Apalachee Regional Planning Council

FULL COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

Thursday – March 28, 2019
10:00 a.m. ET / 9:00 a.m. CT

309th 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)
Kristin Dozier, Vice-Chair (Leon) • Ricky Jones, Secretary/Treasurer (Franklin)
FRCA Policy Board Members: Kristin Dozier, Lisa Miller and Gene Wright

FULL COUNCIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun County</td>
<td>Gene Bailey</td>
<td>County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>Municipal Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Don Stephens</td>
<td>Governor's Appointee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin County</td>
<td>Ricky Jones</td>
<td>County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brenda La Paz</td>
<td>Mayor, City of Carrabelle</td>
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<td>Woody Stewart</td>
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<td>Davis Stoutamire</td>
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<td>Gail Gilman</td>
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<td>Ex-Officio Members</td>
<td>Michael Fuller</td>
<td>FL Dept. of Environmental Protection</td>
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<td>Maria Showalter</td>
<td>FL Dept. of Transportation</td>
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<td>Diane Scholz</td>
<td>Enterprise Florida</td>
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APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING

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

THURSDAY – MARCH 28, 2019
10:00 AM Eastern Time / 9:00 AM Central Time

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions

2. *Approval of Agenda

3. *Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2019 Regular Board Meeting

4. Hurricane Michael Recovery Update – Melissa Shirah, FDEM

5. Florida Trail Town Presentation – Britney Moore, FDEP

6. Executive Director’s Report
   Chris Rietow, ARPC Executive Director
   A. *Financial Report
   B. Staff Program Reports
      1. Economic Development & Community Planning
      2. Emergency Planning
      3. Revolving Loan Fund
      4. *Transportation Planning
      5. Environmental Planning
      6. GIS Program
      7. Correspondence and Items of Interest
   C. EDA Project Updates
   D. Hurricane Michael Recovery Task Force
   E. Statewide Regional Evacuation Studies Update
   F. *House Bill 0191 Resolution

7. Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion

8. Ex-Officio Member Updates

9. Public Comment

10. Adjournment

11. Next ARPC Board Meeting – May 16, 2019

*Items Requiring Board Action
Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call
Chairman Merritt called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves for the Roll Call.

ARPC Board Members in Attendance:
- Calhoun County: Don Stephens, Governor’s Appointee
- Franklin County: Ricky Jones, County Commissioner
- Franklin County: Brenda La Paz, Mayor, City of Carrabelle
- Gadsden County: Henry Grant, Governor’s Appointee
- Gulf County: Ward McDaniel, County Commissioner
- Gulf County: Johnny Paul, Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka
- Gulf County: Michael Hammond, Governor’s Appointee
- Jackson County: Jim Peacock, County Commissioner
- Jefferson County: Stephen Walker, County Commissioner
- Jefferson County: John Jones, Mayor, City of Monticello
- Leon County: Kristin Dozier, County Commissioner
- Leon County: Dianne Williams-Cox, Commissioner, City of Tallahassee
- Liberty County: Woody Stewart, Commissioner, City of Bristol
- Liberty County: Davis Stoutamire, Governor’s Appointee
- Wakulla County: Randy Merritt, County Commissioner

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance
- Maria Showalter, FL Dept. of Transportation
- Diane Scholz, FL Institute of Government
- Beth Hollister, NW FL Water Management District

ARPC Staff in Attendance
- Chris Rietow, Executive Director
- Zach Annett, LEPC Coordinator
- Joe Crozier, Senior Planner / Environmental
- Kwentin Eastberg, Regional Planner / Transportation
- Richard Fetchick, Economic Development Director
- Elise Fisher, Regional Planner / Emergency Planning
- Sarah Hibbard, GIS Specialist
- Denise Imbler, FRCA Statewide Coordinator
- Peter Traficante, Intern
- Janice Watson, Finance Director/ Loan Coordinator
Others in Attendance
Landon Hoffman – Representative Neal Dunn  Rudy Maloy – Representative Al Lawson
Megan Myhill – Representative Neal Dunn  De'an Bass – FEMA
Jon Hain – FEMA  Tan Hoang – FEMA
Denise Balkas – FEMA  Cherie Bryant – Tallahassee/Leon Planning
Pete Vergot – UF IFAS  Jason Hight – FL FWC
Kristal Walsh – FL FWC  Bryan Phillips – FL FWC
Greg Slay – Capital Region TPA  Cristina Paredes – Leon County OEV

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

Item 2 and 3: Approval of the Agenda and Minutes
A motion was made by John Jones to approve the January 17, 2019 Agenda and the Minutes of the November 15, 2018 ARPC Full Council Board Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Don Stephens. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: Officer Elections
Chris Rietow reviewed the ARPC procedures for electing officers and explained that there had only been one nomination for each of the offices and therefore no ballots had been mailed to the Board. Mr. Rietow presented the following ARPC officer candidates to the Board to serve for the period of January 2019 – December 2020:

Chairman: Commissioner Randy Merritt
Vice-Chairman: Commissioner Kristin Dozier
Secretary/Treasurer: Commissioner Ricky Jones

A motion was made by Michael Hammond to approve the ARPC Officer candidates as nominated and presented. The motion was seconded by Davis Stoutamire. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rietow reported that Chairman Merritt had also appointed the following ARPC Board members to serve on the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Policy Board for the period of January 2019 – December 2020: Commissioner Kristin Dozier, Mayor Gene Wright, and Lisa Miller. Mr. Rietow explained that the ARPC Officers, the ARPC Past Chairman, and the FRCA Policy Board served as the Executive Committee of the ARPC.

Item 5: FEMA Long-term Recovery Presentation
Mr. Rietow introduced De'an Bass of FEMA who gave the Board a brief presentation on the Integrated Recovery Process following Hurricane Michael. Ms. Bass reviewed numerous recovery principles stating that the ultimate goal was for communities to be able to build back stronger, safer and smarter than they were before the disaster. She reviewed in detail the various functions of the following federal agencies represented in the local field office: FEMA, US DOC, US HHS, US HUD, US COE and the US DOI. Ms. Bass reviewed common disaster
impacts and keys to resilient recovery. She led a Board discussion on the processes in which local governments can effectively and efficiently carry out a strategic, long-term recovery that builds resilience. Ms. Bass explained that the process should include strategic recovery decisions, resilience planning, implementation and management. Commissioner Jim Peacock commented on the date that had been set for the completion of debris removal and expressed concerns on the unreasonable deadlines that had been set by FEMA. Commissioner Dozier noted that the clean-up deadlines had been set even before the actual storm debris volume data had been available.

The Board suggested that the ARPC should send a letter to the Governor about the unrealistic deadlines set by FEMA for debris removal. Michael Hammond volunteered to work with Mr. Rietow on the letter. Commissioner Dozier suggested that there should be an ongoing dialogue between the ARPC and the Governor addressing the most needed issues in the initial letter and in subsequent letters to addressing new issues as they arose. Mr. Rietow mentioned the long-term recovery group that had been formed as a partnership by Jackson and Calhoun counties. Ms. Bass noted that FEMA funding was available to assist formally established long-term recovery groups. Additionally, Ms. Bass stressed the importance of communicating with both state and federal agencies on the grassroots issues as they are identified. Commissioner Dozier reported that there had been an extended discussion at the last ARPC Executive Committee Meeting about how the ARPC could assist in regional coordination of disaster response, whatever the particular response need may be.

A motion was made by Henry Grant to direct ARPC staff to write a letter to the Governor opposing the unrealistic deadlines for debris removal as established by FEMA and to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter on behalf of the ARPC. The motion was seconded by Don Stephens. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

By general consensus, the Board agreed to move forward with the formation of a Hurricane Michael Recovery Task Force. Commissioner Dozier stated that she would work with Mr. Rietow on determining participants for the initial regional roundtable discussion. Commissioner Peacock stressed that it needed to be organized as soon as possible. Michael Hammond expressed concerns that the state reimbursements to local governments were taking longer than federal reimbursements. Mr. Rietow summarized the Executive Committee discussion by stating that the Regional Task Force would focus on identifying opportunities for improved regional coordination as well as recovery efforts with respect to Hurricane Michael. Mr. Rietow also noted that ARPC staff continued to coordinate with the Economic Development Administration on funding a Disaster Resilience Coordinator to be housed at the ARPC and to assist local governments in the Region with recovery efforts.

Chairman Merritt thanked Ms. Bass for her presentation. Ms. Bass encouraged the Board to contact her if they had any questions or she could assist them in any other way.

