2021-2022 PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- BREAKING THE BROADBAND BARRIER
- GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS ANNOUNCES NEARLY $1.5 MILLION IN AWARDS TO ASSIST WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECTS
- NATIONAL ACADEMIES’ GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM AWARDS $3.7 MILLION TO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT METHODS AND ENHANCE DATA USAGE TO DEVELOP EQUITABLE OUT COMES TO CLIMATE HAZARDS
- ST. MARKS COMMISSION ATTRACTS CANDIDATES FOR NOV. 8 ELECTION
- DOMI STATION, VETERANS FLORIDA PARTNER TO BOOST VETERAN-OWNED STARTUPS
- 850 HEMP SUMMIT RETURNS TO TALLAHASSEE APRIL 26-28
- HEMP CONFERENCE PREVIEW
- HISTORIC FIRST FLORIDA HEMP BEER WILL DEBUT AT TALLAHASSEE 850 HEMP SUMMIT
- APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL TO HOST DISASTER PREP MEETING
- GRANTS AWARDED TO APALACHICOLA, APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
- REGIONAL EVACUATION STUDIES
It has been a great pleasure to serve as ARPC Chair during the 2021-2022 year. During this time, we witnessed steady growth at the ARPC, in terms of staff, operating budget, and relevancy. The innovative nature of the Council has enabled us to embrace change, amplify existing partnerships, and make notable strides in key areas like housing, resiliency, emergency preparedness, and economic development in order to better position our diverse Region for success. As the ARPC continues to evolve and adapt to the needs of our member local governments, I invite our partners to make the most of this forum for regional collaboration so that we can continue to build on our momentum in the coming year. While I am stepping down from my position as Chair, I nevertheless look forward to celebrating ARPC’s current and future accomplishments. Please use this annual report as a guide to ARPC’s activities and accomplishments over the past year. Thank you all for your continued support, collaboration, and dedication to regionalism.

Kristin Dozier
Chair, 2021-2022
Total Budget $2,776,347

- ARPC Member Dues $69,947
- Additional Revenue $2,706,400

$39:1 Return on Member Counties Regional Investment

2022 ARPC Member Dues Yielded a $2,706,400 Direct/Indirect Return on Investment of $69,947
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- EDA Planning
- EDA CARES Planning
- Revolving Loan Fund - Legacy
- Revolving Loan Fund - CARES Act
- FDEO - Bristol Competitive FL
- FDEO - St. Marks Competitive FL
- FDEO - Liberty Broadband
- FDEO - Wakulla Broadband

**EMERGENCY PLANNING**
- FDEM - Hazards Analyses
- FDEM - HMEP Planning
- FDEM - HMEP Training
- FDEM - Local Emergency Planning
- Leon County Exercise
- Wakulla Community Dev. Block Grant – Risk
- Small Emergency Planning Contracts

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**
- EPA - Brownfield
- Franklin 98 - ARPC
- Franklin 98 - Project Costs
- FDEP - Small Quantities Generators of Waste
- Regional Vulnerability Assessments
- Small Environmental Planning Contracts

**HOUSING**
- Calhoun Hurrican Housing Recovery Program
- Gadsden Housing
- Jackson State Housing Initiatives Program
- Wakulla Community Dev. Block Grant – Shelter

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
- 850 HEMP Summit
- Big Bend Health Care Coalition
- Continuum of Care
- FL Regional Councils Association
- Small Technical Assistance Contracts

**TRANSPORTATION**
- CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged
- FDOT - RideOn Commuter Services
- Small Transportation Projects
Leon County Sheriff’s Office Family Reunification Full-Scale Exercise – “Operation Timberwolf”

On July 28, 2022, in coordination with the Leon County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO), the ARPC coordinated “Operation Timberwolf”, a multilocation family reunification full-scale exercise. The exercise began as an active-assailant exercise event at Lawton Chiles High School in Tallahassee. After law enforcement secured the school, LCSO Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and Tallahassee Police Department Tactical Apprehension and Control (TAC) teams escorted student-actors to pick-up zones where Leon County School buses then transported them to Godby High School. Once at Godby, students were escorted through the reunification process outlined in the Leon County Sheriff’s Office Active Assailant Family Reunification Plan for Schools. The exercise had more than 170 participants from ten different agencies ranging from the municipal Tallahassee Police Department to the U.S. Marshal Services. “Operation Timberwolf” was a highly informative and successful exercise, and the resulting plan was in place and ready to be executed if needed during the 2023 Gubernatorial Inauguration.
Competitive Florida Partnership
Through the Competitive Florida Partnership Program, beginning in 2014 at the Department of Economic Opportunity, each participating community learns to utilize its unique assets and challenge its leaders to set realistic goals to advance their economic development visions. Competitive Florida encourages communities to identify social, not-for-profit, cultural, human, historic, recreational, commercial, and other assets to broaden the areas encompassed and impacted by their resulting economic development strategy.
A community that participates in this grant opportunity is committed to innovative strategies that promote partnerships, community design and a viable economy. The partnership establishes a network of vibrant communities and passionate leaders who gain ideas on how to reach their goals through the success and lessons learned from their peers.
Since the program’s inception, ARPC has received a total of nine grants, assisting the following communities in developing a community-driven Economic Development Strategy:
• CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FY 2018-2019
• COMMUNITY OF PANACEA, FY 2019-2020
• CITY OF MIDWAY, FY 2019-2020
• CITY OF CARRABELLE, FY 2020-2021
• COMMUNITY OF EASTPOINT, FY 2020-2021
• TOWN OF CAMPBELLTON, FY 2020-2021
• CITY OF ST MARKS, FY 2021-2022
• CITY OF BRISTOL, FY 2021-2022
• CITY OF GRETNA, FY 2022-2023

