

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

FULL COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

Thursday – November 21, 2019

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



313th 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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Randy Merritt, Chairman (Wakulla) • **Kristin Dozier**, Vice-Chair (Leon)
Ricky Jones, Secretary/Treasurer (Franklin) • **John Jones**, Past Chairman (Monticello)
FRCA Policy Board Members: Kristin Dozier, Lisa Miller and Gene Wright

FULL COUNCIL

Calhoun County

Gene Bailey
Vacant
Don Stephens

County Commissioner
Municipal Representative
Governor's Appointee

Franklin County

Ricky Jones
Brenda La Paz
Vacant

County Commissioner
Mayor, City of Carrabelle
Governor's Appointee

Gadsden County

Brenda Holt
Evelyn Goldwire
Henry Grant

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Gretna
Governor's Appointee

Gulf County

Ward McDaniel
Johnny Paul
Michael Hammond

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka
Governor's Appointee

Jackson County

Jim Peacock
Gene Wright
Vacant

County Commissioner
Mayor, Town of Malone
Governor's Appointee

Jefferson County

Stephen Walker
John Jones
Vacant

County Commissioner
Mayor, City of Monticello
Governor's Appointee

Leon County

Kristin Dozier
Dianne Williams-Cox
Lisa Miller

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Tallahassee
Governor's Appointee

Liberty County

Dexter Barber
Woody Stewart
Davis Stoutamire

County Commissioner
Councilman, City of Bristol
Governor's Appointee

Wakulla County

Randy Merritt
Gail Gilman
Vacant

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

Ex-Officio Members

Michael Fuller
Christina Coger
Maria Showalter
Diane Scholz

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



**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING**

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

THURSDAY – NOVEMBER 21, 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 – September 19, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
4. US 98 Living Shoreline Presentation – Josh Adams, ARPC + Rick Harter, E & E
5. Executive Director’s Report
Chris Rietow, ARPC Executive Director
 - A. *Financial Report
 - B. Staff Program Reports
 1. Economic Development & Community Planning
 2. Disaster Resiliency Coordination
 3. Emergency Planning
 4. Revolving Loan Fund
 5. Transportation Planning
 6. Environmental Planning
 7. GIS Program
 8. Correspondence and Items of Interest
 - C. 850 Hemp Summit Recap
 - D. ADA Website Compliance
6. Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion
7. Ex-Officio Member Updates
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment
10. Next ARPC Board Meeting – January 30, 2019

****Items Requiring Board Action***

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
UF IFAS - North Florida Research & Education Center
155 Research Road – Quincy, FL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – September 19, 2019

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	Gene Bailey	County Commissioner
Calhoun County	David Culpepper	Mayor, Town of Altha
Calhoun County	Don Stephens	Governor’s Appointee
Franklin County	Ricky Jones	County Commissioner
Franklin County	Brenda La Paz	Mayor, City of Carrabelle
Gadsden County	Brenda Holt	County Commissioner
Gadsden County	Evelyn Goldwire	Commissioner, City of Gretna
Gadsden County	Henry Grant	Governor’s Appointee
Gulf County	Ward McDaniel	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
Leon County	Lisa Miller	Governor’s Appointee
Liberty County	Woody Stewart	Councilman, City of Bristol
Liberty County	Davis Stoutamire	Governor’s Appointee
Wakulla County	Randy Merritt	County Commissioner
Wakulla County	Gail Gilman	Mayor, City of St. Marks

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Maria Showalter	FL Dept. of Transportation
Caitlan Brongel	NW FL Water Management District

ARPC Staff in Attendance

Chris Rietow	Executive Director
Josh Adams	Regional Planner / Environmental
Zach Annett	Regional Planner / Emergency Planning
Anthony Carpanini	LEPC Coordinator
Ben Chandler	Disaster Recovery Coordinator
Elise Fisher	Regional Planner / Emergency Planning
Sarah Hibbard	GIS Specialist
Caroline Smith	Regional Planner / Economic Development
Ericha Stewart	Communications/ Planning Intern
Janice Watson	Finance Director/ Loan Coordinator

Others in Attendance

Meghen Myhill – US Rep. Neal Dunn
Chris Kingrey – FL Rep. Jason Shoaf
Shannon Metty – Jefferson Co. Planning
Melissa Corbett – Wakulla Co. Planning
Greg Slay – CRTPA
Carolyn Ford – North FL EDC
Roderick Scott – L&R Resources
Andrea Albertin – UF IFAS

Rudy Maloy – US Rep. Al Lawson
Cheri Bryant – Tallahassee/Leon Planning
Sommer Pell – Wakulla Co. Planning
Cristina Paredes – Tallahassee OEV
Deborah Porter – North FL EDC
Arrie Battle – Mother Care Network
Marilyn Barnes – Citizen
Les Harrison – UF IFAS

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

Items 2 and 3: Approval of the Agenda and the Minutes

A motion was made John Jones to approve the September 19, 2019 Agenda and the Minutes of the July 16, 2019 ARPC Full Council Board Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Davis Stoutamire. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: Flood Hazard Mitigation Presentation

Chris Rietow introduced Roderick Scott, of L&R Resources, LLC. Mr. Scott reported on his work to elevate homes located in the many flood zones of the southeastern United States. He explained that the extensive mitigation effort in his home base of Mandeville, Louisiana had resulted in a town which is now 80% elevated, and likewise 80% of the town is now exempt from expensive flood insurance requirements. Mr. Scott shared interesting data with the Board on how high flood insurance costs negatively affect property values and ultimately ad valorem tax revenues for local governments. He explained the elevation certificate process which determines height of floor, height of ground flood zone minimum, and the minimum height requirement which enables National Flood Insurance Program to set rates for the flood insurance policies. Mr. Scott also reviewed in detail the dry flood proofing process, a less costly alternative to complete structure elevation. He explained that dry flood proofing was a combination of measures that resulted in a structure, including the utilities and equipment being watertight with all elements substantially impermeable to the entrance of floodwater and with structural components having the capacity to resist flood loads. Mr. Scott also noted that dry flood proofing would not eliminate but drastically reduced the flood insurance rates for both residential and commercial structures. Mr. Scott closed his presentation by saying that the new flood insurance bill included a revolving loan provision to assist in financing elevation projects. Chairman Merritt thanked Mr. Scott for his presentation and Mr. Scott offered to make the same presentation at any future local government meetings in the Apalachee Region. Mr. Rietow agreed to forward Mr. Scott's PowerPoint presentation to the Board.

Item 5: City of Sopchoppy Competitive Florida Project Presentation

Mr. Rietow introduced Caroline Smith, ARPC Economic Development Planner who recently completed work with the City of Sopchoppy through the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) Competitive Florida Partnership Program. Ms. Smith briefly reviewed the Competitive

Florida Partnership Program and emphasized how the program allowed a community to focus on the assets it had and how best to address economic development based on those existing assets. She reviewed in detail the community participation from the City of Sopchoppy and the subsequent steps involved in the creation of a realistic and functional Economic Development Strategy for the City. Ms. Smith applauded the City for its ownership of the plan and shared with the Board a rendering prepared by ARPC staff of re-development options for several commercial sites in the City. She closed her presentation stating that it was very encouraging to see a community being proactive to implement projects and direction outlined in its Economic Development Strategy. Commissioner Dozier thanked Ms. Smith for presentation and for her work with the City of Sopchoppy. Mayor La Paz asked Ms. Smith to explain to the Board the Competitive Florida Partnership Program application process and steps other communities in the Region could take to be eligible for future participation. Mr. Rietow noted that communities that have completed the Competitive Florida process of developing a viable Economic Development Strategy were substantially more competitive in receiving funding for implementation of the future projects.

Item 6: Executive Director's Report

6A – Financial Report: Mr. Rietow reviewed with the Board the Budget Reports, the Reconciled Check Register as of July 31, 2019 and the ARPC's current list of accounts payable and accounts receivable as of September 18, 2019.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brenda Holt to approve the financial report for July 2019 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Jones. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

6B – Staff Reports: Mr. Rietow highlighted the following ARPC Program Reports prepared by ARPC staff and included in the Board Package beginning on page 19. He asked the Board for any questions in reference to the reports listed below and briefly updated the Board on any additions to the reports that had been included in the package.

1. Economic Development & Community Planning – Caroline Smith
2. Disaster Recovery Coordination – Ben Chandler
3. Emergency Planning – Zach Annett and Elise Fisher
4. Revolving Loan Fund – Janice Watson
5. Transportation Planning – Kwentin Eastberg
6. Environmental Planning – Josh Adams
7. GIS Program – Sarah Hibbard
8. Misc. Correspondence and Items of Interest

6.B.1 – Economic and Community Development: Mr. Rietow briefly reviewed the Economic Development projects in progress by ARPC staff which included: a Competitive Florida Project for the Community of Panacea and the City of Midway; General Economic Development Planning projects for the Town of Campbellton; the ARPC/FSU Jumpstart Program; development of an Agricultural Diversification Project with potential funding from USDA; the

development of a Franklin County Long-Term Recovery Strategy; and urban design work with the Town of Havana and the City of Chattahoochee. He noted that ARPC staff continued to partner with the Tallahassee/Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) on the development of an application to the US Dept. of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the recapitalization of the ARPC's Revolving Loan Fund.

6.B.2 – Disaster Recovery Program: Mr. Rietow noted that ARPC staff has transitioned from supporting the four Long-Term Recovery Groups in the Region to focusing on vetting potential projects for the Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental. He directed the Board to the report in the Board package beginning on page 19 which outlined the specific projects throughout the Region that are being considered.

