the planning team, assisted with scenario development, developed exercise documentation and provided additional logistical support.

Over 60 members of SART attended the training conducted with Florida Forest Service personnel. They practiced operating under the Incident Command System, using the “Planning P” during an operational cycle and preparing an Incident Action Plan.

**Other Technical Assistance**

Staff has been working with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to provide planning assistance on a regional workshop for county emergency managers and their staff. The workshop will likely be a webinar that will focus on problematic issues that were identified during Hurricane Irma such as disaster housing, debris management and recovery. The workshop is being planned for mid- to late June.

Staff is working with the North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force to develop an active shooter training workshop for first responders. *Save Life! – An Integrated Response to An Active Shooter Event* will be held across the 13-county region and will focus on how Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS can improve response coordination to improve outcomes during active shooter events. A flyer for the workshop and the schedule can be found on the following page.
Save Life!

An Integrated Response to an Active Shooter Event

Each course offered twice a day. Attendees should only register for one course on the date of their choice. Space is limited.

Dates and Locations:

June 13th - North Florida Community College Public Safety Academy Building, Madison, FL.
- 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
  Registration Link https://www.eventbrite.com/o/north-florida-rdstf-14663491927

June 20th - Florida Public Safety Institute Conference Center, Gadsden, FL.
- 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
  Registration Link https://www.eventbrite.com/o/north-florida-rdstf-14663491927

June 27th - Florida Gateway College in the Media Center, Lake City, FL.
- 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
  Registration Link https://www.eventbrite.com/o/north-florida-rdstf-14663491927

Description

This no cost workshop is intended to give first responders an opportunity to learn a variety of skills that could help save a life during an active shooter event. Each attendee will be responsible for travel and meal costs. Throughout the workshop, first responders will be provided with information on best practices throughout the history of responding to active shooter events, as well as current practices for handling active shooter scenarios today. Additionally, this workshop will provide first responders with the basic knowledge necessary for identifying and handling explosive devices, coordinated responses and proper stop the bleed actions. This course will also provide students with an overview of fusion centers and their duties as well as best practices for reporting Suspicious Activity.

This course is intended for EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, School Resource Officers and School Public Health Officials.

For more information please contact:
Kristina Holliday
850-251-2052
kristinaholliday@fdle.state.fl.us
AGENDA ITEM 6 – C – 4

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM – Kwentin Eastberg

Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program
ARPC staff is currently preparing for the 4th Quarter meetings for the FY 17/18 TD Planning Grant from the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD).

The TD Local Coordinating Boards (LCB) with the Community Transportation Coordinators (CTCs) for all eight counties will meet for their 4th Quarter LCB meetings throughout the month of June. The TD-LCB meetings are open to the public and all interested parties are invited and encouraged to attend. The 4th quarter meetings include updating the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plans, certifying new members to the Board, setting the next Fiscal Year’s meeting calendar, along with standard Board meeting items. Meeting dates for the 4th Quarter TDCB Meetings can be found on the following calendar.

**TD Planning Grant Allocation for Fiscal Year 2018-2019:**
The ARPC will again be continuing their role of the Designated Official Planning Agency for Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla counties. The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) has issued the Planning Grant Funding Allocation for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. The 2018/2019 allocation is reduced by $68 compared to the 2017/2018 planning grant allocation. The small annual fluctuation is common based on the complex CTD annual allocation process. The annual TD Planning Grant funds by county are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>$19,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>$19,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadsden</td>
<td>$20,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf</td>
<td>$19,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>$20,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>$19,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>$19,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakulla</td>
<td>$20,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$159,302</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proposed ARPC Resolution 18-3 included on the following page is required by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and will authorize the ARPC Executive Director to execute the 18/19 TD Planning Grant Agreements for the counties listed above.

**ACTION NEEDED**

Motion to approve ARPC Resolution 18-3.
Board Member Appointments
The Executive Director appointed the following members to the TD Local Coordinating Boards effective July 1, 2018. All terms will end June 30th on the year listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>MEMBER</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>TERM ENDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>Thelma Batson</td>
<td>Elderly</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>Evelyn Walker</td>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>Vicki Davis</td>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>Debra Jones</td>
<td>Children at Risk</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Ricky Jones</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Joe Blan</td>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadsden</td>
<td>Julius Harris</td>
<td>Citizen Advocate</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadsden</td>
<td>Anne Robinson</td>
<td>Community Action</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadsden</td>
<td>Adrian Cooksey Wilson</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf</td>
<td>Annie May Larry</td>
<td>Elderly</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf</td>
<td>David Ashbrook</td>
<td>Citizen Advocate</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf</td>
<td>Sarah Hinds</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>Ernest McNeill</td>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>Kenny Griffin</td>
<td>Workforce Dvp Board</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>Mary Beth Gurganus</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>John Nelson, Sr.</td>
<td>Citizen Advocate</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Anne Robinson</td>
<td>Community Action</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Kimberly Allbritton</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>Titus Severance</td>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>Kevin Williams</td>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakulla</td>
<td>Anne Robinson</td>
<td>Community Action</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakulla</td>
<td>Tonya Hobby</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACTION NEEDED
Motion to approve the Executive Director’s appointments to the designated TD Local Coordinating Boards.

JUNE 2018 TD-Local Coordinating Board Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>Tues. 6/5/18</td>
<td>1:00 pm CT</td>
<td>Senior Center</td>
<td>Blountstown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Wed. 6/6/18</td>
<td>10:00 am ET</td>
<td>Courthouse Annex</td>
<td>Apalachicola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadsden</td>
<td>Thurs. 6/21/18</td>
<td>2:00 pm ET</td>
<td>Butler Complex</td>
<td>Quincy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf</td>
<td>Wed. 6/6/18</td>
<td>1:00 pm ET</td>
<td>Gulf Transp. Office</td>
<td>Port St. Joe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>Tues. 6/5/18</td>
<td>10:00 am CT</td>
<td>JTrans Office</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Thurs. 6/21/18</td>
<td>10:00 am ET</td>
<td>Commission Annex</td>
<td>Monticello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>Tues. 6/5/18</td>
<td>3:30 pm ET</td>
<td>Civic Center</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakulla</td>
<td>Wed. 6/20/18</td>
<td>10:00 am ET</td>
<td>Senior Center</td>
<td>Crawfordville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ARPC RESOLUTION No. 18-3

A RESOLUTION of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (hereafter referred to as the "BOARD") hereby authorizes the execution of a Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant Agreement with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

WHEREAS, the BOARD is eligible to receive a Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant Agreement and to undertake a transportation disadvantaged planning service project as authorized by Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD THAT:

1. The BOARD has the authority to enter into this grant agreement.

2. The BOARD authorizes Chris Rietow, Executive Director, to execute the grant agreement on behalf of the Board acting as the Designated Official Planning Agency for Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

3. The BOARD’S Registered Agent in Florida is Chris Rietow, Executive Director. The Registered Agent’s address: is 2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.