**Item 6: Opportunity Zones Overview**
Richard Fetchick of ARPC staff gave the Board a brief overview of the recent Community Development Finance Association (CDFA) Conference, which focused on Florida Opportunity
Zones. Mr. Fetchick stated that each county in Florida had at least one Opportunity Zone, explaining that the zones were established as incentive tools to encourage investment in real estate. Mr. Hammond added that the biggest benefit for the investor was the elimination of gain on properties held longer than five years. Mr. Fetchick shared a PowerPoint presentation on the zone maps of the ARPC region and the Board questioned how the boundaries of the zones had been determined. Mr. Rietow gave a brief summary explaining that the boundaries were along census tract lines and had been formally determined by the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) with input from the counties.

**Item 7: Executive Director’s Report**

7A – Financial Report: Mr. Rietow reviewed with the Board the Budget Reports, the Reconciled Check Registers as of November 30, 2018 and December 31, 2018, and the ARPC’s current list of accounts payable and accounts receivable as of December 31, 2018.

A motion was made by Commissioner John Jones to approve the financial reports for November 2018 and December 2018 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ricky Jones. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

7B – Staff Reports: Mr. Rietow highlighted the following ARPC Program Reports prepared by staff and included in the Board Package beginning on page 15. He asked the Board for any questions in reference to the reports listed below and briefly updated the Board on additions to the reports included in the package.

1. Economic Development & Community Planning – Richard Fetchick
2. Emergency Planning – Zach Annett & Elise Fisher
3. Revolving Loan Fund – Janice Watson
4. Transportation Planning – Kwentin Eastberg
5. Environmental Planning – Joe Crozier
6. GIS Program – Sarah Hibbard
7. Misc. Correspondence & Items of Interest

7.B.1 – Economic and Community Development: Mr. Rietow highlighted the note to ARPC staff from the Chairman of Innovation Park thanking them for the economic models provided to assist them in a grant application to establish a business incubator at Innovation Park.

7.B.2 – Emergency Planning: Mr. Rietow noted that FL Dept. of Health Leon County (FDOH) had expressed their appreciation to Denise Imbler for her outstanding work in facilitating the Hot Wash for Emergency Operations Center ESF-8 and Special Needs Shelter Operations for the FDOH Leon. He explained that Ms. Imbler was currently working on the After Action Report (AAR) for incorporation into the FDOH Leon AAR/Improvement Plan for Hurricane Michael.

7.B.3 – Revolving Loan Fund Report:
Mr. Rietow noted that since the last meeting the loan to Angelcare With A Vision (Gadsden County) had been closed and the emergency bridge loan to the Malone IGA (Jackson County) had been paid off.
7.B.5 – Environmental Planning Update: Mr. Rietow reported that ARPC staff been selected by Franklin, Gulf, and Jefferson County Commissions to serve as the RESTORE Act grant consultant regarding Pot 3 funds for the three counties. He noted that contracts were being finalized for the initial three-year period and if ARPC performance was satisfactory to the counties the contracts could be extended to the end of the fifteen-year program period.

Mr. Rietow also reported that ARPC staff was in the final negotiations with the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection for a grant to provide Small Quantity Generator (SQG) inspection services for the ARPC rural counties over the next five years. He noted that this was a renewal of the current grant that had provided funding to the ARPC for fulfillment of the mandatory services over the last five years at no cost to the local governments of the Region.

7.C – Policy Board Recap: Mr. Rietow and Commissioner Dozier briefed the Board on the recent FRCA Policy Board meeting held earlier in the month in Tallahassee. Mr. Rietow explained the structure and purpose of the Policy Board, noting that all three ARPC Policy Board members had attended the meeting. He explained that the Policy Board unanimously approved moving forward with 2019 legislative funding request for the update of Florida’s Regional Evacuation Studies (RES). Mr. Rietow noted that FL RPCs have a successful history in completing updates to the RES documents and that FRCA’s legislative consultant would be working with the legislature on a phased approach to a major overhaul of Florida’s RESs. Commissioner Dozier reported that Mr. Rietow was the Chairman of the FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee for 2019 and commended him for his leadership to the Policy Board and refreshing changes he had initiated in the content and format of the meeting. Commissioner Dozier reported briefly on RPC activities across the State and noted that there had been great statewide participation in the recent FRCA Policy Board meeting.

7.D – ARPC Rules Repeal: Mr. Rietow reported that the ARPC Rules in the Florida Administrative Code had been not been updated in over 30 years and many of the rules as originally adopted no longer applied to the current regional planning council (RPC) structure and updated legislative mandates for Florida’s RPCs. Mr. Rietow recommended that the ARPC repeal all sections of its rules in the Florida Administrative Code except the portions that apply to Dispute Resolution and the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Additionally, the Board discussed and agreed that the best practice going forward was for ARPC staff to review comprehensive plan amendments only when formally requested by the local government.

A motion was made by Michael Hammond to repeal all the ARPC rules in the Florida Administrative Code except the rules pertaining to Dispute Resolution and the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, and for ARPC staff to only review local government comprehensive plan amendments when formally requested by the respective local government. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dozier. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.E – ARPC Goals Report and Review: Mr. Rietow reviewed the copy of the ARPC 2018 goals included in the Board Package on page 50 and the progress on each individual goal. The Board commended ARPC staff for the accomplishments of 2018, especially in restoring the
historical level of operating reserves. He reviewed the draft of the ARPC Goals for 2019 included in the Board package on page 51.

A motion was made by Davis Stoutamire to approve the 2019 ARPC Goals as presented by ARPC staff. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the ARPC 2019 Goals is included to these minutes as Attachment “A”

Item 8: Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion
Davis Stoutamire questioned the progress of the Solar Energy Loan Fund (SELF) program as presented at the previous Board meeting. Mr. Rietow answered that ARPC staff under the guidance of the ARPC Executive Committee had worked extensively with Mr. Coward of the SELF program since the last meeting and the consensus of the discussions was that the initial investment was not feasible with the ARPC Budget at this time. Commissioner Dozier reported that she had also presented the program to the Leon County Commission and though there was interest by the Commission there was not time to efficiently vet the program and justify the Leon County investment for the betterment of the Region. Mr. Rietow stated that staff would continue to explore additional avenues for establishing a permanent presence of the program in the Region. He encouraged the Board to continue making the program known to area residents as all were eligible to participate through the online application process.

Chairman Merritt asked for any further Board or public comments and there were none. He announced that due to Leon County School’s spring break, the next ARPC Board meeting would be pushed back a week and held on March 28, 2019 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 MARCH 28, 2019

SIGNED: ATTEST:

______________________________
Randy Merritt
Chairman

______________________________
Chris Rietow
Executive Director
2019 Apalachee Regional Planning Council Goals

I. Return financial stability to the Council
   a. Continue to restore the operating budget by adding an additional $20,000 in reserves.

II. Educate and market the Council's services and capabilities to member counties and municipalities
    a. Create an annual report that summarizes the programs and the accomplishments of the Council.
    b. Hire a communications position to assist with press releases, social media, annual report, board package, website maintenance and other administrative duties.

III. Grow and expand the capabilities of the Council
    a. Establish a Rural Transportation Planning Organization for the rural counties within the Region not represented by the CRTPA.
    b. Expand the RLF Program by increasing the principal base with USDA funds.
    c. Assist with the long-term recovery of the Region from the impacts of Hurricane Michael through planning and economic development technical assistance.
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 January 31, 2019
   - Budget Report for the month ending February 28, 2019

B.  **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.

C.  **EDA Project Updates**: Staff will provide a brief summary on recent Economic Development Administration project awards.

D.  **Hurricane Michael Recovery Task Force Update**: Staff will summarize recent activities with respect to the creation of a Task Force to identify regional issues for economic recovery.

E.  **Statewide Regional Evacuation Studies Update**: Staff will provide an update on the recent legislative funding request to update the Statewide Regional Evacuation Studies.

F.  *House Bill 0191 Resolution*: Staff will discuss the Northwest Florida Rural Inland Affected Counties Recovery Fund and a corresponding resolution.