6.B.3 – Emergency Planning: Mr. Rietow introduced Anthony Carpanini, the ARPC's new Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Coordinator, explaining that Zach Annett, the ARPC's current LEPC Coordinator, would be transitioning into full-time work on the ARPC's administration of the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition (BBHCC). Mr. Rietow explained that ARPC staff had begun revamping the BBHCC website, renewing membership, developing a robust training and exercise program, and coordinating a general membership meeting of the BBHCC on September 17th, which had been very well attended. Mr. Rietow noted that ARPC staff had been actively been pursuing this project for several years and through continued successful partnerships on smaller projects with the FL Dept of Health over the last five years, had been awarded the BBHCC administration contract on July 2019. Chairman Merritt thanked ARPC staff for their work in securing the contract and for adding another branch to the diversified services of the ARPC throughout the Region.

6.B.4 – Revolving Loan Fund Report: Janice Watson briefly reviewed the RLF Portfolio report included in the Board package and noted that upon receipt of the final title work, the working capital loan to Southern Fields Brewery, a start-up business in the Town of Campbellton, would be closed.

6.B.5 – Transportation Planning: Mr. Rietow reported that in addition to the information in Board package, ARPC staff continued to pursue the possibility of establishing a rural transportation planning organization (RTPO) in the Apalachee Region as a pilot project for FL Dept. of Transportation (FDOT). He noted that there is a renewed interest by FDOT in the project and that ARPC staff was encouraged that it had momentum again. Chairman Merritt shared how much Wakulla County had benefited from being part of the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) and strongly encouraged the Board to support the project. He asked Mr. Rietow to keep the Board informed on any and all new developments of a potential RTPO for the Apalachee Region.

6.B.6 – Environmental Planning Update: Mr. Rietow reported that ARPC staff had secured funding from the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for the completion of the FY 19/20 Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Assessments for Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty and Wakulla counties. He also noted that there was new momentum

at FDEP and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) on funding the construction phase of the Living Shoreline project currently being developed through an existing contract between the ARPC and the FDEP. Mr. Rietow explained that the project, upon completion, would create a hardbottom reef and fringe marsh to help reduce further damages to Hwy 98, as well as increase habitat and ecological productivity between Eastpoint and Carrabelle.

6.B.7 – GIS Program Update: Mr. Rietow reported that ARPC staff had been presenting *Apalachee Online* at county commission meetings through the Region to allow elected officials, county staff, and the general public to get a preview of the website and its many features. He thanked the Board for the allowing ARPC staff time at the commission meetings to showcase the *Apalachee Online* project. Mr. Rietow noted that ARPC staff was already full speed into the development of the *Apalachee Online Phase 2*, which would incorporate detailed information of the Apalachee Region’s municipalities into the *Apalachee Online* website. Mr. Rietow noted that ARPC GIS staff continued to complete contract GIS services for Franklin and Gadsden counties on an as requested basis.

6.B.8 – Correspondence and Items of Interest: Mr. Rietow reviewed: an article on Tallahassee Community College’s recent award of a grant to establish a welding technologies laboratory; his letter of appointment to the Suncoast Connector Task Force; and the FL Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletters for July and August. Mr. Rietow also reported at the FRCA Policy Board semi-annual meeting held in August, Commissioner Dozier had been elected as the 2nd Vice President and eventually would serve as the President of the FRCA Policy Board. He explained that the FRCA Policy Board was comprised of three Board Members from each of the ten Regional Planning Councils in Florida.

6.C – 850 Hemp Summit Update: Mr. Rietow reported on the development progress of the 850 Hemp Summits to be held on October 2nd in Tallahassee and November 13th in Marianna. He explained that the project approved by the ARPC Board in July, had been on the fast track and a top priority of ARPC staff since the close of that meeting. He commended Commissioner Dozier for all of her work on the project, noting that she had been the unwavering inspiration in the project coming to fruition.

Commissioner Dozier thanked the Board for their willingness to jump in and support the idea when it was presented and for their continued support as the project moved forward. She referenced the Board Handout with the most recent version of the October 2nd 850 Summit Agenda and reviewed each of the topics to be covered at the summit and respective speakers. Commissioner Dozier explained that the main purpose of the summits would be to focus on the hemp industry from farm to factory and to outline how the industry has the potential to create sound economic development in the Region. Commissioner Dozier stated that several investors have been alerted to the need for investment to establish a processing facility and have agreed to attend the summits. She also stated that crop permits may be available by early Spring 2020 and FL A&M University and the University of FL were already working on the development of the best hemp seed possible to ensure a successful crop in North Florida. She noted that FL Division of Emergency Management had been actively included in the planning of the summit,

as much of the new interest in hemp was from the timber industry that had been recently devastated by Hurricane Michael.

Mr. Rietow reported that over 120 people had already registered for the Tallahassee Summit and over \$10,000 had been raised in sponsorships. Commissioner Dozier stated that a processing facility in Mayo, FL was scheduled to open in 2020 and could take early production from the Apalachee Region on a temporary basis. She explained that a hemp processing facility had to be within a 100-mile radius in order to make growing hemp economically feasible for farmers. Commissioner Dozier explained that there were over 25,000 industrial uses for hemp fibers and emphasized that the bottom line of the entire emphasis was job creation, and for the availability of processed fibers to encourage the establishment of manufacturing facilities. She noted that ARPC staff was developing a map highlighting the existing assets of the Region as a confirmation for potential investors that the Region is indeed ready to move forward with the industry, based simply on what is already in place.

Chairman Merritt asked for any further questions or comments from the Board on the 850 Hemp Summits. Commissioner Holt encouraged the Board to attend the summit and thanked Commissioner Dozier and ARPC staff for providing as much information as possible to the ARPC Board in anticipation of questions they will receive from the community and interested individuals. Commissioner Dozier stressed the following points for reference when talking with constituents: medical marijuana is a vertical industry; hemp is a horizontal industry and can be assessible for farmers of any size; and it is a priority to keep the land in the ownership of the local farmers. Commissioner Williams-Cox stated that the need for public education and information on the difference between hemp and medical marijuana was vitally important. She also emphasized the importance of informing the public that the jobs created by the industry would be good paying jobs.

Commissioner McDaniel stated that Gulf County was very supportive of the potential hemp industry and discussed the benefits it could bring to Gulf, Calhoun, Jackson and Gadsden counties. Commissioner Bailey added that because it will be cash crop, participation could be open to farmers with smaller farms under 40 acres. Commissioner Dozier emphasized that crop diversity was critical to the process and shared that it takes a pine tree 8 years to produce the amount of pulp that a hemp plant could produce in 16 weeks. Commissioner Dozier concluded by stating that sponsorships and registrations were still being accepted and encouraged the Board to push the registration information out to their constituents. Commissioner Holt suggested that the next ARPC newsletter might include testimonies from ARPC Board members in support of the industry and the economic development potential it had for the Region.

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

Commissioner Williams-Cox asked if the Apalachee Region had ever participated in a resiliency project as referenced in the East Central FL Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) project referenced in the FRCA Newsletter. Commissioner Williams-Cox noted that she had recently attended a very informative resilience summit in Washington, DC and suggested that the ARPC begin conversations on the establishment of formal resiliency programs. Chairman Merritt

asked Mr. Rietow to research the suggestion and report back to the Board at future Board meeting. Caroline Smith added that ARPC staff had been in recent discussions with the FDEP about funding opportunities to support resiliency planning.

Commissioner Dozier reported that a recent Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce Retreat she was able to discuss with the Chamber the ARPC's critical need for a regional grant writer. She reported that after the retreat, she had received positive feedback from Florida Blue with interest in funding the position. She asked the Board for letters of support from the local governments of the Region, to be submitted to Florida Blue confirming the need. Mr. Rietow agreed to prepare a template for the letters and forward to the Board for completion by their respective jurisdictions. Commissioner Dozier stated that time was of the essence and requested that letters of support be sent to Mr. Rietow for compilation as soon as possible.

Chairman Merritt asked for any further Board or public comments and there were none. He announced that the next ARPC Board meeting would be held on November 21, 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 NOVEMBER 21, 2019

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Randy Merritt
Chairman

Chris Rietow
Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM - 5

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Chris Rietow

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

- A. ***Financial Reports:** The following will be forwarded under separate cover.
- Check Register and Budget Report for the month ending August 31, 2019
 - Check Register and Budget Report for the month ending September 30, 2019
 - Accounts Payable & Receivable Registers as of November 18, 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. **850 Hemp Summit Recap:** On the following pages are copies of the agendas from the Tallahassee 850 Hemp Summit held on October 2nd and the Marianna 850 Hemp Summit held on November 13th. A short video recap of the summits will be shown at the meeting.
- D. **ADA Website Compliance**

ACTIONS NEEDED

*Motion to accept Financial Reports for the periods ending August 31, 2019 and September 30, 2019.



