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their municipalities

Apalachee Regional Planning Council FULL COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

323rd PUBLIC MEETING

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021
10:00AM ET / 9:00AM CT**

FL Public Safety Institute (FPSI) – Conference Center
(Hwy 90 - 6 miles west of I-10 Exit 192)
75 College Drive, Suite 203 - Havana, FL 32333

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) assists with grants, outreach, project implementation and other planning activities to enhance the nine-county Apalachee Region. The Council houses a variety of programs, including economic development, emergency preparedness, transportation, housing, GIS, and environmental/resiliency planning. By collaborating across these programs and embracing partnerships with local, state, and federal organizations, the ARPC continues to make a positive and lasting impact throughout the Region.

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

FULL COUNCIL

Calhoun County

Darryl O'Bryan
Sheila Blackburn
Don Stephens

County Commissioner
Councilwoman, City of Blountstown
Governor's Appointee

Franklin County

Ricky Jones
Despina George
Vacant

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Apalachicola
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
Councilman, City of Monticello
Governor's Appointee

Leon County

Kristin Dozier
Jack Porter
Lisa Miller

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Tallahassee
Governor's Appointee

Liberty County

Daniel Stanley
Margaret Rankin
Davis Stoutamire

County Clerk
Councilwoman, City of Bristol
Governor's Appointee

Wakulla County

Randy Merritt
Don Grimes
Vacant

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

Ex-Officio Members

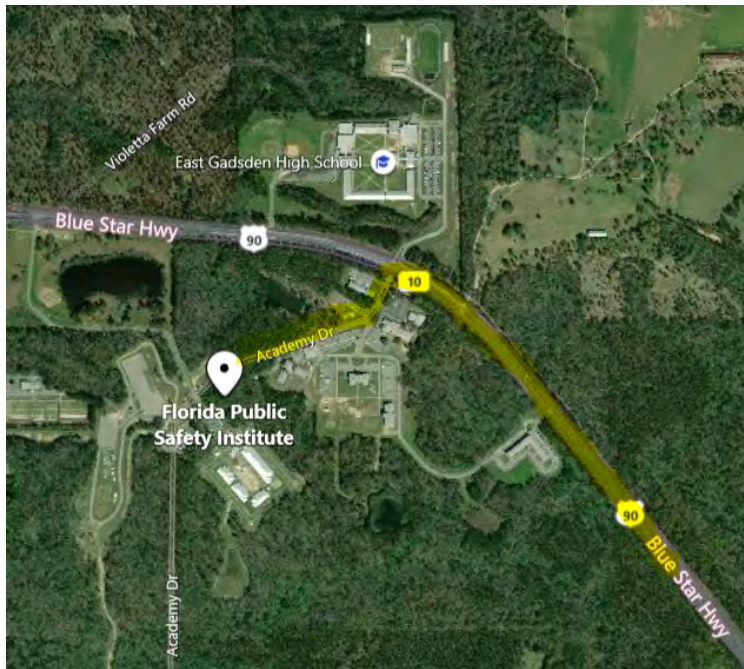
Michael Fuller
Darryl Boudreau
Maria Showalter
Diane Scholz

FL Dept. of Environmental Protection
NW FL Water Management District
FL Dept. of Transportation
FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity

Florida Public Safety Institute – Conference Center

75 College Drive, Suite 203 - Havana, FL 32333

- Hwy 90 - 6 miles west of I-10 Exit 192
- Across from Gadsden County High School, turn **SOUTH** onto Academy Drive
- Veer left onto College Drive and park in the Conference Center parking lot (located to the right of the main Administration Building)



View from Hwy 90 W



Close-up of Conference Center



APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

FL Public Safety Institute (FPSI) – Conference Center
(Hwy 90 - 6 miles west of I-10 Exit 192)
75 College Drive, Suite 203 - Havana, FL 32333

THURSDAY – NOVEMBER 18, 2021

10:00 AM Eastern Time / 9:00 AM Central Time

DRAFT AGENDA

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|---|---------------|
| 1. <u>Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions</u> | |
| 2. <u>*Approval of Agenda</u> | A-1 |
| 3. <u>*Approval of Minutes – September 16, 2021 Board Meeting</u> | B-1 |
| 4. <u>Apalachicola River & Federal Funding – Philip Clayton, Executive Chair, ACF Stakeholders</u> | |
| 5. <u>Build Back Better Regional Challenge Overview – Caroline Smith, ARPC Staff</u> | |
| 6. <u>Executive Director's Report – Chris Rietow, ARPC Executive Director</u> | C-1 |
| a) *Financial Reports | C-2 |
| b) Staff Program Reports | |
| 1. Economic Development & Community Planning | C-7 |
| 2. Disaster Resiliency Coordination | C-9 |
| 3. Emergency Planning | C-12 |
| 4. Revolving Loan Fund | C-14 |
| 5. Transportation Planning | C-21 |
| 6. Environmental Planning | C-24 |
| 7. GIS Program | C-26 |
| 8. Housing Program | C-28 |
| 9. Communications Program | C-31 |
| c) 2022 Tentative ARPC Board Meeting Schedule | D-1 |
| d) ARPC Headlines | F-1 |
| 7. <u>Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion</u> | |
| 8. <u>Ex-Officio Member Updates</u> | |
| 9. <u>Public Comment</u> | |
| 10. <u>Adjournment</u> (<i>Lunch is available in the FPSI cafeteria immediately following meeting.</i>) | |
| 11. Next ARPC Board Meeting – Thursday, January 27, 2022 (Location T.B.D.) | |

AGENDA ITEM - 3

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING BOARD MEETING MINUTES – September 16, 2021

Item 1: Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Dozier called the meeting to order at 10:00 am EST. As this was a virtual meeting, roll call was digitally recorded via the GoToMeeting platform. A quorum of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) was in attendance. The following Board members attended the virtual meeting:

ARPC Board Members in Attendance

Calhoun County	Don Stephens	Governor's Appointee
Franklin County	Ricky Jones	County Commissioner
Gadsden County	Evelyn Goldwire	Commissioner, City of Gretna
Gadsden County	Henry Grant	Governor's Appointee
Jackson County	Jim Peacock	County Commissioner
Jefferson County	Stephen Walker	County Commissioner
Leon County	Kristin Dozier	County Commissioner
Leon County	Jack Porter	Commissioner, City of Tallahassee
Liberty County	Margaret Rankin	Councilwoman, City of Bristol
Wakulla County	Randy Merritt	County Commissioner

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Diane Scholz – FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (FL DEO)
Maria Showalter – FL Dept. of Transportation (FL DOT – District 3)

ARPC Staff in Attendance

Chris Rietow – Executive Director	Pat Maurer – Commuter Assistance Coordinator
Anthony Carpanini – LEPC Coordinator	Caroline Smith – Economic Development Manager
Donald Morgan – Housing Manager	Ben Chandler – Disaster Resilience Coordinator
Evan Blythe – Env. Project Mgr.	Melissa Franklin – Communications Coordinator
Sharrand Pinder – Urban Designer	Divina Lade – GIS Specialist

Others in Attendance

Greg Burke – CRTPA	Katie Smith – FL DEO
Roy Baker – Opportunity Florida	Tracy Andrews – Mayor, City of Chipley
Jenny Anderson – FL Institute of Government	Ashley Hagan Binder – KEITH Engineering
Shannon Metty – Jefferson County	Jerrie Lindsey – FL FWC
Echo Gates – Halff Associates	Monica Pitts – Calhoun County
Brenda LaPaz – Mayor, City of Carrabelle	Sean Lewis – FL DEO
Joshua Gabel – Senator Rubio's Office	Mindy Mohrman – TLH-Leon Co. Planning Dept.
Martha Reynolds – KEITH Engineering	Matt Mohler – Florida Power and Light

Chair Dozier welcomed all attendees. Executive Director Rietow briefly explained how to use the GoToMeeting virtual meeting platform.

Item 2: Approval of the Agenda

Chair Dozier asked for a motion to approve the September 16, 2021 Agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Merritt to approve the September 16, 2021 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Governor's Appointee Henry Grant. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 3: Approval of the Minutes

Chair Dozier inquired as to whether anyone had any comments or changes to the minutes of the July 22, 2021 ARPC Full Council Board Meeting. As no comments or changes were brought up, Chair Dozier asked for a motion to approve the July 22, 2021 meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Merritt to approve the Minutes of the July 22, 2021 ARPC Full Council Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stephen Walker. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: Industrial Hemp 101 – Melissa Franklin, ARPC Communications Coordinator

Mr. Rietow introduced Melissa Franklin, ARPC Communications Coordinator. He explained that Ms. Franklin joined the ARPC as a consultant to help with the *2019 Hemp Summit* and she did such a great job with the event that soon afterwards she was hired on full-time as the ARPC Communications Coordinator. Ms. Franklin is the creative mind behind the ARPC's website, graphics, logos, Board Notes, etc. Another topic that she is particularly passionate about is industrial hemp. Ms. Franklin put together the following presentation to educate the Board about the value of industrial hemp so that all parties can promote it as a viable and up-and-coming economic development option for the Region.

Hemp is one of the first agricultural crops, dating back 12,000 years ago. Until the 1820s, up to 80% of all textiles and fabrics for clothes, canvas, linens, and cordage were made principally from hemp. Additionally, 75% to 90% of all paper was made from hemp until the late 1800s. Since then, the widespread use of hemp as an industrial commodity deteriorated to such an extent that now a third of Americans think hemp and marijuana are the same thing, which they are not. While both hemp and marijuana belong to the same species, *Cannabis sativa*, and the two plants look somewhat similar, substantial variation exists within the plant species. The defining difference between hemp and marijuana is their psychoactive component: tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC. While hemp contains less than 0.3% THC, marijuana contains 5-20% on average.

Despite both plants being members of the *Cannabis* species, hemp and marijuana are grown very differently. Marijuana cultivators need to carefully monitor temperature and humidity throughout every stage of growth. Each plant is grown far apart from each other, and nutrient intake is efficiently controlled. Hemp, on the other hand, requires a much simpler process to grow. Plants grow close together in a wider variety of conditions, and cultivators can grow hemp quickly with less chemicals and fertilizers.

Hemp can be cultivated for seed, fiber, or as a dual-purpose crop for both seed and fiber; all parts of the plant can be used. Cultivated industrial hemp plants usually consist of a spindly main stalk covered with leaves. Considered a low-maintenance crop, hemp plants typically reach between 6 to 15 feet in height. Depending on the purpose, variety and climatic conditions, the period between planting and harvesting ranges from 70 to 140 days. One acre of hemp can yield an average of 700 pounds of grain, which in turn can be pressed into about 22 gallons of oil and 530 pounds of meal. The same acre will also produce an average of 5,300 pounds of straw, which can be transformed into approximately 1,300 pounds of fiber. Industrial hemp proves to be an excellent rotation crop for traditional crops, as it suppresses weeds and decreases outbreaks of insect and disease problems.

