Apalachee Regional Planning Council
FULL COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

326th PUBLIC MEETING
THURSDAY, May 26, 2022
10:00AM ET/ 9:00AM CT

https://meet.goto.com/437040101 OR

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) • **John Jones**, Past Chairman (City of Monticello)

*FRCA Policy Board Members: Kristin Dozier, Gene Wright and Lisa Miller*

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**FULL COUNCIL**

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Follow I-10 to US-27 N/N Monroe St in Tallahassee.
Take exit 199 from I-10 E.
Follow US-27 N/N Monroe St to Graves Rd.
Holiday Inn is nestled between the Quality Inn and the Best Western Plus.
Parking is available in front and behind the building.
AGENDA ITEM 2 – DRAFT AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions

2. *Approval of Agenda

3. *Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2022 Board Meeting

4. Franklin-98 (F-98) Living Shoreline Resiliency Project Update – Josh Adams & Evan Blythe, ARPC


6. Executive Director’s Report – Chris Rietow, ARPC Executive Director
   a) *Financial Reports
   b) Staff Program Reports
      1. Economic Development & Community Planning
      2. Disaster Resiliency Coordination
      3. Emergency Planning
      4. Revolving Loan Fund
      5. *Transportation Planning
      6. Environmental Planning
      7. Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
      8. Housing
      9. Marketing & Communications
   c) *ARPC Exec. Committee Update: 05.12.22 Meeting Minutes
   d) Lower ACF Rivers Project Funding Request Support Letter

7. Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion

8. Ex-Officio Member Updates

9. Public Comment

10. Adjournment (Catered buffet lunch provided immediately following meeting.)

11. Next ARPC Board Meeting – (Date & Location T.B.D.)

*Items Requiring Board Action
Item 1: Call to Order and Introductions
Chair Dozier called the meeting to order at 10:08 am EST. A quorum of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) was in attendance. The following Board members attended the meeting:

ARPC Board Members in Attendance
Franklin County  Ricky Jones  County Commissioner
Gadsden County  Evelyn Goldwire  Commissioner, City of Gretna
Gadsden County  Henry Grant  Governor’s Appointee
Gulf County  Michael Hammond  Governor’s Appointee
Jackson County  Jim Peacock  County Commissioner
Jefferson County  John Jones  Mayor, City of Monticello
Leon County  Kristin Dozier  County Commissioner
Leon County  Jack Porter  City Commissioner, City of Tallahassee
Leon County  Lisa Miller  Governor’s Appointee
Liberty County  Davis Stoutamire  Governor’s Appointee
Wakulla County  Don Grimes  Mayor, City of St. Marks
Wakulla County  Quincee Messersmith  County Commissioner

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance
Darryl Boudreau – NW FL Water Mgmt. District (NFWWMD)

ARPC Staff in Attendance
Chris Rietow – Executive Director  Janice Watson – Finance Director
Kwentin Eastberg – Planning Manager  Caroline Smith – Economic Development Manager
Jana Williams – RLF Manager  Monica Pitts – Deputy Finance Director
Josh Adams – Env’l Planning Manager  Melissa Franklin – Communications Coordinator
Evan Blythe – Env’l Project Manager  Sharrand Pinder – Urban Designer
Donald Morgan – Housing Manager  Rick McCraw – Senior Planner, Econ. Development
Amber Zies – Housing Planner  Pat Maurer – Commuter Assistance Coordinator
Joshua Pasqualone – ARPC Legal Counsel
Chair Dozier welcomed all attendees. The attendees stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and then introductions were made around the meeting room.

**Item 2: Approval of the Agenda**

ARPC Executive Director Chris Rietow requested that ARPC Resolution #22-06 be added as a discussion item to the March 24, 2022 Agenda. The purpose of this Resolution is to reinstate the ARPC 401k Plan and its supporting documents as a benefit to ARPC employees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jim Peacock to approve the March 24, 2022 Agenda, including the addition of ARPC Resolution #22-06 as a new discussion item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincee Messersmith. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item 3: Approval of the Minutes**

Chair Dozier inquired as to whether any changes to the minutes of the January 27, 2022 ARPC Full Council Board Meeting were required. Mr. Rietow stated that no corrections were necessary.

A motion was made by Governor’s Appointee Davis Stoutamire to approve the Minutes of the January 27, 2022 ARPC Full Council Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Don Grimes. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item 4: 2022 Legislative Session Report – Chris Doolin, Small County Coalition**

*Note: Although Mr. Fitzgerald was slated to make his presentation as Agenda Item 4, he was having technical difficulties. Therefore, Mr. Doolin, who was slated to make his presentation as Agenda Item 5, offered to switch positions so that Mr. Fitzgerald had more time to resolve his technical problems.*

Mr. Rietow introduced Chris Doolin, Governmental Consultant to the Small County Coalition (SCC). The SCC is a statewide alliance of forty county commissions from small and rural counties. The purpose of the Coalition is to give increased visibility and support to the issues important to small counties and rural communities. The SCC’s primary mission is to help Florida’s small and rural counties address legislative issues from a small county/rural context.
perspective and work effectively with state agency leadership. To assist in his presentation, Mr. Doolin provided the ARPC Board with a Legislative Report to the ARPC, and then proceeded to provide a summary of the laws that were passed during the 2022 Florida Legislative Session that specifically affect small and rural counties. Mr. Doolin’s report has been added to the meeting minutes as Attachment A-1. To help illustrate his discussion, Mr. Doolin discussed how the FL Legislature’s votes compared with the Small County Coalition’s nine (9) Legislative priorities:

1. **Protect High-Valued Program Funding**: Significant funding was appropriated to programs that are beneficial to small counties and rural areas.
2. **Small County Road Programs**: The Legislature allocated a record amount for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) and the Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP).
3. **Increased Revenue Capacity**: The Legislature did not favorably consider any proposals to expand revenue sources or provide additional flexibility.
4. **Department of Corrections**: No prisons were directed to be closed. However, the DOC is required to submit any closure plans to the Governor and Legislative Leadership. Funds were allotted for salary increases and funding was allotted to build two new prisons.
5. **Eliminate the Digital Divide through Expanded Digital Infrastructure and Enhanced Internet Access**: The Legislature made no changes to existing statutes relating to the Office of Broadband. However, funding was provided for additional staff in the Office and also $400 million was appropriated to provide grants to expand broadband in unserved areas.
6. **Protect Rural Water Resources**: A significant amount of funding was allocated for water projects, Spring Restoration, and Septic to Sewer.
7. **Rural Economic and Community Development**: Significant funding was provided to support Rural Economic Development and rural infrastructure funding.
8. **Affordable Housing**: Significant funding was provided for Affordable Housing and Rental Assistance.
9. **Sea-Level Rise**: Legislation passed to address flooding and sea level rise. Grants were authorized in the legislation.

Next, Mr. Doolin described the following Legislative bills in detail (refer to the highlighted portions of Attachment A-1): HB 0001, HB 0003, SB 0620, HB 0777, SB 1186, SB 1236, HB 1563, HB 5007, HB 7029, HB 7049, HB 7053, HB 7055, and HB 7071. After his summary, Mr. Doolin discussed the newly mandated prison evaluations and concluded his comments by quickly reviewing the 2022-2023 Legislative Planning Calendar. The floor was then opened to comments and questions from the Board. Mr. Rietow informed the Board that ARPC staff is looking at different grant opportunities to help the Region’s counties establish their own Local Technology Planning Teams (mandated by the FL Office of Broadband), and he is also looking to hire a Regional Broadband Planner in the coming months. Mr. Rietow requested for Board members to let him know if they hear of an exact deadline from the Office of Broadband regarding County and City Broadband Reports so that he can broadcast this information to all government leaders in the Region. Chair Dozier thanked Mr. Doolin for his time and efforts. For further information, Mr. Doolin can be contacted via email at CDOolin@DoolinandAssoc.com or by phone at (850) 508-5492.
Mr. Rietow next introduced the Board to Mr. Rickey Fitzgerald, Manager of the FDOT Freight and Rail Office. Mr. Fitzgerald then began his presentation about the Gulf Coast Rail Route, which comprises approximately 784 miles between New Orleans, LA and Orlando, FL. Amtrak passenger rail service along the Gulf Coast Rail Route was suspended after Hurricane Katrina in September 2005. In mid-2015, the Southern Rail Commission asked Amtrak to evaluate potential restoration options and in December 2015 the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act mandated the creation of the Gulf Coast Working Group (GCWG) to complete a report to Congress on Gulf Coast passenger rail restoration.

In 2016, CSX Transportation and GCWG both completed separate feasibility and cost estimate studies. Mr. Fitzgerald then summarized findings from the two studies. He first noted that different ownership over the various route segments causes multiple cost and governance conflicts. Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed the route’s Corridor Infrastructure Characteristics, describing how the different route segments do not have standard infrastructure characteristics. That is, the segments vary depending on whether they are signaled or non-signaled and whether they utilize or do not utilize Positive Train Control (PTC). He explained that PTC accounts for human error and that non-PTC lines and non-signal lines are a constraint that must be overcome. Mr. Fitzgerald then talked about Corridor Operational Characteristics, detailing the varying type of trains (freight, local, Amtrak, and SunRail) and the varying number of trains that operate within each route segment on a daily basis. He mentioned that there are seventeen (17) moveable bridges along the Gulf Coast Rail Route and that they cause major time constraints due to several issues, including: marine traffic, who have priority and causes the bridges to open and close independent of freight traffic; mechanical failures; and bridge tenders, who are in charge of bridge operation/safety and often causes pauses in track time. Next, Mr. Fitzgerald discussed factors that impact the cost of restoring the Gulf Coast Rail Route. These include on-time performance (OTP), average speed (mph), and delay. The two studies concluded that the cost estimate to reinstate and sustain Amtrak passenger rail along the Gulf Coast Rail was calculated to be up to $2.25 billion, due to the challenges of meeting high passenger OTP while also maintaining freight level of service in the face of marshy terrain and the operational constraints previously mentioned.