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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2019

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. OPEN REGISTRATION

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. BREAKFAST BUFFET (Sponsored by Akerman)

7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. EXHIBIT HALL OPEN

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

WELCOME & OPENING SESSION REMARKS

Chris Rietow, Executive Director, Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Dr. Jeffrey Sharkey, President, Florida Hemp Association

Commissioner Kristin Dozier, Leon County Commission

8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

STATE OF HEMP INDUSTRY IN FLORIDA 2019 & BEYOND

Legislative Perspective

Representative Ramon J. Alexander, Florida House of Representatives

Senator Bill Montford, District 3, Florida Senate

Representative Brad Drake, District 5, Florida House of Representatives

PANEL DISCUSSION

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR AN EMERGING INDUSTRY

Moderator: Jeff Sharkey

Hemp Rule Development in Florida and the Southeast

Steve Hall, General Counsel, Dept. Of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Permitting and Licensing

Eric Rohrig, Bureau Chief, Div. of Plant Industries, FDACS

Federal and State Legal Issues

Robert Williams, Lewis Longman and Walker

Glenn Burhans, Stearns Weaver

Banking Hemp

Mike Akers, CEO, FLAG Credit Union

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. BREAK

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

PANEL DISCUSSION

GROWING NORTH FLORIDA: INDUSTRIAL HEMP RESEARCH PROJECTS

Moderator: Dr. Glen E. Aiken, Director, North Florida Research & Education Center

Dr. Jerry Fankhauser, UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Research Project

Dr. Steve Leong, FAMU – Industrial Hemp Research Project

Mike Kelley, President, Sunshine Hemp

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. – LUNCH (Sponsored by Green Point Research LLC, and Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.)

Keynote Speaker: Director Holly Bell, Office of Cannabis, FDACS

Introduction: Commissioner Betsy Barfield, Jefferson County

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

THE BUSINESS OF GROWING AND PROCESSING HEMP

Moderator: Commissioner Jim Peacock, Jackson County Commission

Robert Tornello, President, 3 Boys Farms

Danny Persaud, Danika Farms Mayo FL

DID YOU KNOW? THIS IS PRINTED ON HEMP PAPER!

HOSTED BY APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL & FLORIDA HEMP ASSOCIATION



2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

**BEYOND THE FIELD: THE VERSATILITY OF HEMP PRODUCTS
- WHAT CAN WE MAKE WITH HEMP & WHY IT MATTERS**

Moderator: Cristina Paredes, Director, Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality
 Susan Scherer, CEO/Founder, Heavenly Hash Creamery
 Brianna Kilcullen, Founder, ANACT Hemp Towel
 Ashley Guy, Owner, Tallulah CBD & Juicebar
 Dr. Patrick Fratellone, M.D. RH (AHG) FIM | Medical Adviser

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. BREAK

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & THE HEMP INDUSTRY IN NORTH FLORIDA

Moderator: Leon County Commissioner Kristin Dozier
Strategic Site Selection and Regional Assets
 Victor Leotta, Leotta Location & Design
Transportation and Freight Logistics
 David Pope, General Manager, Florida Gulf & Atlantic Railroad
Workforce Development
 Madeline Pumariega, Executive VP and Provost, Tallahassee Community College
 Regional Economic Development Partners

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEMP INDUSTRY IN NORTH FLORIDA

Moderators: Leon County Commissioner Kristin Dozier
 Calhoun County Commissioner Gene Bailey
 Gadsden County Commissioner Brenda Holt

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

NETWORKING AND CLOSING

850 HEMP SUMMIT 2019 SPONSORS



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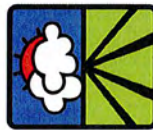


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HOSTED BY APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

CULTIVATING OPPORTUNITY IN AN EMERGING MARKET

850 HEMP SUMMIT: MARIANNA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019



7:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. CST **OPEN REGISTRATION**
7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. CST **BREAKFAST BUFFET**
7:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST **EXHIBIT HALL OPEN**

8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. CST

WELCOME & OPENING SESSION REMARKS

Chris Rietow, Executive Director, Apalachee Regional Planning Council
Commissioner Jim Peacock, Jackson County Commissioner
Commissioner Kristin Dozier, Leon County Commission

8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. CST

STATE OF HEMP INDUSTRY IN FLORIDA 2019 & BEYOND: RULES & REGULATIONS FOR AN EMERGING INDUSTRY

Steve Hall, General Counsel, Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Allan Charles, Senior Attorney, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Bryan Benson, Operations and Program Manager, Division of Plant Industry FDACS
Keily Stiff, Advisory Committee, Processor

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 CST

GROWING NORTH FLORIDA: INDUSTRIAL HEMP RESEARCH AND AVAILABILITY OF SEEDS AND CLONES

Scott Burgett, COO and Co-Owner, Green Earth Cannaceuticals
David Hasenauer, CEO, Green Point Research, LLC
Dr. Jerry Fankhauser, UF/IFAS, Industrial Hemp Research Project

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 CST: BREAK

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon CST

GROWING HEMP

Dillon White, Owner, Fat Boy Farms, Oregon
Harris Morgan, Director of Farming, Pretoria Fields Collective

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. CST: LUNCH (sponsored by FLCBank)

THE HISTORY OF HEMP AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

1:00 p.m. - 2:25 p.m. CST

THE BUSINESS OF PROCESSING HEMP AND OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTH FLORIDA

Moderator: Commissioner Kristin Dozier, Leon County Commission
Danny Persaud, CEO, Danika Farms
Keily Stiff, FDACS Hemp Advisory Committee, Red Hills Hemp, CEO
Albert Etheridge, Co-Founder and COO, Pretoria Fields Collective
Allen Witters, Founder and Senior Director, Gravitas Infinitum

2:25 p.m. - 2:35 p.m. CST: BREAK

2:35 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

MODERATED DISCUSSION WITH HEMP PANELISTS

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 CST

NEXT STEPS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

3:30 p.m. CST

NETWORKING AND CLOSING



THIS AGENDA IS PRINTED ON HEMP PAPER! THIS IS HEMP.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – B – 1

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / COMMUNITY PLANNING PROGRAM

Caroline Smith and Peter Traficante

2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update – ARPC staff is coordinating with regional partners to implement objectives from its regional economic strategy known as the CEDS. ARPC staff is also engaging in conversations with the US Dept. of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) staff to develop the best way to incorporate economic recovery from Hurricane Michael into the current year CEDS update, which will take form as an online, interactive CEDS. The online CEDS, which will be created using the *LiveStories* platform, will feature daily data updates and will emphasize the Apalachee Region’s narrative as it relates to economic development and resiliency. A printable CEDS Executive Summary will also be available. ARPC staff submitted the 3-year planning grant application to EDA on November 14th. The EDA Planning Grant funds general economic development planning by ARPC staff and also the implementation of the CEDS. If approved the three-year continuing project would be effective on January 1, 2020.

Community of Panacea, Competitive Florida – ARPC staff is collaborating with OVID Solutions, a local consulting group, to implement the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity’s (FDEO) Competitive Florida Partnership Program in Panacea. All contracts have been fully executed and the program is underway. Recently staff from FDEO’s Office of Community Partnerships, which administers the Competitive Florida Partnership Program, visited Panacea along with ARPC staff, OVID Solutions staff, and local stakeholders to learn and become familiar with the waterfront community.



Midway City Hall

City of Midway, Competitive Florida – The City of Midway has also been selected as a Competitive Florida participant for 2019-20, which will provide the community with the opportunity to engage diverse stakeholders and collaboratively build an Economic Development Strategy. The Agreement with DEO has been finalized and ARPC will serve as grantee on Midway’s behalf and implement program components.

General Planning Activities – ARPC staff is currently assisting various local governments with funding applications for FDEO’s Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) Special Appropriation for inland counties impacted by Hurricane Michael. ARPC staff will assist Calhoun County, the Town of Campbellton and the Town of Sneads with RIF applications for planning projects.

ARPC-FSU Jumpstart Program – ARPC staff is collaborating with faculty from the FSU Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning to stand up a new program, nicknamed the *Jumpstart Program*, in

which graduate-level students in Urban and Regional Planning will provide essential reviews of planning documents and other planning tools on behalf of rural municipalities in the Apalachee Region. The program will take place within the context of a land use/comprehensive planning graduate course, which will allow the future generation of Florida planners to transfer classroom knowledge into real-world experience (under faculty supervision). By the end of the program, which will operate on a semester-by-semester basis, students will provide the participating municipality with a final report on the strengths and weaknesses of its Comprehensive Plan and other planning tools. Ultimately, the report will enable municipalities to better target future planning projects and address any deficiencies in its Comprehensive Plan. The program is currently being finalized and the Town of Campbellton is being considered for the pilot semester of the Jumpstart Program.

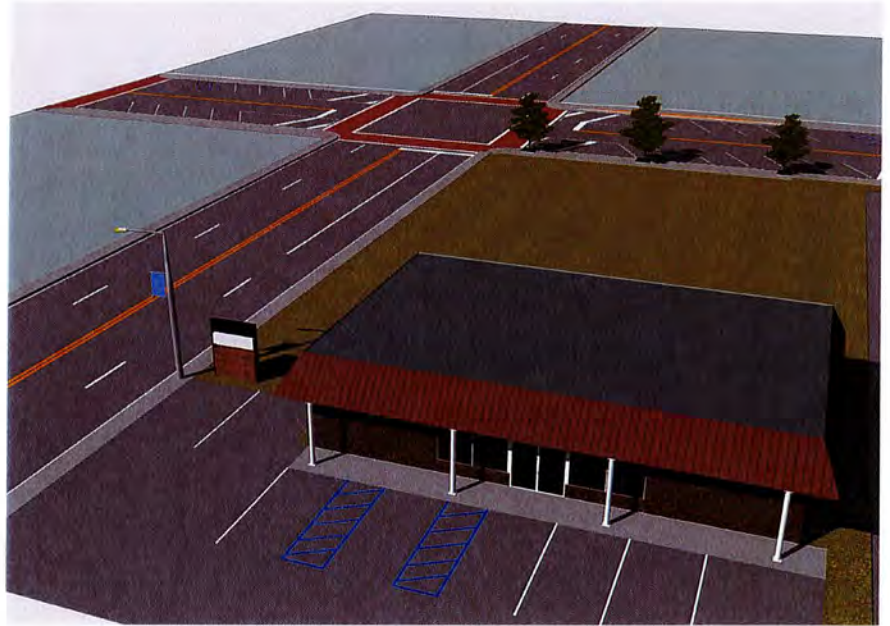
USDA Farmers Markets Promotion Program (FMPP) Technical Assistance Grant – ARPC staff collaborated with UF/IFAS County Extension staff to apply to the USDA Farmer’s Market Promotion Program. The grant proposal is entitled “*Advancing Apalachee Agriculture.*” If awarded, the \$500,000 grant would provide 3-year funding for ARPC and UF/IFAS staff to provide technical assistance to farmers, cooperatives, ranchers, value-added agricultural producers, and farmers markets throughout the Apalachee Region. ARPC staff is still awaiting award announcements for the FMPP grant.