Industrial hemp is naturally resistant to mold, ultraviolet light, water, and fire. It is a resilient bio-based option with limitless applications. Anything made of wood, cotton, or petroleum can also be made from hemp. Hemp fibers are used in a wide range of products, including fabrics and textiles, yarns and spun fibers, paper, carpeting, home furnishings, construction and insulation materials, auto parts, and composites. Hemp hurds are used in various applications such as animal bedding, material inputs, papermaking, and composites. Hemp seed and oilcake are used in a range of foods and beverages and can be an alternative food protein source. Oil from the crushed hemp seed is used as an ingredient in a range of body-care products and nutritional supplements. Hemp seed is also used for industrial oils, cosmetics/personal care products, and pharmaceuticals, among other composites. The global market for hemp consists of more than 25,000 products in nine submarkets, including: agriculture, textiles, recycling, automotive, furniture, food and beverages, paper, construction materials, and personal care.

Hemp cultivation also offers a huge opportunity for businesses and states across the country, as it has the potential to provide more jobs and open new markets that have previously been untouched. Based on the latest data collected from similar industries, *Hemp Industry Daily* set the standard multiplier for hemp at 1.9. This means that for every \$10 that consumers and patients spend on hemp products, an additional \$9 will be injected into the economy, much of it at the local level. Based on this metric, the hemp industry had an economic impact of \$4 billion to \$4.8 billion in the United States in 2020 and projects to \$15.8 billion in 2025.

Another benefit of hemp cultivation is that it is eco-friendly, meaning that it is a viable and sustainable resource. The deep taproots anchor and protect the soil from runoff, building and preserving topsoil and subsoil structures. Hemp returns around 70% of the nutrients it requires back into the soil, significantly reducing the need for fertilizers. Because hemp is a natural phytoremediator, it also helps remove toxins from the soil, air, and water. Aside from requiring fewer chemicals and less water than most cash crops, and helping to prevent soil erosion, hemp also consumes carbon dioxide, which it then feeds back into the soil. Additionally, hemp requires far fewer resources than most other crops, such as less water; less growing time (i.e., a 70-day growing cycle vs. 15+ years for timber); and less pesticide use. Hemp is also a top producer of biomass per acre in the world. Processed correctly, hemp biodiesel can be put into any diesel-powered automobiles. It can be stored and transported like diesel, so there isn't a need to create a new system for transportation. In marked contrast to petroleum, growing fuel from annual plants means that the carbon that is released into the atmosphere is captured by next year's growth. Because of its fast-growing nature, hemp may be a major future contender in the processing of bio-based fuels.

With over two million acres of land designated 'Agriculture' within the Apalachee Region, ARPC counties are in a prime position to be at the forefront of the industrial hemp industry. With

many farmers still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Michael, the emergent hemp industry is an excellent opportunity to diversify the Region's agricultural options, create new jobs, and generate a thriving and sustainable economy. The versatility of hemp lends itself well to value-added agricultural production and ensures a more resilient and diverse supply chain.

Ms. Franklin concluded her presentation by announcing that the ARPC is proud to bring the second *850 Hemp Summit* to the Region. The *Summit* will be held on April 26 through April 28, 2022 at the Civic Center in Tallahassee. The purpose of the *Summit* is to bring together farmers, stakeholders, cultivation and production experts, economic development professionals, and policymakers to discuss the status, challenges, and opportunities of industrial hemp for our nine-county Region. The ARPC will continue to facilitate and support the industrial hemp industry as it takes root in northwest Florida and asks that its members do the same.

Chair Dozier then asked the audience if they had any questions. Commissioner Stephen Walker inquired whether it is legal for anybody to grow hemp or if a special permit is required. Ms. Franklin stated that the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) regulates hemp cultivation, requiring farmers to obtain a permit/license, in addition to conducting tests for each harvest to ensure that crop THC levels are not above 0.3%. Chair Dozier confirmed that FDACS has a cannabis office in charge of permitting, handling all regulations, and certifying products through *Fresh from Florida*. She mentioned that since the passage of the FL Farm Bill of 2018, rule changes have made it easier for farmers to cultivate hemp. She also mentioned that the ARPC is sending out a monthly newsletter to push out information about different educational opportunities concerning the cultivation of industrial hemp. Commissioner Ricky Jones asked if land used for hemp cultivation must be located within a special 'zone' or if it just needs to be assigned as 'Agriculture' on a local government's Future Land Use Map. Chair Dozier responded that no special designation is needed to start cultivating hemp aside from being designated as Agriculture and obtaining a license from FDACS.

Mr. Rietow reiterated that the ARPC's goal for promoting industrial hemp within the Region is oriented entirely around economic development, as it will help to diversify our economy and increase its resiliency. However, despite its unlimited potential, the cultivation of hemp will not be profitable until the Region can attract one or more processing plants. In short, the Region needs processing plants to be able to process the hemp fiber into basic materials that can then, in turn, be manufactured into any of the thousands of hemp-based products ... and then the Region can reap the profits from the industrial hemp market. The industrial hemp industry is a regional initiative, as it touches farming, economic development siting for potential hemp processors, and manufacturing locations. In fact, the ARPC has been actively recruiting with companies interested in setting up a processing plant in our Region; two different prospects have already been identified and contacted. It is very important to note that hemp farmers need hemp processors to be located within 50-100 miles of their farms due to the shelf-life of freshly harvested hemp. Chair Dozier also stressed that the ARPC's focus is specifically on processing industrial fiber as opposed to processing CBD, which has reached market saturation.

Commissioner Jim Peacock commented that he would love to speak further with ARPC staff about locating a processing plant in Jackson County, since it is a central location within 50-100 miles of much of the Region's agricultural land. Chair Dozier agreed that Jackson County would be a good location and added that she envisions attracting more than one processor to 'spread the reach', possibly even to farmers in southern Georgia and Alabama.

Mr. Rietow also pointed out that bringing industrial hemp into our Region's agricultural fold will not pose a threat to other crops. For example, hemp can be blended with cotton to create stronger fabric. Hemp is also a great rotation crop for other local agricultural commodities, such as peanuts, soybeans, corn, and cotton. The goal is to bring hemp in as another resource to diversify the Region's agricultural portfolio and increase manufacturing opportunities.

Chair Dozier suggested that the ARPC plan a webinar prior to the Summit that covers the current legislative rules and regulations related to industrial hemp, who the various stakeholders are, and the initiatives the ARPC has been working on to bring this new industry to our Region. Commissioner Peacock agreed that this will be useful, but that it will need to be timed around the peanut and cotton harvest, which lasts until the first part of November. Chair Dozier suggested holding it in December, which would give ARPC staff time to pull it together and promote it. She said more details will be available at the November ARPC Full Board Meeting. Commissioner Peacock stated that in the meantime, Jackson County will work on setting up a venue(s) with the County agricultural extension offices so that farmers could congregate in central places to participate in the December webinar in case they do not have good broadband or Wi-Fi access.

Chair Dozier asked if anyone else had any thoughts or suggestions and no one else spoke up. She thanked Melissa again and then reminded everyone that they should contact Ms. Franklin if they have any additional questions regarding hemp (at mfranklin@arpc.org or by phone at 850-488-6211 ext. 106).

Item 5: Executive Director's Report

Mr. Rietow began by stating his hope that the Board members will return as advocates to their local governments equipped with talking points about the positive ways industrial hemp can potentially transform our Region. He pointed out that getting one or two processing plants in our Region will place all the counties in a good economic position moving forward. Hence the importance of getting citizens interested, excited, and motivated to learn more so that folks in the Apalachee Region can jump on the opportunity once the processing plants are in place.

Financial Reports: Mr. Rietow referred attendees to the financial section of the *Board Package* for a detailed review of the financial status of the ARPC. Mr. Rietow addressed the following action items:

- 1) 20/21 Revenue and Expense Report
- 2) Budget Reports for the months ending June 30, 2021; July 31, 2021; and August 31, 2021

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Merritt to accept the ARPC Financial Reports for the period ending June 30, 2021; July 31, 2021; and August 31, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stephen Walker. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports: Mr. Rietow referred attendees to pp. C-2 through C-27 of the *Board Package* for Program Area overviews of current ARPC programs and projects, as prepared by ARPC staff. Board actions and ARPC staff highlights include:

- Item 5 – C – 1: Economic Development/Community Planning Program

Mr. Rietow welcomed Sharrand Pinder (Urban Designer) as ARPC's newest hire. He has already hit the ground running by helping with several projects. The Economic Development team has also been working with all stakeholders in the Region to put together an Economic Development Administration (EDA) *Build Back Better Regional Challenge* application. This is a massive application that requires applicants to tie together anywhere from 3 to 8 clustered projects that will boost the Region's economy. ARPC staff has been performing a 'quarterback' role, working with all the economic stakeholders in the Region to identify projects, vet projects, and ultimately write the application. The ARPC application is likely to stand out due to potential Region-transforming projects including the construction of a hemp processing plant, improved freight logistics, and the continued development of an intermodal logistics center. The application is due on October 19, 2021 and ARPC staff will be able to provide an overview of the final application in November if Board members are interested. Finally, ARPC staff also recently assisted Wakulla County with a FL DEO Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) application for a broadband feasibility study, which was recently awarded \$190,000. Thus, the ARPC will soon begin working on that with Wakulla County, in addition to working with Liberty County on their *Communications Infrastructure Master Plan*. Due to this increase in workload, the ARPC will likely need to hire a Broadband Planner.

Chair Dozier praised the large amount of funding that ARPC staff has been drawing into the Region and suggested that ARPC-member County and City commissioners document these efforts in letters of recognition directly to the ARPC or to the RPC legislative delegation so that they are always on hand in case more legislation is filed in the future with the aim to eliminate Regional Planning Councils. Mr. Rietow agreed that a proactive measure like having these letters on file could help alleviate some of the legislative pressure if such a situation were to arise again. Commissioner Peacock also agreed that this is a good idea and stated that such letters should come directly from County or City officials to serve as a reminder of the diverse and important work that the RPCs undertake.

- Item 5 – C – 2: Disaster Resilience and Recovery Program

Mr. Rietow referred the Board to page C-8 of the Board package, as the ARPC was recently awarded a National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) *Impact Award* for Ben Chandler's work on the *US 90/Washington St. Streetscape Improvement Concept Plan* for the City of Chattahoochee. The urban design work was also a critical element of the plan.

- Item 5 – C – 3: Emergency Planning Program

Mr. Rietow remarked that Emergency Planning Manager, Zach Annett, has received another job opportunity. Zach worked at the ARPC for four years and ARPC staff is in the process of finding a new hire to replace him. Zach primarily worked on the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition (BBHCC) contract.

- Item 5 – C – 6: Environmental Planning Program

Mr. Rietow referred Board members to page C-22 to discuss *Apalachee Strong*, the ARPC's recently formed Regional Resiliency Collaborative. As a part of this new initiative, ARPC staff moved forward with the submission of an application to the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) new *Resilient Florida* grant program. The project, if awarded, would create vulnerability assessments for the entire ARPC Region (counties & municipalities). ARPC staff has a meeting on September 17, 2021, with FL DEP to answer questions regarding the project.

- **Item 5 – C – 7: GIS Program**

ARPC staff has been helping other Florida RPCs to develop an economic impact dashboard, like the one that the ARPC unveiled earlier in the year. One workshop has already been held and another one is being planned for November 2021 or January 2022.

- **Item 5 – C – 8: Housing Program**

ARPC staff has recently began assisting Jackson County with its SHIP program.