Mr. Fitzgerald next described how FDOT developed its Passenger Rail Strategy. A Working Group was formed and their objectives included defining the roles involved in passenger rail and explaining why the provision of passenger rail is an important transportation option for Florida. He also listed some of the lessons learned from other states, including the need to clearly define the role that passenger rail should play in state mobility, and the necessity for a dedicated source of ongoing, sustainable funding for passenger rail. The Working Group also discovered that political support is critical to success, connections strengthen transportation systems, and existing freight corridors are not guarantees of available alignment or track capacity. The next steps in the development of FDOT’s Passenger Rail Strategy are currently being implemented and include obtaining stakeholder interviews, preparing research white
papers, and creating a visual summary report and executive presentation. Mr. Fitzgerald concluded his presentation with a discussion about FDOT’s use of dynamic envelope pavement markings, which are used to decrease unsafe stopping behavior for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians near railroad crossings. These white markings, coated with reflective glass powder, indicate the clearance needed for trains to safely pass.

The floor was then opened to comments and questions from the Board. Mr. Hammond pointed out that the route would be more efficient if it went straight across Pensacola rather than traveling north for two hours to Alabama. Mr. Grant asked if the proposed Amtrack passenger rail would be high speed rail or ‘snail rail.’ Mr. Fitzgerald replied that the passenger trains would operate at the traditional Amtrak speed of up to 79mph. Commissioner Dozier brought up the question as to why Florida has never joined the Southern Rail Commission (SRC) and suggested that the four most-northern Regional Planning Councils in Florida should consider working with the SRC even if the state is not interested. Mr. Fitzgerald replied that the FDOT Listening Session (in Marianna, FL on April 26, 2022 at 10am) would be a great venue to provide this feedback. Mr. Hammond then proposed to the Board that ARPC member counties should send a letter of support to FDOT encouraging the State of Florida to join the SRC.

A motion was made by Governor’s Appointee Hammond for Mr. Rietow and Chair Dozier to draft a Letter of Support, which ARPC member local governments could then sign and send, to FDOT indicating regional support for the State of Florida joining the Southeast Rail Consortium. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peacock. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fitzgerald stressed that ridership is the most important factor in moving the passenger rail line project for the Gulf Coast Rail Route. He suggested that the Tourist Development Councils create and release a survey to collect ridership interest data. He also pointed out how municipalities in Indiana took ownership of the rail-stops within their jurisdictions, which helped with funding the overall rail project. Mr. Fitzgerald recommended that if Board members were interested in this strategy, they should research Federal Discretionary Grants to fund rail-stop ownership and also encouraged Board members to develop public-private partnerships with the local industries and businesses that are identified as potential beneficiaries from improvements to the Gulf Coast Rail Route. Chair Dozier thanked Mr. Fitzgerald for his time and efforts. For further information, Mr. Fitzgerald can be contacted via email at rickey.fitzgerald@dot.state.fl.us or by phone at (850) 414-4700.

**Item 6: Executive Director’s Report**

**Item 6a – Financial Report:** Mr. Rietow referred attendees to Section 6A of the *Board Package* for a detailed review of the financial status of the ARPC. Mr. Rietow addressed the following action items:

1) 21/22 Revenue and Expense Report
2) Budget Report for the months ending January 31, 2022 and February 28, 2022
A motion was made by Commissioner Jim Peacock to accept the ARPC Financial Reports for the period ending January 31, 2022 and February 28, 2022. The motion was seconded by Governor’s Appointee Henry Grant. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 6b – 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:

1) **Item 6 – b – 1: Economic Development/Community Planning Program:** The annual grant application cycle for the FL DEO’s Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) grant window has officially opened and this year applicants have been given less time than usual to submit their applications, which are due on April 11th. These recurring planning grants can be used to advance economic and community development activities. No local match is required. Any interested communities may contact Caroline Smith, ARPC Economic Development Manager, at csmith@arpc.org for additional information and/or application assistance.

2) **Item 6 – b – 6: Transportation Planning Program**

- **Best Workplaces for Commuters (BWC) Award Presentation:** In January, Florida State University received national recognition from the BWC program regarding the outstanding commuter benefits that FSU provides to its faculty, staff, and students, which include free transit services, free safe rides home, and an all-electric bus route. Mr. Richard Rind, Director of Transportation and Parking Services at FSU, was presented with the BWC award.

- **Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Selection:** Every five (5) years, the designations for each county’s Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) goes out for bid. As the Designated Official Planning Agency, the ARPC is tasked with undertaking the procurement process for the CTC in each county and recommending the best transportation service provider for the county to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD), who will ultimately enter into a service agreement with that transportation entity for the five-year term. ARPC Transportation Program manager, Kwentin Eastberg, presented to the Board five (5) ARPC Resolutions (see Attachments A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5, and A-6) for the State of Florida, recommending the ARPC’s CTC designations for Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Leon, and Liberty counties, as listed below:

  1. Franklin County CTC: Gulf ARC & Transportation (ARPC Resolution 22-01)
  2. Gadsden County CTC: Big Bend Transit (ARPC Resolution 22-02)
  3. Gulf County CTC: Gulf ARC & Transportation (ARPC Resolution 22-03)
  4. Leon County CTC: StarMetro (ARPC Resolution 22-04)
  5. Liberty County CTC: Liberty County Transit (ARPC Resolution 22-05)
A motion was made by Governor’s Appointee Michael Hammond to approve the following five ARPC Resolutions: No. 22-01, No. 22-02, No. 22-03, No. 22-04, and No. 22-05. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Jones. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

3) Item 6 – b – 6: Environmental Planning Program: The Franklin-98 (F-98) Shoreline Resiliency Project has finally received a Request for Additional Information (RAI) from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This is the critical piece of information that the Team has been waiting for in order to finalize 90% of their designs for the project area. Considering the feedback from USACE, ARPC staff have decided to cut the project in half, removing the eastern portion of the project due to lack of community desire to see it implemented along their portion of the project area. The project now seeks areas for restoration between Eastpoint and just east of the Franklin County School, at Yent Bayou. ARPC staff are expecting to receive the necessary Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permit within a month of submitting updated plans to the Department.

ARPC is excited to finally be working on its Regional Vulnerability Assessments. Partnering with Leon County, the ARPC has secured a $247,000 grant from the FDEP to assess publicly owned infrastructure in in Apalachee Region, including all ARPC member counties and municipalities. The project will analyze the vulnerability of publicly funded critical assets to coastal and inland flooding over the course of the 2040 and 2070 Planning Horizons. This information will be the first vulnerability assessment in the Region under new statutory requirements. Once completed, ARPC staff will have a better understanding of potential impacts to the Region’s at-risk infrastructure.

4) Item 6 – b – 9: Marketing & Communications Program: The ARPC is hosting the Region’s second 850 Industrial Hemp Summit, April 26-28, 2022 in Tallahassee, FL. The focus of the Summit is to share information from North Florida’s farmers and the multitude of stakeholders across the State and nation. Attendees will hear insights from national leaders in the industry, including, Geoffrey Whaling, Chair of the National Hemp Association; Jacob Waddell, President of the US Hemp Building Association; and Holly Bell, Director of Cannabis of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

ARPC staff continue to utilize various points of engagement to increase public awareness about the benefits of industrial hemp fiber, including a Women Wednesdays Speaker Series hybrid event; information tables at Railroad Square and Domi Station First Friday events; an information table at the 2022 Lemoyne Chain of Parks Festival; and local radio interviews with Tom Flanigan (WFSU) and Terrance L. Barber (Heaven 98.3).
5) **Item 6-b-10: Reinstatement of the ARPC 401k Investment Plan (added to Agenda per Board approval):** ARPC Executive Director Mr. Rietow briefly spoke about the hard work that Janice Watson and Kwentin Eastberg have undertaken to re-instate the ARPC 401k plan. The plan will prove to be a very nice benefit to ARPC employees, as they will once again have the ability to deduct money from their paycheck directly into a personal 401k investment plan. There will be an annual management fee of approximately $2,000. Other than this management fee, the ARPC will incur no other expenses, as the organization will not be providing a matching amount that correlates to the employee 401k deduction amount. Mr. Rietow then presented requested ARPC Resolution #22-06 (see Attachment A-7), which reinstates the ARPC 401k Plan and its supporting documents as a benefit to ARPC employees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jim Peacock to approve ARPC Resolution 22-06. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincee Messersmith. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 6c – ARPC Executive Committee Update: Mr. Rietow next directed the Board’s attention to the meeting minutes of the most recent ARPC Executive Committee Meeting (pp. D-1 through D-4 of the Board Package), which occurred on February 24, 2022. 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. Mr. Rietow also thanked the Executive Committee for the additional time they give to the ARPC.

A motion was made by Governor’s Appointee Michael Hammond to ratify the actions made by the ARPC Executive Committee resulting from the February 24, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Jones. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Rietow announced that this is the final Full Council Board Meeting for ARPC Finance Director Janice Watson, as she is retiring in April. He thanked Ms. Watson for her thirty (30) years of service with the ARPC and Ms. Watson received a standing ovation from meeting attendees.

Mr. Stoutamire thanked the Executive Committee for approving the salary increase for Mr. Rietow’s service as ARPC Executive Director. He also stated that he was glad the ARPC meetings are back to being in-person and that Ms. Watson will be greatly missed.

An inquiry was made regarding the Busy Bee - Legacy RLF loan (Gulf County), which is in arrears. Ms. Watson explained that while the owner has been unable to make payments in the past, he has begun to pay again now that the ARPC accepts credit card payments.
**Item 8: Ex-Officio Member Updates**

No comment.

**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 12:16 pm EST.

APPROVED BY: THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON May 26, 2022

SIGNED:                                       ATTEST:

_________________________________________________________________________
Kristin Dozier                                  Chris Rietow
Chair                                            Executive Director
Legislative Report

to the

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Presented by Chris Doolin

Governmental Consultant to the Small County Coalition

March 24, 2022
The 2022 Legislative Session By The Numbers

Total Number of Bills Filed – 1,827
Total number of Bills Passed – 238

**Senate Bills**
Senate Bills Filed – 992
Senate Bills Passed - 140

**House Bills**
House Bills Filed – 835
House Bills Passed - 98
Small County Coalition Priorities

Protect High-Valued Program Funding
Significant funding was appropriated to programs that are beneficial to small counties and rural areas.

Small County Road Programs
The Legislature allocated a record amount for SCOP and SCRAP - a $50 million increase over program revenue sources.