Franklin County Long Term Recovery Strategy – ARPC staff has begun work on the EDA-funded Long-Term Recovery Strategy for Franklin County. The project’s goal is to increase commercial activity and jobs in Franklin County through novel planning policies and business recruitment strategies. ARPC is currently requesting an extension for the project from the EDA.

Application to Re-capitalize ARPC Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) – ARPC staff has applied to the EDA for funding to re-capitalize the ARPC RLF to support small businesses in the Apalachee Region. The application was made possible by support from the Tallahassee-Leon Office of Economic Vitality. If funded the ARPC RLF Phase 2 would make available an additional \$1,000,000 for RLF loans.

850 Hemp Summits – ARPC staff successfully hosted the first of the two inaugural 850 Hemp Summits in Tallahassee on October 2nd and in Marianna on November 13th. The Tallahassee focused on the general industrial hemp industry and the summit held in Marianna had a greater emphasis on growing and processing hemp. The events were very well attended by over 500 people, which included: ARPC Board Members, farmers, processors, investors, elected officials, legislators, and other stakeholders from across Northwest Florida and beyond.

Urban Design – ARPC staff met with Havana Main Street to collaborate ideas on how to better utilize ARPC modeling and design skills. There was interest in using SketchUp modeling to create digital renderings of key intersections to better help with creating and maintaining Havana’s design standards. The modeling usage of SketchUp can also assist in keeping historical records of improved lands’ past usage. Community members, leaders and those willing to develop land can get a better understanding of what is to be expected from any improvements that may be occurring.



*Model of Havana Main Street *Draft as of Sept. 9th, 2019**

ARPC modelling and design skills will be utilized for the Competitive Florida Partnership Program in Panacea, where ARPC staff will produce renderings of the Panacea Mineral Springs to help visualize how the historic landmark and destination might look if repaired and revitalized. ARPC staff is also contributing modelling and design skills to creation of the City of Chattahoochee’s Downtown Improvement Plan, which recently held its first kick-off meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – B – 2
EDA Disaster Recovery Program – Ben Chandler

Since the last ARPC Board Meeting, the primary focus of the Disaster Recovery Program has been to work directly with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) Florida Representative, Greg Vaday, to go through an intensive vetting process of identified potential projects for Hurricane Michael recovery that may be eligible for grant funding from either EDA's 2019 disaster relief supplemental or their annual Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Programs.

The advantage of the disaster relief supplemental is that the local match requirement for a proposed viable project is 20%. With that contribution, an EDA-approved project would supply 80% federal funding. Under the normal EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) programs, the local funding match would be 50%.

Following the announcement by the U.S. Department of Commerce this past August about the availability of monetary (grant-funded) aid to communities impacted by federally-declared natural disasters in 2018 and 2019, a subsequent announcement was made of the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for EDA's Year 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs (PWEAA).

Over the course of the vetting process, it has become readily clear that several projects in the Apalachee Region are not quite ready to take advantage of the disaster relief supplemental timeline. Many projects are not ready to proceed due to a lack of either a defined project scope or they do not have the requisite monetary funding match to meet EDA's standard requirements for a competitive application. It is abundantly obvious that the potential funding associated with EDA's disaster relief package is going to be far more competitive than the normal PWEAA annual grant funding process.

As reported at the last ARPC Board Meeting, from the \$587 million officially released by EDA to nationally aid communities impacted by the presidentially declared natural disasters in 2018 and floods and tornadoes in 2019, \$140 million has been allocated to EDA's eight (8)-state Atlanta Region.

Each of the eight (8) states in the Atlanta Region are eligible to apply for the disaster relief funding due to the impacts of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, as well as other areas impacted by floods and tornadoes. In all, over 300 counties are eligible to apply throughout the EDA Atlanta Region. As a result, EDA's allocation of \$140 million to the Atlanta Region will be spread extremely thin.

It is anticipated that disaster relief applications made for projects in EDA's Atlanta Region that were impacted by Hurricane Irma in 2017, but not approved for funding, will likely apply again if they were also in counties that were federally-designated to be impacted by Hurricane Michael in 2018. This reality will make the competition for the 2019 Disaster Relief package far greater than EDA's rolling grant program.

Aside from the disaster relief funding opportunities from EDA, the annual Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs are available for funding applications as described in the following federal announcement on October 21, 2019:



October 21, 2019

EDA Publishes FY 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs Notice of Funding Opportunity

Today the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) published the FY 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs Notice of Funding Opportunity (PWEAA NOFO).

Under this NOFO (formerly known as the Economic Development Assistance Program NOFO), EDA solicits applications for construction, non-construction, planning, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works program and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program, which includes Assistance to Coal Communities.

EDA awards made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities, including those negatively impacted by changes to the coal economy.

Projects funded by these programs will support work in Opportunity Zones and will support the mission of the Department by, among other things: leading to the creation and retention of jobs and increased private investment, advancing innovation, enhancing the manufacturing capacities of regions, providing workforce development opportunities, and growing ecosystems that attract foreign direct investment.

Please access this funding opportunity through [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov) by searching "PWEAA2020". Note that this supersedes the previously published "EDAP-2018" funding opportunity.



Updated Overview of Identified Projects (to date) – by County

In taking stock of the following list of identified projects, it is important to note that the process of evaluating and vetting potential economic development projects for EDA funding is an extremely fluid process. While many projects may have intrinsic local and regional economic development value, they may not be positioned to meet EDA's timeline and local match funding requirements to be a viable project to move forward.

As conditions currently stand, the following lists out the possible projects identified by EDA and the ARPC to move forward for potential EDA funding, either by the 2019 Disaster Supplemental or by EDA's PWEAA 2020:

REGIONAL

- Expansion of ARPC Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for the 9-County Region
- Regional Agricultural Diversification Study for the 9-County Region

CALHOUN

- Calhoun-Liberty Hospital
 - Seeking funding to build a new hospital.
 - Awaiting final determination of the level of damage by FEMA, supported by a private consulting firm (Hagerty, who is teamed with Clemons-Rutherford Architects (CRA).
 - The ARPC and EDA are working directly together to support the hospital's application for funding to fully replace the facility.
 - A repair of the existing facility will not be a final solution as a repair of the existing facility will not meet the existing building code requirements.
 - Once the damage assessment is completed, a determination will be made as to what FEMA will repair/replace. At that point, a supporting project may be a viable consideration for application for an EDA disaster supplemental or PWEAA application.
- Calhoun County Long Term Recovery Plan
 - This project is underway as of Tuesday, November 5th, and is authorized to proceed by the Calhoun County Commission.
 - Funded by a FDEO Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant.

FRANKLIN

- Assist Franklin County staff to develop a plan utilizing technical assistance from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) to lay the foundation for establishing a county-wide economic development organization.

GADSDEN

- Community-Based Strategic Economic Development Plan (currently on-hold)
- Intermodal Logistics Center (currently on-hold)
 - Located in the SW quadrant of the Gretna/Greensboro interchange on I-10.
 - Construction of a water tower and other ancillary structures to support the ILC.
- US 90 (Washington Street) Streetscape Improvement Concept Plan – Chattahoochee

- Funded by a FDEO Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant. Project is underway and led by the ARPC.
- Project will provide initial support to future planning efforts for a downtown redesign using New Market Tax Credit funding.
- The kick-off meeting to support the FDEO grant was held Friday, November 8th. Agencies present included:
 - City of Chattahoochee
 - Chattahoochee Main Street
 - Florida Department of Transportation
 - Complete Streets Coordinator (Central Office)
 - Complete Streets Coordinator (District 3)
 - Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)
 - Gadsden County Planning Department
 - Florida Department of Historical Preservation
 - Florida Department of State
 - Florida Main Street

GULF

- Skyborne Technologies, Inc. (in partnership with Gulf Coast State College)
 - This project has received private funding investment to proceed with the construction of the requisite facility to build the needed products and relevant capacity.
 - Subsequent efforts may include procuring the requisite funding to supplement the local funding for support roadway access and utility services.

JACKSON

- Chipola College – Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Training Facility
 - Workforce training center to house Engineering Tech, Civil Engineering Tech, Welding/Fabrication, and Automotive.
 - Expandable to accommodate diesel mechanic or CNC machining programs.
 - Simulate factory operation and allow for all associated training.
- Alford (U.S. 231) to Marianna Sewer System Expansion
 - Project to expand public sewer system from City of Marianna to commercial corridor, FDOT rest stop, and Town of Alford (along US 231 and SR 276).
 - Project will serve to create new jobs and retain existing ones.

JEFFERSON

- Industrial Park
 - County-owned industrial park needs funding to complete development.

LEON

- Expansion of Innovation Park in Tallahassee
 - Construction of a 'wet lab' facility.