4. The BOARD authorizes Chris Rietow to sign any and all agreements or contracts, which are required in connection with the grant agreement.

5. The BOARD authorizes Chris Rietow to sign any and all assurances, reimbursement invoices, warranties, certifications and any other documents which may be required in connection with the agreement or subsequent agreements.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF May 2018

BY THE: APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

______________________________
Randy Merritt
Chairman

______________________________
ATTEST:
Chris Rietow
Executive Director
General Transportation Planning
The ARPC Transportation Planning Program held a workshop on April 24th on Florida Statute Chapter 333 Airport Zoning compliance. Greg Jones and David Roberts from FDOT, State Aviation Office discussed the changes in the statue and answered questions from the local airports in the ARPC region. Feedback from the workshop has been very positive and counties now seem to have a much better understanding on what is expected of them when it comes to airport zoning. Representatives from the following airports attended the meeting: Calhoun County, Apalachicola, Carrabelle, Quincy, Marianna, Tallahassee, and Wakulla County.

Other Items of Interest
ARPC staff continues to research ways to assist the Region with transportation planning and is working with other programs within the ARPC to apply for pertinent grant funding as opportunities become available.

ARPC staff also attended in the 2018 Florida Commuter Transportation Summit held at FSU May 7-9th.
AGENDA ITEM 6 – C – 5

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROGRAM – Joe Crozier

Brownfields
ARPC staff partnered with representatives from Terracon, Inc. on May 3rd to begin a field inventory of potential Brownfields sites. The survey was performed to identify possible sites throughout the ARPC region with development potential. Preferential sites are industrial or commercial locations that are vacant or for sale. Sites were visited in Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Liberty and Wakulla counties. Over one dozen sites were identified on the first survey. ARPC staff continues to solicit Board input for additional site options.

![Images showing vacant properties](Image1.png)
The old Ford Dealership lot in Apalachicola and the Anders building in Blountstown show unutilized or underutilized commerical properties.

Small Quantity Generator Program
ARPC staff is working to complete the 2018 Small Quantity Generator Program compliance assistance visits. This year, over 150 site visits will be performed before early June. Currently, staff has completed approximately 70% of the visits in the ARPC region. Facilities visited include mechanical shops, dry cleaners, photograph and print developers, county maintenance yards and others. ARPC staff verifies the storage and disposal of hazardous wastes such as used oil, parts washers, x-ray developing solutions, paint solvents and many others. Most often, containers are unlabeled or incorrectly stored.

![Image of hazardous waste](Image2.png)
PROJECT TITLE:
Chattahoochee to Bristol Trail Feasibility Study

ORGANIZATION:
Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Lynne Keller Forbes, President

Joe McKinney, Executive Director
March 12, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Rietow:

Congratulations on receiving the National Association of Development Organizations' 2017 Innovation Award. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to our great state. As Governor, I want to thank you for your efforts to help Florida create an economy where businesses succeed, jobs are created, and generations of Floridians benefit from being able to provide for their families. Businesses provide opportunities for families to live their dreams in our state. Floridians like you are helping make our state the best place in the world to raise a family, have a great career, and enjoy a life full of opportunity.

Since 2010, Florida businesses have created nearly 1.5 million private-sector jobs. To continue this growth, my Securing Florida's Future Budget recommends investing $85 million in funding for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund which will promote public infrastructure and job training to help ensure more businesses choose to grow and invest in Florida. We will continue to work to make our state more business-friendly, including fighting to cut taxes, to help secure Florida’s future as the best place for families and job creators to succeed.

Thank you for helping make sure every family has the opportunity to succeed here in the Sunshine State. Please let me know your ideas for how we can continue to secure Florida’s future and ensure our children and grandchildren have the opportunity to succeed in our great state.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott  
Governor

THE CAPITOL  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399 • (850) 717-9249  
www.FLGov.com
AGENDA ITEM 6 – C – 6

CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. Eastern Dry Dock Project / Gulf County – March 2018
2. Malone Sewer System Groundbreaking / Jackson County – March 2018
3. Dirty Pecan Cycling Event / Jefferson County – March 2018
4. Apalachicola River Conference Update / March 2018
5. Apalachicola Airport Improvement Plans / Franklin County – March 2018
6. New Aquaculture Leases / Franklin County – April 2018
7. Torreya Tree Conservation / Liberty County – April 2018
8. FL Regional Councils Association Newsletters – March & April 2018
9. Chris Rietow appointed to the State Emergency Response Commission
10. Chris Rietow appointed to the NADO Board of Directors
11. Chris Rietow appointed to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Some clarity brought to Eastern project

By Tim Croft
The Port St. Joe Star | 850-227-7827 @PSJ_Star | terof@starfl.com

The outlines of Eastern Shipbuilding Group's plans in Gulf County began to be filled in during a presentation Tuesday to the Board of County Commissioners.

Attorney William Harrison sketched out additional details, including the timeline for the design and construction of a floating dry dock at the bulkhead on the former paper mill site as well as job projections.

That timeline, he qualified, is contingent on funding from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., and permitting.

If the rest of the portrait fits as projected, sometime between June 2019 and June 2020 the dry dock would be up and operational in Port St. Joe, en route to creating 120 permanent jobs and 314 indirect jobs, based on accepted maritime economic projections, Harrison said.

The component parts of the dry dock, 120 feet by 425 feet, would be constructed in Eastern's Allen town yard in Bay County and shipped to Port St. Joe for assembly.

The dry dock will be designed by Hager Dry Dock, the design contract, worth $440,000, approved Tuesday by the BOCC.