Increased Revenue Capacity
The Legislature did not favorably consider any proposals to expand revenue sources or provided additional flexibility.

Department of Corrections
No prisons were directed to be closed however the DOC is required to submit any closure plans to the Governor and legislative Leadership. Funds were allotted for salary increases and funding was allotted to build two new prisons

Eliminate the Digital Divide through expanded Digital Infrastructure and enhanced Internet Access
The legislature made no changes to existing statutes relating to the Office of Broadband, however, funding was provided for additional staff in the Office and also $400 million was appropriated to provide grants to expand broadband in unserved areas.

Protect Rural Water Resources
A significant amount of funding was allocated for water projects, Spring Restoration and Septic to Sewer

Rural Economic and Community Development
A significant increase in funding was provided to support Rural Economic Development and rural infrastructure funding.

Affordable Housing
Significant funding was provided for Affordable Housing and Rental Assistance.

Sea-Level Rise
Legislation passed that attempts to address flooding and sea level rise.
On the Revenue Side!
The Legislature was flush with funding from increased revenue collection and funds remaining from Federal funding provided in response to the COVID.

In a nutshell!
- $30.6 million allotted for Rural Infrastructure projects
- $400 million allotted for Broadband Opportunity Grants program
- Increased Sovereign Immunity limits did not pass!
- $50 million funding for the Job Growth Program
- A $50 million dollar increase in funding for Small County Road programs –
- SCOP/SCRAP - funded at $162 million – a $50 million increase over anticipated funding.
- A carve out for fiscally constrained counties within the Proposed Constitutional Amendment JR 1 providing additional homestead exemption for specific professions.
- $15 plus million for fiscally Constrained Counties to provide for Sheriff Deputy and local Correctional Officer Salaries as provided for in HB 3
- A 14% increase in Emergency Distribution funding – eligible recipients should receive a similar increase in E.D. funding. The increase results from increased sales tax collections.

In addition to items listed above here how additional issues were resolved:
- The effort reset the funding for the Supplemental Allocation did not pass.
- SB 280 – Business Protection Act did not pass – legislation required local governments to specifically identify and publish the financial impact resulting from the adoption of an ordinance and allowing civil action to claim damages through a court challenge.
- Sovereign Immunity did not pass – after significant discussion regarding increasing sovereign immunity limits – no changes passed.
- HB 3 – Sheriff Benefits and Budget authority passed - the bill outlines increases in local law enforcement salaries and provides unbridled authority to make changes to the budget after approved by the BOCC. Fiscally Constrained counties receive an appropriation for the salary requirement.
- HB 777 passed the legislation moves local tax referendum to be held only on the November General Election. The action will cause significant gap in receipt of funds from the time that the referendum is approved to notice on the subsequent TRIM notice.
CS/SB 620 — Local Business Protection Act

The bill creates the “Local Business Protection Act.” It creates a cause of action for an established business to recover loss of business damages from a county or municipality whose regulatory action has caused a significant impact on the business.

Currently, landowners have a cause of action under the Bert J. Harris Act to compensate them for the lost value of their land caused by certain local government actions; landowners have a cause of action for onerous local regulation in the form of exactions; and business landowners have a cause of action under eminent domain law for business damages related to a taking of real property. Similarly, this bill creates a cause of action for a business to sue a local government when the enactment or amendment of an ordinance or charter provision causes at least a 15 percent loss of profits to the business. The business must have been in operation for at least 3 years to qualify.

Business damages recoverable are the probable damages to such business which the application of the enactment or amendment of the ordinance or charter provision may reasonably cause. Numerous exceptions protect local governments. Notably, an ordinance or charter amendment in response to an emergency or that involves growth management, budget, or procurement matters, or one that promotes economic competition, do not lead to liability. A local government can also avoid liability by timely amending or repealing the local government actions causing business damages. A claimant must comply with a 180-day presuit notice and settlement period. Prevailing party attorney fees may be awarded.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 22-14; House 69-45
CS/HB 3 — Law Enforcement

This bill provides law enforcement agencies with additional tools to bolster the recruitment and retention of qualified officers by providing financial incentives, enhanced training, expanded educational opportunities, and recognition that honors law enforcement officers’ service to the state of Florida. The bill:

- Creates the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program to provide one-time bonus payments of up to $5,000 to newly employed law enforcement officers in Florida;
- Creates the Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program to cover tuition, fees, and up to $1,000 of eligible education expenses for trainees enrolled in a law enforcement officer basic recruit training program;
- Creates a reimbursement program to pay for up to $1,000 of equivalency training costs for certified law enforcement officers who relocate to Florida or members of the special operations forces who become full-time law enforcement officers;
- Provides law enforcement officers who adopt a child from within the state child welfare system with a $25,000 benefit for adopting a child with special needs or a $10,000 benefit for adopting a child without special needs;
- Makes dependent children of law enforcement officers eligible to receive a Family Empowerment Scholarship;
- Increases the base salary for each county sheriff by $5,000;
- Allows a sheriff to transfer funds between the fund and functional categories and the object and subobject code levels after the budget has been approved by the board of county commissioners or budget commission;
- Exempts veterans and applicants with an associate degree or higher from taking the basic skills test as a prerequisite to entering a law enforcement officer basic recruit training program;
- Requires that law enforcement officers receive training in health and wellness principles as part of their initial certification training and continued employment training;
- Allows law enforcement officers or former law enforcement officers to receive postsecondary credit at Florida public postsecondary educational institutions for training and experience acquired while serving;
- Encourages each district school board to establish public safety telecommunication training programs and law enforcement explorer programs in public schools; and
- Designates May 1 of each year as “Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.”

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2022.

Vote: Senate 34-0; House 114-3
From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1248, $15,047,787 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided for salary increases for deputy sheriffs and correctional officers employed by sheriff’s offices in fiscally constrained counties, as defined in section 218.67(1), Florida Statutes, as follows:

- Baker County Sheriff’s Office............................. 223,000
- Bradford County Sheriff’s Office.......................... 535,000
- Calhoun County Sheriff’s Office........................... 330,773
- Columbia County Sheriff’s Office........................ 1,047,014
- Desoto County Sheriff’s Office........................... 397,000
- Dixie County Sheriff’s Office............................. 525,000
- Franklin County Sheriff’s Office.......................... 410,000
- Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office........................... 500,000
- Gilchrist County Sheriff’s Office.......................... 370,000
- Glades County Sheriff’s Office............................. 293,000
- Gulf County Sheriff’s Office.............................. 188,000
- Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office......................... 206,500
- Hardee County Sheriff’s Office............................ 275,000
- Hendry County Sheriff’s Office............................ 598,000
- Highlands County Sheriff’s Office...................... 945,000
- Holmes County Sheriff’s Office............................ 635,000
- Jackson County Sheriff’s Office............................ 990,000
- Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office........................ 261,000
- Lafayette County Sheriff’s Office....................... 296,000
- Levy County Sheriff’s Office............................... 825,000
- Liberty County Sheriff’s Office............................ 476,000
- Madison County Sheriff’s Office.......................... 487,000
- Okeechobee County Sheriff’s Office...................... 822,500
- Putnam County Sheriff’s Office........................... 1,125,000
- Suwannee County Sheriff’s Office....................... 604,000
- Taylor County Sheriff’s Office........................... 289,000
- Union County Sheriff’s Office............................. 295,800
- Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office........................... 653,200
- Washington County Sheriff’s Office...................... 445,000
The resolution proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to authorize the Legislature to provide, through general law, for all levies other than school district levies, an additional homestead exemption on the value greater than $100,000 and up to $150,000 for a classroom teacher, law enforcement officer, correctional officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, paramedic, child welfare services professional, active duty member of the United States Armed Forces, or a member of the Florida National Guard. Property maintained as a homestead by the owner for a person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner is eligible for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will be submitted to Florida’s electors for approval or rejection at the next general election in November 2022.

If approved by at least 60 percent of the electors, the proposed amendment will take effect on January 1, 2023.

*Vote: Senate 37-1; House 115-0*
CS/CS/HB 777 — Local Tax Referenda Requirements

Local governments have the authority to levy a variety of optional taxes conditioned upon approval of a majority of electors voting in a referendum. Presently, the applicable local government determines when a referendum will take place to approve one of the local taxes contemplated by the bill. A local government may decide to hold such referendum during a special election or in conjunction with another local election, primary election, or general election.

CS/CS/HB 777 requires a local government seeking voter approval to levy certain taxes must hold such referendum at a general election. The bill applies to the following local option taxes:

- Tourist development taxes
- Tourist impact taxes
- Ad valorem taxes levied by a children’s services independent special district
- County, municipal, and school district voted millage increases
- Local option fuel taxes

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2022.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 111-2
The bill contains provisions for tax relief and changes to tax policy.

**Sales Tax**

- Provides a 14-day “back-to-school” sales tax holiday from July 25, 2022, through August 7, 2022, for certain clothing, school supplies, learning aids and puzzles, and personal computers.
- Provides a 14-day “disaster preparedness” sales tax holiday from May 28, 2022, through June 10, 2022, for specified disaster preparedness items.
- Provides a 7-day “recreational” sales tax holiday (“Freedom Week”) from July 1, 2022, through July 7, 2022, for specified admissions, boating and water activity supplies, camping supplies, fishing supplies, general outdoor supplies, residential pool supplies, and sporting equipment.
- Provides a 7-day “tools” sales tax holiday from September 3, 2022, through September 9, 2022, for tools and equipment needed in skilled trades.
- Provides a two-year sales tax exemption from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024, for impact-resistant windows, doors, and garage doors.
- Provides a one-year sales tax exemption from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, for children’s clothing, shoes, and diapers.
- Provides a one-year sales tax exemption from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, for certain ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators, refrigerator/freezer combinations, water heaters, and clothes washers and dryers.
- Provides a three-month sales tax exemption from May 14, 2022, through August 14, 2022, for children’s books.
- Provides a one-month motor fuels sales tax holiday from October 1, 2022, through October 31, 2022.
- Reduces from 6 percent to 3 percent the state sales tax on the sale of a new mobile home.
- Provides a sales tax exemption for admissions to Formula One Grand Prix races, FIFA World Cup matches, and Daytona 500 races.
- Provides a sales tax exemption for equipment used in the production of green hydrogen.
- Provides a sales tax exemption for the purchase of farm trailers and certain fencing.