LIBERTY

- Liberty County Long Term Recovery Plan
 - Funded by a DEO Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant.
 - Executed on Thursday, November 7th by the Liberty County Board of County Commissioners.
- Economic Development Strategy and Potential Expansion of the Telogia Power Plant
 - No-cost technical assistance from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) scheduled for the week of November 18-22.
 - Technical assistance will support the long-term recovery plan.

WAKULLA

- Emergency Services Relocation Feasibility Study
 - Study to select optimal sites in Wakulla County for relocation of emergency services and other public safety assets that are currently situated in coastal flood zones.
 - Planning project will increase resiliency of emergency services and improve the county's ability to respond to future disasters.
 - IEDC technical assistance will also be sought to support the County's efforts.

Economic Development Academy (Chipola College)

On October 30th, as a foundation to an Economic Development Stakeholder Roundtable for economic recovery and resilience, the Economic Development Academy provided a full day of learning about key issues of economic development to help counties and communities be successful in building and sustaining a strong local economy. The Academy was presented by Opportunity Florida and staff from VisionFirst Advisors, an economic development consulting firm, led by Gray Swope, specializing in site selection; team building; and state, regional and local strategies; and education.

Upcoming Events:

December 4th: Hurricane Recovery Best Practices Summit
(Rivertown Community Church – Blountstown)

Representatives from Mississippi who responded to and worked to bring their communities back from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina will be on hand to offer best practices and their success stories of the obstacles they overcame to bring their communities back stronger than before the storm.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – B – 3

EMERGENCY PLANNING PROGRAM

Zach Annett – Anthony Carpanini – Denise Imbler

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 November 13, 2019 at the Tallahassee Fire Department Training Division. The previous meeting was held at on September 18, 2019 at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office. During this meeting the LEPC membership discussed the activities that occurred during the previous quarter as well as discussed training and exercise opportunities.

Hazardous Materials Exercises:

ARPC staff along with other members of local and state public safety personnel have begun the development of a clandestine lab tabletop exercise to be held in Jefferson County in February 2020.

Hazardous Materials Training

The following trainings were held in the Region during the Quarter:

Date	Course	Location	Students Trained
September 24-26, 2019	HazMat Incident Commander	Marianna	21
Total			24

The following courses are planned for the upcoming quarters:

- Hazardous Materials Safety Officer Course – December 17-19, 2019 – Tallahassee
- OSHA HAZWOPER Technician Level Refresher Training – December 11, 2019 – Tallahassee
- Hazardous Materials First Responder Awareness Training (2 Offerings) – Dates and Locations to be determined.

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 and pet-friendly shelter. The target audiences are emergency managers, county employees, and shelter volunteers.

Big Bend Healthcare Coalition (BBHCC)

ARPC staff held the most recent meeting of the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition on September 17, 2019 at the American Red Cross in Tallahassee. More than 75 individuals from throughout the Region attended the meeting. During the meeting, Commander Aaron Otis with the Florida Department of Health presented on Hepatitis A and Mark Wool with the Tallahassee Office of the National Weather Service spoke on the current hurricane season as well as updates to the notification system. The Big Bend Healthcare Coalition also donated 20 cots to the Department of Health in Leon County for use in their emergency special needs shelter.

ARPC staff is working to schedule a Basic Healthcare Emergency Management course for Coalition members which will be held in the spring of 2020. The next Board of Directors and General Member meetings of the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition are scheduled for December 9, 2019 at the American Red Cross where there will multiple presentations given on a variety of topics.



BBHCC donating cots to DOH Leon

Big Bend Healthcare Coalition Exercises:

ARPC staff is working to develop two exercises for the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition. The Coalition will be working with Capital Regional Medical Center and Tallahassee Memorial Hospital to exercise the Coalition Surge Tool. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate the ability for healthcare facilities to locate beds for patients in the event they are surged with victims or evacuees from other healthcare facilities. The exercise is scheduled for April 7, 2020.

Secondly, ARPC is in the beginning stages of designing an Active Shooter tabletop exercise to deliver throughout the Region. These tabletops will help assist Coalition member facilities with satisfying their annual Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services exercise requirements. The exercises will take place in the spring and will be delivered multiple times across the Region to assist as many facilities as possible.

Exercise Planning and Facilitation

ARPC staff is working with the FL Division of Emergency Management to begin planning for the 2020 Statewide Hurricane Exercise. The exercise will focus on a select number of regions in the state and will incorporate a variety of incidents to be worked at the State Emergency Operations Center. The exercise is tentatively scheduled for late April or early May of 2020.

Other Technical Assistance

ARPC Staff worked with the North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force to conduct a series of active shooter workshops which built upon the 2018 *Save Life!* workshops. The most recent workshop, *Plans and Perspectives to an Active Shooter Incident* was held on October 14th was held in Leon County. This workshop discussed Leon County and City of Tallahassee's response to the Tallahassee Hot Yoga Shooting. During the workshop, participants were able to hear from multiple disciplines of first responders as they discussed their roles and responsibilities as they responded to the incident. Additionally, the workshops provided attendees an opportunity to respond to a simulated active shooter incident in a tabletop setting.



Save Life! Workshop

AGENDA ITEM 5 – B – 4

REVOLVING LOAN FUND REPORT – Janice Watson

FY 18/19 Loan Payments & Loan Fund Balances

The loan payment worksheets summarize the RLF loan payments from October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019. The summary on the bottom of the worksheets describes in detail the current balances in the RLF Loan Principal and Interest Bank Accounts as of 9/30/19 and also the cumulative activity in the bank accounts since 10/1/18. These amounts correspond exactly to the data which is semi-annually reported by ARPC staff to the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). As of 11/15/19, the amount available for lending is \$20,000.

RLF Loan Portfolio Re-Cap

The portfolio worksheet gives specific details of all the outstanding loans of the RLF Program through 11/15/19.

New Loan Updates:

ARPC staff closed the working capital loan to Southern Fields Brewery LLC owned by Brian Walker and Joe McMullian on October 9th. The new business in Campbellton, FL (Jackson County) is scheduled to open in mid-December.



Murals Provided by Jackson TDC



Brewery Interior – Future Customer Seating Area



SFB Company Logo



Joe McMullian & Brian Walker at SFB Main Entrance



ARPC Loan Coordinator Janice Watson and Brian Walker of Southern Fields Brewing on Loan Closing Day in Campbellton, FL

AGENDA ITEM 5 – B – 5

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM – Kwentin Eastberg

Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program

ARPC staff has completed and submitted all the deliverables from the first quarter of the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant. Staff has also completed eight of nine quarterly meetings for second quarter. Wakulla County is the only meeting outstanding and is scheduled for December 4th. Reviewing the Annual Operating Report was included on the second quarter's agenda. A public workshop will take place immediately preceding the meetings with the purpose of training new board members and educating the public on the purpose and function of the Transportation Disadvantaged program. Meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend. Meeting notices are published in the local county newspapers.

ARPC staff attended the annual FPTA/CTD Joint Conference Training and Expo in Orlando from September 16-18, 2019. ARPC staff attended the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) Business meeting September 16th then the 2-day training including sessions on best practices, Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) and planner-specific sessions. On the evening of the 18th the CTD held their annual awards banquet. Two awards were given out in the ARPC Region. First, the Gulf county Local Coordinating Board won the Coordinating Board of the year award. Secondly, JTrans, the Jackson County CTC, won the Rural CTC of the year award. Both are prestigious and well earned. Congratulations to the winners and all the nominees.



JTrans Executive Director, Sharon Peeler accepts the Rural CTC Award with ARPC Staff, Kwentin Eastberg.

Regional Commuter Assistance Program

Over the past several months ARPC staff has been working with Commuter Services of North Florida and the Florida Department of Transportation to transition the Regional Commuter Assistance Program (RCAP) contract to the ARPC. The RCAP program is designed to help commuters of any kind (work trips, school trips, etc.) to connect with each other through a database in order to help set up carpooling/vanpooling opportunities to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), traffic congestion, solve parking issues, and create a cost effective and efficient way of travel for individuals traveling long distances for employment or education. The allocation for the Regional Commuter Assistance Program will exceed \$200,000 in FY 19-20. The one-year contract is scheduled to begin on January 1, 2020. The RCAP contract is funded by FDOT District 3 and is set up as a one-year contract with the option to renew for additional years.

ARPC will partner with the Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) to combine the two existing RCAP programs into one joint FDOT District 3 program. ARPC staff, ECRC staff and FDOT have been in contact and have begun the process of coordinating the efforts.

ACTION NEEDED

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution 19-4.

**Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards
2019 - 2020 Meeting Calendar**

COUNTY	NOVEMBER 2019	FEBRUARY 2020	JUNE 2020
Calhoun 1:00 PM CT	5 Tuesday	4 Tuesday	2 Tuesday
Franklin 10:00 AM ET	12 Tuesday	5 Wednesday	3 Wednesday
Gadsden 2:00 PM ET	14 Thursday	13 Thursday	11 Thursday
Gulf 12:00 PM ET	12 Tuesday	5 Wednesday	3 Wednesday
Jackson 10:00 AM CT	5 Tuesday	4 Tuesday	2 Tuesday
Jefferson 10:00 AM ET	14 Thursday	13 Thursday	11 Thursday
Leon 2:00 PM ET	19 Tuesday	12 Wednesday	10 Wednesday
Liberty 3:30 PM ET	5 Tuesday	4 Tuesday	2 Tuesday
Wakulla 10:00 AM ET	4 (December) Wednesday	12 Wednesday	10 Wednesday

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

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



ARPC RESOLUTION No. 19-4

A RESOLUTION of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (hereafter referred to as the "BOARD") hereby authorizes the filing and execution of any Public Transportation Grant Agreement (hereafter referred to as "PTGA") with the Florida Department of Transportation (hereafter referred to as "FDOT").

