

**RIPARIAN COUNTY STAKEHOLDER COALITION (RCSC)**

Regular Meeting – June 1, 2018 11:00 am CT

W.T. Neal Civic Center (Conference Room) – Blountstown, FL

*The Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition (RCSC) was developed to advocate for the interests and needs related to the functions supported by the waters of the Apalachicola River for the six County Commissions bordering the River. The RCSC was initially created by individual County Resolutions in 2007 and later strengthened by the adoption of a unified Compact in 2012. The RCSC is comprised of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson and Liberty Counties.*

**MINUTES****RCSC Board Members in Attendance:**

Chad Taylor (Jackson), Betty Webb (Liberty County), Craig Brinkley (Liberty County)

**Others in Attendance:**

Georgia Ackerman (Riverkeeper/ACFS), Joe Crozier (ARPC/ACFS/RCSC), Erik Lovestrand (ACFS/Franklin County), Shannon Hartsfield (ACFS/Franklin County), Guy Angin (Jackson County landowner/ACFS), Diane Hines (Riverkeeper volunteer)

**Call to Order**

RCSC Coordinator Chad Taylor called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm Central Time and asked that the records show a quorum be signified by the members of the RCSC in attendance and the proxies they represented.

**Welcome and Introduction**

Mr. Taylor thanked everyone for their attendance and as all were acquainted no introductions were necessary. ***The Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition was formed to allow for six counties to speak with one voice to the Governor, Legislature, Federal agencies and Stakeholders.***

**Agenda Approval**

The draft agenda was reviewed with the RCSC by Mr. Taylor and approved by general consensus.

**Administrative Report**

**Minutes:** Joe Crozier presented the minutes from the October 6, 2017 RCSC meeting. A motion was made by Craig Brinkley to approve the October 6, 2017 RCSC meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Chad Taylor. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Financials:** Joe Crozier presented the financial report as of May 30, 2018. A motion was made by Chad Taylor to approve the RCSC financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Craig Brinkley. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Budget:** Mr. Crozier reviewed the budget included in the agenda packet. The budget was approved as presented by general consensus. A copy of the budget is included to these minutes. The group discussed possibilities of what may be needed to spend RCSC contributions on during 18/19. Four of the six counties paid full dues in 2017/2018.

Mr. Taylor added that Jackson County has concerns with budget shortfalls for 2018/2019. The RCSC may be subject to a county deficit associated with state and federal policy changes. The RCSC will send an early notice requesting funding for the upcoming fiscal year. If the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funding is awarded, this will supplement the RCSC member county dues.

### Old Business:

- Letters of support are critical especially if funding is not received to confirm the RCSC is on the same page as the commissions.

### New Business:

- Considerations for next large focuses in 2019 and associated budget
  - RCSC will support large projects associated with the ACF Stakeholders. More information on this topic is at the end of this document
- Next meeting to be held before the next ACFS meeting if not sooner
- Mr. Taylor motions to pay for Shannon Hartsfield ACFS 2018 dues and hotel room for Lake Eufala meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Webb. Passes unanimously.
- Motion to pay for Lee Garner ACFS 2018 dues. Seconded by Mrs. Webb. Passes unanimously.

### Discussion:

#### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**

- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation reached out to the RCSC and other partners to potentially determine RESTORE funded project priorities in the basin for immediate implementation. This proposal and its potential implications were discussed
- Priority list of projects in the FDEP Portal
  - We would be filling in gaps, identifying stakeholders and identifying projects that could improve the Apalachicola basin for near-immediate action

#### **ARPC and RCSC 2018/19 Status Report & Newsletter**

- Chad Taylor stated that the RCSC renewed the contract with ARPC for 2017/18. There is a \$15,000 cap on this contract. ARPC billed \$12,000 for 2017/18.
- Mr. Crozier informed the attendees of the upcoming contract between ARPC and NOAA/DEP for the Apalachicola Bay Shoreline Inventory Project.
  - Skip Livingston once did a visual survey of the coast

#### **“Apalachicola Most Endanger River” Conference Results**

- March 14-17, 2018 at the FSU University Center

- The conference included science updates, policy and management discussion and other discussion.
- This conference was supported by the RCSC with \$10,000
- The goal was to determine a direction on how the State will manage flows and restoration among other concerns while working with Federal agencies and others
- The event was attended by numerous federal agencies, environmental groups, state agencies and representatives from Florida and Georgia, students and other interested parties.
- Over \$30,000 was raised to support the conference.

#### **RCSC/ACF Stakeholders, Inc. Discussion**

- The RCSC supports ACF Stakeholders, Inc. endeavors where appropriate; examples include the ACF Sustainable Water Management Plan and Transboundary Water Management Institution Options Study, Udall Institute of Conflict Resolution Assessment of ACFS
- Upcoming potential projects-
  - There may be a study involving raising Lake Lanier two feet
    - Ensuring the Army Corps of Engineers includes the Apalachicola River and Bay as an authorized purpose of their dam operations is critical. This includes a much more comprehensive environmental impact statement process than has previously occurred. Adding this authorized purpose requires congressional authorization.
- The National Weather Service has suggested that the ACF Stakeholders develop a model to better predict climactic events for the NWS to utilize for use for more accurate drought prediction in the basin. They have offered to host a meeting amongst the Stakeholders, state and federal agencies and other partners to collaborate for this purpose.
- The ACF Stakeholders are currently working with NOAA to develop more effective Drought Early Warning Indicators. This group sponsored the ACF Stakeholders meeting on June 13-14<sup>th</sup> in Eufala, Alabama.

The meeting was recessed at 1:00 pm CT for the convening of the Apalachicola Sub-Basin Caucus meeting. There being no further business of the RCSC the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm CT.

The next meeting will be held prior to the next ACF Stakeholders, Inc. Governing Board meeting.

APPROVED:

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C. Chadwick Taylor, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Joe Crozier, Coordinator