**Ad Valorem Tax**

- Provides property tax relief for residential property rendered uninhabitable for 30 days or more due to a catastrophic event.
- Provides property tax relief for property owners affected by the sudden and unforeseen collapse of a residential building.
- Increases the widows, widowers, blind, or totally and permanently disabled property tax exemption from $500 to $5,000.
- Provides an alternative assessment methodology for land used in the production of aquaculture products.
- Clarifies the extent of the homestead exemption on classified lands.
- Updates the qualifying operations for the deployed service member property tax exemption.
- Provides alternative dates from which to calculate the 15-year required term of an affordable housing agreement for establishing qualification for a property tax exemption.

Corporate Income Tax
- Adopts the Internal Revenue Code in effect on January 1, 2022.
- Creates a corporate income tax credit for expenses incurred in rehabilitating short line railroads.

Documentary Stamp Tax
- Provides a documentary stamp tax exemption for federal loans related to state-declared emergencies.

Various Taxes
- Authorizes school districts to use the School Capital Outlay surtax for the purchase, lease, or maintenance of school buses.
- Provides flexibility in the timing of the New Worlds Reading Initiative and Strong Families Tax Credit programs.
- Increases the annual cap on the Strong Families Tax Credit program by $5 million.
- Increases the annual cap on the New Worlds Reading Initiative Tax Credit program by $10 million.
- Increases the annual cap on the Community Contribution Tax Credit program by $5 million.
- Increases the authorized amount of discretionary millage that may be used by a school district for purchases of certain vehicles and insurance from $150 FTE to $175 FTE.
- Limits the restrictions that a local government may impose on applicants for rental and homeownership assistance to the restrictions imposed by lenders.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2022, except as otherwise provided in the act.
CS/HB 7049 — Legal Notices

The bill allows a local governmental agency the option to publish legal notices on a publicly accessible website owned or designated by the county instead of in a print newspaper under specified conditions. The bill reverts the criteria a newspaper must satisfy to be qualified to publish all legal notices back to the criteria in place before the passage of chapter 2021-17, Laws of Fla., with the exception that newspapers qualified to publish legal notices are no longer required to be for sale. It requires a governmental agency located in a county that has a population of fewer than 160,000 to first hold a public hearing and determine that its residents have sufficient access to the Internet by broadband service before publishing legally required advertisements and public notices on the county website. Finally, the bill eliminates the obligations of the Florida Press Association relating to equitable legal notice access by minority populations.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 26-13; House 79-40
CS/HB 7053 — Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience

- The bill establishes the Statewide Office of Resilience within the Executive Office of the Governor. It provides that the office must be headed by a Chief Resilience Officer (CRO), who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. It also provides the purposes of the office and the responsibilities of the CRO, and authorizes state and local governmental entities to assist the CRO to the extent consistent with law and budgetary constraints.

- The bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to prepare a report, in consultation with the CRO, regarding flood resilience and mitigation efforts in the state. It identifies the required components of the report and directs DEP to submit same to the Governor and Legislature by December 15, 2022.

- The bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop a resilience action plan for the State Highway System. It identifies goals of the action plan and requires it to include certain components. It also requires DOT to submit the action plan to the Governor and the Legislature by June 30, 2023, and a status report every third year on June 30 thereafter.

- The bill implements several changes to s. 380.093, F.S., which relates to statewide resiliency funding and planning. These changes include:

  - Providing definitions for the terms “preconstruction activities” and “regionally significant assets.”
  - Authorizing the use of Resilient Florida Grant Program funds to fund preconstruction activities for Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan projects in municipalities and counties meeting certain population thresholds.
  - Pushing back by one year (to 2023 and 2024, respectively) the dates by which the Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea Level Rise Data Set and Assessment must be completed.
  - Revising the $100 million cap on funding proposed for each year of the plan to a minimum threshold of $100 million.

- The bill requires the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation to provide certain data to counties and municipalities for vulnerability assessments.

- The bill moves back the deadline for surveyors and mappers to submit copies of the elevation certificates they complete to the Division of Emergency Management (DEM). It also specifies that they must be digital copies as outlined on DEM’s website.

- If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2022.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 114-1
CS/HB 7055 — Cybersecurity
$35 million provided for grants to local government

- CS/HB 7055 amends the state’s Cybersecurity Act that requires the Florida Digital Service (FLDS) and the heads of state agencies to meet certain requirements to enhance the cybersecurity of state agencies. Currently, state agencies must provide cybersecurity training to their employees, report cybersecurity incidents, and adopt cybersecurity standards. However, there are no such requirements for local governments.
- Current law does not specifically address ransomware, which is a form of malware designed to encrypt files on a device, rendering any files unusable. Malicious actors then demand ransom in exchange for decryption.
- CS/HB 7055 prohibits state agencies and local governments from paying or otherwise complying with a ransomware demand.
- The bill defines the severity level of a cybersecurity incident in accordance with the National Cyber Incident Response Plan.
- State agencies and local governments will be required to report ransomware incidents and high severity level cybersecurity incidents to the Cybersecurity Operations Center and the Cybercrime Office within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement as soon as possible but no later than times specified in the bill. Local governments must also report to the local sheriff.
- The bill also requires state agencies to report low level cybersecurity incidents and provides that local governments may report such incidents. State agencies and local governments must also submit after-action reports to FLDS following a cybersecurity or ransomware incident.
- CS/HB 7055 requires the Cybersecurity Operations Center to notify the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of high severity level cybersecurity incidents. The notice must contain a high-level overview of the incident and its likely effects. In addition, the Center must provide the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Cybersecurity Advisory Council with a consolidated incident report on a quarterly basis.
- The bill requires state agency and local government employees to undergo certain cybersecurity training within 30 days of employment and annually thereafter.
- The bill requires local governments to adopt cybersecurity standards that safeguard the local government’s data, information technology, and information technology resources.
- The bill expands the purpose of the Cybersecurity Advisory Council to include advising local governments on cybersecurity and requires the Council to examine reported cybersecurity and ransomware incidents to develop best practice recommendations. The Council must submit an annual comprehensive report regarding ransomware to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- The bill creates new criminal penalties and fines for certain ransomware offenses against a government entity.
- If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2022.

*Vote: Senate 38-0; House 110-0*
Prison Evaluation

- Funds in Specific Appropriation 2781A - $5,000,000 - are provided to competitively procure a contract with an independent third party consulting firm, in consultation with the Department of Corrections, to conduct a review of state-operated correctional institutions, as defined in section 944.02, Florida Statutes, and develop a multi-year master plan that addresses the repair, maintenance, or replacement of state operated institutions in the prison system.

- The master plan must identify appropriate specifications necessary for safe, secure, cost effective and efficient correctional institutions, including facilities for inmate health care, substance abuse and mental health treatment, other special needs, and education, consistent with appropriate correctional standards.

- The master plan must include a comprehensive review of the physical plant needs of the department using those specifications, including associated staffing needs, and must prioritize identified facility needs, based on the immediacy of the issues.

- The master plan must identify:
  1. Each institution, by facility type, capacity, age of facilities, staffing needs, and historical officer vacancy rates;
  2. Each institution’s location and proximity to others within the geographic region;
  3. The local labor pool and availability of workforce for staffing each institution;
  4. Estimated costs for the continued ongoing maintenance and upkeep needs of each institution; and
  5. A prioritized list of potential locations in the state for new prison construction, with estimated costs. The location recommendations must focus on areas of the state with a population level that will provide a sufficient labor pool for staffing a correctional institution.

- Beginning February 1, 2023, and quarterly thereafter, the consultant shall simultaneously provide status reports to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives. Each status report must include progress made to date detailing updates to the master plan and anticipated completion date. The final report shall be submitted to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 3, 2024.
22-23 Planning Calendar

**2022**

April 25–29 - (Noon on both Days) - 1st qualifying Period for certain Judicial Offices

June 13-17 - (Noon on both Days) - Qualifying for Local, State and Federal Offices

June 28 - July 1 - FAC Annual Conference - Hyatt Regency Orlando

June 29 - Small County Coalition Annual Meeting

August 23 - Primary Election

Sept 14-16 - FAC Legislative Policy Conference – Miami-Dade

November 8 - General Election

November 22 - Legislative Organizational Session

Nov. 30- Dec. 2 - FAC Legislative Conference – Pinellas

**2023**

March 7 - Regular Session convenes

March – TBD Legislative Briefing and Reception

May 5 - 60th day - last day of Regular Session

June 27-30- FAC Annual Summer Conference
RESOLUTION NO. 2022 – 1

A RESOLUTION OF THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
RECOMMENDING A COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR
FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY TO THE
FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is the designated official planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged program in Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, as part of their statutory duty must recommend to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged a Community Transportation Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council has considered the need to supply services under this program that best meet the demand in a cost-effective and cost-efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the existing Memorandum of Agreement between the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the current Community Transportation Coordinator expires on June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Gulf County ARC & Transportation has proven itself to be a highly effective Community Transportation Coordinator for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, Gulf County ARC & Transportation is knowledgeable of the available resources, demands, and needs of the transportation disadvantaged; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Apalachee Regional Planning Council recommends to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that the Gulf County ARC & Transportation be retained as the Community Transportation Coordinator in Franklin County for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2027.

Duly adopted by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council Board
on this 24th day of March 2022.

SIGNED:
Kristin Dozier, Chair

ATTEST:
Chris Rietow, Executive Director
ATTACHMENT A-3

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Local Partnerships. Regional Impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 – 2

A RESOLUTION OF THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
RECOMMENDING A COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY TO THE
FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is the designated official planning agency for
the Transportation Disadvantaged program in Gadsden County; and

WHEREAS, as part of their statutory duty must recommend to the Florida Commission for the
Transportation Disadvantaged a Community Transportation Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council has considered the need to supply services
under this program that best meet the demand in a cost-effective and cost-efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the existing Memorandum of Agreement between the Florida Commission for the
Transportation Disadvantaged and the current Community Transportation Coordinator expires
on June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Big Bend Transit, Inc., has proven itself to be a highly effective Community
Transportation Coordinator for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, Big Bend Transit, Inc., is knowledgeable of the available resources, demands, and
needs of the transportation disadvantaged; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Apalachee Regional Planning Council recommends
to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that the Big Bend Transit, Inc.,
be retained as the Community Transportation Coordinator in Gadsden County for a five-year
period beginning July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2027.