The county would own the facility and enter into a lease agreement with Eastern, under the unsolicited proposal brought to the county late last year.

For Eastern a primary goal is to establish an efficient quality production process as it enters the initial phases of a contract with the U.S. Coast Guard to build offshore patrol vessels.

The contract is potentially worth $10.5 billion for 25 vessels, Harrison said.

However, the contract contains language that it could be re-opened and rebid after nine vessels, Harrison noted.

In addition, he said the contract, as with most major contracts in shipbuilding, contains significant monetary damages for non-performance.

"It is a risk for Eastern to come here due to the liquidated damages," Harrison said.

See EASTERN, A6

$625,000 is to be used for workforce training, even the establishment of a training facility in Gulf County.

The county is also using RESTORE Act funding to create a welding program at Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School.

Harrison said it was not possible to Eastern to require subcontractors and vendors to use Gulf County employees, the hope being that between building a workforce and sheer convenience, some of Eastern's 150-odd vendors would ultimately set up shop in Port St. Joe.

The overall goal, Harrison said, was "to prime the pump and get things going here."

Eastern has leased 20 acres of the former paper mill site from the St. Joe Company for five years at an option to lease 20 more acres, Harrison said.

Eastern, St. Joe and the BOCC are partners in a joint agreement for the $6 million state appropriation and St. Joe is working with Eastern on its expansion plans.

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EASTERN

From Page A1

said. "We have been working on this for five or six years. It has been a long, torturous process."

A key, though was the Coast Guard contract, which Eastern won over companies in Maine, Louisiana and Mississippi, all of them larger in workforce and bottom line, Harrison noted, making it something of "David vs. Goliath."

The Port St. Joe "yard" is seen as serving multiple purposes for Eastern, Harrison said.

Language in the Coast Guard contract requires a vessel, after initial launch, can not be in the water more than 105 days if not already delivered.

Those vessels would be taken out of the water via the dry dock.

"(Port St. Joe) would serve as a haul-out location and for vessel repairs," Harrison said.

For every direct job the dry dock would create, Harrison said, using a widely accepted measurement of maritime economics, another 62 indirect jobs could be expected, primarily in the services sector, but also wholesale and retail trade, finance, insurance and real estate and manufacturing.

Port St. Joe would also become the lone dry dock facility between Tampa and Mobile, AL, which would open the facility for ship repair.

"We have a great opportunity here to do (ship repair) here in Port St. Joe," Harrison said.

The BOCC is seeking nearly $30 million in BP fine dollars from Triumph Gulf Coast to facilitate the design and construction of the dry dock.

The pre-application for the project was deemed eligible in January by the Triumph board and the process has moved to a full application.

Much of the discussion on the dry dock hinges on that funding.

In the short-term, a $6 million state appropriation in 2017, 1 million of that for dredging around the bulkhead, is to be used to create an "outfitting yard" on which Eastern will outfit a vessel which will arrive in Port St. Joe as mostly hull and motors and whatever is needed to sail, Harrison said.

The company has a contract with New York City for three 300-foot long ferries, with the first hull under construction and potentially arriving in Port St. Joe the middle of next year, Harrison said.

Outfitting could take as long as 18 months, Harrison said.

The primary challenge, Harrison noted, is related to the workforce.

Nearly five years ago Eastern, with a contract out of Brazil, sought to lure the workforce needed to jump start an expansion to Port St. Joe with less-than-ideal results.

The county is pursuing a
Malone's sewer system groundbreaking sends dirt flying

Those pictured in order in the big pic are left to right: Brett Cyphers, Rick Pettis, Joshua Gillis, Craig Grice, Lane Grice, Clint Pate, Stuart Wiggins, Ken Campbell, Mayor Gene Wright, Jim Peacock, John Alter, and Doug Powell.

Jim Peacock

Rick Pettis and Mayor of Malone Gene Wright
BY SHELIA MADER

The Town of Malone received $432,077 dollars from the Northwest Florida Water Management District through a grant written by Rick Pettis of Melvin Engineering. The money will be used to replace 12 septic tanks that are currently being used by Malone School.

Currently, the Jackson County School Board has to bear the cost of maintaining those 12 septic tanks which is quite expensive with the heavy use from the K-12 school. This project will bring an end to that cost for the school board each year. Repaving of 12th Avenue and Seventh Street will be necessary due to the sewage work on those two streets that border Malone School.

Malone Mayor Gene Wright welcomed the dignitaries, citizens, those involved with the project from its inception, Malone councilmen Ken Campbell and Greg Ford, county commissioners Jim Peacock and Clint Pate, as well as school board member Charlotte Gardner. Wright said, "We're proud to have you here. I'm excited about this project and anytime we can partner with the school board, we all win. All of you who have been in office know what an undertaking this is. A group like Water Management gets a request for us some funding and they make the best of it every time. No matter what they do with it, they manage their money well and we're very grateful to Water Management, John (Alter), and the Board and we are looking forward to bringing Malone School into the 21st century as far as waste water is concerned. We're glad everybody's here. Thank you."

Rick Pettis is credited with spearheading this project and he addressed the crowd, "We wouldn't be able to do this project if we didn't get some money to actually make it happen. We owe a great deal of thanks to the Water Management district. The Executive Director of the district is here, Brett."

Brett Cyphers Executive Director of North Florida Water Management District, "Thank you sir. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, thanks Rick. It's a real pleasure to be in Jackson County again today. I was here yesterday working with a couple of governments, Marianna and Grand Ridge, trying to figure out solutions to problems and Mr. Alter has been a huge part of that for Jackson County. We're constantly looking for ways to help folks, and work with folks to come to these solutions. Our board is the real driving force behind that. We like the idea of your money, you pay taxes, your constituents pay taxes to let us do what we do. The least we can do in return is have something to show for it at the end. It's a pleasure for me to be here. It's a pleasure for me to work for John Alter and I'll just turn it over to him, thank you so much."