WHEREAS, the BOARD is eligible to receive a PTGA and to perform services of the Commuter Assistance Program as authorized by Chapters 187 and 341, Florida Statutes.

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

1. The BOARD has the authority to enter into this grant agreement.
2. The BOARD authorizes **Chris Rietow, Executive Director**, or **Randy Merritt, ARPC Board Chairman**, to execute the grant agreement, amendments, warranties, certifications, reimbursement invoices, and any other documents which may be required in connection with the agreement on behalf of the Board.
3. The BOARD'S Registered Agent in Florida is Chris Rietow, Executive Director. The Registered Agent's address: is 2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019

BY THE: APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Randy Merritt
Chairman

ATTEST:

Chris Rietow
Executive Director

General Transportation Planning

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): Mobility for All – Pilot Program: Eligible applicants are designated or direct recipients of 5307, 5310, or 5311 FTA program funds (these are most of the CTCs in our Region). This funding opportunity seeks to improve mobility options through employing innovative coordination of transportation strategies and building partnerships to enhance mobility and access to vital community services for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and people of low income. As required by federal transit law, funds will be awarded competitively to finance innovative capital projects for the transportation disadvantaged that will improve the coordination of non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) services. Some examples include - employing mobility management strategies, vehicle purchase, IT purchase, leasing equipment or a facility for use in public transportation etc. \$3.5 Million available. Requires 20% local match. Deadline 11:59PM, Monday January 6, 2020

ARPC Staff has attended several regional meetings including: The Continuing Florida Aviation Systems Planning Process (CFASPP) meeting in Tallahassee; Florida Gulf & Atlantic Railroad - relating to the Freight Logistics Zone (FLZ); Twin Rivers Timber - relating to the FLZ, FDOT District 3 Transit Grants Workshop; and several meetings with Commuter Services.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – B – 6

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROGRAM – Josh Adams

HWY 98 St. George Sound Living Shoreline



November 12, 2019 public meeting at ANERR.

ARPC staff along with ARPC environmental contractor, Ecology & Environment (E&E), have been hard at work with the Franklin-98 project. The team has met twice with various state and federal agencies and on November 12th, hosted the first public meeting at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR). Three additional meetings are planned for December 4th, January 14th, and February 4th. Community feedback is critical in guiding the direction of the project. ARPC staff is committed to the project being community driven and publicly vetted before proceeding with designs and construction. The goal is to create a hardbottom reef and fringe marsh that will help reduce further damages to Hwy 98, as well as increase habitat and ecological productivity between Eastpoint and Carrabelle.

RESTORE Act Spill Impact Component Administration

The Wacissa River Park Project has been sent over for review from the federal side of RESTORE. Gulf County's breakwater project has been submitted to the Gulf Consortium for review and to be voted on at the November session. Franklin County is waiting on a determination for the scope of work and budget analysis for designs for the Eastpoint and Two-Mile dredge sites.

Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition (RCSC) and Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Stakeholders (ACFS)

Two large developments have taken place over the last month. At the last ACFS meeting, the *Analysis of Water Management Alternative Scenarios on Apalachicola Bay Salinities* (the former "restricted materials") was approved for release. The RCSC's consulting engineer, Ken Jones, is currently updating and refining the report for distribution. The report will be made a public document to anyone who might find it useful and is an important document to ultimately help better understand and manage Apalachicola Bay. Additionally, Florida made oral arguments in a special Supreme Court mandated hearing. In the latest turn of events, flow from the Flint River is being scrutinized:

"Florida's attorneys said their proposed remedies do not include "trying to take water away from Atlanta" – roughly 70 percent of 5.6 million metro Atlanta residents receive their drinking water from Lake Lanier – but attempt only to impose "targeted" irrigation controls, especially during dry years, on southwest Georgia farmers along the Flint River.

Florida's proposal is similar to regulations it imposes on agricultural lands along the Flint River once it crosses the Georgia-Florida state line, its attorneys said.

Georgia could easily and inexpensively adopt Florida's Flint River regulations to help preserve downstream ecologies and economies, such as Apalachicola Bay, they maintained."

Taken from: John Haughey | The Center Square Nov 11, 2019

While the hearing was too recent for there to be recommendations based on the arguments, those will likely follow.

McKissack Beach Land Management Plan (LMP)

The ARPC is undertaking the first LMP for McKissack Beach, per Florida State Statutes. The City of Carrabelle assumed the McKissack land as part of a lease from the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP). As part of that lease agreement, they are required to develop a LMP, which the ARPC is helping the City of Carrabelle accomplish. Meetings will be held December through February. McKissack Beach is a special area that is home to various endemic species, such as the highly specialized Godfrey's star (below). In addition, two loggerhead nests were established during nesting season this year, which runs May-October.



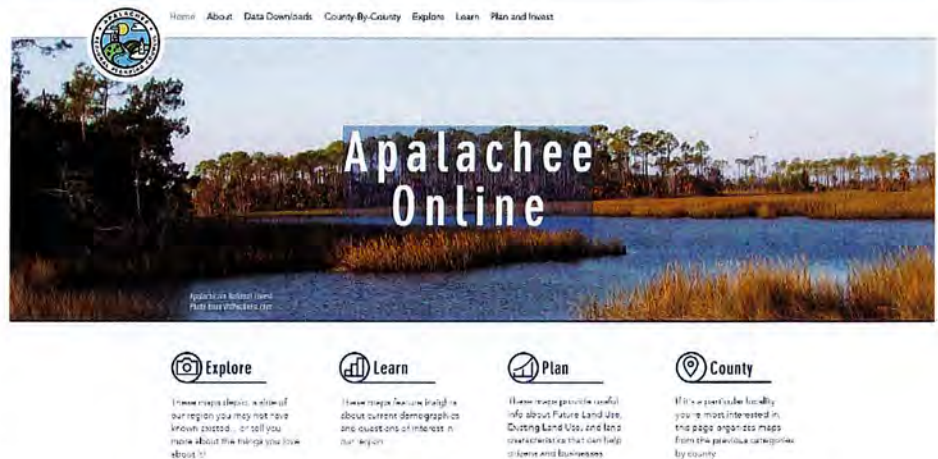
A collection of Liatris provincialis, a specialized dune species native to Franklin and Gulf counties.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – B – 7

GIS Program – Sarah Hibbard

Apalachee Online – Phase 2

ARPC staff has started working on the first deliverable for Apalachee Online Phase 2. Conference calls are being held with municipal stakeholders to collect data needed to create the interactive land use maps. The first deliverable will be completed and submitted to FDEO by December 20th.



Apalachee Online's new homepage design.

Apalachee Online received a mini makeover for the second phase of development. The layout and functionality have not changed but most of the pages have a different style now. Leon County has been added to Apalachee Online. Links to Leon County will direct users to Tallahassee and Leon County's GIS website, TLCGIS.



Prototype of the datacenter

Housing Needs Assessment

ARPC did not receive funding from the Florida Disaster Fund for a housing needs assessment. However, the Shimberg Center has reached out to ARPC staff in hope of helping to develop a data center that will aid in post-disaster recovery. The data center will host population, housing, demographic, climate and hazard data for the Apalachee Region. By the end of the application's development, users will be able to download, query,

summarize and visualize data hosted in the data center. The Shimberg Center is affiliated with the University of Florida and provides research on housing policy and planning with a focus on affordability. If the data center is successful with the ARPC, the Shimberg Center will expand the database to serve other regions in Florida.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – B – 8

CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. FDOT's email response to ARPC request for the development of an I-10 interchange at Hwy 65 in Gadsden County
2. Article on Florida / Georgia Water War
3. Article announcing Federal Funding for the Hurricane Michael damaged Timber Industry
4. FDEO Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund Press Release
5. FRCA Newsletter and Monthly Activity Report – September 2019
6. FRCA Newsletter and Monthly Activity Report – October 2019

From: Vickery, Greg <Greg.Vickery@dot.state.fl.us>
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 12:08 PM
To: Chris Rietow <CRietow@thearpc.com>
Subject: Feasibility and Potential Construction of an Interchange at I-10 and SR 65 (W017610)

Florida Department of Transportation
District Three Administration Building
Office of the District Secretary
Post Office Box 607
Chipley, Florida 32428-0607

October 28, 2019

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

Subject: Feasibility and Potential Construction of an Interchange at I-10 and SR 65

Dear Mr. Rietow, et al.:

Thank you for your letter requesting the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) determine the feasibility of constructing an interchange at Interstate 10 and SR 65 in Gadsden County. Pursuant to ARPC's request, the Department reviewed the proposed access point to the Interstate System at the referenced location.

In accordance with Florida Statutes, any changes made to the Interstate System must adhere with both FHWA and FDOT guidelines. FDOT's Interchange Access Request (IAR) User's Guide states that new interchanges, or modifications to existing interchanges, must satisfy the two FHWA policy points for interstate access and comply with Florida Administrative Rule 14-97. The proposed access point at SR 65 and Interstate 10 does not meet access management spacing requirements, nor does it comply with both FHWA policy points.

In the event of a hurricane, FDOT works closely with local, state and federal agencies to assist with traffic control and ensure those evacuating can do so in a safe and timely manner.