Duly adopted by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council Board
on this 24th day of March 2022.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Kristin Dozier, Chair

Chris Rietow, Executive Director

www.arpc.org 2507 Callaway Rd, Suite 200  Tallahassee, FL 32303  850.488.6211
Serving Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla counties & their municipalities
RESOLUTION NO. 2022 – 3

A RESOLUTION OF THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL RECOMMENDING A COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR FOR GULF COUNTY TO THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is the designated official planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged program in Gulf County; and

WHEREAS, as part of their statutory duty must recommend to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged a Community Transportation Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council has considered the need to supply services under this program that best meet the demand in a cost-effective and cost-efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the existing Memorandum of Agreement between the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the current Community Transportation Coordinator expires on June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Gulf County ARC & Transportation has proven itself to be a highly effective Community Transportation Coordinator for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, Gulf County ARC & Transportation is knowledgeable of the available resources, demands, and needs of the transportation disadvantaged; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Apalachee Regional Planning Council recommends to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that the Gulf County ARC & Transportation be retained as the Community Transportation Coordinator in Gulf County for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2027.

Duly adopted by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council Board on this 24th day of March 2022.

SIGNED: 

Kristin Dozier, Chair

ATTEST: 

Chris Rietow, Executive Director
ATTACHMENT A-5

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Local Partnerships. Regional Impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 – 4

A RESOLUTION OF THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
RECOMMENDING A COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR
FOR LEON COUNTY TO THE
FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is the designated official planning agency for
the Transportation Disadvantaged program in Leon County; and

WHEREAS, as part of their statutory duty must recommend to the Florida Commission for the
Transportation Disadvantaged a Community Transportation Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council has considered the need to supply services
under this program that best meet the demand in a cost-effective and cost-efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the existing Memorandum of Agreement between the Florida Commission for the
Transportation Disadvantaged and the current Community Transportation Coordinator expires
on June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, City of Tallahassee – Star Metro, has proven itself to be a highly effective Community
Transportation Coordinator for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, City of Tallahassee – Star Metro, is knowledgeable of the available resources,
demands, and needs of the transportation disadvantaged; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Apalachee Regional Planning Council recommends
to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that Star Metro, be retained as
the Community Transportation Coordinator in Leon County for a five-year period beginning July
1, 2022, through June 30, 2027.

Duly adopted by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council Board
on this 24th day of March 2022.

SIGNED:

Kristin Dozier, Chair

ATTEST:

Chris Rietow, Executive Director

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ATTACHMENT A-6

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Local Partnerships. Regional Impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 – 5

A RESOLUTION OF THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL RECOMMENDING A COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR FOR LIBERTY COUNTY TO THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is the designated official planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged program in Liberty County; and

WHEREAS, as part of their statutory duty must recommend to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged a Community Transportation Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council has considered the need to supply services under this program that best meet the demand in a cost-effective and cost-efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the existing Memorandum of Agreement between the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the current Community Transportation Coordinator expires on June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Liberty County Board of County Commissioners, d.b.a Liberty Transit has proven itself to be a highly effective Community Transportation Coordinator for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, Liberty County Board of County Commissioners, d.b.a Liberty Transit is knowledgeable of the available resources, demands, and needs of the transportation disadvantaged; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Apalachee Regional Planning Council recommends to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that the Liberty County Board of Commissioners be retained as the Community Transportation Coordinator in Liberty County for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2027.

Duly adopted by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council Board on this 24th day of March 2022.

SIGNED:

[Signature]
Kristin Dozier, Chair

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Chris Rietow, Executive Director

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ATTACHMENT A-7

ARPC ADOPTING RESOLUTION 22-6

The undersigned authorized representative of Apalachee Regional Planning Council (the "Employer") hereby certifies that the following resolutions were duly adopted by the Employer on March 24, 2022, and that such resolutions have not been modified or rescinded as of the date hereof:

RESOLVED, that Apalachee Regional Planning Council 401(k) Plan effective January 1, 2016 (the "Plan"); presented to this meeting is hereby approved and adopted and that an authorized representative of the Employer is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to the Administrator of the Plan one or more counterparts of the Plan documents.

RESOLVED, that the Employer hereby approves and adopts the Participant Loan Program attached hereto, the terms of which have been amended effective January 1, 2016, as an addendum to the Plan, designed and intended to comply with the Department of Labor Regulations. Notwithstanding any changes to the Participant Loan Program, any existing loans will continue to be governed by the policies in place at the time such loans were made.

RESOLVED, that the appropriate officers are authorized, empowered and directed to do all acts and things necessary or desirable to effectuate the actions authorized herein.

The undersigned further certifies that attached hereto are true copies of the Plan, the Summary Plan Description, the Qualified Domestic Relations Order Procedure and the Funding Policy and Method which are hereby approved and adopted.

Date: March 24, 2022

Signed: [Signature]

Kristin Dozier, Chair
[print name/title]
AGENDA ITEM 6

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Chris Rietow

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

I. *Financial Reports: Included in the Board Packet are the following items for Board review and approval:

   A. March 2022 Financial Report
      o March 2022 Budget / Expenditure Report

   B. April 2022 Financial Report
      o April 2022 Budget / Expenditure Report

   C. FY 2021/2122 Summary
      o FY 2021/2022 Total Revenue / Expense Summary

II. *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.

III. *ARPC Executive Committee Update: May 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

IV. Lower ACF Rivers Project Funding Request Support Letter: Update on the letter of support to the Region’s congressional delegation.

   ACTIONS NEEDED

   o *Motion to approve the Financial Report for March and April 2022.

   o *Motion to approve ARPC Resolution No. 22-09
      (Agenda Item 6 – b – 5, Transportation Planning Program).

   o * Motion to ratify actions by the ARPC Executive Committee resulting from the May 12, 2022 ARPC Executive Committee meeting.
### Apalachee Regional Planning Council

**Budget Report as of 3/31/22**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE-ITEM</th>
<th>FY 21/22 Draft Budget</th>
<th>March 2022</th>
<th>FY-To-Date as of 3/31/22 Budget Balance</th>
<th>Budget Used</th>
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<td><strong>General Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>25,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<td>19,600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leon County Exercise</td>
<td>48,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakulla CDBG Risk</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Emergency Planning Contracts</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>3,726,000</td>
<td>146,128.73</td>
<td>1,453,139.39</td>
<td>2,272,861</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **General Expenses** |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries | 1,100,000 | 92,160.00 | 578,810.00 | 521,190 | 53% |
| Fringe Benefits (FICA, CHP & FRS) | 330,000 | 24,291.16 | 172,472.92 | 157,527 | 52% |
| Travel | 50,000 | 2,597.88 | 20,751.62 | 29,248 | 42% |
| Consultants (Contract Required) | 1,895,000 | 3,230.00 | 533,232.50 | 1,361,768 | 28% |
| Accounting | 1,000 | - | 412.00 | 588 | 41% |
| Advertising | 4,000 | 699.65 | 1,497.81 | 2,502 | 37% |
| Audit | 25,000 | 6,500.00 | 33,000.00 | (8,000) | 132% |
| Board Meeting Expenses | 3,000 | 105.24 | 230.24 | 2,770 | 8% |
| Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI & Other) | 25,000 | - | 16,952.50 | 12,048 | 58% |
| Equipment Lease - Copiers | 12,000 | 841.99 | 6,040.68 | 5,959 | 50% |
| Insurance (Work Comp, Liability) | 20,000 | 5,310.19 | 17,637.57 | 2,362 | 88% |
| IT Tech Support & Equipment | 30,000 | 1,300.82 | 14,121.52 | 15,878 | 47% |
| Legal | 5,000 | - | 157.50 | 4,843 | 3% |
| Licenses (REMI) | 6,000 | - | - | 6,000 | 0% |
| Miscellaneous | 500 | - | - | 500 | 0% |
| Office Supplies | 5,000 | 471.12 | 5,022.75 | (23) | 100% |
| Postage | 3,500 | 100.00 | 728.92 | 2,771 | 21% |
| Rent | 57,000 | 4,700.00 | 28,075.00 | 28,925 | 49% |
| Subscriptions & Publications | 500 | 55.99 | 90.64 | 409 | 18% |
| Telephone & Internet | 14,500 | 1,083.17 | 8,367.08 | 6,133 | 58% |
| Contingency & Project Pass-Through | 135,000 | 2,681.52 | 15,538.14 | 119,462 | 12% |

**TOTAL EXPENSES** | 3,726,000 | 146,128.73 | 1,453,139.39 | 2,272,861 | 39% |

| Bal. 3/31/22 | 103,873.70 | 103,873.70 | 3/31/2022 |
| Operating Acct. Balance 3/31/22 | 103,873.70 |
## Apalachee Regional Planning Council