**ACTIONS NEEDED**


*Motion to approve Resolution No. 19-1: A resolution of the ARPC certifying its support for House Bill 0191
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<td><strong>102.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>898.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>10%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td><strong>2,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>20.44</strong></td>
<td><strong>361.38</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,038.62</strong></td>
<td><strong>15%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Audit</td>
<td><strong>15,000</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>15,000.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>0%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Meeting Expenses</td>
<td><strong>4,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>150.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>736.64</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,263.36</strong></td>
<td><strong>18%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency &amp; Project Pass-Thru</td>
<td><strong>16,675</strong></td>
<td><strong>103.68</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,464.84</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,210.16</strong></td>
<td><strong>14%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants (HMEP-T CDBG HurrEx)</td>
<td><strong>30,000</strong></td>
<td>(6,696.00)</td>
<td>12,164.00</td>
<td><strong>17,836.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>41%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues (FRCA, NADRO, SERDI &amp; Other)</td>
<td><strong>27,500</strong></td>
<td>4,875.00</td>
<td>11,050.00</td>
<td><strong>16,450.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>40%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment Lease - Copiers</td>
<td><strong>14,500</strong></td>
<td>710.65</td>
<td>2,981.49</td>
<td><strong>11,518.51</strong></td>
<td><strong>21%</strong></td>
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<td>Fringe Benefits (FICA, CHP &amp; FRS)</td>
<td><strong>131,000</strong></td>
<td>15,818.77</td>
<td>46,218.32</td>
<td><strong>84,781.68</strong></td>
<td><strong>35%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)</td>
<td><strong>12,000</strong></td>
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<td>5,272.50</td>
<td><strong>6,727.50</strong></td>
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<td>IT Tech Support</td>
<td><strong>12,000</strong></td>
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<td>1,542.32</td>
<td><strong>10,457.68</strong></td>
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<td>Legal</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>2,000.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>0%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licenses (REMI)</td>
<td><strong>6,500</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>6,500.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>0%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>500.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>0%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td><strong>4,000</strong></td>
<td>550.11</td>
<td>1,111.33</td>
<td><strong>2,888.67</strong></td>
<td><strong>28%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td><strong>3,000</strong></td>
<td>19.98</td>
<td>661.24</td>
<td><strong>2,338.76</strong></td>
<td><strong>22%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td><strong>40,000</strong></td>
<td>4,302.50</td>
<td>15,560.00</td>
<td><strong>24,440.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>39%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td><strong>517,000</strong></td>
<td>63,533.00</td>
<td>178,193.00</td>
<td><strong>338,807.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>34%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions &amp; Publications</td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
<td>34.65</td>
<td>69.30</td>
<td><strong>430.70</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone &amp; Internet</td>
<td><strong>8,500</strong></td>
<td>899.01</td>
<td>3,268.65</td>
<td><strong>5,231.35</strong></td>
<td><strong>38%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel - ARPC Fleet Vehicle</td>
<td><strong>15,000</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>15,000.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>0%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td><strong>50,000</strong></td>
<td>3,719.77</td>
<td>10,634.77</td>
<td><strong>39,365.23</strong></td>
<td><strong>21%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>907,075</strong></td>
<td><strong>88,571.94</strong></td>
<td><strong>291,391.78</strong></td>
<td><strong>615,683.22</strong></td>
<td><strong>32%</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

<p>| Bal. 1/31/19                          | <strong>32,153.94</strong>   | <strong>32,153.94</strong> | <strong>32,153.94</strong>             | <strong>32,153.94</strong>   | <strong>32,153.94</strong>   |
| Savings Acct Close out                 | <strong>3,196.10</strong>    |              |                          |                |                 |
| Operating Acct. Balance 1/31/19       | <strong>35,350.04</strong>   |              |                          |                |                 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE-ITEM</th>
<th>FY 18/19 Budget</th>
<th>February 2019</th>
<th>FY-To-Date as of 2/28/19</th>
<th>Budget Balance</th>
<th>Balance Percent</th>
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<tr>
<td>EDA Planning Grant</td>
<td>70,000</td>
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<td>35,000.00</td>
<td>35,000.00</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>Revolving Loan Fund - Admin</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. Small ED Contracts</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDACS - Animal Safety Planner</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>3,150.00</td>
<td>12,350.00</td>
<td>17,650.00</td>
<td>41%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDEM - Hazards Analyses</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,863.60</td>
<td>13,136.40</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDEM - HMEP Planning</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>20,797.24</td>
<td>19,202.76</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDEM - HMEP Training</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>9,160.00</td>
<td>9,160.00</td>
<td>20,840.00</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDEM - RDSTF Exercise 2019</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDEM - LEPC Support Staff</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>40,800.00</td>
<td>39,200.00</td>
<td>51%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDOH - Leon POD Exercise</td>
<td>21,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>21,500.00</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Small EP Contracts</td>
<td></td>
<td>183.00</td>
<td>183.00</td>
<td>(183.00)</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPA - Brownfield</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,300.00</td>
<td>3,700.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDEP SHArc</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,600.00</td>
<td>9,400.00</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDEP - FRCP</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,860.72</td>
<td>21,139.28</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDEP - SQG</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40,000.00</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCSC - Admin</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,500.00</td>
<td>7,500.00</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARPC County Dues</td>
<td>69,275</td>
<td>1,250.00</td>
<td>32,875.50</td>
<td>36,399.50</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<td>FRCA - Admin</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>5,500.00</td>
<td>28,450.00</td>
<td>31,550.00</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<td>OQAA - Admin</td>
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<td>2,200.00</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
<td>14,400.00</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<td>FDEO - Apalachee Online</td>
<td>63,450</td>
<td>21,150.00</td>
<td>21,150.00</td>
<td>42,300.00</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDEO - Sophomopy Competitiive FL</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Bend Continuum of Care</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Small TA Contracts</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>3,995.00</td>
<td>3,995.00</td>
<td>23,005.00</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged</td>
<td>184,950</td>
<td>4,755.56</td>
<td>63,811.94</td>
<td>121,138.06</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>907,075</strong></td>
<td><strong>68,843.56</strong></td>
<td><strong>330,197.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>576,878.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>36%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| General Expenses                              |                 |               |                           |                |
| Accounting                                    | 1,000           | 140.00        | 242.00                    | 758.00         | 24%            |
| Advertising                                   | 2,400           | 163.26        | 524.64                    | 1,875.36       | 22%            |
| Audit                                         | 15,000          |               |                           | 15,000.00      | 0%             |
| Board Meeting Expenses                        | 4,000           | 437.07        | 1,173.71                  | 2,826.29       | 29%            |
| Contingency & Project Pass-Thru               | 10,675          | 1,974.53      | 3,439.37                  | 7,253.63       | 32%            |
| Consultants (HMEP-T CDBG HurrEx)              | 30,000          | 1,479.60      | 13,643.60                 | 16,356.40      | 45%            |
| Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI & Other)              | 27,500          | 3,880.00      | 14,930.00                 | 12,570.00      | 54%            |
| Equipment Lease - Copiers                     | 14,500          | 696.35        | 3,677.84                  | 10,822.16      | 25%            |
| Fringe Benefits (FICA, CHP & FRS)             | 131,000         | 10,540.93     | 56,759.25                 | 74,240.75      | 43%            |
| Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)              | 12,000          | 769.50        | 6,042.00                  | 5,958.00       | 50%            |
| IT Tech Support                                | 12,000          | 791.94        | 2,334.26                  | 9,665.74       | 19%            |
| Legal                                         | 2,000           |               |                           | 2,000.00       | 0%             |
| Licenses (REMI)                                | 6,500           |               |                           | 6,500.00       | 0%             |
| Miscellaneous                                 | 500             |               |                           | 500.00         | 0%             |
| Office Supplies                               | 4,000           | 640.36        | 1,751.69                  | 2,248.31       | 44%            |
| Postage                                       | 3,000           | 401.79        | 1,063.03                  | 1,936.97       | 35%            |
| Rent                                          | 40,000          | 4,302.50      | 19,862.50                 | 20,137.50      | 50%            |
| Salaries                                      | 517,000         | 43,049.50     | 221,242.50                | 295,757.50     | 43%            |
| Subscriptions & Publications                  | 500             | 80.14         | 149.44                    | 350.56         | 30%            |
| Telephone & Internet                          | 8,500           | 862.26        | 4,130.91                  | 4,369.09       | 49%            |
| Travel - ARPC Fleet Vehicle                   | 15,000          |               |                           | 15,000.00      | 0%             |
| Travel                                        | 50,000          | 4,883.64      | 15,518.41                 | 34,481.59      | 31%            |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES**                            | **907,075**     | **75,093.37** | **366,485.15**            | **540,589.85** | **40%**        |

| Bal. 2/28/19                                  | **25,904.13**   | **25,904.13** |                          |                |
| Savings Acct Close out                         | 3,196.10        |               |                           |                |
| Operating Acct. Balance 2/28/19               | 29,100.23       |               |                           |                |
AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 1

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / COMMUNITY PLANNING PROGRAM – Caroline Smith

2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update:
ARPC staff is working to coordinate with regional partners and implement objectives from the Regional Economic Strategy, which is awaiting EDA approval.

CEDS Objective 2.1 – Explore economic resilience planning and implementation that renders local and regional economies more fit to recover from macro-economic downturns and natural disasters

ARPC staff is exploring economic development grant opportunities, such as Rural Broadband funding, that would help the hurricane-impacted counties to rebuild and “bounce forward,” making local industries and communities more resilient to future disasters or economic downturns.