Northwest Florida Waste Management District Board Member, John Alter said, "I've been a resident of Malone for 20 years. For a lot of you, that may not be a very long time, but I'm very happy here. I've been with the Water Management governing board, I'm in my second term. This project is just a perfect fit between a town like Malone and the Water Management district. I know a lot about Malone School, my wife graduated from here. My mother-in-law taught school here, and when my father-in-law was a young boy, he drove a log truck that brought the lumber to build that first two-story wooden
Dirty Pecan draws in over 400 cyclists

Ashley Hunter, ECB Publishing, Inc.

Starting out on Jefferson's beautiful canopy roads, winding through long-forgotten dirt paths, traveling alongside sprawling farms and showing cyclists the marvel of North Florida and South Georgia's rural communities, the Dirty Pecan was an impressive success.

Puling in over 400 cyclists for the event, the Dirty Pecan has garnered praise online at the event's Facebook page, from people who are just discovering Jefferson County to people reconnecting with the county's rural aspects.

Brick House Eatery supplied after-ride meals for the cyclists interested in purchasing food, and around $8,000 was raised for Jefferson's 4-H, according to event organizer Betsy Barfield.

Photo Courtesy of Betsy Barfield

Over 400 cyclists turned out for the Dirty Pecan on Saturday, March 3. Some cyclists camped overnight at the Jefferson County Extension Office, paying a camping fee that was collected as part of the event's fundraising for the Jefferson County 4-H.

Dirty Pecan, a free bike ride and fundraiser for the Jefferson County 4-H, was held on Saturday. Bicyclists were given a choice of 60, 80, 100, 150 mile routes on some of the most scenic roads in north Florida and south Georgia. These enthusiasts came in town from Atlanta, GA on Friday to get an early start. They camped on the hillside behind the Extension Office for a small donation fee. Pictured are: Stephanie and Tim Ho, Gerry Weber, Chris Halie and Sharif Hassan, owner of "The Spindle," a clothing retailer. The 400+ registered bikers rode racing, recreational and mountain bikes, tri-bikes, and others.

Photo Courtesy of Betsy Barfield

The Brick House Eatery was just one of several sponsors for the annual Dirty Pecan, a free bike ride and fundraiser for the Jefferson County 4-H. Pictured here preparing and serving meals for the participants are: Chris, left, and Josh, right. The comments about this event were uplifting for the organizers and sponsors, including Bird Legs Bicycles, Jefferson County Commissioners, FMB, Duke Energy, XOJ, Nabor Gibbons & Nickerson attorney at law, Cliff Leonardo graphic design, CWR consulting, Ag-Pro, B&B Privia Ring Power CAT, Capital City Bank, Dewberry, Preble-Rish, Tri-County Electric, Ard Shirley & Rudolph Langton Consulting, Cimarron, The Fonville Foundation, Trophy Creek Outfitters & Pawn, Stephen Walker, Buck Bird, Tom & Terri Dunn, PGIT and several anonymous donors.
‘Water war’ likely to keep roiling

By Lloyd Dunkeiberger
The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Even if the U.S. Supreme Court gives Florida a favorable ruling in its lawsuit against Georgia over water flow into the Apalachicola River, the decision likely would result in more litigation and new legal challenges involving the decades-old water war between the states.

Those were the observations of five legal experts who on March 15 addressed a conference at Florida State University on the Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay system. The conference was put together by the Florida Conservation Coalition, a group headed by former U.S. Sen. and Gov. Bob Graham.

The U.S. Supreme Court in January heard oral arguments in Florida’s challenge to a special master’s report that found Florida had not proved its case that a water-usage cap should be imposed on Georgia to help the river and Apalachicola Bay. Georgia has asked the nation’s highest court to uphold the report, arguing that a consumption cap would damage Georgia’s economy and agriculture industry.

Florida has asked for the case to be sent back to the court-appointed special master for more hearings on a plan for an “equitable” distribution of water in the Apalachicola- Chattahoochee-Flint river basin.

Although the lawyers on Thursday’s panel and Florida

See WATER, A14

Who spoke for us

Experts from around the region and the nation took part in last week’s “The Endangered Apalachicola-A National River Conference” at FSU. Among those directly involved in Franklin County who were on panels were:

• Jim Estes, from the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, who moderated a session on oyster management. Participants included Kal Knickerbocker, from the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services; Steve Rash, owner of Water Street Seafood; and Shannon Hartsfield, from the Seafood Workers Association and Seafood Management Assistance Resource Recovery Team.

• A session on “What do We Know About the Conditions of the Apalachicola and its Communities?” featured Dr. Felicia Coleman, director of The Florida State University Coastal and Marine Lab; and Dan Tonsmeire, Apalachicola Riverkeeper.

• A session on “The Paths to Recovery - Strengthening and Diversifying the Economy of the Apalachicola” featured Franklin County Commission Chair Joseph “Smokey” Parrish.

• A session on “Approaches to a Planning for Comprehensive Apalachicola Recovery and Management Coordination” featured Dr. Skip Livingston, from Florida State University, as well as Estes and Rash.
WATER

From Page A1

officials have expressed optimism about the case based on the tone of justices' questions during oral arguments, Jonathan Williams, a former deputy solicitor general for the state, said he was taking a cautious view.

"Oral arguments are often not great predictors of what the ultimate outcome is going to be, particularly in cases that are as complicated as this one is," said Williams, who was involved in the case while he was with the Attorney General's Office. He is now in private practice with the firm Lash & Goldberg.

Although the arguments "went well," Williams said, "there are a lot of unsettled issues in this case right now, and there are a lot of thorny issues the special master will have to work through in the event the case gets remanded to him."

If the case continues, a key issue in developing an "equitable apportionment" of water in the river system would be weighing the benefits to Florida against the cost to Georgia.

Florida has said a diminished water flow has harmed the Apalachicola ecosystem as well as the seafood industry, while Georgia has said a consumption cap could hurt the economic growth of the Atlanta region and impact a multibillion-dollar agriculture industry in Southwest Georgia.

Richard Hamann, a retired law professor from the University of Florida, said he is "pretty optimistic" about Florida's case, having once thought the state would have difficulty proving harm had been done.

But if Florida wins the current case, he likened it to "the dog chasing the car."

"When you catch it, what do you get?" he asked. He said it may be difficult developing an accurate mechanism to measure a consumption cap.

"If we get there, I think that would be a huge challenge," Hamann said. "But I certainly look forward to seeing that day."