### Budget Report as of 4/30/22

| LINE-ITEM | FY 21/22 General Revenue | FY 21/22 April 2022 | FY-To-Date as of 4/30/22 | Budget Balance | Budget Used%
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| EDA Planning Grant | 70,000 | 17,500.00 | 52,500.00 | 17,500 | 75%
| EDA CARES Planning | 150,000 | 50,000.00 | 150,000.00 | - | 100%
| LegacyRLF - Admin | 20,000 | - | 6,964.52 | 13,035 | 35%
| CARES RLF - Admin | 10,000 | - | 10,819.42 | (819) | 108%
| REVIVE RLF - Admin | 10,000 | 25,000.00 | 27,846.21 | (17,846) | 278%
| FDEM - Hazards Analyses | 23,000 | - | 15,734.14 | 7,266 | 68%
| FDEM - HMEP Planning | 25,000 | - | 20,000.00 | 5,000 | 80%
| FDEM - HMEP Training | 25,000 | - | 17,062.00 | 7,938 | 68%
| FDEM - LEP Support Staff | 80,000 | - | 19,600.00 | 60,400 | 25%
| Leon County Exercise | 48,000 | - | - | 48,000 | 0%
| Wakulla CDBG Risk | 75,000 | - | - | 75,000 | 0%
| Small Emergency Planning Contracts | 10,000 | 4,334.00 | 4,334.00 | 5,666 | 43%
| EPA - Brownfield | 80,000 | - | 3,892.50 | 76,108 | 5%
| NFWF Franklin 98 - Admin | 200,000 | - | 70,836.46 | 129,164 | 35%
| NFWF Franklin 98 - Project | 1,500,000 | - | 524,670.00 | 975,330 | 35%
| FDEP - SQG | 35,000 | - | - | 35,000 | 0%
| Small Environmental Contracts | 10,000 | - | 3,000.00 | 7,000 | 30%
| Calhoun HHRP - Admin | 125,000 | 9,200.00 | 61,850.00 | 63,150 | 49%
| Gadsden Housing | 30,000 | - | - | 30,000 | 0%
| Jackson SHIP | 30,000 | - | 14,000.00 | 16,000 | 47%
| Wakulla CDBG Shelter | 75,000 | - | - | 75,000 | 0%
| ARPC County Dies | 70,000 | 19,939.18 | 54,912.18 | 15,088 | 78%
| ARPC Line of Credit | 50,000 | 50,000.00 | 50,000.00 | - | 100%
| Big Bend Healthcare - Admin | 120,000 | - | 65,000.00 | 55,000 | 54%
| CoC - Admin | 30,000 | 2,500.00 | 17,500.00 | 12,500 | 58%
| FRCA - Admin | 60,000 | - | 35,200.00 | 24,800 | 59%
| 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%
| FDEO - Havana RIF | 30,000 | - | - | 30,000 | 0%
| Misc. Small TA Contracts | 40,000 | 2,500.00 | 60,568.45 | (20,568) | 151%
| CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged | 185,000 | - | 42,087.02 | 142,913 | 23%
| FOOT - RideOn | 125,000 | - | 69,714.85 | 55,285 | 56%
| Small Transportation Projects | 10,000 | 3,000.00 | 41,335.72 | (31,336) | 413%
| **TOTAL REVENUE** | **3,776,000** | **183,973.18** | **1,439,427.47** | **2,336,573** | **38%**

### General Expenses

| Expenses | FY 21/22 General Revenue | FY 21/22 April 2022 | FY-To-Date as of 4/30/22 | Budget Balance | Budget Used%
|----------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Salaries | 1,100,000 | 96,137.50 | 674,947.50 | 425,053 | 61%
| Fringe Benefits (FICA, CHP & FRS) | 330,000 | 28,413.57 | 200,886.49 | 129,114 | 61%
| Travel | 50,000 | 2,296.80 | 23,048.42 | 26,952 | 46%
| Consultants (Contract Required) | 1,855,000 | 13,940.00 | 547,172.50 | 1,347,282 | 29%
| Accounting | 1,000 | 912.35 | 1,324.35 | (324) | 132%
| Advertising | 4,000 | 2,227.70 | 3,725.51 | 274 | 93%
| Audit | 25,000 | 16,500.00 | 49,500.00 | (24,500) | 198%
| ARPC Line of Credit | 50,000 | - | - | - | 0%
| Board Meeting Expenses | 3,000 | 42.70 | 272.94 | 2,727 | 9%
| Dues (FRCA, NADO, SERDI & Other) | 29,000 | 10,600.00 | 27,552.50 | 1,448 | 95%
| Equipment Lease - Copiers | 12,000 | 1,062.71 | 7,103.39 | 4,897 | 59%
| Insurance (Work Comp, Liability) | 20,000 | 1,500.00 | 19,137.57 | 862 | 96%
| IT Tech Support & Equipment | 30,000 | 2,612.32 | 16,733.84 | 13,266 | 56%
| Legal | 5,000 | - | 157.50 | 4,843 | 3%
| Licenses (REMI) | 6,000 | - | - | 6,000 | 0%
| Miscellaneous | 500 | - | - | 500 | 0%
| Office Supplies | 5,000 | 691.49 | 5,714.24 | (714) | 114%
| Postage | 3,500 | 100.00 | 828.92 | 2,671 | 24%
| Rent | 57,000 | 4,700.00 | 32,775.00 | 24,225 | 58%
| Subscriptions & Publications | 500 | 22.00 | 112.64 | 387 | 23%
| Telephone & Internet | 14,500 | 1,090.69 | 9,457.77 | 5,042 | 65%
| Contingency & Project Pass-Through | 135,000 | 44,311.77 | 59,849.91 | 75,150 | 44%
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **3,776,000** | **227,161.60** | **1,680,300.99** | **2,045,699** | **44%**

| Bal. 4/30/22 | 60,685.28 | 60,685.28 | 4/30/2022 |

<p>| Operating Acct. Balance 4/30/22 | 60,685.28 |</p>
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<th>Line Item</th>
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<td>Revenue &amp; Expenses 21/22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General Revenue</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>4/22</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Legacy RLF - Admin</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CARES RLF - Admin</strong></td>
<td>$10,819.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVIVE RLF - Admin</strong></td>
<td>$27,846.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FDEM - Hazards Analyses</strong></td>
<td>$15,734.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FDEM - HMEP Planning</strong></td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FDEM - HMEP Training</strong></td>
<td>$17,062.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FDEM - LEPC Support Staff</strong></td>
<td>$19,600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wakulla CDBG Risk</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leon County Exercise</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Small Emergency Planning Contracts</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Gadsden Housing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Big Bend Healthcare - Admin</strong></td>
<td>$65,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CoC - Admin</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FRCA - Admin</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FDEO - St. Marks Competitive FL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FDEO - Liberty Broadband</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FDEO - Wakulla Broadband</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FDEO - Havana RIF</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Misc. Small TA Contracts</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FDOT - RideOn</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Salaries</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Licenses (REMI)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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**AGENDA ITEM 6 – b – 1**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / COMMUNITY PLANNING PROGRAM**
Caroline Smith – Sharrand Pinder

**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**
ARPC staff began activities related to the five (5) year re-write of the Apalachee Region’s *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)*, which will cover the years 2022 through 2027. The final CEDS will be informed by input from the CEDS Committee.

To create a CEDS that is representative of the Region and in-line with regional needs and assets, ARPC staff seek to expand the existing CEDS Committee. Anyone interested in joining the CEDS Committee may contact Caroline Smith, ARPC Economic Development Manager, at csmith@arpc.org for more information and to become a member of the CEDS Committee.

**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**
ARPC staff continue to work on grant activities and will finalize *Economic Development Plans* for the two participating cities—St. Marks and Bristol—by end of June 2022.

*Above: Image taken for virtual tour as part of the Bristol Competitive Florida Partnership Project.*
FL DEO Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) Grant
ARPC staff are actively working with the Florida State University (FSU) Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) studio group to create broadband feasibility studies for both Liberty and Wakulla counties. These projects are funded by grants through the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Rural Infrastructure Fund. ARPC staff and FSU will continue the partnership through summer 2022.

Partnership with University of Florida (UF)’s Shimberg Center for Housing Studies
The ARPC and UF Shimberg Center recently partnered with The Data Center, based in Louisiana, on a grant application to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS)’s Gulf Research Program under the following funding opportunity: *Bridging Knowledge to Action – Using Data to Develop Equitable Outcomes or Solutions to Climate Hazards and Other Disasters*. The joint proposal was entitled “Democratizing Data for Equitable Recovery,” which was selected for funding. ARPC staff currently await the contract and scope of work so that grant activities may begin.

Recent Conference Participation
ARPC staff from the ARPC Economic Development Program helped plan and facilitate the recent 850 Industrial Hemp Summit in Tallahassee. ARPC staff also served as a panelist at the RIDER Center’s recent conference in Tallahassee, entitled “Bridging Resilience Divides: Technology, Transportation, and Communications,” in April 2022.

Recent Grant Applications
ARPC staff submitted two applications on behalf of the ARPC Region to the DEO Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) Grant. One application is for a broadband planning project and the second application relates to transportation planning and traffic counts. Grant awards will likely be announced in summer 2022.

*Right: Cover page of CPTA grant application for regional broadband planning project, FY 2022-2023.*
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 January 2022 ARPC Board meeting, the program has maintained local government and regional support and assistance in the following areas:

- Liberty County Communications Infrastructure Plan
- Rural Recreational Economy Alliance (RREA) Prospectus Development
- Community Planning Technical Assistance 2022/2023 Grant Application

Liberty County Communications Infrastructure Plan
In performing the scope of work for a FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) grant, the ARPC has prepared a draft countywide Communications Infrastructure Plan that is currently under review by the FL DEO. The ARPC has facilitated three (3) stakeholder workshops and supplemental meetings with FL DEO staff and their communications consultant. The work effort began this past January and will be completed by June 30, 2022.

Liberty County Emergency Management Services and other county departments rely upon two (2) main towers for radio communication signal transmission. One tower is located on Highway 20, east of Bristol; and the second tower is located just west of Sumatra near the southern county line border.

Left: Base of the Sumatra tower and its sheltered equipment frame.
Map 1, below, identifies the existing coverage area of the Bristol and Sumatra towers. The current radii of the towers’ coverage areas show that with current equipment, the Bristol Tower has a range of approximately thirteen (13) miles. This is based on the experience of weak or total signal loss by Liberty County emergency services as they travel south along SR 65. Beyond this range, the Bristol tower’s radio communication signal transmission is consistently either lost or interrupted. With Sumatra’s tower operating at approximately half the capacity of the Bristol tower (approx. 6 miles as compared to Bristol’s 13 miles), an approximate twelve (12) to thirteen (13) mile gap exists between the coverage areas of the two (2) towers. The draft plan provided through this grant project is designed to (1) identify strategies for closing this gap in coverage, and (2) to update and upgrade the equipment needed to meet the County’s needs.

Map 1: Existing Radio Towers and Estimated Coverage Area
As stated in the January 2022 ARPC Board Package, updating and enhancing Liberty County’s communication infrastructure is consistent with the primary goals and objectives of the Liberty County Long-Term Recovery Plan, which was written after the devastation resulting 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.

Rural Recreational Economy Alliance (RREA) – Prospectus Development

The RREA is a regional working group established to support long-term recovery from Hurricane Michael. Originally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided support to six (6) cities in the Florida Panhandle with a technical assistance effort called the Recovery and Resiliency Partnership Project (R3P2). As discussed in previous reports, participating jurisdictions in our Region included the cities of Chattahoochee, Marianna, and Quincy.