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

FL DEP / Florida Resilient Coastlines Program (FRCP)

- Year 1: ARPC staff successfully completed the Apalachee Community Resilience project for Franklin, Gulf, and City of Carrabelle.

- Year 2: ARPC staff is currently assisting the City of Carrabelle with follow-up activities related to FRCP Year 1 work. ARPC staff will disseminate information on sea-level rise and resilience strategies via mail-outs and two public seminars, targeted at city officials and property owners.

City of Sopchoppy, Competitive Florida

ARPC staff continues to lead activities, on behalf of the City of Sopchoppy, that are related to the Competitive Florida program. ARPC staff has successfully facilitated community outreach (including meetings & surveys) and an asset-mapping exercise with state and federal partners. Involvement will continue with the creation of an Economic Development Strategy and Land Development Code update.

Panacea (Wakulla County), Competitive Florida –
ARPC staff will assist Panacea, led by their Waterfronts Partnership Board, in submitting a 2019 proposal to DEO’s Competitive Florida Program. If accepted, Panacea would be the first
Competitive Florida community that is neither a municipality nor county, which would establish DEO’s program as an opportunity for other non-municipalities in the Region.

**Franklin County Long Term Recovery Strategy** – The EDA has recently announced that it will fund Franklin’s Long-Term Recovery Strategy. The project’s goal is to increase commercial activity and jobs in Franklin County through novel planning policies and business recruitment strategies. Activities related to this project are now underway and will continue into year 2020.

**Regional Coordination:** ARPC staff participated in the following events –

- **Florida Rural Economic Development Summit** – ARPC staff participated in the February Rural Summit, hosted by the Florida Rural Economic Development Association (FREDA), to establish new relationships with the rural economic development community and expand understanding of economic development tools related to workforce development and industry incentivization.

- **Resilient Apalachee Workshops** – ARPC and EDA staff jointly coordinated three Hurricane Recovery Workshops, held in Tallahassee, Eastpoint, and Blountstown, which were targeted at industry leaders and local economic development practitioners. The workshops had an excellent turnout and spurred conversations, led by community leaders, on practical measures necessary for speedy economic recovery.

- **2019 Rural Strong Community Expo** – ARPC will be an exhibitor at the upcoming Rural Strong Community Expo in Marianna. The event will be an opportunity for ARPC staff to share information about economic development technical assistance, including the RLF program, with local business leaders.
The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Present our 1st Annual Rural Strong Community Expo
Theme: "Partnering For Stronger Rural Communities!"
Hosted by Opportunity Florida

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 from 9:00 AM CST–4:15 PM CST
WITH NETWORKING LUNCH
Location: USDA’s County Extension Office-2741 Pennsylvania Avenue Marianna, FL 32448

Join rural chambers of commerce, economic and community development stakeholders, entrepreneurs, small businesses, bankers/lenders, state, local and federal government agencies, resource partners, public and partner agencies for workshops, panel discussions, access to capital conversations and exhibitors.

**The Expo is free but reservations are required:** [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rural-strong-community-expo-tickets-58661732822](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rural-strong-community-expo-tickets-58661732822) or thaddeus.hammond@sba.gov (904) 443-1965

**Link for hotel reservations:** Book your group rate for Small Business Administration (SBA)

Participants include, but are not limited to: Opportunity Florida, North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP), Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), Dept. of Economic Opportunity (DEO), USDA Rural Development, SBA, EDA, Florida A&M University, FSBDC, SCORE, Enterprise Florida, Apalachee Regional Planning Council, Wealth Watchers, Career Source and more!

USDA  SBA  U.S. Small Business Administration

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Contact Thaddeus Hammond at SBA on (904) 443-1965 or Caroline Evans on (352) 338-3444. The USDA and SBA’s cooperation in this event does not constitute or imply their endorsement of any opinions, products or services expressed. All USDA and SBA programs are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.
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 (EPCRA) for the ARPC Region. The four primary activities of the Apalachee LEPC are hazardous materials planning, training, emergency exercises and public outreach.

Quarterly Meetings
ARPC staff held the most recent meeting of the Apalachee LEPC on February 13, 2019 at the Tallahassee Fire Department Training Division. During the meeting the Committee recognized Lt. Allen Willis as the recipient of the Thomas Yatabe Award for his outstanding contributions to the LEPC program during his tenure as a member of the Committee. Additionally, ARPC staff recognized 3 other individuals with Certificates of Appreciation for their commitment to the program. The next meeting of the Apalachee LEPC will be held on May 22, 2019.

Hazardous Materials Training
ARPC partnered with the Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC) to conduct a workshop for the 2019 annual meetings of the FL Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA). The workshop outlined the US Dept. of Transportation’s Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Program by showing what LEPCs throughout the state have funded through the grant, in addition to showcasing the services IMAAC is able to provide. In addition to the workshop, ARPC staff conducted a comprehensive tabletop exercise focusing on a regional hazardous materials incident. Exercise participants included a variety of individuals from across the state including, the FL Dept. of Health, the FL Dept. of Agriculture, the American Red Cross and various county emergency management staff.

Exercise Participants Responding to a Scenario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/21/19-1/25/19</td>
<td>Annual Hazardous Materials Symposium</td>
<td>Daytona Beach, FL</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additionally, ARPC staff has coordinated the following trainings for the upcoming quarter:
- HazMat Tox-Medic Course – Date and Location TBD
- HazMat Incident Commander Course – Date and Location TBD

All training opportunities and are posted on the ARPC website at www.thearpc.com.

State Agricultural Response Team

ARPC staff provides planning support to the FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) State Agricultural Response Team (SART). ARPC staff continues to work with SART partners, the University of Florida, the FL Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), and the State Animal Response Coalition (SARC) on the development of an online pet-friendly sheltering course. The course will be an independent study course in which participants can complete the training at their own pace and receive a state certificate upon successful completion. The training will provide participants valuable information on how to set up, run, and take down a pet-friendly shelter. The target audience are emergency managers, county employees, and shelter volunteers. ARPC staff continues to assist with updating the training material on the SART website.

Exercise Planning and Facilitation
ARPC Staff Partnered with Emergency Response Educators and Consultants (ERE) to design and facilitate a full-scale Points of Dispensing exercise on March 8, 2019 for the FL Dept. of Health in Wakulla County. The scenario for the exercise was focused around the response to a pandemic flu outbreak originating in Wakulla County.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) has asked the ARPC to assist them with the development and evaluation of the 2019 Statewide Hurricane Exercise (HURREX) in May 2019. ARPC staff will be responsible for assisting with the development of the Master Scenario and Events List, Exercise Evaluation Guides and other Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) documentation as needed, as well as with the evaluation of the exercise and the After Action Report/Improvement Plan. Additionally, ARPC staff will be assisting FDEM with the creation of a Recovery Workshop to take place in conjunction with the Statewide HURREX. The workshop will focus on the transition from response to recovery after a major hurricane.

Hazards Analysis (HA) of Extremely Hazardous Substances Inventory
ARPC staff completed the remaining visits by coordinating with local municipalities, businesses and entities such as the Eastpoint Water and Sewer District, Georgia Pacific, the FL Dept. of Corrections and others. The second deliverable was submitted and approved by the FDEM. ARPC staff is currently working to finalize and send all completed HA data to the counties within the Region to finalize the work as identified within the 2018/19 Hazard Analyses contract.
Other Technical Assistance
ARPC staff continues to work with Leon County and City of Tallahassee planning and GIS staff to update the Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP). The PDRP update incorporates new data from Hurricane Michael and should be complete in March.

ARPC staff is working with the North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force to conduct a series of active shooter workshops for first responders. The workshops will be the second phase from last year’s Save Life-An Integrated Response to an Active Shooter Event trainings held throughout the 13-county region. The workshops will allow first responders to discuss their response, better understand the resources in their respective areas, and talk through any unique challenges they may have when planning for a coordinated response.
AGENDA ITEM 6-B-4

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM – Kwentin Eastberg

Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program
ARPC staff completed the third quarter meetings of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program. Meetings for all nine counties were held throughout the month of February. Meeting times and locations for the fourth quarter meetings are listed below. A reminder that all meeting are public meetings, and anyone is welcome to attend.

Staff also attended the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged business meeting in Tallahassee on March 19th and likewise participated in the ever-popular Transportation Disadvantaged Legislative Awareness Day at the Capitol on March 20th. TD day at the Capitol is always a great event and staff encourages all interested parties to come out and learn about TD!