ARPC Executive Committee - Approval of May 2021 Meeting Minutes: Mr. Rietow next directed the Board's attention to pp. D-1 through D-7 of the Board package, consisting of the draft meeting minutes of the past two ARPC Executive Committee Meetings, which occurred on May 10, 2021, and May 27, 2021. Mr. Rietow pointed out that although the Executive Committee has the ability to act on behalf of the Full Council, he likes to ensure that the entire Board is aware of their decisions. The recent Executive Committee meetings approved loans from the Legacy, CARES Act and REVIVE! Revolving Loan Funds.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stephen Walker to ratify the actions made by the ARPC Executive Committee resulting from the May 10, 2021, and May 27, 2021, Executive Committee meetings. The motion was seconded by Governor's Appointee Lisa Miller. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

FL Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Updates: Mr. Rietow referred Board members to page E-1 of the Board Package, which includes a press release announcing that Chair Kristin Dozier has been elected as President for the FRCA. Her one-year term begins on October 1, 2021. Mr. Rietow emphasized how lucky the ARPC is to have Commissioner Dozier as the Chair of its Board and congratulated her on moving into this new leadership role related to all ten RPCs. Chair Dozier thanked Mr. Rietow and praised ARPC staff member Denise Imbler for all the great work she does for the FRCA.

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

No comment.

Item 8: Ex-Officio Member Updates

Dianne Scholz reminded everyone about two important upcoming events:

- 1) *Florida Rural Economic Development Summit* on December 8 - 10, 2021 at the Renaissance World Golf Village in St. Augustine, Florida.

- 2) *Florida Rural Counties Day* on January 26-27, 2022 at the Florida State Capitol Courtyard.

Both are informative events with great networking opportunities.

Item 9: Public Comment

Chair Dozier asked for any further Board or public comments and there were none. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 am EST.

APPROVED BY: THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON November 18, 2021

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Kristin Dozier
Chair

Chris Rietow
Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM – 6

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chris Rietow

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

- a) ***Financial Reports:** Included in the Board Packet are the following items for Board review and approval:
 - ❖ September 2021 Financial Report
 - September 2021 Budget / Expenditure Report
 - ❖ FY 20/21 Year-End Budget Amendment
 - FY 20/21 Proposed Year-End Budget Amendment Summary
 - ❖ FY 21/22 Budget
 - FY 21/22 Proposed Budget Summary
 - ❖ October 2021 Financial Report
 - October 2021 Budget / Expenditure Report
- 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) **2022 Meeting Schedule:** Staff will review the 2022 ARPC Board Meeting Schedule.
- d) **ARPC Headlines:** Staff will review recent ARPC headlines and recognitions.

ACTIONS NEEDED

1. *Motion to approve the Financial Report for September 2021.
2. *Motion to approve the FY 20/21 Year-End Budget Amendment.
3. *Motion to approve the FY 21/22 Budget.
4. *Motion to approve the Financial Report for October 2021.

Budget Report as of 9/30/21		274,324.01	203,442.44		
LINE-ITEM	FY 20/21	September	FY-To-Date	Budget	Budget
General Revenue	Budget	2021	as of 9/30/21	Balance	Used
EDA Planning Grant	70,000	17,500.00	70,000.00	-	100%
EDA Disaster Recovery Coordinator	60,000	-	60,000.00	-	100%
EDA CARES Planning	200,000	-	200,000.00	-	100%
EDA - Franklin LTR	-	-	20,000.00	(20,000)	
Legacy RLF - Admin	10,000	6,873.72	13,905.65	(3,906)	139%
CARES RLF - Admin	25,000	55,973.37	56,873.37	(31,873)	227%
REVIVE RLF - Admin	10,000	1,774.35	1,774.35	8,226	18%
FDEM - Hazards Analyses	22,000	-	22,671.78	(672)	103%
FDEM - HMEP Planning	25,000	-	25,648.40	(648)	103%
FDEM - HMEP Training	25,000	-	16,960.00	8,040	68%
FDEM - LEPC Support Staff	80,000	4,000.00	80,000.00	-	100%
FDEM - State Regional Evacuation	71,600	-	105,100.00	(33,500)	147%
Small Emergency Planning Contracts	10,000	-	12,000.00	(2,000)	120%
EPA - Brownfield	165,000	16,567.50	75,317.50	89,683	46%
NFWF Franklin 98 - Admin	68,000	-	120,327.45	(52,327)	177%
NFWF Franklin 98 - Project	301,000	-	1,099,880.00	(798,880)	365%
NGMSSC - Alligator Point	20,000	-	23,597.00	(3,597)	118%
FDEP - SQG	33,000	-	35,136.48	(2,136)	106%
Small Environmental Contracts	2,500	-	21,970.00	(19,470)	879%
Calhoun HHRP - Admin	150,000	10,100.00	126,500.00	23,500	84%
CRF - Calhoun Liberty & Gulf	42,000	-	18,668.73	23,331	44%
Calhoun SHIP	20,000	-	-	20,000	0%
ARPC County Dues	65,000	-	69,611.00	(4,611)	107%
Big Bend Healthcare - Admin	120,000	-	154,000.00	(34,000)	128%
CoC - Admin	30,000	5,000.00	30,000.00	-	100%
FRCA - Admin	60,000	11,250.00	63,750.00	(3,750)	106%
FDEO - GM Toolkit	40,000	-	40,000.00	-	100%
FDEO - Eastpoint Competitive FL	35,000	-	35,000.00	-	100%
FDEO - Carrabelle Competitive FL	33,000	-	34,000.00	(1,000)	103%
FDEO - Campbellton Competitive FL	33,000	-	34,000.00	(1,000)	103%
Misc. Small TA Contracts	5,000	9,600.00	44,300.00	(39,300)	886%
CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged	185,000	-	184,738.00	262	100%
FDOT - RideOn	150,000	39,010.40	133,937.30	16,063	89%
QGAA - Admin	30,000	2,500.00	30,000.00	-	100%
TOTAL REVENUE	2,196,100	180,149.34	3,059,667.01	(863,567)	139%
General Expenses					
Salaries	1,010,000	79,280.00	1,044,173.00	(34,173)	103%
Fringe Benefits (FICA, CHP & FRS)	300,000	25,594.26	331,393.78	(31,394)	110%
Travel	50,000.00	4,948.20	23,387.22	26,613	47%
Consultants (Contract Required)	559,000.00	30,399.50	1,314,298.25	(755,298)	235%
Accounting	1,000	71.00	1,133.00	(133)	113%
Advertising	5,000	320.12	3,458.04	1,542	69%
Audit	25,000	-	-	25,000	0%
Board Meeting Expenses	4,000	-	450.16	3,550	11%
Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI & Other)	25,500	-	28,059.00	(2,559)	110%
Equipment Lease - Copiers	12,000	841.99	12,128.74	(129)	101%
Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	15,000	-	19,399.00	(4,399)	129%
IT Tech Support & Equipment	25,000	2,698.42	28,326.53	(3,327)	113%
Legal	6,000	-	467.58	5,532	8%
Licenses (REMI)	6,500	-	5,530.50	970	85%
Miscellaneous	500	-	-	500	0%
Office Supplies	5,000	977.25	4,912.17	88	98%
Postage	3,000	200.00	3,442.78	(443)	115%
Rent	55,000	4,700.00	55,360.00	(360)	101%
Subscriptions & Publications	500	-	370.04	130	74%
Telephone & Internet	12,000	1,046.00	14,460.60	(2,461)	121%
Contingency & Project Pass-Thru	76,100	1,837.81	70,800.26	5,300	93%
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,196,100	152,914.55	2,961,550.65	(765,451)	135%
	Bal. 9/30/21	301,558.80	301,558.80	Bal. 9/30/21	
	Operating Acct. Balance 9/30/21		301,558.80		

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL FY 2020 / 2021 BUDGET - FINAL				
INCOME/REVENUES:			Income Sub-Total by Category	
ED	EDA Planning	70,000		
	EDA Recovery Coordinator	60,000		
	EDA CARES Planning	200,000		
	Franklin LTR Plan	20,000		
	Revolving Loan Fund - Legacy	14,000		
	Revolving Loan Fund - CARES Act	57,000		Economic
	Revolving Loan Fund - REVIVE	1,800	422,800	Development
EM	FDEM - Hazards Analyses	22,700		
	FDEM - HMEP Planning	25,700		
	FDEM - HMEP Training	17,000		
	FDEM - Local Emergency Planning	80,000		
	FDEM - State Regional Evac. Study	105,100		Emergency
	Small EM Contracts	12,000	262,500	Planning
ENV	EPA - Brownfield	75,400		
	Franklin 98 - ARPC	120,400		
	Franklin 98 - Project Costs	1,100,000		
	NGMSSC - Alligator Point Phase 2	23,600		
	FDEP - SQG	35,200		Environmental
	Small Enviro Contracts	22,000	1,376,600	Planning
H	Calhoun HHRP	126,500		
	Calhoun, Gulf, & Liberty CRF	18,700	145,200	Housing
TA	ARPC County Dues	69,700		
	Big Bend Health Care Coalition	154,000		
	Continuum of Care	30,000		
	FL Regional Councils Association	63,800		
	FDEO - Regional GM Toolkit	40,000		
	FDEO - Eastpoint Competitive FL	35,000		
	FDEO - Carrabelle Competitive FL	34,000		
	FDEO - Campbellton Competitive FL	34,000		Technical
	Small TA Contracts	44,300	504,800	Assistance
TP	CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged	185,000		
	FDOT - RideOn	134,000		
	QGAA - Quincy Airport Admin	30,000	349,000	Transportation
TOTAL INCOME/REVENUES		3,060,900	3,060,900	
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
	Salaries	1,045,000		
	Fringe Benefits	331,400		
	Travel - Staff / Board	23,400		
	Consultants (Contract Required)	1,314,300		
	Accounting	1,200		
	Advertising	3,500		
	Audit	-		
	Board Meeting Expenses	500		
	Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI, others)	28,100		
	Equipment Lease - Copiers	12,200		
	Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	19,400		
	IT Tech Support & Equip	28,400		
	Legal	500		
	Licenses (REMI)	5,600		
	Miscellaneous	-		
	Office Supplies	5,000		
	Postage	3,500		
	Rent	55,400		
	Subscriptions & Publications	400		
	Telephone / Internet	14,500		
	Contingency	168,600		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:		3,060,900		

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL FY 2021 / 2022 BUDGET				
INCOME/REVENUES:			Income Sub-Total by Category	
ED	EDA Planning	70,000		
	EDA CARES Planning	150,000		
	Revolving Loan Fund - Legacy	20,000		
	Revolving Loan Fund - CARES Act	10,000		Economic
	Revolving Loan Fund - REVIVE	10,000	260,000	Development
EM	FDEM - Hazards Analyses	23,000		
	FDEM - HMEP Planning	25,000		
	FDEM - HMEP Training	25,000		
	FDEM - Local Emergency Planning	80,000		
	Leon County Exercise	48,000		
	Wakulla CDBG Risk	75,000		Emergency
	Small EM Contracts	10,000	286,000	Planning
ENV	EPA - Brownfield	80,000		
	Franklin 98 - ARPC	200,000		
	Franklin 98 - Project Costs	1,500,000		
	FDEP - SQG	35,000		Environmental
	Small Enviro Contracts	10,000	1,825,000	Planning
H	Calhoun HHRP	125,000		
	Gadsden Housing	30,000		
	Jackson SHIP	30,000		
	Wakulla CDBG Shelter	75,000	260,000	Housing
TA	ARPC County Dues	70,000		
	Big Bend Health Care Coalition	120,000		
	Continuum of Care	30,000		
	FL Regional Councils Association	60,000		
	FDEO - Bristol Competitive FL	35,000		
	FDEO - St. Marks Competitive FL	35,000		
	FDEO - Liberty Broadband	165,000		
	FDEO - Wakulla Broadband	190,000		
	FDEO - Havana RIF	30,000		Technical
	Small TA Contracts	40,000	775,000	Assistance
TP	CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged	185,000		
	FDOT - RideOn	125,000		
	Small TP Projects	10,000	320,000	Transportation
TOTAL INCOME/REVENUES		3,726,000	3,726,000	
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
	Salaries	1,100,000		
	Fringe Benefits	330,000		
	Travel - Staff / Board	50,000		
	Consultants (Contract Required)	1,895,000		
	Accounting	1,000		
	Advertising	4,000		
	Audit	25,000		
	Board Meeting Expenses	3,000		
	Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI, others)	29,000		
	Equipment Lease - Copiers	12,000		
	Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	20,000		
	IT Tech Support & Equip	30,000		
	Legal	5,000		
	Licenses (REMI)	6,000		
	Miscellaneous	500		
	Office Supplies	5,000		
	Postage	3,500		
	Rent	57,000		
	Subscriptions & Publications	500		
	Telephone / Internet	14,500		
	Contingency	135,000		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:		3,726,000		