Work efforts continue to develop 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 Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) are providing capacity support for RREA to guide activities in the development of the prospectus in close coordination with city leadership and the RREA participants. The ARPC has been assisting in finalizing the list of regional recreational investment opportunities to highlight in the prospectus document. The draft prospectus document is anticipated to be completed by the end of May.

Above: Focal points of redevelopment and investment identified within the City of Chattahoochee.
Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) 2022/2023 Grant Application: Regional Site Selection Traffic Profile Database

To enhance ARPC’s ongoing support of the Economic Development Organizations (EDOs) within the nine-county Region, the ARPC has submitted a proposal to the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to use a 2022-2023 CPTA grant to design and construct a Regional Site Selection Traffic Profile Database. The primary objective of this project is to design and construct a database that will provide our regional EDOs with enhanced information for reporting the historical, existing, and projected traffic volume characteristics near prospective sites targeted for economic development, business retention and expansion, and business/industry attraction in the Apalachee Region.

Using the most recent available data from the FL Dept. of Transportation’s (FDOT) traffic monitoring system of portable and telemetered traffic monitoring sites, the proposed database would provide summary data and analyses in graphic form (i.e. maps, charts, graphs, tables, etc.) that will be made available on the ARPC’s web-based geographic information systems (GIS) platform, Apalachee Online (http://www.apalacheeonline.org/). For each traffic monitoring site selected, a traffic profile would provide the following characteristics (at a minimum):

- Daily traffic with hourly traffic volume profile graphics to clearly identify peak periods
- Seasonal variation graphics to identify estimated daily volume during peak traffic months
- Weekday vs. weekend traffic volumes (only available at telemetered sites)
- Truck traffic vs. passenger vehicle traffic
- Traffic projections based on historical data

Of the 876 FDOT traffic monitoring sites in the Region, this project proposes to prepare summary analyses and graphic profiles for 500 sites. Locations will be prioritized based on proximity to designated Opportunity Zones and tracts identified in the Strategic Sites Inventory (SSI) assessment conducted and completed by Leotta Location + Design in 2017 in partnership with:

- FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity
- Gulf Power
- Duke Energy
- Florida Power & Light
- Enterprise Florida
- Florida Economic Development Council
- Participating EDOs:
  - Opportunity Florida
  - North Florida Economic Development Partnership
  - Florida Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity
  - Florida’s Great Northwest
The remaining sites will be selected based on proximity to catalyst sites and areas primed for economic development and zoned for commercial or industrial land uses and/or designated as such on a Future Land Use Map.

Based on discussions with regional EDO representatives, this detailed deep-dive profiling of FDOT traffic data will be an invaluable component to assess the competitiveness of a site for potential development. Preparing this database also affords the ARPC an opportunity to evaluate and explore additional applications for the rich data collected annually by FDOT.
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 March 2, 2022, at the Tallahassee Fire Training Division. During the meeting, the LEPC membership discussed the activities that occurred during the previous quarter, as well as future training and exercise opportunities. The next LEPC meeting will be in June of 2022. The location has yet to be determined.

Hazardous Materials Training
The following training sessions were distributed virtually in the Region over the past quarter:
- Ethanol Safety & Steel Drum 101 (TRANSCAER)
- Ethanol Training & Emergency Response (TRANSCAER)
- Steel Drum 101 Webinar for First Responders, Train-the-Trainer (TRANSCAER)
- Ethanol Emergency Response - Train the Trainer Webinar (TRANSCAER)

The following trainings were held in the Apalachee LEPC district since the last ARPC Board meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/04/22</td>
<td>4-Hr HazMat Awareness</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following trainings are scheduled to be held in the Apalachee LEPC region during this quarter:
- Detection and Rapid Analysis of Hazardous Materials – June 29, 2022
- Rail Car Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol & Other Flammable Liquids – June 13, 2022

Hazard Analysis
ARPC staff completed the second deliverable of the 2021-2022 Hazard Analysis Contract. This includes performing approximately thirty (30) 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.
Commodity Flow Study
As part of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant, ARPC staff continues the 2022 Apalachee LEPC Commodity Flow Study. This is a transportation flow study of the hazardous materials shipped through the nine-county district. The information collected will be added to the 2022 LEPC Regional Hazardous Material Response Plan and will provide first responders details as to the most commonly shipped hazardous materials through the Region.

Liberty County HazMat Tabletop Exercise
On March 23, 2022, in coordination with Liberty County Emergency Management, LEPC staff facilitated a hazardous material tabletop exercise. The exercise scenario was developed to involve a chlorine release in the City of Bristol. There were over five (5) agencies represented, including state and local entities.

Big Bend Healthcare Coalition (BBHCC)
ARPC staffs the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition (BBHCC), which held its most recent general membership meeting on March 7, 2022, with more than fifty (50) participants from throughout the Region. During the meeting, the National Weather Service in Tallahassee provided an update on the forecast for the Spring Season and a preliminary hurricane season forecast. The next BBHCC general membership meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2022.

The BBHCC continues to support its regional healthcare partners through regional plan development, training and exercise opportunities, and member project programs.

Plans Under Development
The BBHCC is currently developing several regional plans, including a Burn Surge Plan, Crisis Standard of Care Plan, Shelter-in-Place Plan, and Evacuation Plan. All plans serve as guides to the healthcare community for emergency preparedness and response.

Training and Exercises
On April 4, 2022, the BBHCC took part in the Florida Infectious Disease Transportation Network (FIDTN) exercise. The FIDTN plan was developed after the Ebola crisis in 2014, and the purpose of this event was to exercise the FIDTN plan. BBHCC Coordinator Christian Levings was present, playing a member of the Incident Command Team at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital.

On April 13, 2022, the BBHCC leveraged a FEMA Burn Surge Virtual Tabletop Exercise (VTTX) in order to exercise the recently updated Burn Surge Annex. Along with BBHCC staff, members of regional hospitals, EMS, Fire Rescue, Emergency Management, and the FL Dept. of Health all participated to exercise the plan. The VTTX was a success and provided valuable insights for future updates to the Burn Surge Annex.
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 includes an outreach component to inform the public of the potential impacts. The project is scheduled to begin in May 2022 and should take approximately eighteen (18) months to complete.

Leon County Sheriff’s Office Family Reunification Exercise – “Operation Timberwolf”
On May 6, 2022, Operation Timberwolf was held at the Leon County Sheriff’s Office Juvenile Assessment center. This family reunification tabletop exercise was the result of six (6) months of planning efforts centered around a reunification plan that will allow Leon County Schools to recover from incidents involving active threat(s)/criminal mass casualty events, and for law enforcement to respond and coordinate the debriefing, evidence collection, and reunification process quickly and effectively. Forty-two (42) participants attended, with over ten agencies represented, and the information revealed in the exercise will help inform the full-scale family reunification exercise that will be held in July.
ARPC Legacy RLF
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 04/30/22, there are thirteen (13) active loans in the ARPC Legacy RLF and there is approximately $67,046.14 in unobligated funds available for lending in 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 – 4b

REVERSING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT
CARES Act 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 with gap financing to help them survive and recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Beginning with a balance of $580,000, all of the CARES Act funds have been disbursed, thus meeting the June 2022 deadline stipulated by the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

New Loan Applications
No new loan applications have been received for the CARES Act RLF.

Approved Loan Applications
The Executive Committee has not approved any CARES Act RLF loan applications since the last meeting.

Recent Loan Closings

Chef Shac, LLC
$24,000 loan closed on March 24, 2022

Seafood, Wings And Things (SWAT), LLC
$40,000 loan closed on March 31, 2022

Summary Status
As of 04/30/22, there are thirteen (13) active loans in the ARPC CARES Act RLF and there is approximately $45,794.54 in unobligated funds available for lending in the CARES Act RLF. Currently, the main priorities for ARPC staff regarding the CARES Act RLF is to service the existing loans and provide technical assistance (upon request) to the CARES Act RLF borrowers.
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/Tallahassee. As of 04/30/22, there are seven (7) active loans in the REVIVE! RLF and there is approximately $458,765.52 available for lending.

New Loan Applications
ARPC staff is directing full attention toward promoting the program to women- and minority-owned business owners in Leon County/Tallahassee and guiding loan applicants through the REVIVE! RLF loan application process.

Approved Loan Applications
The ARPC Executive Committee approved two (2) REVIVE! RLF loans (totaling $115,000) at their most recent meeting, which occurred on May 12, 2022.

Table 1. Newly Approved REVIVE! Revolving Loan Fund Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Loan Amt</th>
<th>Loan Closed in</th>
<th>Purpose of Loan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wall Doctors Plastering, LLC</td>
<td>Leon</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>June 2022*</td>
<td>To use as working capital and to make security improvements to their business property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Business Services, Inc.</td>
<td>Leon</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>June 2022*</td>
<td>To use as working capital to assist in hiring additional staff and renovating their new office space.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Anticipated closing date

**Wall Doctors Plastering, LLC:** The ARPC has approved a loan of $15,000 to Shaunke’ Barber, owner and manager of Wall Doctors Plastering, LLC, a Tallahassee-based family and minority-owned business that has been in operation for thirty-seven (37) years. While the business is established in Leon County, Wall Doctors Plastering, LLC also provides commercial drywall/sheetrock repair and installation services in Wakulla, Franklin, and Gulf counties. The loan proceeds will be used for working capital and towards the purchase of a new plaster sprayer. The loan will allow the business to retain its twelve (12) existing full-time jobs and with the continued growth currently being experienced in Tallahassee’s commercial construction market, the business anticipates being able to add another (3) full-time jobs at the end of twelve (12) months.
Community Business Services, Inc.: The ARPC has approved a loan of $100,000 to ReShaye Greenlee, President of Community Business Services (CBS), Inc. a Tallahassee-based minority- and family-operated bookkeeping company serving small business owners in Leon County and the Big Bend Region. For over thirty (30) years, CBS, Inc. has been providing business-support services to minority small businesses and individuals in Leon County.

The mission of CBS, Inc. is to serve as a minority business accelerator; that is, a one-stop shop for all business consulting needs for minority small business owners in Tallahassee. CBS, Inc. provides tax preparation services, payroll services, business profit and loss evaluations, IRS representation, business consulting and a host of other accounting and planning services, including audits, financial statement preparation, and financial application preparation services (i.e., rental assistance, unemployment assistance, SBA and other loans, and State and local MWBE certification applications).