Board Member Appointments
There was a recent update to Rule 41.2.012 of the Florida Statute. This section explains the Coordinating Board Structure and Duties for the TD Local Coordinating Boards (LCB). The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged informed ARPC staff of this change in advance of the 3rd quarter meeting. The change involves the addition of a local representative from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to the LCB as a voting member. Each county would first need to amend their Bylaws to include the new position and then that position would need to be filled by an ARPC Staff appointment. The Executive Director appointed the following members to the TD Local Coordinating Boards with an effective date of each county’s 3rd quarter meeting in February. All membership terms will end June 30th on the year listed.

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<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>MEMBER</th>
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<th>TERM ENDING</th>
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<td>Wakulla</td>
<td>Octavius Jackson</td>
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ACTION NEEDED

Motion to approve the Executive Director’s appointments to the TD Local Coordinating Boards
JUNE 2019 TD-Local Coordinating Board Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>Tues. 6/4/19</td>
<td>1:00 pm CT</td>
<td>Senior Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Wed. 6/5/19</td>
<td>10:00 am ET</td>
<td>Courthouse Annex</td>
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<td>Gadsden</td>
<td>Thurs. 6/13/19</td>
<td>2:00 pm ET</td>
<td>Havana Library</td>
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<td>Gulf</td>
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<td>Jefferson</td>
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<td>Commission Annex</td>
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<td>Liberty</td>
<td>Tues. 6/4/19</td>
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<td>Civic Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wakulla</td>
<td>Wed. 6/12/19</td>
<td>10:00 am ET</td>
<td>Senior Center</td>
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General Transportation Planning
Staff attended the 5th Annual Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium, hosted by the West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC), in Navarre on February 25th and 26th. The event was a great networking opportunity for staff to talk with transportation planning professionals from around the Region, including members from FDOT, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, engineers and others. It was at this conference where the WFRPC announced its rebrand as the Emerald Coast Regional Council.

Staff also has several meetings with various entities including Jim Halley of FDOT to discuss the involvement of the ARPC in the Continuing Florida Aviation System Planning Process (CFASPP) program. The CFASPP has both regional and statewide meetings and their primary function is to help keep the Florida Aviation System Plan (FASP) updated. The role of the ARPC in CFASPP is more of a regional convener. There often seems to be a disconnect between local cities and counties and their airports within those boundaries. For instance, a municipality might be with concerned about land use up to the airport fence, but what happens inside the fence impacts what happens outside the fence and vice versa. By bringing both the airport and the local governments together, planning practices could be established that would provide a more connected service, allow the best opportunity for growth, and allow the dialogue to flow more freely between the airport and the local government.

Other Items of Interest
ARPC staff continues to explore areas of growth for the Transportation Program as a whole. As time allows, staff has been able to attend Long Range Recovery Group meetings that came about following Hurricane Michael. Staff is also interested in rekindling the TRIP partnerships that have previously been used in the past. If any board member is interested in learning more, especially in Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, and Liberty counties, please get in touch with ARPC Transportation staff to begin moving this forward.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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<td>Senior Citizens Center</td>
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AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 5
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROGRAM – Joe Crozier

Shoreline Habitats and Resilient Coasts (SHaRC)

Using a customized, geographic information system (GIS) study, extensive analyses have been completed for SHaRC, with final revisions and recommendations underway. The goal of this project is to identify the need and prioritization for future shoreline restoration or stabilization with marsh planting, low-profile reefs or other measures. ARPC staff is arranging meetings with the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection and the FL Dept. of Transportation to share the utility and value of this project.

Preliminary results illustrate a variety of distances and factors tied to the potential importance and success of such living shoreline projects. Potential living shoreline decision factors include archaeological assets, likelihood of erosion, distance from maintained channels, public access, and a number of others. ARPC staff has chosen to incorporate USGS Sea Level Rise predictions in the analysis due to variances from east to west in Apalachicola Bay. The illustration below shows higher predicted rates of Sea Level Rise in the western portion of the Bay, potentially tied to subsidence, or gradual sinking of the land.
Small Quantity Generator Program (SQG)
ARPC staff has reached approximately 90% completion of the 2019 required visits. Over 200 site visits or phone call verifications have been made. Visits thus far have included Hurricane Michael impacted entities such as West Florida Electric Cooperative in Sneads, Auto and Boat Clinic of Marianna and Liberty County Transit among many others.

ARPC staff has also completed all visits tied to the subcontract with Northeast Florida Regional Council for compliance assistance visits in Baker and Nassau counties for 2019.

RESTORE Act Spill Impact Component Administration
ARPC Staff has been coordinating with leadership from Franklin, Gulf and Jefferson counties to finalize a contract to support county needs most effectively. The first of the three contracts has been successfully drafted and is on the agenda for the next Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners meeting.

The Jefferson contract will be adopted to suit the needs of Franklin and Gulf counties. Once the contracts are in place, ARPC staff will be supporting the counties with projects such as land acquisition, natural resource access, sewer system expansion, dredging and others.

Water Wars Update
On the final day of February, Florida and Georgia submitted response briefs. The briefs addressed the seven questions from Special Master, Paul J. Kelly. Mr. Kelly formally requested Florida and Georgia to address through the filing of proposed findings and conclusions as well as supplemental briefs and response briefs.
Two weeks later, in mid-March, Florida motioned for Oral Arguments. Florida has proposed allotting each party ninety minutes for an initial affirmative presentation, followed by an appropriate time for rebuttal and any further questions the Special Master may have. The schedule for the requested oral arguments has not been established.

Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition and Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Stakeholders
ARPC staff serves at the Coordinator of the Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition (RCSC) and will serve as the next Chairman of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Stakeholders, Inc. (ACFS). At the last meeting of the ACFS, discussions were centered on development of a federally-funded, and ACF Stakeholders supplemented, “Drought Dashboard” project. The next ACFS meeting will be centered on the release of science that has remained private but used in the development of the ACF Stakeholders’ $2M+ water sharing plan completed in 2015.

Other topics on the docket are the potential raising of Lake Lanier by 2 feet to support the Apalachicola River in times of drought and requesting the US Army Corps of Engineers to recognize Ecological Flows in the Apalachicola River, Floodplain and Bay as an authorized purpose.

The ACF Stakeholders received an award in March from the Georgia Water Coalition as one of its “Clean 13”. The Clean 13 award recognizes extraordinary efforts on the part of businesses, industries, local governments, non-profit organizations, and individuals to protect the water and natural resources of Georgia. With a mission of clean water and reduction in use, Florida also benefits from the efforts of the ACFS.

The language associated with the award is on the following pages.
Georgia’s 2018
CLEAN WATER HEROES
Apalachicola, Chattahoochee & Flint Stakeholders

APALACHICOLA, CHATTahoochee & FLINT RIVERS
Privately Funded Stakeholder Group Provides Road Map to End Tri-State Water Dispute

INTRODUCTION:
A June Supreme Court ruling in the decades-long water dispute between Georgia and Florida was perhaps good news for lawyers and bad news for taxpayers in both states. The ruling insured that there would be more court filings...and more lawyers’ fees. Since the early 1990s, when Florida and Alabama sued to prevent Georgia water utilities from taking more water from the Chattahoochee and Etowah rivers, Georgians have spent millions in legal fees. Just since 2011, Georgia has paid out $47 million in legal defense and litigation-related expenses. Meanwhile, beginning in 2009 a private group of citizens from the three states convened to develop a water-sharing plan. That plan, referenced repeatedly by the Supreme Court’s appointed Special Master during court proceedings in 2016, now more than ever might hold the path to cooperation among the long-feuding states.

THE WATER BODIES:
The Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint rivers are critical to Georgia, Florida and Alabama for diverse reasons. At 435 miles long, the Chattahoochee is Georgia’s longest river, and provides drinking water for almost half the state’s population. The Flint and the streams and aquifers that feed it supply drinking water for Georgians and water for the “breadbasket of Georgia,” providing millions of gallons of water for farms daily during the growing season. In Alabama, the Chattahoochee is used to power multiple industrial facilities, including a nuclear power plant. In Florida the state’s seafood industry depends heavily on adequate freshwater flows into Apalachicola Bay, an estuary that has historically produced 90 percent of Florida’s oyster harvest. Meanwhile, a host of federally protected aquatic species depend on the river system.

THE CLEAN:
In 2009, with some $2 million in private funding, a group of stakeholders representing diverse interests ranging from recreation to agriculture and navigation to water supply, gathered with the intent of developing a water sharing plan between Georgia, Florida and Alabama—something that more than two decades of studies, negotiations and court proceedings had failed to produce.
Six years later, that group of 56 citizens known as the ACF Stakeholders (ACFS) reached consensus on its Sustainable Water Management Plan (SMWP).