**Apalachee Regional Planning Council
Budget Report as of 10/31/21**

Bal. 9/30/21
301,558.80

Bal. 9/30/21
301,558.80

LINE-ITEM	FY 21/22	October	FY-To-Date	Budget	Budget
General Revenue	Draft Budget	2021	as of 10/31/21	Balance	Used
EDA Planning Grant	70,000	-	-	70,000	0%
EDA CARES Planning	150,000	-	-	150,000	0%
Legacy RLF - Admin	20,000	-	-	20,000	0%
CARES RLF - Admin	10,000	-	-	10,000	0%
REVIVE RLF - Admin	10,000	-	-	10,000	0%
FDEM - Hazards Analyses	23,000	-	-	23,000	0%
FDEM - HMEP Planning	25,000	-	-	25,000	0%
FDEM - HMEP Training	25,000	-	-	25,000	0%
FDEM - LEPC Support Staff	80,000	-	-	80,000	0%
Leon County Exercise	48,000	-	-	48,000	0%
Wakulla CDBG Risk	75,000	-	-	75,000	0%
Small Emergency Planning Contracts	10,000	-	-	10,000	0%
EPA - Brownfield	80,000	-	-	80,000	0%
NFWF Franklin 98 - Admin	200,000	-	-	200,000	0%
NFWF Franklin 98 - Project	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	0%
FDEP - SQG	35,000	-	-	35,000	0%
Small Environmental Contracts	10,000	-	-	10,000	0%
Calhoun HHRP - Admin	125,000	9,000.00	9,000.00	116,000	7%
Gadsden Housing	30,000	-	-	30,000	0%
Jackson SHIP	30,000	-	-	30,000	0%
Wakulla CDBG Shelter	75,000	-	-	75,000	0%
ARPC County Dues	70,000	-	-	70,000	0%
Big Bend Healthcare - Admin	120,000	32,500.00	32,500.00	87,500	27%
CoC - Admin	30,000	2,500.00	2,500.00	27,500	8%
FRCA - Admin	60,000	5,200.00	5,200.00	54,800	9%
FDEO - Bristol Competitive FL	35,000	-	-	35,000	0%
FDEO - St. Marks Competitive FL	35,000	-	-	35,000	0%
FDEO - Liberty Broadband	165,000	-	-	165,000	0%
FDEO - Wakulla Broadband	190,000	-	-	190,000	0%
DFDEO - Havana RIF	30,000	-	-	30,000	0%
Misc. Small TA Contracts	40,000	5,000.00	5,000.00	35,000	13%
CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged	185,000	-	-	185,000	0%
FDOT - RideOn	125,000	-	-	125,000	0%
Small Transportation Projects	10,000	2,500.00	2,500.00	7,500	25%
TOTAL REVENUE	3,726,000	56,700.00	56,700.00	3,669,300	2%
General Expenses					
Salaries	1,100,000	85,240.00	85,240.00	1,014,760	8%
Fringe Benefits (FICA, CHP & FRS)	330,000	26,325.93	26,325.93	303,674	8%
Travel	50,000	2,378.10	2,378.10	47,622	5%
Consultants (Contract Required)	1,895,000	-	-	1,895,000	0%
Accounting	1,000	46.00	46.00	954	5%
Advertising	4,000	46.52	46.52	3,953	1%
Audit	25,000	-	-	25,000	0%
Board Meeting Expenses	3,000	-	-	3,000	0%
Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI & Other)	29,000	-	-	29,000	0%
Equipment Lease - Copiers	12,000	1,172.55	1,172.55	10,827	10%
Insurance (Work Comp, Liability)	20,000	6,012.19	6,012.19	13,988	30%
IT Tech Support & Equipment	30,000	4,250.00	4,250.00	25,750	14%
Legal	5,000	-	-	5,000	0%
Licenses (REMI)	6,000	-	-	6,000	0%
Miscellaneous	500	-	-	500	0%
Office Supplies	5,000	730.44	730.44	4,270	15%
Postage	3,500	100.00	100.00	3,400	3%
Rent	57,000	4,700.00	4,700.00	52,300	8%
Subscriptions & Publications	500	-	-	500	0%
Telephone & Internet	14,500	1,331.91	1,331.91	13,168	9%
Contingency & Project Pass-Thru	135,000	845.00	845.00	134,155	1%
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,726,000	133,178.64	133,178.64	3,592,821	4%
	Bal. 10/31/21	225,080.16	225,080.16	Bal. 10/31/21	
	Operating Acct. Balance 10/31/21		225,080.16		

AGENDA ITEM 6 – b – 1

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / COMMUNITY PLANNING PROGRAM

Caroline Smith – Sharrand Pinder

EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge

ARPC staff recently submitted a proposal to Phase 1 of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#) on behalf of the Apalachee Region. The proposal features a unique collaboration by various governmental, economic development, educational, private industry partners, and other entities—collectively nicknamed the *Forgotten Coast Coalition*—and includes a series of proposed projects that could be eligible for up to \$75 million in federal grant funding. Projects are centered around the Gulf-to-Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone and the Agricultural Technology (Ag-Tech) Industry Cluster.

Florida A&M University (FAMU) served as a strong co-collaborator on the application. Originally, ARPC staff and FAMU staff planned to submit two separate applications to the EDA *Build Back Better Regional Challenge*, but ARPC staff were able to align efforts with FAMU to produce a single proposal for the Region; a unified application demonstrates willingness to collaborate and strong regional vision to EDA staff, which strengthens the Apalachee Region's application.



Phase 1 awards will be announced in mid-December 2021. The EDA will select between fifty (50) and sixty (60) regions from across the United States for Phase 1 funding. If the ARPC's application is awarded, the project coalition will receive up to \$500,000 in planning dollars to finalize activities towards a Phase 2 application and the possibility of up to \$75 million in implementation dollars. To learn more about ARPC's application, please contact Caroline Smith at csmith@arpc.org.

Other Technical Assistance

ARPC staff continues to assist regional partners with economic development planning, intergovernmental coordination, COVID-19 economic recovery, grant writing, and other tasks.

FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Competitive Florida Partnership Grant, FY 2021-2022

The [Competitive Florida Partnership Grant](#) provides funding to rural communities to write a community-driven, asset-based *Economic Development Strategy*. The City of St. Marks and the City of Bristol have both been awarded the *Competitive Florida Partnership Grant* for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. ARPC staff is currently finalizing agreements and kicking off grant activities.

Town of Campbellton, Campbellton Crossroads

The Campbellton Town Council has approved the *Town Center Redevelopment Conceptual Plan* that ARPC staff recently produced under Phase 1 of the community's FL DEO *Rural*

Infrastructure Fund (RIF) planning grant. For Phase 2 of this *Campbellton Crossroads* project, grant activities have been transferred to the town's engineer of record, Melvin Engineering, for feasibility and cost analysis. The project will conclude by early 2022.

FL DEO Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) Grant

ARPC staff assisted Wakulla County with a RIF grant application for a *Broadband Feasibility Study*, which was awarded.

FL DEO has announced a third round of \$5 million in state funding for rural, inland counties impacted by Hurricane Michael in 2018 under the *RIF Specific Appropriation 2314*. No funding match is required for planning projects. The application cycle is expected to open by early 2022. Communities interested in applying for the RIF grant may contact Caroline Smith for application assistance at csmith@arpc.org.

Partnership with University of Florida (UF)'s Shimberg Center for Housing Studies

ARPC staff is collaborating with the UF Shimberg Center on a disaster-focused data-based project, which will serve to pilot the concept of a *Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Data Clearinghouse* for the Apalachee Region. Shimberg Center staff has extended \$10,000 in grant funding to the ARPC staff to kick-start this initiative.

ARPC and Shimberg Center staff have also partnered on two subsequent grant applications through the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) that, if funded, would provide funding for an ARPC staff position, enhance the ability of ARPC staff to undertake regional resiliency activities, and better incorporate data into decision-making processes. Grant awards have not yet been announced.

Recent Conference Participation

ARPC staff attended the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) 2021 *Annual Training Conference (ATC)* in Portland, Oregon in October, during which staff participated in sessions on economic and community development and resiliency. Staff shared ideas with other regional organizations on critical topics, such as federal funding under the *American Rescue Plan* and successful projects from other states that may be replicable in the Apalachee Region.



AGENDA ITEM 6 – b – 2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA) DISASTER RESILIENCE & RECOVERY PROGRAM

Ben Chandler

Program Summary

Through the CARES Act planning grant awarded to the ARPC by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), the *Disaster Resilience & Recovery Program* continues to partner with federal, state, and regional agencies, as well as local government officials, in the implementation of ongoing initiatives in response to Hurricane Michael and the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the September ARPC Board meeting, the program has maintained local government and regional support and assistance in the following areas:

- Liberty County *Communications Infrastructure Master Plan*
- Gulf County: *American Rescue Plan Act* – EDA Grant Application Assistance
- Rural Recreational Economy Alliance (RREA) *Prospectus* Development

Liberty County *Communications Infrastructure Master Plan*

The ARPC has entered into an administrative agreement with Liberty County to perform the scope of work for a Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) *Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA)* grant to develop a countywide *Communications Infrastructure Master Plan*. The grant was awarded in the amount of **\$15,000.00**. Upon execution of the grant between Liberty County and FL DEO, the ARPC will be facilitating workshops with the Liberty County Sheriff's Office, Liberty County Emergency Management Office, the Liberty County School Board, and other county departments.

Updating and enhancing the County's communication infrastructure is consistent with the primary goals and objectives of the *Liberty County Long-Term Recovery Plan* from Hurricane Michael. The primary purpose for developing this plan is to have a defined project (or set of prioritized projects) as a foundational basis for all future grant funding requests to physically procure the needed updated communications equipment and/or otherwise to rehabilitate, repair, or construct the necessary infrastructure to support reliable and effective countywide communications among internal departments and external partners.

Gulf County: *American Rescue Plan Act* – EDA Grant Application Assistance

The ARPC provided support to the Gulf County Economic Development Coalition in the preparation of an *American Rescue Plant Act (ARPA) – Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA)* grant application through the Economic Development Administration.