Jason Oyler, a lawyer with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission in Pennsylvania, said the case likely would lead to more litigation that could "go on for decades upon decades."

He and other lawyers on the panel said there are relatively few water cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court to give a clear indication of the outcome of the Florida-Georgia case.

"I think there could be twists and turns, even with a relatively favorable ruling, on that kind of economic analysis," he said. "And there are some pitfalls there."

Melissa Samet, a lawyer with the National Wildlife Federation, described a related lawsuit challenging a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water-management plan for the river basin issued last year.

Samet said her organization filed a legal challenge to both the "water control manual" as well as the environmental impact statement that accompanied the plan. The case was filed in Washington, D.C., and joined a similar lawsuit filed by Alabama, also challenging the water plan and environmental document.

She said the water control manual, as well as the environmental statement, failed to adequately assess the impact of the diminished water flow into the Apalachicola system, including its impact on plant and animal life, and did not explore "reasonable" alternatives.

"The fundamental goal of our lawsuit is really to ensure that the Corps is using the legal tools that it has available to it, to issue a revised water control manual that restores a more natural flow pattern to the Apalachicola," she said.

Mohammad Jazil, a lawyer with the firm Hopping, Green & Sams, said it would be difficult to overturn the Corps' decision given that federal law is "deferential" to actions by government agencies.

"The Corps is presumed to be the expert and presumed to be right," he said.

Samet acknowledged the deferential standard, but she said the Corps actions were so "egregious" in ignoring mandates like the National Environmental Policy Act in the development of the basin plan that "I think we have a really good shot."
County pushes for airport ‘results’

By David Adlerstein
The Apalachicola Times
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850-653-8894

Gusts of state support for a stepped-up marketing campaign, plus state and federal dollars targeted at infrastructure improvements, are wafting fresh winds under the wings of the Apalachicola Regional Airport.

County commissioners last week listened to a lengthy PowerPoint presentation, and reviewed a copy of a newly-created airport marketing brochure, all pieces of a strategic plan created by private sector consultants funded by grants from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

The commissioners heard from Airport Manager Jason Puckett, touting the work that’s been done by Centric Aviation since the county last fall signed a five-year deal with the New Jersey company to be the fixed base operator.

The commissioners responded warmly to the presentations, but were not without some puffs of impatience that perhaps they’ve heard it all before.

See AIRPORT, A6

This map shows possible expansion of the Apalachicola airport both to the east and west.
AIRPORT

From Page A1

“When are you going to get something going to put people to work?” asked Commissioner Noah Lockley. “We don’t need more studies; we need to put people to work.”

Commissioner Cheryl Sanders said that in the 20 years she’s sat on the board, she’s heard a lot of hopes, but seen less success stories, when it comes to attracting potential employers willing to set up shop in the industrial park adjacent to the airfield.

“Talk is cheap, y’all,” she said. “That is a good opportunity to put some good jobs out there to employ some of our people. I hope you will pursue that. It’s an economic driver in our county.”

Alan Pierce, the former county planner now working on the task of directing RESTORE Act monies to local projects, underscored the commissioners’ concerns.

“We see millions of dollars going in there just to maintain the thing and no jobs are being created,” he said. “The feds are willing to put money in the thing.”

Puckett, noting how all parties concerned would like to see jobs created at the airport, stressed the airport is continuing to show growing signs of a continued indirect benefit to job creation.

He said the airport’s courtesy cars made 107 roundtrips into Apalachicola in February, all helping to add to jobs in the hospitality industry, as people frequent stores and restaurants, and often seek overnight accommodations.

He said Centric has added new flooring to the airport’s office space, has selected recipients of three $1,000 scholarships for high school seniors, is in a position to do well on next week’s annual FDOT inspection, and has moved forward on projects to remark an airfield lane, add runway lighting, make drainage improvements and construct a commercial access road.

“The airport is doing a great job,” said Puckett.

“We have not seen it (direct job creation),” said Sanders. “We really need to look seriously at other opportunities; we have got to look at more.

“We’ve got our construction industry, we’ve got our tourist industry but we need more,” she said.

“We need plenty more,” said Lockley. “It’s going to take a while for that bay to come back.

“It’s been promising and promising and promising and nobody gets no money but these top people,” he said.

“In other words we want results,” said Sanders.

Beth Kirkland, together with Santiago Fernandez, both consultants working as subcontractors with BRPH, an engineering firm in Melbourne, outlined in their Power Point a Strategic Commercial Land Development Plan, which further specified the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) report discussed a year ago.

The plan outlined a wealth of information about what neighboring counties are doing to beef up their transportation infrastructure, and what resources are available, particularly from RESTORE Act monies, as well as rural infrastructure and job growth funding available from Florida’s Department of Economic Opportunity.

“It’s important for them to know where all the pots of money are,” said Kirkland.

“You want all of that to be coordinated. We’re looking for those connection points.”

She said the state is working on preparing a strategic outlook for all 129 of its airports, which are likely to take at least a year to complete.

“The airport is a port to our community, and the indirect job creation that occurs because of having that big of an asset in your community,” she said. “It would be sorely missed and the economic impact would be felt if it wasn’t there.”

She said that an economic impact analysis of direct, indirect and induced job creation, both presently and potentially, will help influence the county’s expectations for its FBO. She included consideration of possibly adding a restaurant as a potential enhancement.

“Those are amenities that the general aviation community enjoys,” she said. “As they design a new FBO, they will likely incorporate something like that.”
Kirkland said the county needs to pursue what she called “competitive benchmarking” of the potential return on investment for airport vs. non-airport parcels. She said recreation options for the former landfill site nearby also should be reviewed, as well as an additional row of T-hangars.

“If we’re going to build on that site, there is certain remediation you have to do,” she said. “But you can do things like outdoor trails and things, whatever kind of recreation you’re interested in.”

She said the future of the now vacant Bay City Work Camp site also needs to be examined. “Our recommendation is to look at that as a potential workforce training facility,” said Kirkland. “(Companies) are going to want to have a place to train their work force. There may be some opportunities to have that discussion with the school board.

“Franklin County doesn’t have any post-secondary training in the county,” she said. “Could this be a satellite campus for that?”