Competitive Florida – City of St. Marks, Florida
City of St. Marks collaborated with ARPC staff to facilitate three public meetings as part of the community engagement process for this economic development strategic planning project. During these meetings, participants provided invaluable input that serves as the basis for this Economic Development Strategy.
The first public meeting focused on identifying what is and is not currently working well in St. Marks to provide a foundation of needs in the community. Participants also identified key points of economic activity or interest in St. Marks.
The second public meeting, called the “Community Inventory Process” meeting, brought partners from state agencies to St. Marks to tour key sites in the community along with city officials, city staff, and other stakeholders. This meeting generated ideas on how to enhance St. Marks to make the city more resilient to economic shifts and disasters as well as to improve overall quality of life.
The focus of the final public meeting was to solicit feedback on the city’s draft economic development strategy in order to finalize the document and ensure that it fits the needs and expectations of the community.
Through this 3-part community engagement process, a community-driven strategy with state agency input was developed to serve as a guide for economic development in St. Marks over the next decade.
The City of St. Marks is situated just south of the Florida Capitol—Tallahassee—along the coast of the Apalachee Bay in North Florida. Considered the oldest community in the State of Florida, St. Marks has a rich history and abundance of natural resources, such as the St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers, San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and Lighthouse, St. Marks Historic Railroad Multi-Use Trail, and section of the Florida National Scenic Trail, which passes directly through the city’s commercial corridor.
The community is regionally known as a unique and laid-back small town, friendly to visitors, dogs, golf carts, and all enthusiasts of nature and outdoor recreation. Breathtaking river views and historic structures frame the community. Many local businesses are connected to the fishing and tourism industries, with others that support day-to-day life.
Nevertheless, St. Marks faces a variety of threats to sustainability and growth, such as natural disasters, recessions, and building restrictions, that the Economic Development Strategy addresses through a series of community-supported projects.
APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL REGION AT A GLANCE

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS IN THE APALACHEE REGION**

- Apalachee – Jackson County
- Apalachicola – Franklin, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla
- Apalachicola-Bradwell Unit – Liberty
- Apalachicola River – Franklin, Gulf
- Aucilla – Jefferson, Taylor
- Beaverdam Creek – Liberty
- Box – Franklin
- Chipola River – Jackson
- Flint Rock – Wakulla, Jefferson
- Joe Budd – Gadsden
- Juniper Creek – Calhoun
- L. Kirk Edwards – Leon
- Ochlocknee River – Leon
- Plank Road – Leon, Jefferson
- St. Mark’s – Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor
- St. Vincent – Franklin
- Talquin – Leon
- Tate’s Hell – Franklin, Liberty
- Wakulla – Wakulla County

**DENSITY**

- Calhoun: 24.1 ppsm* (62nd most populous county; 0.1% of FL population)
- Franklin: 22.7 ppsm* (64th most populous county; 0.1% of FL population)
- Gadsden: 84.8 ppsm* (45th most populous county; 0.2% of FL population)
- Gulf: 26.8 ppsm* (59th most populous county; 0.1% of FL population)
- Jackson: 51.4 ppsm* (42nd most populous county; 0.2% of FL population)
- Liberty: 8.9 ppsm* (66th most populous county)
- Leon: 442.7 ppsm* (22nd most populous county; 1.3% of FL population)
- Jefferson: 24.4 ppsm* (61st most populous county; 0.1% of FL population)
- Wakulla: 56.6 ppsm* (48th most populous county; 0.2% of FL population)

*persons per square mile

**2021 REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT**

- Calhoun: $261,426 (0.0% of the State)
- Franklin: $364,137 (0.0% of the State)
- Gadsden: $1,193,546 (0.1% of the State)
- Gulf: $428,090 (0.0% of the State)
- Jackson: $1,280,330 (0.1% of the State)
- Jefferson: $299,829 (0.0% of the State)
- Leon: $14,248,663 (1.4% of the State)
- Liberty: $227,372 (0.0% of the State)
- Wakulla: $644,353 (0.1% of the State)

**NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED IN 2021**

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<tr>
<th>Calhoun</th>
<th>Franklin</th>
<th>Gadsden</th>
<th>Gulf</th>
<th>Jackson</th>
<th>Jefferson</th>
<th>Leon</th>
<th>Liberty</th>
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**TOTAL AREA IN SQUARE MILES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Calhoun</th>
<th>Franklin</th>
<th>Gadsden</th>
<th>Gulf</th>
<th>Jackson</th>
<th>Jefferson</th>
<th>Leon</th>
<th>Liberty</th>
<th>Wakulla</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>576 TOTAL</td>
<td>1,026 TOTAL</td>
<td>529 TOTAL</td>
<td>756 TOTAL</td>
<td>955 TOTAL</td>
<td>637 TOTAL</td>
<td>702 TOTAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>567 LAND</td>
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<td>516 LAND 12 WATER</td>
<td>564 LAND 192 WATER</td>
<td>918 LAND 57 WATER</td>
<td>598 LAND 38 WATER</td>
<td>667 LAND 55 WATER</td>
<td>836 LAND 7.6 WATER</td>
<td>606 LAND 129 WATER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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