We appreciate your partnership in providing a safe and efficient transportation system for the citizens of Northwest Florida. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mark Brock, District Planning Manager, at 850-330-1536 or via e-mail at mark.brock@dot.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Phillip Gainer

Phillip Gainer, P.E.
District Secretary

JUDGE READY TO WADE INTO WATER WAR

October 30, 2019

Jim Saunders

TALLAHASSEE --- Albuquerque is a long way from Apalachicola.

But when a federal judge in the New Mexico city hears arguments next week in a long-running water war between Florida and Georgia, the small Panhandle community will be at the center of the case.

Senior U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Paul J. Kelly, appointed as a special master by the U.S. Supreme Court, will weigh whether Georgia uses too much water from a river system that flows into Apalachicola Bay.

Kelly's ultimate recommendation to the Supreme Court could help determine whether Florida will be successful in its attempt to get a cap on Georgia's water usage from the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint system --- an issue with high stakes for both sides.

"The Apalachicola region is one of the nation's most unique, diverse, and irreplaceable environmental resources, and, until recently, home to one of its most iconic oyster fisheries," Florida's attorneys wrote in a [January brief](#). "As Georgia has drastically increased its consumption of upstream waters, especially along the Flint River for agricultural purposes, the amount of water flowing into the Apalachicola has shrunk dramatically. This has had the predictable effect: The Apalachicola has suffered and its oyster fisheries, in particular, have collapsed. The question now is whether Georgia's wasteful practices should be allowed to continue --- and worsen --- while the Apalachicola, its natural resources, and the communities that depend on them are decimated."

But Georgia disputes that it uses too much water from the system and points to other factors such as droughts and decisions by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates dams and reservoirs. Georgia attorneys argued in a January brief that Florida's proposed cap on water usage would impose "enormous costs" on Georgia without "producing any material benefit to Florida."

“Florida’s proposed cap would cost Georgia hundreds of millions --- if not billions --- of dollars,” the [Georgia brief](#) said. “At the same time, that cap would result in no meaningful benefits to Florida. Indeed, the costs the cap would impose on Georgia exceed the entire value of the industries and economies that Florida alleges have been harmed in this case --- let alone any incremental benefits the cap might provide those industries.”

Kelly, who serves on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, is [scheduled to hear arguments](#) Nov. 7 at a federal courthouse in Albuquerque. Kelly was appointed special master after a divided U.S. Supreme Court last year overturned a 2017 recommendation by another special master, Ralph Lancaster, who said Florida had not proven its case “by clear and convincing evidence” that imposing a cap on Georgia’s water use would benefit the Apalachicola River.

Writing for a 5-4 majority, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer said Lancaster had “applied too strict a standard” in rejecting Florida’s claim.

Florida filed the lawsuit in 2013 and contends, in part, that water usage by farmers in Southwest Georgia has reduced water flows in the river system.

Key issues include whether Florida is entitled to an “equitable apportionment” of water and whether the potential benefits would outweigh the harms. In its January brief, Florida said it was seeking to cap Georgia’s consumptive use of water from the system at current levels until at least 2050, with the cap reduced during drought years.

“On the benefits side, a decree capping Georgia’s consumption would significantly increase the flow of water into the Apalachicola and restore the conditions in which the region survived and thrived for centuries,” Florida’s attorneys wrote. “And on the costs side, much of this reduction in consumption could be accomplished simply by halting wasteful irrigation practices and sensibly limiting future irrigation in ways Georgia officials have themselves proposed and other states (including Florida) have long implemented. The profound impacts of

destroying a treasured ecosystem and natural resources that Florida, the federal government, and others have long sought to protect, and permanently altering the lives and livelihoods of the communities who rely upon these resources, clearly outweigh such costs.”

But Georgia contends the potential harms would outweigh the benefits and takes issue with one of Florida’s key arguments --- that a lack of freshwater flowing into Apalachicola Bay has damaged the area’s crucial oyster industry. Georgia attorneys wrote in January that the industry’s troubles stem from other issues, including actions taken by Florida after the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

“Extreme oyster-harvesting pressures were a major cause of the 2012 collapse (of the oyster industry),” the Georgia brief said. “In the two years prior to the collapse, Florida removed restrictions on oyster harvesting out of concern that oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill might reach the bay and cause the fishery to be closed. Florida therefore adopted a ‘use it or lose it attitude’ toward oyster harvesting in the bay and allowed more oysters to be harvested in 2011 and 2012 than in any of the prior 25 years.”

FEDERAL MONEY TO HELP HURRICANE DAMAGED TIMBER INDUSTRY

November 8, 2019

Jim Turner



TALLAHASSEE --- Florida will get \$380.7 million from the federal government to help parts of the timber industry and farms ravaged more than a year ago by Hurricane Michael.

Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried announced Friday the state has been allocated a disaster-relief block grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Michael damage, like the one it received for the citrus industry after Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Fried's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, working with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, will administer the grants for Michael victims.

Growers still must wait for the funding to be finalized and the state to begin an application process.

"In the next coming months, we're going to be working with our state agencies to make sure we're getting checks in hand and trees in the ground," Fried said in a video accompanying the announcement.

Fried spokesman Franco Ripple said Friday the goal is to expedite the funding.

After Category 4 Irma crossed the state in September 2017, Congress in February 2018 approved a \$343 million citrus block grant for Florida as part of a disaster-relief

package. Irma barreled through major citrus-producing areas of the state, causing widespread damage.

The state Division of Emergency Management didn't secure the money until September 2018 and --- after a series of application workshops for growers --- the bulk of the funding started to be delivered this year.

The Category 5 Michael, which made landfall in Mexico Beach on Oct. 10, 2018, inflicted an estimated \$1.49 billion damages to the agriculture industry in Northwest Florida, of which about \$1.3 billion was to the timber industry. It also caused substantial agricultural damage in areas such as South Georgia.

An estimated 550 million trees, weighing 72 million tons, were damaged or destroyed by the storm.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue discussed the establishment of the block grant, with a need to accelerate the funding, while appearing in June with Gov. Ron DeSantis at a roundtable discussion in the governor's mansion.

"We don't want a bureaucratic hurdle about that, but we want to do things smartly, but honestly and with integrity," Perdue, a former Georgia governor, said at the time. "Like all of us, when there is free money on the table, everybody dives for it, so we have to make sure we have the right people at the table."

The Michael-related money is expected to cover the lost value of timber and to help growers clear downed trees and replant. The money will also allow producers to repair and replace irrigation systems damaged by the storm.

Alan Shelby, executive vice president of the Florida Forestry Association, said in a prepared statement the funding "provides the help and the hope that the Panhandle sorely needs right now."

Appearing before the state Senate Agriculture Committee on Tuesday, Florida Forest Service Director Jim Karels said the funding won't fully cover losses and repairs.

"It won't make a landowner whole," Karels said. "It's really based on probably less than 50 percent of the value of what was there. But it will give them funding to help reforest, get the land cleaned up."

Karels estimated it costs \$2,000 an acre to clear downed timber.

The block grant is part of \$800 million that was announced Friday in disaster relief for Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina from \$19 billion in disaster-relief funding approved nationwide by President Donald Trump in June.

November 8, 2019



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

PRESS RELEASE

www.FloridaJobs.org | Media@deo.myflorida.com

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces \$3 Million Available Through Rural Revolving Loan Fund

Tallahassee, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announces \$3 million available through the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund Program to fund projects in rural communities that create and retain jobs, maintain economic activity of an existing industry or promote diversification of the local economy.

“Opportunities for investment and economic development are critical to the health of local economies in all Florida communities across the state, but especially rural communities,” **said Governor DeSantis**. “Florida’s rural communities can utilize these resources to attract business growth and create new local jobs for their residents.”

The Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund Program, administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), provides local governments with access to financial assistance to promote the economic viability of rural Florida communities.

“Governor DeSantis is committed to strengthening Florida’s rural communities by making them more resilient to disasters and preparing them for the industry and workforce needs of tomorrow,” **said DEO Executive Director Ken Lawson**. “The Rural Revolving Loan Fund gives rural communities an opportunity to compete and to invest in economic development for their futures.”

The long-term goals of the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund Program include the creation of jobs for the residents of rural Florida and an increase in economic vitality and diversification for these areas. The program is intended to be highly flexible, offering various loan amounts with variable payment options at an interest rate of 2 percent, below the prime rate.

Local governments in rural counties or economic development organizations substantially underwritten by a unit of local government within a rural county are eligible to apply for term loan funding. Eligible projects include any public purpose project that may be acquired, constructed or improved with the assistance of the program.

More information on the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund can be found at www.FloridaJobs.org/RLF.



Central Florida RPC Hosts Heartland 2060 Summit



Citizens, elected officials, and other regional stakeholders gathered at the Heartland 2060 - Building a Resilient Region Summit in Polk County on September 20, 2019. The event featured a welcome message from the Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Kevin Thibault, and presentations from FDOT District One Secretary L.K. Nandam, University of Florida's Dr. Tom Hctor, Tony Carvajal, the Florida Chamber Foundation, John Kaliski of Cambridge Systematics, and Central Florida RPC Executive Director Pat Steed. Speakers

discussed the future of Florida's economy, as well as population, transportation, and environmental trends in the Heartland Region. Summit attendees participated in interactive polling and a townhall discussion which yielded valuable input from attendees.

The event concluded with a roundtable discussion with key stakeholders to further explore the opportunities and challenges facing the region in the areas of the economy, the environment, and transportation. The data collected from both the Heartland 2060 Summit and roundtable discussion will be used to help shape the vision for making the region more resilient in the future. A second Heartland 2060 Summit will be held on November 13, 2019 in Lake Placid.