Kirkland and Fernandez also unveiled a new full-color glossy brochure, marketing the county as a distinct destination, and outlining what the airport industrial park has to offer, particularly as to its role in the Gulf to Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone (FLZ).

The FLZ is one of two such groupings of activities and infrastructure associated with freight transportation and related services created by Florida statute three years ago, Hillsborough County being the other.

“Establishment of the FLZ can provide public funding when pursuing certain projects within the FLZ,” notes the brochure. “As a common transportation asset, the Apalachicola Northern Railway (owned by St. Joe Company and operated by Genesee and Wyoming Railways) connects the Port of Port St. Joe in Gulf County with the CSX Class I railroad in Gadsden County, thereby providing for the movement of goods across the nation.”

The brochure notes that several industrial sites have been identified and qualified by Enterprise Florida’s Strategic Sites program along the railroad and close to additional transportation assets.

“Interstate 10 and major arterial roads like Highways 65, 71 and US 98 together with the Apalachicola Regional Airport in Franklin County comprise a transportation network that is valuable to the growing industries of transportation, logistics, manufacturing, and distribution,” it reads.

Kirkland said Gulf County is working to secure Triumph monies for a floating harbor to help activate its port for larger vessels; Liberty County has received job growth monies to build an additional road that opens up some of its strategic sites; and Gadsden has gotten acreage under option for use with the FLZ.

She said she now is looking for feedback from the commissioners on the new brochure.

“These are important steps in the process,” Kirkland said. “I understand that at the end of the day that’s what it’s about, job creation. It’s a responsibility for a commission that has auspices of a major asset like the airport.

“They have embraced the tools available to them and they should be applauded,” she said. “All of these other things are to their credit. You have to lay the groundwork to articulate to businesses in the region here’s why you should relocate there.

“Businesses are looking for a regional economic development plan that can support their efforts and help get their goods to market and help them get the assets they need,” Kirkland said.
State to expand aquaculture leases

By David Adlerstein
The Apalachicola Times
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Gov. Rick Scott and his cabinet are poised to approve a major expansion of aquaculture leases in the easternmost waters off the Franklin County coast.

If they were looking for a rousing show of support from the county commissioners Tuesday, they were sorely disappointed.

Following up on a meeting he and Commission Chairman Smokey Parrish had with Kal Knickerbocker, director of the aquaculture division at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, former county planner Alan Pierce shared with commissioners details regarding a 41-acre expansion of an existing oyster and clam lease site in Alligator Harbor, plus a new 131-acre lease area in the Ochlockonee Bay.

Because each individual lease covers about 1.5 acres, the proposed expansion in Alligator Harbor would yield 2 new leases, each available for about $70 per year, for 10 years. The 72 leases on the new site in Ochlockonee Bay, between Wakulla and Franklin counties, would run about $100 per year, also for 10 years.

The leases would include use of both the bottom and the full water column, and could be used to farm either oysters or clams.

See OYSTER, A14
OYSTER

From Page A1

No sooner had Pierce noted the portion of Knickerbocker's report that noted "the proposed action is not subject to the local government planning process," that the commissioners expressed their displeasure.

Commissioner Cheryl Sanders noted that when the initial 46 leases in Alligator Harbor were first approved more than a decade ago, county commissioners were given a say in the matter.

"What has changed in their (FDACS) mission?" she asked. "They would not proceed on aquaculture leases (before) until the board said they approved it."

Sanders, who has long represented that portion of the county, also noted that Franklin County fishers got first preference during that initial period when the innovative farming concept was being introduced.

"These 41 leases need to be for 41 displaced oystermen," she said. "They (the state) needs to know we are requesting that we have that preference. We want it to spill over on the 41 (new leases). It needs to have Franklin County folks given first preference."

Parrish indicated his biggest concern, given the push by the state to expand oyster and clam farming, was that these new leases "be fully used before they go looking at Apalachicola Bay."

"To me, before they ask for anything else in Apalachicola Bay, these leases need to be fully utilized, and people in Franklin County need to be given preference for this," he said.

Sanders said she liked the general idea, but had concerns on how it would be implemented, given the fact that there is limited dock space in Alligator Harbor, and access to Ochlocknee Bay also could pose problems.

"I'm opposed to using any open waters until we see if this works," she said. "Let them know when this aquaculture lease program was first created, Franklin County folks got first preference and we need it extended to the other leases."

Parrish said that with startup costs running into tens of thousands of dollars, with no yield for at least the first year, he believed many local fishers would be hard-pressed to afford to go into business, "The average oysterman doesn't have $60,000 to get started," he said.

"If you don't (grant locals preference), the outsiders are going to get all the leases," said Commissioner William Massey.

Parrish did note that he was pleased that the state, rather than the county, would be responsible for granting the leases. Even so, he said if problems arose, "they (the fishermen) are going to come down to this meeting and say the county allowed them to do it."

"I don't want every lease they do coming here for county approval," he said.

Commissioner Noah Lockley voiced his annoyance as well, and advocated the county ask that County Attorney Michael Shuler look into what legal options are available if the county moves to challenge the state on the new leases. That motion passed unanimously.

"That Knickerbocker man is going to do what he wants to do anyway," said Lockley.

As it stands now, three members of the governor's cabinet will have to approve the leases, at a vote which will take place sometime after the comment period ends April 26.

One member of the cabinet, Agriculture Secretary Adam Putnam, who is running for governor, drew especially pointed criticism from commissioners.

"I'm just hoping that our future ag commissioner; that she will look at everything and look at the issues at hand," said Sanders.

"That man (Putnam) ain't been here in eight years," said Lockley.

Sanders said that during an appearance before an earlier meeting of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission held in Apalachicola, Putnam declined to make an appearance before the county commission. His predecessor, Charles Bronson, made several appearances before the county commission during his tenure in office, including a farewell visit at the completion of his term.

"He (Putnam) wouldn't come and address us," Sanders said.
Scientists have a plan to save Liberty County’s unique Torrey tree

by Samantha Gronrock, UF/IFAS Communications

GAINESVILLE - With fewer than 1,000 of them left in the wild, the Florida torrey tree is on the path to extinction. But now scientists have a plan to save it.

Last month, scientists from universities, conservation groups and government agencies from across the country spent two days turning their best ideas for conserving this rare tree into a coordinated strategy.