This project proposes to build needed infrastructure to support large vessel outfitting and the repair of current committed shipbuilding industry and will create an estimated 225 new skilled workforce jobs. The new infrastructure will include a self-docking floating dry dock capable of

accommodating vessels up to 10,000 LT weight to serve existing committed industry and will be a catalyst for future development in Gulf County and the Region. The dry dock design has been completed and Eastern Shipbuilding has agreed to lease from the County and operate the floating dry dock. The project will provide foundational support for Eastern Shipbuilding's contract with the U.S. Coast Guard to design and manufacture offshore patrol cutters.

In support of Gulf County's ARPA application, the ARPC finds the proposed project to construct the floating dry dock for vessel outfitting and repair to be consistent with the goals and objectives of the 2018-2022 *Apalachee CEDS*. Specifically, **Objective 2.13** states:

Progress in the development of the Port at Port St. Joe and associated Freight and Logistics Zone and I-10 Logistics and Manufacturing Corridor infrastructure including new Apalachicola Northern Railroad spurs, Intermodal Logistics Sites, and road enhancements along US 98, SR 20, SR 12, and at the I-10 interchange.

The completion of this important project is a critical component of the further development of the Gulf-to-Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone (FLZ), a regional keystone project for economic development in Florida's rural Panhandle area.



Figure 1: Staten Island Ferry at the Port of Port St. Joe. Source: Gulf County, 2021.

Rural Recreational Economy Alliance (RREA) – *Prospectus* Development

To support long-term recovery from Hurricane Michael, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided support to six cities in the Florida Panhandle with a technical assistance effort called the *Recovery and Resiliency Partnership Project (R²P²)*. As discussed in previous reports, participating jurisdictions in our Region included the cities of Chattahoochee, Marianna, and Quincy. Other agencies/organizations involved included: the ARPC, Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC), Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Health and Human Services (HHS), National Park Service (NPS), the Economic Development Administration (EDA), and local Main Street organizations.

The *R²P²* used a unique and holistic focus on sustainable recovery strategies that also improve resiliency and strengthen local economies by leveraging existing natural assets. The *R²P²* support culminated in a regional summit to engage city leadership along with regional, state, and national partners in a discussion about how to promote the regional recreation economy in support of both physical and economic recovery in the Region. Following the summit, the participants developed a regional action plan and convened the Regional Recreation Economy Alliance (RREA) of city leadership and regional partners to support action plan implementation.

This scope of work includes the development of a ***Regional Recreation Economy Prospectus*** document that highlights private investment opportunities to support the Region's recreation economy. EPA Region 4, the ARPC, and the ECRC will provide capacity support for RREA to guide activities in the development of the prospectus in close coordination with the city leadership and the RREA participants. Currently, the RREA is identifying and vetting regional recreational investment opportunities to highlight in the prospectus document. The goal is to select and highlight twelve (12) to fifteen (15) projects. This project is anticipated to be completed late Spring/early Summer 2022.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – b – 3

EMERGENCY PLANNING PROGRAM

Anthony Carpanini – Denise Imbler – Christian Levings

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 September 15, 2021, virtually. During the meeting, the LEPC membership discussed the activities that occurred during the previous quarter, as well as training and exercise opportunities. The next LEPC meeting will be on December 15, 2021. The location has yet to be determined.

Hazardous Materials Training

The following training sessions were distributed virtually in the Region over the past quarter:

- 4-Hour HAZWOPER Awareness Course - Hammerhead HM Training, LLC

The following trainings were held in the Apalachee LEPC region over the past quarter:

Table 1: Apalachee LEPC-Sponsored Training Dates

Date	Course	Attendance
9/14/21	4-Hr HAZWOPER Operations Course – Port St. Joe	12
9/21/21	3-Hr Gasoline Tanker Response – Tallahassee	22
9/22/21	3-Hr Gasoline Tanker Response – Marianna	11
9/22-9/24	24-Hr HAZWOPER Operations Course – Tallahassee	14
10/7/21	4-Hr HAZWOPER Operations Course – Tallahassee	9

The following trainings are scheduled to be held in the Apalachee LEPC region during this quarter:

- 4-Hr Air Monitoring Strategies & Tactics Course

Hazard Analysis

ARPC staff completed the first deliverable of the 2021-2022 *Hazard Analysis Contract*. This includes performing approximately forty (40) site visits to those facilities storing extremely hazardous substances across the Apalachee Region to ensure first responder and public safety in the event of a chemical release.

Facility Hazard Analysis Summary

As part of the *Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant*, ARPC staff created and distributed a *Facility Hazard Analysis Summary* to all county emergency management agencies and warning points throughout the Apalachee Region. This summary was a comprehensive list of all section 302 facilities in the Region, including their location, hazardous materials stored, and potential health and environmental safety concerns associated with each hazardous material.

Big Bend Healthcare Coalition (BBHCC)

ARPC staffs the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition (BBHCC), which held its most recent meeting virtually on September 7, 2021, with approximately sixty (60) participants from throughout the Region. During the meeting, the National Weather Service in Tallahassee provided an update on the 2021 Hurricane Season. Additionally, the Association of Community Health Centers provided an overview of health centers in the Region and their role during COVID-19. The next BBHCC general membership meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2021.



The ARPC is excited to welcome Christian Levings to the Emergency Planning Team in his new role as the ARPC Big Bend Healthcare Coalition Coordinator. In related news, the ARPC is also thrilled to announce that Anthony Carpanini has been promoted to Emergency Planning Program Manager.

Training and Exercises

The BBHCC will be hosting several exercises in the coming months, including an exercise of the regional Florida Infectious Disease Transportation Network team, an Active Shooter tabletop exercise at Capitol Regional Medical Center, and exercises for Coalition members on “Burn Surge” events and “Crisis of Standard of Care”. For more information on exercise and training events, please visit <https://www.bigbendhcc.org/>.

Wakulla County Disaster Risk Analysis Plan

The ARPC assisted Wakulla County to secure a grant to develop a *Disaster Risk Analysis Plan*. The plan will provide a vulnerability assessment that considers future impacts of freshwater flooding and sea level rise and include an outreach component to inform the public of the potential impacts. The project is scheduled to begin in January 2022 and should take approximately eighteen (18) months to complete.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – b – 4 a

REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT

LEGACY RLF

Jana Williams

The Legacy RLF program launched in 1984 with an initial Economic Development Administration (EDA) award of \$1 million and an ARPC match through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$335,000. Over the past 37 years, the ARPC has transformed the original sum of money into over \$5 million dollars of loans to small businesses within the rural communities of the Apalachee Region.

New Loan Applications

No new loan applications have been received for the Legacy RLF.

Approved Loan Applications

The Executive Committee has not approved any Legacy RLF loan applications since the last meeting.

Summary Status

As of 10/31/21, there are fourteen (14) active loans in the ARPC Legacy RLF and there are no unobligated funds available for lending in the Legacy RLF. New loans will be considered after principal payments from existing borrowers provide enough capital to fund new loans and allow ARPC staff to entertain new applications for the Legacy RLF. Currently, the main priorities for ARPC staff regarding the Legacy RLF is to service the existing loans and provide technical assistance (upon request) to the Legacy RLF borrowers.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – b – 4 b

REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT

CARES Act RLF & REVIVE! RLF

Jana Williams

ARPC CARES Act RLF

The CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program is a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) seeking to provide small business owners within the Apalachee Region (specifically Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla counties) with gap financing to help them survive and recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Beginning with a balance of \$580,000, the CARES Act RLF currently has \$97,500 available for lending.



New Loan Applications

ARPC staff has been busy vetting potential loan applicants, but there are currently no new loan applications under review.

Approved Loan Applications

The ARPC Executive Committee has not approved any CARES Act loans since the last ARPC Full Board Meeting in September 2021.

ARPC REVIVE! RLF

The *Regional Economies Vested in Vital Enterprises (REVIVE!)* program is a \$1 million Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to help establish new businesses and create employment opportunities or expand existing businesses and save existing jobs in Leon County. ARPC staff is directing full attention toward promoting the REVIVE! RLF program to women- and minority-owned business owners in Leon County and guiding loan applicants through the REVIVE! RLF loan application process. Beginning with a balance of \$1 million, the REVIVE! RLF currently has \$718,000 available for lending.



New Loan Applications

ARPC staff has continued vetting potential loan applicants, but there are currently no new loan applications under review.

Approved Loan Applications

The ARPC Executive Committee has not approved any REVIVE! loans since the last ARPC Full Board Meeting in September 2021.

Marketing & Outreach

Marketing and outreach for both the CARES Act and REVIVE! RLFs has continued. Over the past two months, ARPC staff has attended community meetings and conferences to promote the RLF Program and educate local small business owners about this financing option.

United Partners for Human Services (UPHS)

ARPC staff participated in an online presentation to members of UPHS on October 5, 2021. The goal of the presentation was to inform non-profit organizations in the Apalachee Region that they are also eligible to apply for a CARES Act or REVIVE! loan. The presentation was well-received and will hopefully result in more applications from the Region's non-profit community.



Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce

ARPC staff made a presentation to the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors at the Bethel Life Community Center on October 20, 2021.



The purpose of this presentation was to educate business leaders in our minority community about the ARPC's RLF program and the lending opportunity that is available to minority- and women-owned small businesses in the Apalachee Region, and particularly in Leon County.

Although very receptive to the intent of the RLF Program, Board members did raise some pertinent questions regarding the fact that many business owners in their community are financially unable to meet the program's 100% collateral requirement. They suggested many creative ideas for addressing this issue and ARPC staff is currently gathering data and best-practices research to compose a set of proposed adjustments to the REVIVE! RLF loan application (on a trial basis) for presentation to the ARPC Executive Committee by the year's end. The addition of more flexible options regarding collateral will hopefully address the Big Bend Chamber of Commerce's concerns and provide more local minority- and women- owned businesses with more flexible access to capital.

Greater Frenchtown Southside Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC)

The City of Tallahassee's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) invited ARPC staff to attend the Greater Frenchtown Southside Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting on November 1, 2021. After providing a 10-minute presentation regarding the RLF Loan Program, Committee Members had the opportunity to ask questions.

One idea that was suggested, and that will be further explored, is the possibility of leveraging the Greater Frenchtown/Southside (GFS) Investment Plan's

Commercial Façade Improvement

Program grants as collateral for a REVIVE! loan. ARPC staff will continue this discussion with CRA staff and provide updates to the ARPC Board as they evolve.



Domi Station - Techstars Startup Week

To celebrate entrepreneurship in the Tallahassee community, Domi Station hosted the *Techstars Startup Week* on November 8, 2021 through November 12, 2021, which included panels, workshops, and other events.

ARPC staff participated in the first workshop of the event, on November 8, 2021. Jana Williams from Apalachee Regional Planning Council and REVIVE! loan recipient Sandra Charleston, from Crowning Glory, LLC, discussed how the ARPC's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program provides access to capital for women- and minority-owned startup businesses in Tallahassee.