The SWMP includes actions that would ensure equitable sharing of the river system’s finite water resources while providing for adaptive management in the future.

“Our plan lights a path to changing the way we store water and operate the reservoir system, combined with smarter approaches to using water, and improving stream flows in the river basin and Apalachicola Bay,” said Betty Webb, 2015 ACFS Chair and Administrator for the City of Apalachicola, Florida.

Tellingly, during court proceedings in 2016, Special Master Ralph Lancaster repeatedly referenced the SWMP and asked a number of the witnesses in the proceedings to provide their opinion of the SWMP.

And, this summer, when the Supreme Court returned the case back to the Special Master for further work, the high court’s opinion reflected some of the core tenets of the SWMP. Namely, that the system does, in fact, support a number of human uses throughout the basin as well as a diverse riverine ecosystem and that the US Army Corps of Engineers plays a significant role in the management of the system.

In August, the Supreme Court named federal appellate judge Paul J. Kelly, Jr. of New Mexico to serve as the new Special Master in the Florida v Georgia case.

It remains to be seen whether Judge Kelly will choose to review the work of ACFS as part of his new role in the litigation as did Special Master Lancaster. As for the stakeholders, their hope is that their consensus-building work can serve as a road map for leading the bickering states away from the courtroom and to the negotiating table.

Top: The amount of water used to irrigate crops in the Flint and Chattahoochee river basins has been one bone of contention in the long-running water wars between Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. Left: Communities in metro Atlanta depend heavily on the Chattahoochee River for drinking water. The state of Florida contends that upstream water withdrawals have reduced the amount of freshwater flowing to Apalachicola Bay, harming the region’s seafood harvests. Above: An Apalachicola Bay oysterman longs for oysters. The health of the Bay’s oyster harvest depends heavily on adequate freshwater flows coming into the bay from the Apalachicola River.

For More Information Contact:
Gil Rogers, Director of Georgia and Alabama Offices, Southern Environmental Law Center, 404-521-9900, grogers@selcga.org
AGENDA ITEM 6 - B - 6

GIS Program – Sarah Hibbard

Apalachee Online
ARPC staff has finished conducting the second round of coordination calls for Apalachee Online. The purpose of the second round of coordination calls was to update county stakeholders on map and website production as well as get their inputs on any changes that need to be made in phase three. Phase three of map production involves applying any changes the stakeholders requested, making some finishing touches on layout and publishing the maps onto website. Once the maps are published and the website is organized, ARPC staff will conduct live demonstrations of the website for the county stakeholders where they can give their opinion on layout and ease of use.

Census Boundary Updates

ARPC staff is assisting Gadsden, Jackson, Calhoun and Gulf counties in submitting materials to the Census Bureau for the 2020 Participant Statistical Areas Program. PSAP allows counties to review proposed census tract and block group boundaries for the 2020 decennial Census. ARPC staff is assessing the proposed boundaries to determine if they meet the population and household thresholds set by the Census Bureau. If the statistical areas do not meet the thresholds, their boundaries will be changed. Once the boundary changes have been approved by the county, they will be sent to the Census to be accepted or rejected. Updates have to be sent to the Census by the end of April. ARPC staff is also assisting Gadsden County with sending the most up to date municipality boundaries to the Census for the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). Updated boundaries have to be submitted by the end of May 2019 in order to be reflected in next year’s BAS materials.
AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 7

CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. Mayor Gene Wright receives State Recognition – December 2018
2. HB 268 Supplemental Appropriations Act – January 2019
3. Potential Liberty County Pellet Plant – January 2019
5. Resilient North Florida Summit – February 2019
6. Triumph Establishes Hurricane Recovery Fund – February 2019
7. Blountstown Awarded CDBG Grant – March 2019
8. Timber Clearing Efforts in Jackson County – March 2019
Malone Mayor Gene Wright receives state recognition

BY SHELIA MADER

Residents of Malone and surrounding Jackson County cities/towns know the impact Malone Mayor Gene Wright has had on 'his' town for the last 18 years, with four years on the council prior to his mayor position in 2000.

When the news broke of the strength and path of Hurricane Michael, Mayor Wright put the wheels in motion to minimize the recovery time once it passed through. Years of experience played a huge role in Wright's staging of personnel following Michael's destruction. Volunteer fireman, all town personnel reported to work just as soon as they were able to leave their homes and make it to town hall. Wright was a permanent fixture there. Within days, trucks were coming into Malone with supplies for the residents in need of the very basics such as water, non-perishable food, baby formula and diapers.

In the November/December issue of QC (Quality Cities) magazine, Jenny Anderson, executive director of the Northwest League of Cities said about Wright, "It is amazing what one small town mayor can achieve in such a short amount of time."

With damage to the main stay grocery store and pharmacy, no power and water for days, blocked roads, Malone faced challenges many of its residents had never seen.

Of the donations received, Wright said 80% of them were from his contacts from his Northwest League of Cities and Florida League of Cities families.

Wright orchestrated a drive-through service where residents simply lined up in their vehicles and drove by tent stations requesting what they needed. National guardsmen and volunteers loaded into the vehicles and they were on their way.

Freeport Mayor Russ Barley provided 14 vehicles of staff and volunteers to assist in clearing the streets in Malone. Jamie Jones, director of utilities and public works for Newberry drove three hours to supply Malone with a generator to help keep the Jackson County Utilities water system operating. Pilots from northwest Florida flew in supplies to the Marianna Airport where they were met by Wright and volunteers to unload the aircraft and load onto trucks for delivery to Malone.

Two months after Michael, Wright sings praises to his association with the Northwest League of Cities and Florida League of Cities, "These are great people. We've got a lot of friends, a lot of friends who came through for us when we needed it more than we would ever have thought. My heart was full with all the kindness and generosity shown to our town."
House Bill 268 – Supplemental Appropriations Act hits a wall

By Sheila Mader

The Times spoke with Dr. Neal Dunn last Wednesday in reference to House Resolution 268 – Supplemental Appropriations Act. The original intention of H.R. 268 was to provide emergency assistance for expenses relating to recent wildfires, hurricanes, volcanoes, earthquakes, typhoons and other natural disasters.

Dr. Dunn said, “This bill changed. We had been told what we would be voting on was a standalone emergency funding bill which would address only the 2018 disasters and that this bill would not be encumbered by hot-button divisive issues. So, this was an emergency funding for people of 2018 natural disasters for people across the country. Specifically, Florence, Hurricane Michael, and the wildfires in California. Unfortunately, what the Democrats are bringing forward is a very different bill. They pulled a bait and switch last night (Tuesday, January 15) at the last minute. They took an otherwise good bill, a bill that we had been working on for months and they turned it into just an attack on President Trump. This bill is dead on arrival in the Senate. They know that it has no chance of passing the Senate whatsoever. They put a continuing resolution to fund the government and just open the government and not pay anything on the wall. They’re just killing the bill. I have made the point on several occasions that people in our district have suffered badly. People are in tents because FEMA hasn’t acted yet. We have sheriff’s deputies who are homeless. This is a political theatre and I am just very disappointed.”

Dr. Dunn was asked if he felt the bill would die and he said he didn’t feel like the Senate would even take it up, “We knew that. The Democrats had proposed a standalone bill that was going to be very virtuous and just nothing but emergency funding for disasters and I took them at their word and worked with them very hard on it. There was a lot of good in there for the timber industry. We had worked very hard on that and we put some great funding in there, funding that has never been in there for timber losses before.”

Before the bill went to vote with the House, Dr. Dunn tried once again tried to bring the bill back to its original form on the House floor before the final vote with a procedural tool called a Motion to Recommit. He spoke on the floor in support of the change and urged his colleagues to support a standalone disaster funding bill to help those affected by disasters in 2018. Those efforts were blocked. In his address to the House, Dr. Dunn said, “Three months ago, Hurricane Michael devastated north Florida, Georgia and Alabama. Five months ago, Hurricane Florence caused severe damage to all of the Carolinas. Wildfires in California all fall long caused billions of dollars in damages and took almost a hundred lives. Typhoons and volcanoes in Hawaii and American trust territories also caused savage destruction. Disaster losses.”

According to 116th Congress, the bill (H.R. 268) provides $12.1 billion in FY2019 supplemental appropriations to several federal departments and agencies for expenses related to the consequences of recent wildfires, hurricanes, volcanoes, earthquakes, typhoons and other natural disasters.

Victims across the United State are in dire need of our help right now.”

Dr. Dunn remains committed to continue his fight for the bill as it was originally intended, “I will not give up on it. I will continue to work on this until we get a good disaster bill. The two biggest areas that are not insured are the timber losses and the military
A company that uses municipal solid waste to create fuel pellets, diesel and synthetic wood products wants to set up a plant next to the Liberty County Landfill.