Their novel approach could set the groundwork for conserving other endangered plants, said Jason Smith, associate professor of forest resources and conservation at the University of Florida, and one of the organizers of the event.

This first Torrey Tree of Life event was sponsored and co-organized by ProForest, an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional initiative focused on forest health headquartered at UF, and of which Smith is a part. This event featured preeminent evolutionary biologist E.O. Wilson, whose keynote address emphasizes the importance of conserving endangered species and sustaining global biodiversity.

“Dr. Wilson is a giant in the study of biodiversity, and in the science world in general. I think having him involved in this project has been instrumental in creating the network of scientists who are now a part of this project,” Smith said.

Finally, scientists will begin screening trees to look for those resistant to the fungus that’s so devastated the species. Scientists will then determine which genes in these resistant trees make them more resilient. If they can identify this genetic component, the gene editing technology CRISPR can be used to produce trees that have these traits, Smith said.

“When funded, this holistic strategy, involving many scientists and institutions, could give us a fighting chance at saving the torrey. This isn’t typically how conservation is done, so we’re excited to be trying this novel approach,” Smith said. “With the rate at which genetic technologies are advancing, as well as the programs we already have in place, the goal is to have a method we can implement in the next three to five years.”

The mission of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is to develop knowledge relevant to agricultural, human and natural resources and to make that knowledge available to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. Visit the UF/IFAS website at www.ifas.ufl.edu.
Community-wide Brownfields Assessment in Polk County

Since 2009, a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency has allowed the Central Florida RPC to conduct reuse planning and Brownfields assessment of approximately 35 sites throughout Polk County leading to plans for future developments on previously unused sites in downtown corridors, future healthcare sites, and a community garden.

Investors fear taking on the burden of environmental risk and overcoming this barrier is essential to successful redevelopment and revitalization of business corridors and downtowns. Assessment activities provide a valuable tool to determine if contamination exists on a site. The process quantifies the costs of cleanup activities, which helps developers determine manageable costs and provide them with support for additional funding and incentives. The assessment funds provided a process to bring together public and private partnerships in an effort to increase economic development and quality of life in our communities.
As a recipient of areawide planning funds, the Central Florida RPC in cooperation with community residents, business owners, Polk County, and the City of Lakeland developed an area-wide plan for the Combee Settlement in Lakeland, FL. The drafting of the Plan offered a forum for collaboration to identify opportunities and challenges facing the neighborhood. Programs for economic growth and community development, infrastructure improvements and priorities, Complete Street Corridors, Brownfield Redevelopment priorities, and concepts for redevelopment of a 57-acre catalyst site on the southeast side of Lake Parker were identified. Since plan completion, a community garden was built and a complete streets improvement project is progressing through the local transportation planning organization's process.

**Tampa Bay RPC Sponsors the 2018 Gulf Coast Safe Street Summit**

The Tampa Bay RPC was a premier sponsor at the premier Gulf Coast Safe Street Summit which took place at the Glazer Children's Museum in Tampa. The Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit is a collaborative effort of the Hernando/Citrus, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, and Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the Polk County Transportation Planning Organization, the Florida Department of Transportation, the University of South Florida Center for Urban Transportation Research and Walk Bike Tampa. This partnership provides a regional approach to prioritize the Complete Streets initiative throughout local jurisdictions along the Gulf Coast of Florida. This West Central Florida's preeminent educational event was aimed at encouraging the implementation of Complete Streets that are safe and accessible for all. As we work to elevate our individual efforts, cohesive linkages across to sister counties will lead to regionally significant transportation facilities and safety programs for all modes of transportation and for all ages and abilities. Anyone in the region who wanted to help create healthier and safer communities have the option to come hear energizing and informed speakers, engage with public officials, and mingle with community partners. Keynote speakers included Mayor Rick Kriseman of St Petersburg, Ryan Gravel of Sixpitch, along with FDOT Secretaries of District 1 and 7. The Tampa Bay RPC remains devoted to staying on the cutting edge of complete streets and transportation planning.
Apalachee RPC Assists with Apalachicola River Conference

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council aided in the organization of The Endangered Apalachicola, a conference regarding the Apalachicola River and Floodplain and Apalachee Bay. The conference sought to bring renewed attention to the ecological, cultural and economic importance of the riverine system. Keynote speakers included former U.S. Senator Bob Graham, Senior Vice President of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Tom Kelsch, and the Director of the FSU Marine Lab, Felicia Coleman. The event concluded with a tour of the upper reach of the Apalachicola River pictured.

FRCA Receives Award for Post Disaster Recovery Support

FRCA was recently honored with a Certificate of Appreciation for their assistance with Hurricane Irma Economic Recovery and Resiliency Workshops hosted in coordination with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the U.S. Economic Development Administration.
East Central Florida RPC's Approach to Regional Resiliency

The East Central Florida RPC was awarded a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to develop a Regional Resiliency Action Plan. Working with Brevard and Volusia Counties, a steering committee was formed comprised of federal, state, regional and local agencies and communities. This committee began meeting regularly in October of 2017 to develop goals and a direction for the plan and process. The process is also guided by two subcommittees: Sea Level Rise and Stakeholder Engagement. The steering committee, along with each subcommittee, are helping to define language, assess a regional approach to sea level rise planning and advance the action plan.

Thanks to their efforts, the Regional Resiliency Action Plan has progressed greatly beginning with the development of a “Plan and Policy Resiliency Integration” survey. The survey, which aimed to provide insight into the progress of integrating resiliency into various local and regional plans and policies, was completed by local and regional agencies. Survey results identified gaps, needs and actionable items aimed at supporting resilient and sustainable coastal communities in the region. Additional activities include research focused on determining implementation activities for local jurisdictions, regional and state agencies, as well as private and federal partners such as
Canaveral Port Authority, Kennedy Space Center and Patrick Air Force Base. Applicable grants available to local agencies and jurisdictions for implementation activities are being researched and will be included in the Action Plan.