Capital City Chamber of Commerce - Annual Advantage Conference



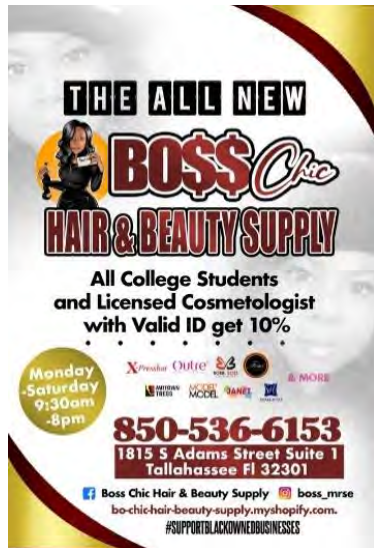
The ARPC Economic Development team hosted a Vendor Table at the Capital City Chamber of Commerce's annual *Advantage Conference* on November 9, 2021. The *Advantage Tallahassee Capital City Chamber Conference* focuses on harnessing the talents, tools, and opportunities of an inclusive business community for everyone's advantage and included informative speakers and workshops.

ARPC Holiday Gift Guide – RLF Recipient Edition

Please consider supporting the small businesses participating in the ARPC RLF Program during the holidays and browse the ***Holiday Gift Guide*** on the following pages. Specialty items and gift certificates from our local Apalachee Region retail businesses make fantastic presents!

ARPC Holiday Gift Guide 2021 – *RLF Recipient Edition*

Purchase holiday gifts from the ARPC's RLF Recipient retail establishments!



Boss Chic Hair & Beauty Supply (Tallahassee, FL)

Wigs, beauty supplies & hair accessories

1815 S Adams St Ste 1, 32301
[BO\\$\\$ Chic Hair & Beauty Supply](#)
(850) 536-6153



Corner Café (Wewahitchka, FL)

*Mouth-watering breakfast and lunch
specials*

108 N. Hwy 71, 32465
(850) 639-2636



Crowning Glory (Tallahassee, FL)

Custom embroidery and sewing services

(850) 405-4726
Ask for Ms. Sandra



Norris Smokehouse
(Blountstown, FL)

*Delicious smoked sausage – perfect for
holiday feasts*

17089 NW Smokehouse Road
Blountstown, FL 32424
(850) 674-4602



Pretty Girlz
(Blountstown, FL)

Trendy and cute clothing & accessories

17245 Main Street N, 32424
(850) 674-4744



Rejuvenate "U" Massage Studio
(Chattahoochee, FL)

*Premium massage therapy, lotions, &
oils*

310 Washington Street, 32324
(850) 694-9982
rejuvenateumassagestudio@gmail.com



Rutabaga Café
(Chattahoochee, FL)

Farm-to-Table fine dining & catering

23 Jackson Street, 32324
(850) 272-1467 or (850) 491-7713

[Rutabaga Café](http://RutabagaCafe.com)
chefbilly@rutabagacafe23.com

Saucey Lady



Oyster Company

Saucey Lady Oyster Company
(Panacea, FL)

Fresh Gulf-coast oysters shipped to your door & other fun merch

12 Jer-Be-Lou Boulevard, 32346
(850) 567-9296 / (850) 666-2127

[Saucey Lady Oyster Company](http://SauceyLadyOysterCompany.com)
sauceyladyoysters@gmail.com



Southern Fields Brewing Co.
(Campbellton, FL)

Tasty craft beer & fun merch

2328 Hwy 2, 32426
(850) 658-8190

[Southern Fields Brewing Co.](http://SouthernFieldsBrewingCo.com)

AGENDA ITEM 6 – b – 5

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM

Kwentin Eastberg – Pat Maurer

Best Workplaces for Commuters

Best Workplaces for Commuters (BWC) is an innovative membership program that provides national recognition to employers offering outstanding commuter benefits. ARPC staff applied for this distinction citing their organization's innovative strategies and remote work opportunities, in addition to the Commuter Assistance Program (CAP) the ARPC administers. The ARPC is pleased to announce that it has met the standard of excellence and has been approved as a BWC! The ARPC is honored to be designated as a BWC in FL Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) District 3. This designation lasts for two years, starting in 2022. All BWC recipients will be announced early next year.



Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program

ARPC staff is currently in the middle of the second quarter meetings for FY 2021-2022 of the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards in all nine (9) counties. Items on this quarter's agenda include the public workshop and review of the *Annual Operating Report*, in addition to reviewing the quarterly reports. Meetings are open to the public, and all are invited to attend. Meeting notices are published in each local county newspaper, as well as on the ARPC website. A meeting calendar for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 is provided below, in Table 1. *Please note, highlighted meeting dates have been updated since the last ARPC Full Board meeting.

Table 1: Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards: 2021 - 2022 Meeting Calendar

COUNTY	NOVEMBER 2021	FEBRUARY 2022	JUNE 2022
Calhoun 1:00 PM CT	30 Tuesday	1 Tuesday	7 Tuesday
Franklin 10:00 AM ET	Dec. 1 Wednesday	2 Wednesday	8 Wednesday
Gadsden 2:00 PM ET	Dec. 2 Thursday	10 Thursday	16 Thursday
Gulf 12:00 PM ET	Dec. 1 Wednesday	2 Wednesday	8 Wednesday
Jackson 10:00 AM CT	30 Tuesday	1 Tuesday	7 Tuesday
Jefferson 10:00 AM ET	Dec. 2 Thursday	10 Thursday	16 Thursday
Leon 2:00 PM ET	10 Wednesday	9 Wednesday	15 Wednesday
Liberty 3:30 PM ET	30 Tuesday	1 Tuesday	7 Tuesday
Wakulla 10:00 AM ET	10 Wednesday	9 Wednesday	15 Wednesday

Regional Commuter Assistance Program

RideOn Commuter Services is the Regional Commuter Assistance Program for the FL Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 3 (D3). Commuter Assistance Programs offer free transportation consulting to local governments, employers, community stakeholders and individuals. The program mission is to improve mobility in ways that are both economically beneficial and environmentally sustainable. ARPC/*RideOn* staffs a toll-free hotline (1-888-454-RIDE) with information about various programs, local transit service, and other regional partners. To follow *RideOn* events, please:

- Visit Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/RideOnTogether>;
- Download the *RideOn* App; or
- Visit the website at: www.RideOnTogether.org.



FDOT's state-wide *Mobility Week* campaign has been the primary focus of *RideOn* staff. ARPC staff attended weekly meetings of District representatives, coordinated with Regional Planning Council (RPC) counterparts at Emerald Coast, and hosted a meeting with local transit providers and community stakeholders to plan events in the Apalachee Region. Furthermore, *RideOn* was present at FDOT D3's *Public Transportation Grant Workshop* in Chipley, FL on November 3rd, and had a booth at the *Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium* in Sandestin on November 4th and 5th. ARPC staff met with many transportation partners and shared information about their services and upcoming events around the Panhandle.



Figure 1: ARPC Staff Pat Maurer and ECRC Staff Jason Arnold present about *RideOn* to FDOT D3 transit providers and industry professionals.



Figure 2: From left to right, Jason Arnold – ECRC, Pat Maurer – ARPC, Toni Prough – FDOT D3 Transit Program, and Kwentin Eastberg – ARPC.

Cycle the Arts

A recent exciting *RideOn* promotional initiative has been the development of a cycling-based art tour in partnership with the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA). COCA provided their extensive directory of over 300 outdoor artworks in the Tallahassee area and ARPC's GIS Specialist, Divina

Lade, then generated an overlay of bike paths and trails, resulting in maps for self-guided cycling tours that highlight selected art installations within Leon County. Original artwork for the publicity materials was created by ARPC staff member Melissa Franklin.



Figure 3: Promotional material created by Melissa Franklin.

Additional Information

- ARPC staff continues to work with FDOT D3 to reestablish *Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP)* partnerships around the Region and re-build the program within the Region's rural counties. ARPC staff will be attending Board of County Commission meetings in Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, and Liberty counties in the coming months to discuss the formation of a rural regional partnership.
- Kwentin Eastberg and Pat Maurer, ARPC Transportation staff, both continue to serve on the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency's *Technical Advisory Committee*. Ms. Maurer is also an active member of the Leon County Community Traffic Safety Team and the *Transportation & Land Use Committee* of Sustainable Tallahassee.
- RideOn was a Bronze Level sponsor of Working Well's annual *Corporate Cup Challenge*, held on October 9th at Maclay Gardens in Tallahassee, FL.



Figure 4: RideOn vendor table at the Corporate Cup Challenge.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – b – 6

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROGRAM

Josh Adams – Evan Blythe

Franklin-98 (F-98) Living Shoreline Resiliency Project

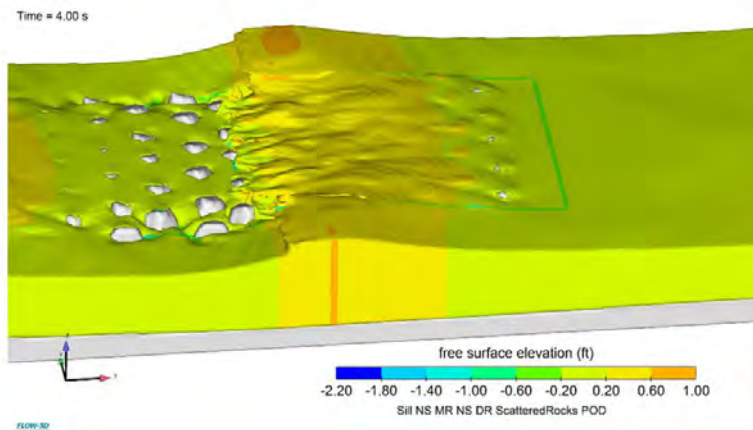


Figure 1: An example of some of the hydrodynamic data used in modeling.

As the permitting process continues to move forward, the F-98 Team has been busy with the second year of finalizing data collection and analysis, and the results are promising. Using Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) modeling, the Team has compared traditional materials (i.e., rocks, reef balls, and shell) versus novel materials (i.e., oystercatcher materials) for ecosystem restoration; a first for the restoration field. The data show that the materials that have been chosen

for the project can reduce as much as 75% of wave energy under standard conditions. The best performing material for wave reduction has been rocks. The Team will likely select this material because of ease of implementation, cost, stability, and long-term success. Another metric, oyster recruitment and size distribution, also shows promising results, with the novel materials outperforming the traditional materials for initial oyster recruitment and size. The research indicates, and is backed by data from reference reef sites, that predation is the key variable to size and density of observed oysters in the study area.

The Team continues to host public meetings and will attend several public outreach events this year. Additionally, Josh Adams and WSP Vice President for Coastal Engineering, Steve Blair, presented the F-98 project to members of the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, in conjunction with the inaugural Florid Resiliency Conference.

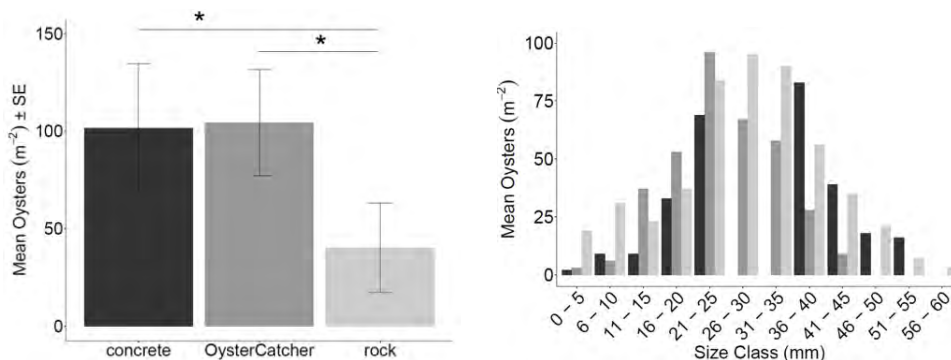


Figure 2: Oyster distribution and size compared to test materials. Meter quadrats were used.