North Central Florida Task Force Receives Award

The North Central Florida RPC, Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force are comprised of county commissioners from each of the 12 counties in the north central Florida region. The North Central Florida RPC formed the Task Force to address the issue of raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta, Georgia into the Withlacoochee River and Mud Creek which flow into the Suwannee River and travels through the north central Florida region to the Gulf of Mexico. The Task Force was recently honored with an



Outstanding Service Award from the Florida Small County Coalition for its effective leadership and advocacy in addressing the issues relating to the City of Valdosta wastewater treatment plants.

During the past year, the Task Force has been extremely active. They have testified before the Florida Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, met with the Governor's staff and Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Noah Valenstein as well as members and staff of the north central Florida region state legislative delegation and federal congressional delegation. In addition, the Task Force has met on several occasions in joint workshop sessions with the City of Valdosta City Council to discuss how they can work together to resolve this ongoing problem.

Treasure Coast RPC Assists Martin County with Complete Streets

The Treasure Coast RPC has been working with the Martin County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to conceptualize "complete street" interventions with a focus on routes which provide access to Martin County's transit system. The intent was to identify a method for delivering access improvement by "completing" streets as opportunities arise through repaving, widening, and new development. A steering committee with representatives from county engineering, the school district, community leaders, and others was formed. With extensive input from MPO staff and the steering committee, an evaluation matrix was created to rank over 100 roadway segments in the county. The matrix included such factors as proximity to transit stops; percentage of population with access to an automobile; bicycle and pedestrian crash history; and population density.

Numerous potential interventions were identified such as bus shelters, buffered bike lanes, on-street parking, and multi-use pathways. A public input workshop was held to solicit input from residents on the highest priority rural, multi-lane and urban corridor segments. Participants were asked which interventions they felt were best suited and most compatible in each of the 10 sample segments. The project will conclude with a summary report and recommendations for priority improvements. The MPO will be able to continue to use the ranking matrix to prioritize further improvements as opportunities arise and projects are completed going forward.



Tampa Bay RPC Hosts Women Planning Group



The Sun Coast Section of the American Planning Association (APA) of Florida held an inspiring, one-hour session for the Women in Planning Group on June 12, 2019, at the Tampa Bay RPC. Keynote speaker, Melanie S. Griffin, Esq., a graduate of Florida State University, presented on "Spread Your Sunshine," the passion project she created committed to empowering others to break the glass ceiling and achieve their dreams. This interactive session focused on personal and professional brand, goals and vision for maximizing success.

Ms. Griffin's leadership has led to recognition as Florida's Most Productive Young Lawyer in 2009, TBBJ Business Woman of the Year Legal Services Finalist in 2016, Tampa Bay Metro Inspiring Woman in Business, 2016-17 and FSU College of Business Recent Alumni Achievement Award, 2017 among others. The session was attended by planning professionals and Suncoast APA members.



Contact: Denise Imbler | 850.487.1426 | flregionalcouncils.org



Apalachee • Central Florida
East Central Florida • Emerald Coast
North Central Florida • Northeast Florida • South Florida
Southwest Florida • Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: September 2019

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Organized and distributed the August 2019 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter, *FRCA Forward*. Began collecting articles and formatting the September 2019 Newsletter. Continued to update the FRCA Facebook page.
- Updated the email lists for newly elected local officials and maintain the email listserv for approximately 2,350 individuals who receive *FRCA Forward*.
- Maintained and updated the FRCA website: www.flregionalcouncils.org.
- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, organized, participated in or attended the following meetings and shared information:
 - Florida American Planning Association, Florida Chapter Annual Conference
 - Rural Economic Development Initiative Meeting

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Prepared for the December FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee and Partners meetings.
- Coordinated a meeting for the Executive Directors including developing a meeting agenda and preparing meeting materials.
- Began preparations for the Winter 2020 Policy Board meetings.
- Began initial organization of the 2018-19 FRCA Annual Report.
- Continued to coordinate logistics for the 2020 meeting and conference schedule.
- Distributed grant opportunities and information of interest from local, state and national organizations.



Southwest Florida RPC Staffs STOP



The Southwest Florida RPC recently stood up a new task force - the Southwest Florida Task Force on Overdose Prevention - STOP. STOP is a collaborative network of partners who meet bi-monthly. The mission for the six-county region is the reduction of substance use disorder. Partners include treatment centers, law enforcement, emergency medical services, drug-free coalitions,

medical professions, county commissioners and other community stakeholders.

The task force is focused on addressing prevention education, intervention and recovery. STOP has teamed with community partners for grant writing, data collection and review, health fairs, summits and other regional collaboration efforts to address substance abuse and overdose prevention. For more information please use the links below:

- STOP Facebook
- STOP Page
- Southwest Florida RPC



East Central Florida Regional Resiliency Collaborative



The East Central Florida RPC held a signing ceremony for the newly formed East Central Florida Regional Resiliency Collaborative on October 23rd. With over 100 people present, East Central Florida RPC Chairman Sean Parks reminded us, "Every local government, no matter the size of the budget, is forced to consider short-term shocks and long-term stressors; it is the common ground we share in

this region." The Memorandum of Understanding, executed during the ceremony, embodies the resilience framework pillars of Health + Equity, Built Infrastructure + Natural Environment, and Economic Resilience. Woven throughout these pillars are goals that include a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and risks and vulnerabilities and an increase in sustainability efforts throughout the region. The MOU formalizes the partnership and creates a unified vision toward a more resilient region.

The 27 formalized partners, the Council Sub-Committee and the Steering Committee members are driving the direction and defining the goals of this initiative. A special note of thanks to Florida's first Chief Resilience Officer, Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, The Nature Conservancy's Executive Director Temperince Morgan, FDEP Program Administrator of the Florida Coastlines Program Whitney Grey, RPC Chairman and Lake County Commissioner

Sean Parks, Immediate Past RPC Chair John Lesman, Volusia County Council Member Billie Wheeler, City of Kissimmee Mayor Jose Alvarez, Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings, and City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer whom conveyed to the crowd the importance of regionalism and their commitment to the East Central Florida Regional Resiliency Collaborative.



To date the signatories include: five counties, seventeen cities, two transportation planning agencies, and two universities.

Emerald Coast RC Promotes Mobility Week

Northwest Florida celebrated the second annual statewide initiative Mobility Week - an annual collection of outreach events intended to bring attention to safe multi-modal transportation choices from October 25 through November 1, 2019. To promote Mobility Week, the Emerald Coast RC, the rideOn program, and each of the Transportation Planning Organizations, staffed by Emerald Coast RC, partnered with local transit providers to coordinate Transit Ride Along press events. These included:

- **EC Rider Transit Ride Along (October 24, 2019)** Participants rode Route 1 from Northwest Florida State College to Okaloosa County Elder Services and included Okaloosa-Walton TPO board members, Okaloosa County Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel and City of Destin Councilmember Skip Overdier.
- **Bay Town Trolley Ride Along (October 29, 2019)**: Participants rode Route 6 in its entirety, from the Bay County Library. Bay County Transportation Planning Organization Chairperson, City of Callaway Mayor Pam Henderson participated in the event.
- **ECAT Ride Along (October 30, 2019)**: Participants rode Route 45 from the Rosa L. Parks Transit Complex to Pensacola City Hall. Participants included City of Pensacola Mayor Grover Robinson and Florida-Alabama TPO board members, Escambia County Commissioner Lumon May, Escambia County Commissioner Robert Bender, City of Pensacola Councilmember Ann Hill, and City of Pensacola Councilmember Jared Moore.

Mobility Week first launched in 2016 in Central Florida. The success of the Central Florida region in bringing together regional partners to promote the message of safety and multi-modal transportation prompted the expansion of the initiative statewide in 2018. During Mobility Week, cities, counties, and transportation partner agencies host events to promote **transportation choices**, highlight transportation achievements, and roll out new initiatives or policies.



"RAPTOR 1" Visits Tampa Bay RPC



Manatee County's Emergency Medical Service mass casualty response bus "Raptor 1" made an appearance at the Tampa Bay RPC on October 14th. District Chief Keith Lock gave a presentation and a guided tour during the regular council meeting. Manatee County Emergency Medical Service has been an operating division within the Manatee County Department of Public Safety, since 1972. Due to recent needs within the community and surrounding counties, an innovative service of emergency

medical transportation became necessary. This concept includes re-purposing and retrofitting heavy-duty transit coaches that have reached the end of their useful life and can now be used to provide multi-person casualty transportation. Raptor 1 was recognized in the Community Preparedness category of the TBRPC's 2019 Future of the Region Award.



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Contact: Denise Imbler | 850.487.1426 | flregionalcouncils.org



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MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: October 2019

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- Updated the email lists for newly elected local officials and maintain the email listserv for approximately 2,400 individuals who receive *FRCA Forward*.
- Maintained and updated the FRCA website: www.flregionalcouncils.org.
- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, organized, participated in or attended the following meetings and shared information:
 - Rural Economic Development Initiative Meeting
- Compiled and submitted the July – September quarterly report to the Department of Economic Opportunity on economic development activities in each regional planning council area.
- Prepared and submitted House and Senate forms for funding to update the Regional Evacuation Studies.
- Facilitated a conference call with the Disaster Recovery Coordinators and the Economic Development Administration.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Prepared for the December FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee and Partners meetings.
- Continued preparations for the Winter 2020 Policy Board meetings.
- Supported development of the 2018-19 FRCA Annual Report.
- Facilitated a coordination conference call for the 10 regional planning councils.
- Continued to coordinate logistics for the 2020 meeting and conference schedule.
- Distributed grant opportunities and information of interest from local, state and national organizations.



Apalachee Regional Planning Council

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