The East Central Florida RPC will be holding Regional Resiliency Action Plan Listening Session Workshops on May 7th and 8th in Volusia and Brevard Counties, respectively. Each day will contain two workshop sessions, “Collaborating for Resilience” and “Building Economic and Social Resilience”. The “Collaborating for Resilience” workshop is focused on local governments and local, regional, state agencies. The “Building Economic and Social Resilience” workshop is focused on economic development agencies, departments and organizations, as well as businesses, and others focused on economic resilience. In August 2018 additional meetings for elected officials and the public will be held to gain more input for the plan. For additional information on the action plan and its processes please visit our website: https://www.periloflood.net/ecfresiliency

Elevate Northeast Florida

The Northeast Florida Regional Council, JAXUSA, and CareerSource Northeast Florida have formed a partnership to develop a new economic development strategy for the region. With major funding from the Economic Development Administration, “Elevate Northeast Florida” kicked off in late February. Goals for Elevate Northeast Florida include economic growth, talent development, brand recognition and global competitiveness. Elevate Northeast Florida is expected to be unveiled in the Fall. For more information and to take a survey to help shape the Elevate strategy please visit www.elevatenefl.com or contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org.
Southwest Florida RPC Receives Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant

The Southwest Florida RPC was awarded an EPA Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant for $600,000 (50% petroleum, 50% hazardous substances). The grant covers the Southwest Florida Promise Zone area of Glades County, Hendry County, and the community of Immokalee in Collier County and will fund an expanded community driven inventory of brownfields sites as well as a Generic Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), 40 ASTM-AAI compliant Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, 14 Phase II ESAs (with site-specific QAPPs), and up to eight Remedial Action Plans. The primary focus of the brownfields assessment proposal is to eliminate the threat of contamination and improve the quality of life in the low income, high unemployment communities of Glades and Hendry counties and Immokalee, keeping environmental justice as a key focus.

The Immokalee Airport is one of the priority Brownfield sites identified in the grant application.
MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: April 2018

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Organized and distributed the March 2018 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter, FRCA Forward. Began collecting articles and formatting the April 2018 Newsletter. Continued to update the FRCA Facebook page.

- Continued to work with the Florida Association of Counties regarding the maintenance and enhancement of the FRCA website and newsletter. Continued to update and maintain the email listserv for the more than 2,500 individuals who receive FRCA Forward.

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in or attended the following meetings and shared information:
  - IFAS Coordination Meeting, April 4th
  - FDOT Workshop on F.S. 333 – Airport Zoning Regulations, April 24th

- Facilitated the Economic Development Planner and Disaster Recovery Coordinator Conference Call with the Economic Development Administration, April 13th

- Worked with the Department of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Environmental Protection to submit two presentation ideas which were selected for the American Planning Association Florida Annual Conference being held in West Palm Beach, September 11 – 14, 2018.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Participated in the March 8 - 9, 2018, Executive Directors Advisory Council (EDAC) and Partners Meetings held in Tallahassee. Prepared for the May 10th EDAC meeting being held by conference call including developing agendas and distributing meeting materials.

- Coordinated FRCA participation with the upcoming annual conferences:
  - National Association of Regional Councils
  - Florida Association of Counties
  - Florida League of Cities
  - American Planning Association, Florida Chapter

- Updated and enhanced the FRCA website.

- Distributed grant opportunities and information of interest from state and national organizations.
March 22, 2018

Mr. Chris Rietow
2507 Callaway Road
Suite 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

Dear Mr. Rietow:

One of my greatest priorities and responsibilities is the appointment of qualified and ethical individuals to boards and commissions throughout the state.

With this goal in mind, it is my pleasure to appoint you to the State Emergency Response Commission. Your appointment is evidence of my utmost confidence in your ability to serve with excellence and distinction.

You will soon receive your qualifying papers from the Department of State. Please note that these papers will need to be filed before you are able to assume your position.

Congratulations and thank you for your willingness to serve the people of Florida.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
Governor

RS/kb
In the Name and by the Authority of the

STATE OF FLORIDA

I, Rick Scott, Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of this State, do hereby commission

Chris Rietow

who was duly appointed to be a member of the

State Emergency Response Commission

for a term beginning on the Twenty-Second day of March, A.D., 2018 to serve at the pleasure of the Governor, according to the Constitution and Laws of the State and in the Name of the People of the State of Florida to have, hold and exercise the said office, and all the powers and responsibilities appertaining thereto, and to receive the privileges and emoluments thereof in accordance with the law.

In Testimony Whereof, I do hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the Great Seal of the State, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this the Thirtieth day of March, A.D., 2018, and of the Independence of the United States the Two Hundred and Forty-Second year.

ATTEST:

Ken Detwiler
Secretary of State

Governor of Florida
From: Joe McKinney <jmckinney@nado.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 1:35 PM
To: Chris Rietow
Subject: Welcome to the 2018-2020 NADO Board of Directors

Congratulations! I want to give you a heads up before it is announced tomorrow in NADO News that you have been elected to serve on the 2018-2020 National Association of Development Organizations Board of Directors. For the first time ever, the number of nominees in each region exactly matched the number of seats available so there will be no elections in any region (or associate membership) for the upcoming two-year term. That speaks to the tremendous work being done in each of the regional caucuses and open communication among our members.

Please recall that all Past Presidents of NADO who are full-time employees (or members of the policy board of a NADO member) serve on the Board of Directors as ex-officio members.

On behalf of the organization’s leadership, I thank you for your willingness to serve NADO in this capacity and I look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Joe McKinney
NADO Executive Director
April 17, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Rietow:

It is my pleasure to appoint you to serve as a member of the Florida Greenways and Trails Council. Your appointment is effective May 1, 2018, and will continue through April 30, 2020.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) fully recognizes that the commitment of time for this appointment can be significant. The Florida Greenways and Trails Council plays an essential role to ensure that our citizens and visitors continue to have the opportunity to enjoy our statewide network of recreational and ecological trails.

Samantha Browne, Chief of DEP’s Office of Greenways and Trails, will be in contact with you to discuss Council responsibilities, expectations and meeting schedules. If you have any questions regarding your service on this Council, please feel free to contact Carla Gaskin at (850) 245-2015.

Sincerely,

Noah Valenstein
Secretary

cc: David Clark, Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation, DEP
Carla Gaskin, Deputy Chief of Staff, DEP
Samantha Browne, Office of Greenways and Trails, DEP
Apalachee Regional Planning Council
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