ARPC Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator (SQG) Program

ARPC is underway with the SQG program, already having completed 150 in-person verifications this year. In previous years, the verifications have been conducted virtually due to COVID-19, but inspectors are now back in the field. In addition to Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Liberty, Jackson, Jefferson, and Wakulla counties, the ARPC also conducts inspection and outreach activities for Baker and Nassau counties.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – b – 7

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program

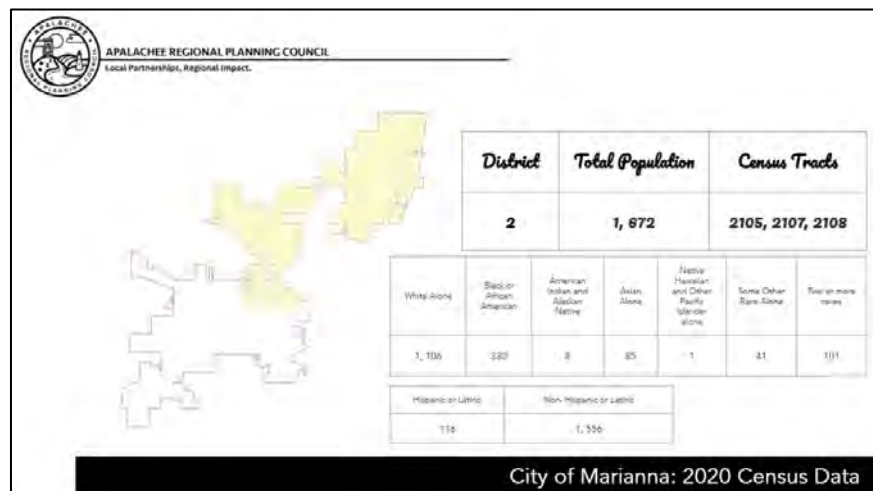
Divina Lade

Marianna Redistricting Project

The ARPC is currently providing GIS support to the City of Marianna to do a spatial analysis of the 2020 Census data for the City's five (5) districts. ARPC staff presented the results during the Marianna Redistricting meeting on October 26, 2021. A copy of the data presented during the meeting can be viewed here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1QvFaRdHkw5zq5e1LzEg33DWSDryLggaEOuasO3jdTc4/edit?usp=sharing>. The second meeting with the City of Marianna is scheduled for November 30, 2021.

Figure 1: One of the results analyzed using the 2020 Census Block Level Data for the City of Marianna.



RideOn and Cycle the Arts

In conjunction with *Mobility Week*, which occurs in November, ARPC staff developed an interactive .PDF map illustrating various bike-friendly routes to public art sites around Tallahassee.

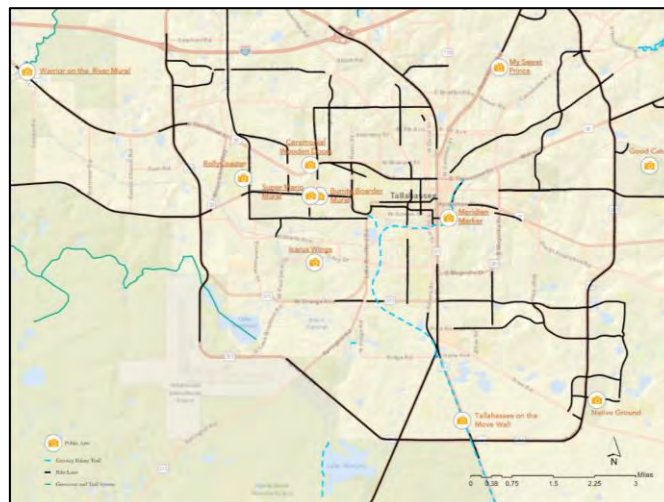


Figure 2: This image depicts the location of the identified public arts to be promoted as bike stops during the Mobility Week celebration in November. Promotion of the public arts in Tallahassee will continue to run under the Cycle the Arts campaign in collaboration with the Center of Culture and the Arts (COCA).

Figure 3: This image is one example of a route showcasing several public artworks that bikers can view and appreciate along their bike routes.



FY 2021 – 2022 GIS Contracts

The ARPC currently has three (3) contracts focused on providing GIS support and services to the following counties in the Apalachee Region:

Table 1. ARPC GIS Contracts

County	Contract Term	Contract Amount
Jackson (City of Marianna)	October 19, 2021 – January 30, 2022	\$ 2,500
Gadsden	October 01, 2021 – September 30, 2022	\$ 10,000
Franklin	October 01, 2021 – September 30, 2022	\$ 10,000

Economic Impact Dashboard

ARPC staff hosted a training event for representatives from the other nine (9) Florida Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) regarding how to build an Economic Impact Dashboard. Part 1 of the event was completed on September 15, 2021 focused on data collection, preparation, and processing. Part 2 of the training will occur in January 2021 and training will focus on developing the Economic Impact Dashboard using ArcGIS's *Dashboard* product. The economic impact dashboard for ARPC is in the process of being updated. It can be viewed on the ARPC website.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – b – 8

HOUSING PROGRAM

Donald Morgan – Amber Zies – Adriana Silva

Calhoun County Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP)

ARPC staff continues to provide housing recovery assistance via the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP) to Calhoun County residents impacted by Hurricane Michael. In conjunction with Calhoun County, ARPC has worked diligently to provide recovery assistance to residents whose homes and properties were adversely impacted by Hurricane Michael in 2018. Ninety-eight (98) residents were conditionally approved to receive housing assistance under the HHRP. Fifty-nine (59) residents were officially approved with a total of thirty-seven (37) being currently assisted and twenty-two (22) whose assistance has been completed. Qualified Calhoun County residents are assisted through the following strategies identified by the Calhoun County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) in the *Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP)*:

LHAP Strategies

- Purchase Assistance
- Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation/Repairs
- Demolition/Reconstruction
- Foreclosure Prevention/Mortgage Assistance
- Land Acquisition and Construction (Mobile Home Placement)

ARPC staff is currently working to assist thirty-seven (37) total residents in Calhoun County, a total of thirteen (13) rehabilitation projects, and twenty (20) new mobile home purchases that are representative of all Commission Districts. The purchases are being completed by working with both US Mobile Homes and Family Home Center of Dothan.

These manufacturing companies have been excellent in communication with ARPC staff during this process and have been very accommodating to keep this program moving forward. There are three (3) residents, from Districts 2 and 4, utilizing the land acquisition strategy, which will accompany a new mobile home purchase. ARPC staff is helping one (1) resident from District 3 with purchase assistance.

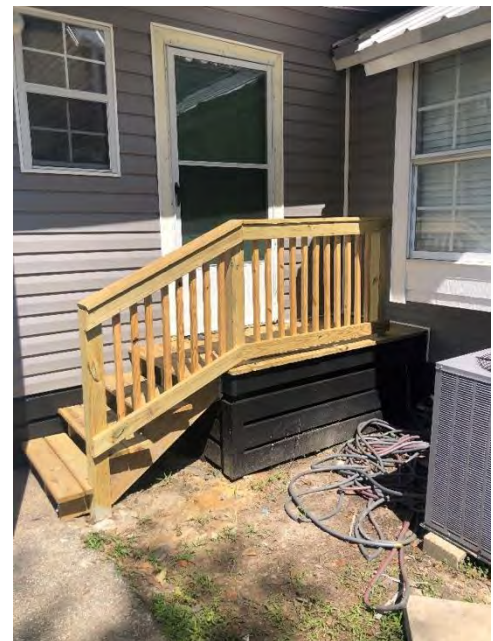


Figure 1: New porches and landings were added to the home and brought into code to ensure the safety of residents. Former porches were damaged by Hurricane Michael.



Figure 2: The A/C unit of this home was damaged by Hurricane Michael, leaving the residents without adequate options for heating and cooling. Updated A/C systems greatly reduce energy bills and have a positive impact on the life of the home.



Figure 3: Vinyl siding and new windows were added; another effort to reduce energy bills and protect the overall envelope of the home.

Wakulla County CDBG-MIT Grants

In July 2020, two applications were submitted to the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for the *Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT)* on behalf of Wakulla County. The grant applications were proposals for the development of a county-wide *Shelter Plan* and a *Disaster Risk Analysis and Adaptation Plan*, respectively. In January 2021, Governor DeSantis announced nearly \$20 million in awards, including both Wakulla proposals.

1. *Shelter Plan*: \$75,000.00 in CDBG-MIT (Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation) funding was awarded for the purpose of developing a *Shelter Plan*, which will enhance resiliency planning efforts and better equip Wakulla County in the provision of sufficient, safe, and effective sheltering for individuals in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency event.
2. *Disaster Risk Analysis and Adaptation Plan*: \$75,000.00 in CDBG-MIT (Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation) funding was awarded for the purpose of enhancing resiliency planning efforts through an update of Wakulla County's *Disaster Risk Analysis and Adaptation Plan*, which will include an analysis of potential hazards and an evaluation of existing conditions of the County's physical, social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities.

Agreements are being finalized and work is set to begin this month for the *Shelter Plan* and early 2022 for the *Disaster Risk Analysis and Adaptation Plan*.

Jackson County SHIP

The ARPC is excited to announce a partnership with Jackson County to administer its *State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program*. Since July, the ARPC has been working with Jackson County residents to coordinate needed housing repairs, as well as to assist first-time home buyers with purchasing a home. ARPC staff is currently working with 15 (fifteen) residents to provide home repairs. Notably, ARPC staff has also assisted a total of four (4) residents with the purchase of a new home -- providing closing, down payment, and other associated costs. This assistance greatly reduces the residents' monthly mortgage obligation and, most importantly, affords them the opportunity of a lifetime: homeownership!

AGENDA ITEM 6 – b – 9

Marketing & Communications Program Melissa Franklin

Media Communications

With so many extraordinary programs throughout the Council, ARPC staff is regularly distributing press releases regarding exciting news and program updates and continues to develop relationships with direct contacts throughout local media venues. Most recently, staff generated ARPC exposure through the *Tallahassee Democrat's COCA Spotlight* piece. In addition, WTXL – ABC27 ran a [segment](#) on October 20, 2021 in response to ARPC's submittal of its EDA *Build Back Better Regional Challenge* application.



Figure 1: WTXL – ABC27 News coverage of the ARPC's EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge application.

Online & Social Media Engagement

In September, ARPC staff developed and distributed the *September Board Notes* and continues to manage ARPC social media engagement, as well as website updates and document uploads. All websites (ARPC, BBHCC, and 850 Hemp) are monitored for updates on a weekly basis. In addition, ARPC staff provides general graphics and communications support throughout the organization's numerous programs and projects, developing informative, professional, and eye-catching materials as needed.

Figure 2: ARPC Board Notes, September 2021.



RideOn Commuter Services

In collaboration with Council on Culture and Arts (COCA), ARPC staff coordinated and developed the *Cycle the Arts* campaign, a totally new biking experience that highlights the abundance of public art throughout the community. Staff developed branding and designed materials including social media graphics and posters to display inside Star Metro and FSU buses. In addition, ARPC staff was interviewed for the COCA Spotlight which appeared in the *Tallahassee Democrat* the weekend of November 7th.



Figure 3: Poster Display for Star Metro and FSU bus lines.