Patrick James, who represents Allied Energy Services, said the operation could create 65 to 100 full-time jobs and bring money into the county by trucking in waste from other areas. It would also dramatically reduce garbage collection costs as well as eliminating tipping fees for Liberty County residents.

This would be the company’s second plant; the first, which is scheduled to go into operation in a few months, is located at Augusta, GA. “It will be the first of its kind to be installed in the U.S.,” he told the board at a recent Liberty County Commission meeting. The waste-to-fuel making process is already being used in Europe, he said.

“We will build 12 plants in the southeast in the next two to three years,” he said.

The Liberty County site would be an ideal location, he told commissioners. Why? “Because we need Tallahassee’s garbage; we also need Calhoun County’s, Gulf County’s and Gadsden County’s. We need to reach out to a 150-mile radius area to obtain the volume we need,” he said. “The Liberty County landfill produces eight to 10 tons of garbage daily. We need almost 100 times that for this plant,” he said.

The county would also get around a dollar or more for each ton brought in from surrounding counties, he said. The plant’s goal is to process 200,000 tons a year, which would result in a significant payment for Liberty County.

The location has natural gas, wastewater treatment and a high-priority electric line.

“It’s in a rural area with high elevation and geo-technically speaking, we think it’s highly suitable,” according to James. “The site and the transportation corridor for our target market is ideal. The site from the proximity of I-10 is ideal,” he said.

“We’re in a competitive market and Tallahassee is a must for us,” according to James. “They (the City of Tallahassee) know I’m having these discussions with you and they, quite frankly, are excited.”

He acknowledged that the one stumbling block in the process is permitting. “We need Liberty County as our partner. Liberty County can achieve expediency with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that we can’t in the private sector,” he explained.

“It’s truly a public private partnership,” he told commissioners. “You are the political body that grants host governmental approval.

Allied Energy Services is the corporation that builds the plant and the assets.”

Before doing the engineering studies, he said they would need one thing: “The political will and the endorsement from the host government.” That would include their assistance in rezoning a part of a 300-acre site next to the landfill, as well as giving the county’s support in working with the DEP and permitting.

Commissioners voted 4-1 to support the effort by authorizing the use of a site next to the landfill for waste processing subject to the issuance of all necessary operating permits.

The sole dissenting vote was by Commission Scott Phillips.

“Many challenges must be met before this or any industry becomes a reality, such as land use classification, environment issues, and public concerns,” said Liberty County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Johnny Eubanks. He said all issues would be addressed before the final permitting.

James was the guest speaker at Monday night’s annual Liberty County Chamber of Commerce meeting where he gave an overview of what the business could mean for this county.
Good news for the Florida Panhandle from Governor Ron DeSantis

By Sheila Mader

Last Thursday, Governor Ron DeSantis made a trip to Marianna to announce additional reimbursement assistance for Hurricane Michael recovery expenses.

On Tuesday, January 22, 2019, Governor DeSantis met with President Trump to discuss his request for 45 days of 100% Federal cost share for Hurricane Michael debris removal and emergency protective measures. This is a request only the President has the power to grant. After their meeting, President Trump granted the Governor’s request without hesitation. Governor DeSantis said the meeting was requested after he made his second visit to the Florida Panhandle on January 18. Following that visit, Governor DeSantis sent a letter to President Trump requesting the Federal cost share.

“I would like to thank President Trump for granting my request for 45 days of 100 percent Federal cost share,” said Governor DeSantis. “This much-needed additional reimbursement assistance will vastly help Florida families in the Panhandle. We are fortunate to have such a strong ally in the White House and we will never stop fighting to help all affected communities recover and rebuild stronger than ever.”

This additional reimbursement funding will result in assistance in the ongoing Hurricane Michael recovery efforts, specifically: Debris removal can continue without interruption; Workers can get paid overtime for their work; Counties and local governments will be better able to restore their communities without having to deplete other areas of their budgets.

Governor DeSantis chose to have his announcement in front of what used to be the Jackson County Road Department and took the podium alongside elected officials to give a look inside one of his meetings.

“This week, I went up to the White House to meet with the president one on one and discuss the situation here,” said Governor DeSantis.

He said President Trump was surprised to see how much damage Hurricane Michael caused the Panhandle, “The president was impressed by the figures of damage. When you look at Hurricane Irma, it covered the whole state and it was about 2.5 million cubic square yards of debris. Just Hurricane Michael, on this relatively small area compared to the whole state of Florida, 25 million cubic square yards of debris.”

On Thursday, DeSantis announced that his request to President Trump was approved and more relief is now in place. He announced, “President Trump, he heard, he listened and he acted. After meeting with the president on Tuesday, he agreed to extend that period of 100% reimbursement from 5 days to 45 days.”

Now instead of getting the standard, the Panhandle will receive an additional 40 days of complete reimbursement from FEMA when it comes to debris.

Panama City native, Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis was in attendance and he said he's glad Florida has a governor that is committed to helping people, “We’re hard working folks in Northwest Florida but we’re not needy. We like to take care of ourselves but right now, this is a little bit overwhelming for us and to know that we are still on his mind every day, for the last two weeks he’s been governor and before then, just brings tears to my heart.”

The Governor had a brief question and answer session before departing to return to Tallahassee.
Summit held in Marianna for a Resilient North Florida

By Shelia Mader

Long term recovery teams, state and local government, homeowners and businesses affected by Hurricane Michael met in Jackson County for a one-day summit, Monday.

Community leaders and citizens of the 12 counties impacted by hurricane Michael joined under one roof to have their questions regarding the long-term recovery process and resiliency answered.

“One of the ironies of disasters is that once you’re hit by a disaster you become very capable in how to recover, but unfortunately a lot of times that knowledge and experience comes after the fact,” said Leslie Chapman-Henderson, Federal Alliance for Safe Homes President/CEO.

The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes along with other government agencies like FEMA, teamed up to host a Summit for a Resilient North Florida to speed up the finding of solutions.

“This is a one stop shop for maybe some of the more experienced folks to help those that are doing this for the first time,” said Chapman-Henderson. “One of the smartest things I heard today was this is a regional challenge.”

From discussion, those affected are all finding common struggles in things like funding, and housing post hurricane Michael.

Jackson County administrator, Wilanne Daniels said of the Summit, “I think it’s brilliant. I think it really speaks volumes to the recognition of leaders and I won’t take credit for that, volunteer leaders, people who are stepping up to the plate in a voluntary capacity, recognizing the need for the Panhandle to come together in a unified voice. We all have our counties and we all have our concerns but recognizing that if we make it a competition to win something over another community, we will not win in the long run I don’t think.

Daniels said there is another common ground is to be remembered, “Money. That’s what I heard from everyone. Even the best planned, best stabilized communities could never have planned for this. Who could have possibly panned for a $200 million catastrophe no matter how much planning they had done. The need for the nation to not forget us, for these philanthropic organizations to continue to take note of us and donate to our long-term recovery efforts. I definitely think that’s the common goal.”

Daniels said she hopes to continue seeing these types of meetings for all of the panhandle, “There may not be an answer yet, but I believe it’s coming and largely through these long-term recovery groups.”

The one-day summit covered everything from the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to FEMA mitigation assessment findings.
Triumph establishes hurricane recovery fund

By Tim Croft
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During a special meeting last week the board of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. voted to earmark $15 million as a hurricane recovery fund.
The fund would be available to local governments in Gulf, Franklin, Bay and Wakulla counties, those coastal counties most impacted by Hurricane Michael.
Staff will bring back a recommendation for disbursement of those funds, in particular bridge loans, and will take up those recommendations at a later date.
The Triumph board met again Feb. 25 in Bay County.

Much of the discussion during the 90-minute special meeting pertained to a recommendation via letter from Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis, suggesting the Triumph board establish a fund to assist local governments in hurricane recovery.
A particular focus was addressing revenue shortfalls due to loss of property and sales taxes.
Former House Speaker Allan Bense, a member of the Triumph board, said the suggestion had merit but had several concerns and urged caution about using Triumph money for anything other than economic diversification.
Bense noted that there was state funding in the hundreds of millions of dollars to local counties after Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Harvey, sticking with just recent examples.

“I want to be helpful but I don’t want us to take our eye off the ball,” Bense said.
“I am very concerned about utilizing Triumph (funds) for anything except economy recovery unless we can create jobs and assist hurricane recovery at the same time.”
Bense said that he wanted any Triumph money to local governments to be repaid and he was concerned about lending money to cities and counties that will be unable to pay back the loans.
He also believed Triumph should stay away from competing with the private sector; “banks make loans.”