Marketing and Communications Collateral

ARPC staff is regularly developing collateral for the various ARPC programs. Most recently, ARPC staff provided materials for the New Era Ribbon Cutting, Capital City Chamber of Commerce *Advantage Conference*, *RideOn* Commuter Services presentations, and the Franklin 98 project.

Apalachee Strong

Branding for the Apalachee Strong Resiliency Collaborative is complete! Staff developed the Apalachee Strong logo and letterhead and will continue to explore potential exposure and collaborations that further the positive impact of the Collaborative.



Figure 4: The Apalachee Strong logo.

850 HEMP Summit 2022

Hemp is the only plant that can feed, house, clothe, and heal! From farming to manufacturing, this extraordinary plant can strengthen the resiliency of our Region -- not only economically, but environmentally, as well! As such, the ARPC is excited to bring the second 850 Hemp Summit to the Region. The 850 Hemp Summit unites farmers, stakeholders, cultivation and production experts, economic development professionals, and policymakers to discuss the status, challenges, and opportunities for industrial hemp in the Apalachee Region.



Figure 5: 850 HEMP Summit promotional material.

850 Hemp Summit Branding

ARPC staff developed a new 850 Hemp Summit logo, and the website has been rebranded accordingly. The Sponsor & Exhibitor rate schedule has been finalized and the Sponsor & Exhibitor Application is now available on the 850 Hemp Summit website (850hempsummit.com). Staff has begun contacting past and potential sponsors and exhibitors and will be expanding their scope to ensure a knockout event! Registration details are currently being finalized.

850 Hemp Summit Planning

Planning for the 850 Hemp Summit 2022 is well underway. A date and venue have been secured, ARPC staff is meeting with various partners and stakeholders, and continues to compile a wealth of information and research to ensure the most informative and engaging event possible. Press coverage is already generating and has resulted in at least four separate news features to date.

The versatility of hemp lends itself well to community partnerships, and ARPC staff is working diligently to maximize these opportunities. Potential collaborations with several local businesses and organizations are being discussed, and ARPC staff is committed to creating an event that is locally developed and ensures maximum investment in our Region. To build community interest, as well as credibility among potential speakers and vendors, various points of engagement leading up to the Summit will be utilized. The *850 Hemp Newsletter* is distributed monthly, and additional resources are available at the 850 Hemp Summit website. Education regarding the history and benefits of hemp remains a top priority, and materials for an educational media campaign are nearly complete. Staff is diligently working to identify and confirm speakers for the Summit and continues to meet with various representatives within the hemp industry to ensure the most up to date and informative summit possible.

Tentative 2022 ARPC Board Meeting Schedule

January							February							March							April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31	1	2	3	4	5																					

May							June							July							August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
														31	1	2	3	4	5	6							

September							October							November							December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30	31	1	2	3	4	5														



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 2021

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Organized articles and distributed the August 2021 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter, *FRCA Forward*.
- Maintained and updated the FRCA website: www.flregionalcouncils.org.
- Updated the email lists and maintained the email listserv for approximately 2,600 individuals who receive the *FRCA Forward* newsletter.
- 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 conferences and shared information:
 - Economic Impact Dashboard coordination webinar,
 - Rural Economic Development Initiative monthly meeting,
 - Coordination meetings with resiliency collaboratives statewide, and
 - Small Business Development Council.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Organized and hosted the September Executive Directors Advisory Council (EDAC) meeting.
- Organized and hosted the FRCA Partners Meeting held September 24th.
- Organized a presentation on the Regional Evacuation Study at the American Planning Association, Florida Chapter, Annual Conference on September 3, 2021.
- Distributed grant opportunities and information of interest from local, state and national organizations.



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: October 2021

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Organized articles and distributed the September 2021 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter, *FRCA Forward*.
- Maintained and updated the FRCA website: www.flregionalcouncils.org.
- Updated the email lists and maintained the email listserv for approximately 2,575 individuals who receive the *FRCA Forward* newsletter.
- 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 conferences and shared information:
 - Economic Development Planners Coordination Call
 - Coordination meetings with resiliency collaboratives statewide, and
 - Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Organized and hosted the October Executive Directors Advisory Council (EDAC) meeting.
- Organized upcoming EDAC Retreat and Winter 2022 Policy Board Meeting.
- Assisted with initial development of the FRCA 2021 Annual Report.
- Began preparations for the next FRCA Partners Meeting scheduled for December 10, 2021.
- Distributed grant opportunities and information of interest from local, state and national organizations.



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THE APALACHICOLA TIMES



ARPC addresses Carrabelle's economic growth strategy



(/uploads/original/20211013-221922-phpAEBxy6.jpg)

An aerial view of Carrabelle.

[ARPC }

Posted Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:19 pm

David Adlerstein

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For those who want to delve into Carrabelle’s economic development strategy, there’s now a thorough report that they can sink their teeth into.

Caroline Smith, economic development manager for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council on Oct. 7 delivered to city commissioners, and the general public, the result of a 2020 Competitive Florida Partnership grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Hampered a bit over the past 18 months by COVID-19 restrictions, the ARPC relied on socially distanced in-person workshops streamed over Facebook, as well as a survey of assets done by using drone photographs, videos and other research to mimic an in-person tour of Carrabelle.

The project focused on four goals, the first to revitalize the character of downtown Carrabelle through historic preservation, business diversification, and waterfront improvements.

The second goal was to promote job retention and creation, and vocational training, and third to “set the stage for responsible development through policymaking, code enforcement, and environmental preservation.”

Lastly, the fourth goal is to promote tourism and recreational opportunities.

The challenge for Carrabelle is brought into focus early in the report, in the portion on socio-economic indicators.

The report cites a poverty rate of nearly 30 percent, with only about 10 percent of the city’s population having a college degree. The median income is a little more than \$38,000 annually, lower than the county as a whole. The city has a population of 2,646.

Interestingly, close to 90 percent of the 451 people employed inside the city live outside the city. Of the 570 people in the workforce who live in Carrabelle, more than 90 percent work outside the city.

In an examination of what is known as SWOT, which encapsulates the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to economic development, the report sees as strengths the numbers of engaged residents and businesses, the dedicated city staff and elected officials and the natural environment.

The weaknesses, it notes, are the reliance on a single industry – tourism, the underutilized harbor, the limited commercial dockage and problems with cleanliness, such as littering and trash pick-up.

Opportunities include local business retention and expansion, vocational training and new and revised ordinances.

Threats to economic development are said to be economic downturns and recessions, natural disasters, local business closures and “development that does not fit city character.”

The report outlines the city’s key assets, which is lists as the Carrabelle-Thompson Airport. the nearly 62,000-square-foot Carrabelle Industrial Building; the historic old water plant targeted for rehabilitation and commercialization; Millender & Sons Seafood; the Gulfside IGA; C-Quarters Marina; Johnsons Carrabelle Marina; the MS Dockside Marina on Timber Island; Moorings of Carrabelle; Weems Medical Center East; St. James Health and Rehabilitation Center; and several other smaller businesses.

The report cites historic and cultural assets, everything from the Crooked River Lighthouse to museums; government and civic assets, such as City Hall and the library; as well as environmental and recreational assets, such as Tate’s Hell State Forest, the Apalachicola National Forest. Carrabelle Beach, Carrabelle Riverwalk and Wharf; Sands Memorial Park; Will Kendrick Sports Complex; Tillie Miller Park; and the St. James Bay Golf Club.

As for meeting goals, the report cites the creation of a public seafood dock as a key element to revitalize Carrabelle’s historic working waterfront; the redevelopment of the old water plant as well as along NW Avenue B; the boosting of the commercial fishing district; the revitalization of Marine Street and the waterfront; and preservation of the historic district.

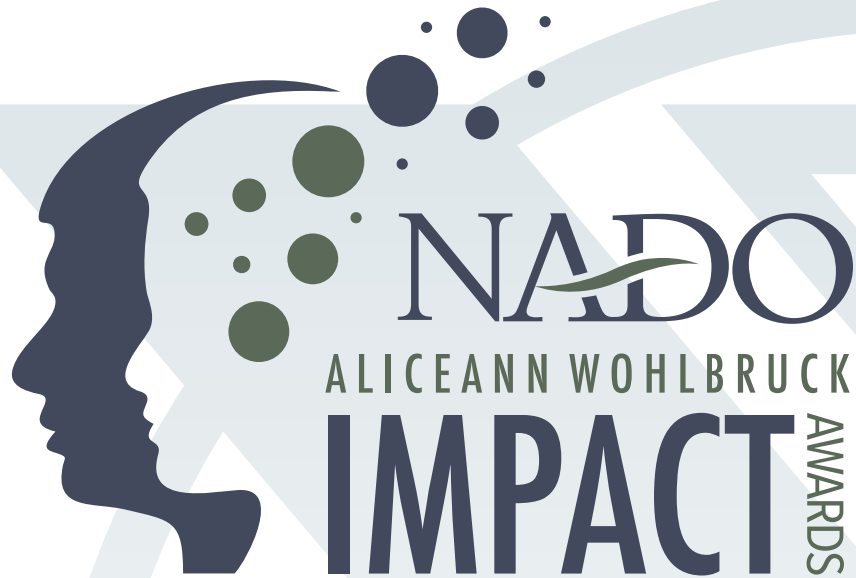
The report notes an effort to boost local job training, and to recruit new businesses, including attracting more fine dining options and a local pharmacy.

Among the efforts it cites to boost community pride is reviewing zoning ordinances, addressing trash pick-up and code enforcement, especially along the waterways and beaches; attracting developers for subdivisions, addressing building and design standards; reviewing the city’s alcohol ordinance, ity’s alcohol ordinance and provide recommendations to city for revising the ordinance. ARPC could potentially work on this mini-project at no-cost to city.

The report also mentions a community forestry program to protect canopy trees; support of improvements to Island View Park; a designation as a birding and butterfly trail; use of vista parks at the city-owned street ends.; promotion of low-impact nature-based outdoor recreation; continuing to connect sewer and water and to install monofilament, trash, and cigarette butt collection stations throughout the Waterfront District; and improvements to the stormwater management program.

Comments

NO COMMENTS ON THIS ITEM PLEASE LOG IN TO COMMENT BY CLICKING HERE (/LOGIN.HTML? REFERER=%2FSTORIES%2FARPC-ADDRESSES-CARRABELLES-ECONOMIC-GROWTH-STRATEGY%2C5848%3F)



**RECOGNIZING INNOVATIVE
APPROACHES TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | 2021**

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read "K. R. Byrd".

Kevin Byrd, President

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read "JM".

Joe McKinney, Executive Director

PROJECT TITLE:

US 90/Washington Street Streetscape
Improvement Concept Plan (City of
Chattahoochee, Florida)

ORGANIZATION:

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

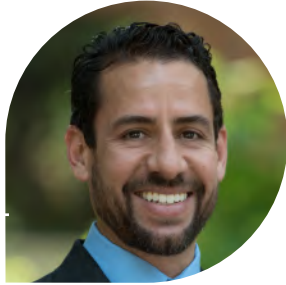


PROJECT PARTNERS:

Citizens of Chattahoochee; City of Chattahoochee City Council;
Chattahoochee Main Street; Gadsden County Planning Department;
Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA); Florida
Department of Transportation, Central Office; Florida Department of
Transportation - District III; Florida Division of Historical Resources;
Florida Main Street; Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA)
Integrated Recovery Coordination



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