Gulf County officials submitted letters in support of an application for $21 million in Triumph grant funds for the Board of County Commissioners, city of Port St. Joe and Gulf District Schools to mitigate revenue shortfalls.
The letter from the BOCC ends with an expression of disinterest in a loan.

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., was legislatively established to disburse $1.5 billion into eight Northwest Florida counties; that money represents five dollars stemming from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

“We have been hit by two disasters,” said Jason Shoaf, a member of the Triumph board from Gulf County, adding it would be a “crime” if Triumph money was spent on hurricane recovery at the expense of economic development.

Bense and Dr. Pam Dana, another Triumph board member, each, in different words, said Triumph should not be used to mitigate the responsibilities of state and federal governments.

Dana, who played a key economic role under Gov. Jeb Bush, said a bridge loan program was established after a hurricane under Bush, but she added that was state general fund dollars.

“It’s imperative we don’t take the burden off the state for paying for the recovery,” she said.

Bense strongly suggested at several junctures that local governments push the area’s legislative delegation to sponsor a bill to have the state to guarantee all loans made by Triumph.
He said it could be done legislatively, would be a process he would fully support, and encouraged local governments to pursue.

Several board members noted that the region’s legislative delegation had already filed numerous bills linked to hurricane recovery and Gov. Ron DeSantis had expressed his interest in hurricane recovery.

But, some board members acknowledged, there was a degree of pressure from outside the region about using Triumph funds for hurricane recovery, evidenced by the Patronis letter.
Bense and chair Don Gaetz also each mentioned upcoming annual payments due to Triumph, which has received about $300 million to date, but that must be approved by state lawmakers.

And there was general consensus on the board that Triumph needed to do something, within the guidelines established by state lawmakers.

“We’ve got to do everything we can to assist,” Shoaf said.

Bridge loans, he added, would be a “good move to get our economy rolling.”

“But our prime mission is to diversify our economy.”

A central theme for justifying that assistance was the shortfalls local governments will feel in the coming years as property values are significantly impacted.

Gaetz noted that while hard numbers won’t be available until July, Gulf Property Appraiser Mitch Burke provided a presentation last month of just one county that estimated total ad valorem shortfalls as high as 40 percent.

Whether Triumph should provide bridge loans or grants is to be determined, but for economic development to take place in the region, “we need local governments to be viable.”

Bense also spent a few minutes defending the board’s pace of fund disbursement, saying the board had to be “prudent, thoughtful and deliberate.”

Some $20 million in projects are underway with hundreds of millions dollars worth of projects in the pipeline, he added.

And, he said, any criticism of claw back provisions in project term sheets could be responded to with one word, Redpine.

Several years ago Bay County officials entered into an agreement with Redpine by which the company would receive significant tax breaks and upfront capital and in turn produce hundreds of jobs.

The company never materialized and Bay County lost $600,000 on the deal, Bense said.

“We don’t want that to happen,” Bense said. “We need to make sure if you don’t conform you’re going to feel some pain.”
City of Blountstown awarded $700,000 for needed repairs

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces More Than $3 Million Awarded to Improve Infrastructure and Workforce Training in Small and Rural Communities

Tallahassee, Fla. -- Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced more than $3 million in funding through programs from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for infrastructure and workforce training in small and rural Florida communities, including several affected by Hurricane Michael. These funds are being awarded primarily through the Community Services Block Grant program and CareerSource Florida through the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

"Infrastructure development and maintenance is critical to rebuilding and growing more resilient communities," said Governor DeSantis. "Every dollar counts, so we will continue to utilize all available resources to help communities in the Florida Panhandle impacted by Hurricane Michael recover."

The projects awarded through the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program include the following:

City of Blountstown – ($700,000) for the replacement of water lines, installation of new sewer lines and construction of new storm water facilities.

City of DeFuniak Springs – ($700,000) for the replacement of sewer lines, installation of manholes and replacing the chlorine analyzer of the water treatment plant.

City of Lawtey – ($600,000) to improve the existing water distribution and related fire protection system within 10 service areas.

City of Port St. Joe – ($511,500) for the replacement of sewer lines and repaving of streets.

Additionally, the Jackson County School Board, in partnership with CareerSource Chipola and the Tri-County Community Action Agency, is receiving $500,000 to create a Building Construction Technology program. This program will help generate skilled labor in the construction industry to assist with Hurricane Michael recovery efforts. Funds for the Building Construction Technology program are being made available by DEO through the Community Services Block Grant program and CareerSource Florida through the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

"Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, our team is committed to finding every resource available to help small and rural communities in our state succeed, especially those impacted by hurricanes," said Executive Director of DEO Ken Lawson. "This innovative partnership in Jackson County will give Floridians in the area an opportunity to learn a new skill and to help rebuild their beloved community. We look forward to helping other rural communities identify partnerships like this to help them recover."

"The Building Construction Technology program is a great example of state and local partners coming together to address a critical workforce need in the aftermath of a devastating hurricane," said CareerSource Florida President and CEO Michelle Dennard. "Our state board stands with Governor DeSantis and DEO in their commitment to supporting Florida's rural communities and recovery efforts in areas hit hard by Hurricane Michael."

For more information on these programs, visit FloridaJobs.org.
Timber farmers are working hard clear timber from the ground

BY SHEILA MADER

Timber farmers in Jackson County are well aware of the dangers of timber on the ground as the warm weather approaches and scorching August temperatures are in the near future. With that knowledge, Jackson County timber farmers are working diligently to get as much timber off the ground as quickly as possible.

Senior forester Barry Stafford said about the damages from Hurricane Michael, “We are looking at $1.3 billion just in Florida alone just in timber damage.”

Stafford feels a lot will be left behind because of the amount of destruction and this could impact landowners even greater. “A lot of the timber guys are struggling now, there is so much damage and there are only so many mills we can take this to and they are choked on all this wood. And we only have a certain amount of logging crews in this area. Then the landowners are stuck with the cleanup. It’s bad enough that they’re only getting like a dollar or two a ton for it because they’re getting very little for it compared to before the hurricane.”

As far as farmers who need assistance, Stafford says, “They can go to the Farm Service Agency and the NRCS office at this time. There may be some other things coming down the line in time. Those in Jackson, Calhoun, Bay and surrounding counties can get assistance through the Emergency Forestry Restoration Program at the Farm Service Agency and the NRCS office has some stuff, paperwork that they need to go see them. I don’t think they are going to be doing this much longer so they need to get in there pretty soon.”

Stafford says that Senator Rick Scott’s efforts to send a team in to help with USDA assistance is definitely needed, “There is absolutely a need, absolutely.” Stafford says the government has provided a tremendous amount of help since the hurricane. He says there’s still a lot of work to be done.

Contractors are estimating a couple of thousand dollars per acre for cleanup, “It’s going to be a tremendous effect on people whether or not they go back and plant or just do something else. Some of them won’t even do anything. So much of it will still be out there and nothing will get done with it.”

Stafford said, “If we can just get past this clean up. Being so much of it that’s, not much longer are we going to be able to salvage the stuff that’s on the ground.”

As for the future of the timber industry in Jackson County, Stafford isn’t certain what will come of it, but he’s hopeful, “Definitely it’s going to be a challenge but something we are hopeful for that we will be able to hold on to it and come out alright on the other side of it.”
RESOLUTION NO. 19-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL CERTIFYING ITS SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 0191 *Northwest Florida Rural Inland Affected Counties Recovery Fund*;

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is concerned about the economic health and well-being of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council strongly believes in the need to be proactive and not reactive in order to maintain and create employment opportunities benefitting its citizens while still supporting the quality of life in the Region; and

WHEREAS, enhancing the local infrastructure and workforce training will promote economic growth, competitiveness, and improve quality of life amenities in the Region; and

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Region has endured the devastation of Hurricane Michael and is in the midst of a recovery/rebuilding process following said hurricane; and

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Region is in need of financial and political support programs to maintain and continue said recovery/rebuilding process for the region; and

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council supports this bill and its companion Senate bill(s) to enhance the Region’s recovery and rebuilding processes; and

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council commits to honor its obligations that lie within its capabilities as leaders of technical assistance for economic development and quality of life that will serve the Region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL HEREBY AGREES TO SUPPORT THIS ACTION;

2. THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES ITS CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE THIS RESOLUTION AND ALL OTHER AUTHORIZED AGREEMENTS THAT PERTAIN TO THIS RESOLUTION;

3. THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON ITS ADOPTION.

Duly adopted by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council on March 28, 2019

SIGNED: 

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Randy Merritt, Chairman

ATTEST: 

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Chris Rietow, Executive Director
Apalachee Regional Planning Council – Staff
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