The loan proceeds will be used for working capital to assist in hiring additional staff and renovating their new office space. The loan will allow CBS, Inc. to retain its three (3) full-time employees, three (3) part-time employees, and (4) seasonal employees. The funds will also enable the company to hire and train additional staff to meet the business needs of its growing client base.
Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program
ARPC staff has completed and billed for all third quarter TD deliverables for FY 2021-2022. ARPC staff is now gearing up for the fourth quarter meetings of the TD Local Coordinating Boards in all nine (9) counties. Items on this quarter’s agenda include the Annual Evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator and adoption of the TD Service Plan, in addition to a review of the quarterly reports. Meetings are open to the public and 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>JUNE 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>7 Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM CT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>8 Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM ET</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadsden</td>
<td>16 Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM ET</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf</td>
<td>8 Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM ET</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>7 Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM CT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>16 Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM ET</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon</td>
<td>15 Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM ET</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>7 Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 PM ET</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakulla</td>
<td>15 Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM ET</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TD Planning Grant Allocation for Fiscal Year 2022-2023:
The ARPC will again be continuing their role of the Designated Official Planning Agency for its nine member counties. The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) has issued its Planning Grant Funding Allocations for FY 22-23, which are listed below in Table 2:

Table 2: Annual TD Planning Grant funds by County (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>$20,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>$20,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadsden</td>
<td>$20,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf</td>
<td>$20,294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The proposed ARPC Resolution 22-09, included at the end of the Transportation Planning Program section, is required by the CTD and authorizes the ARPC Executive Director to execute the FY 22-23 TD Planning Grant Agreements for the counties listed above.

**ACTION NEEDED**

Motion to approve ARPC Resolution 22-09.

**Best Workplaces for Commuters (BWC)**

BWC is an innovative membership program that provides national recognition to employers who offer outstanding commuter benefits for their employees. Mr. Richard Rind, Director of Transportation and Parking Services at Florida State University, received this recognition on the behalf of FSU at the March 2022 ARPC Board Meeting. The application cycle for this year’s BWC list will open again this summer.

*Left: Mr. Richard Rind, FSU, accepting the BWC award from ARPC staff member S, Pat Maurer.*

**Regional Commuter Assistance Program**

*RideOn Commuter Services* is the Regional Commuter Assistance Program for the FL Dept. 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 services, and other regional partners. To follow *RideOn* activities and events, visit Facebook at: [https://www.facebook.com/RideOnTogether](https://www.facebook.com/RideOnTogether); download the *RideOn* App; or visit the website at: [www.RideOnTogether.org](http://www.RideOnTogether.org).

ARPC/RideOn staff member, Pat Maurer, was invited as a guest speaker to present at the regional 3rd quarter TD meetings. Ms. Maurer presented an overview of the Commuter Assistance Program and held discussions with the various stakeholders about current needs and potential partnerships. Staff is eager to present at any community events, including Board of County Commission meetings, to help inform folks about the program and share available resources available to them through this program.
Calhoun Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting

*RideOn* was a sponsor for the Calhoun Chamber of Commerce gathering on March 31, 2022. Pat Maurer, ARPC staff member, hosted the *RideOn* Exhibitor Booth, where she provided program information and offered incentive items to over two hundred (200) event attendees.

*Right: RideOn booth at the Calhoun Chamber of Commerce event.*

Leon Works Expo

CareerSource and the Office of Economic Vitality hosted their annual education and jobs fair at the Civic Center in Tallahassee on April 22, 2022. ARPC/RideOn staff spoke with hundreds of students who came to investigate their options for the future. The event also provided *RideOn* staff with the opportunity to network with local employers/institutions.

Additional Program Area Information

ARPC staff has been working with the Gadsden County Planning Department to help update the Transportation Element of their Comprehensive Plan. To date, ARPC staff has held two (2) community meetings and performed a comprehensive analysis of Gadsden County’s transportation system. The next step will be for ARPC staff to provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for approval and inclusion of their work within the county’s Comprehensive Plan update.

*Pat Maurer, ARPC staff member, attended a recent FDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Elementary Safety Education training session to receive her certification to coordinate ‘Bike Safety Rodeos,’ which qualifies her to check-out a Leon County-maintained trailer of bikes and training stations and host educational sessions. She can also obtain free workbooks and training materials from the Bike Ped Resource Center at the University of Florida.*

Finally, Mr. Eastberg and Ms. Maurer continue to serve on the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)’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.
ARPC RESOLUTION No. 22-09

A RESOLUTION of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (hereafter referred to as the "BOARD") hereby authorizes the filing and execution of a Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant Agreement with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

WHEREAS, the BOARD is eligible to receive a Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant and to undertake a transportation disadvantaged service project as authorized by Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code.

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

1. The BOARD has the authority to enter into this grant agreement.

2. The BOARD authorizes Chris Rietow, Executive Director, to execute the grant agreement, amendments, warranties, certifications, and any other documents which may be required in connection with the agreement on behalf of the Board acting as the Designated Official Planning Agency for Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

3. The BOARD'S Registered Agent in Florida is Chris Rietow, Executive Director. The Registered Agent's address: is 2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF MAY 2022

BY THE: APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

____________________________  ATTEST: ______________________________
Kristin Dozler                           Chris Rietow
ARPC Chair                              Executive Director
Franklin-98 (F-98) Living Shoreline Resiliency Project
The Franklin-98 (F-98) Shoreline Resiliency Project has received the Environmental Resource Permit needed from the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit is expected at the end of the month. The 90% designs for the project area are now complete as well. Once the USACE permit is issued, 100% designs will be finalized and contractors solicited.

Above: An example of the proposed project footprint along HWY-98.
**Apalachee Strong – Resilience Collaborative**

The Regional Vulnerability Assessment (VA) is underway. Halff Associates, Inc. was awarded the contract for helping to complete the VA and the firm is underway completing work in the Region. Because of a shortened timeline, a selection of categories for critical infrastructure is being pulled for each of the ARPC counties, and a matrix of costs is being developed for damages associated with coastal and inland flooding.

Rainfall data has been gathered and is being incorporated into GIS models that will reflect scenarios for 2040 and 2070 planning horizons. To keep data standardized across the Region, the data that was utilized came from existing state sources, though additional data was collected from counties and municipalities. This data is being stored by FDEP for future studies, and the resulting datasets produced by this project will be publicly available for ARPC constituent counties to use for individual VAs.

**Wakulla County Community Rating System**

The ARPC has begun working on a FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) project for Wakulla County that will evaluate making changes to the program that handles the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Currently, documents are being gathered and reviewed in preparation of a gap analysis that will inform the County of shared information in existing plans, and identify areas that still need to be addressed.
Community Asset Mapping: City of Bristol and City of St. Marks
ARPC staff recently developed two (2) interactive story maps presenting aerial videos and stills of community assets located in the City of Bristol (Liberty County) and the City of St. Marks (Wakulla County). A drone was used to capture the aerial shots that were used in the interactive platform.

The interactive story maps for each city can be viewed using these links:
- The Historic City of St. Marks: https://arcg.is/080mnX
- Beautiful Bristol: https://arcg.is/1nyWii

Above: A screen shot of the story map showcasing aerial views of identified natural, commercial, industrial, and historical/cultural assets of the City of St. Marks, Wakulla County.

Above: A screen shot of the story map showcasing the aerial views of identified natural, commercial, industrial, and historical/cultural assets of the City of Bristol, Liberty County.
Transportation Mapping
ARPC staff provided cartographic and traffic data analyses in developing various transportation maps and traffic safety spatial analysis for Gadsden County. The maps are included in the *Transportation Element* of the County’s *Comprehensive Plan*.

Above: Pedestrian and bicycle crashes in Gadsden County. Data Source: *Signal Four Analytics* | University of Florida

Above, Left: A heat map showing the locations where employment opportunities are concentrated in Gadsden County. Data Source: *On the Map* | US Census Bureau

Above, Right: A heat map showing the concentration of jobs in relation to where workers live in Gadsden County. Data Source: *On the Map* | US Census Bureau
Above: This map depicts the annual average daily traffic in Gadsden County.

Data Source: InfoBridge | US Department of Transportation | Federal Highway Administration

Above: This map depicts the conditions (poor, fair, good) of bridges in Gadsden County.

Data Source: InfoBridge | US Department of Transportation | Federal Highway Administration
Above: This map presents the route services provided by Big Bend Transit in Gadsden County.
Data Source: Big Bend Transit: [http://www.bigbendtransit.org/](http://www.bigbendtransit.org/)

Above: This map illustrates the railroad network and major airport in Gadsden County.
Data Source: Florida Department of Transportation
Emergency Management Mapping
ARPC staff provided technical assistance in editing the School Floor Plan of Godby High School in Tallahassee, FL. New information incorporated into the floorplan include Entrance and Exit arrows, a first aid-station area, and the assignment of buildings, which will be used for the Operation Timberwolf Family Reunification exercise.

Above: Updated floor plan for Godby High School.

Wakulla Community Rating System
ARPC staff generated storm surge models for Wakulla County for each of the five (5) hurricane categories, showing the maximum storm surge depth in feet. See map, below.

Above: Hurricane CAT 1 storm surge model for Wakulla County.
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 2018. Initially, ninety-eight (98) residents were conditionally approved to receive housing assistance under the HHRP. Fifty-six (56) residents were officially approved with a total of eighteen (18) projects in progress and thirty-eight (38) projects that have 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 twenty-one (21) total residents in Calhoun County. These projects are inclusive of the following strategies:

- One (1) Land Acquisition and Construction
- Five (5) Rehabilitation projects
- Twelve (12) new Mobile Home purchases that are representative of all Commission Districts.

The mobile home purchases are being completed by working with both U.S. 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.

ARPC staff and the Calhoun BoCC are especially appreciative of the contractors who have performed rehabilitation and repair work on these homes. Throughout the program, ARPC staff has maintained a list of six (6) qualified contractors who have been awarded bids.
The HHRP in Calhoun County completed a pre-bid conference/contractor walkthrough on May 5, 2022. Five (5) homes for rehabilitation were included and five (5) contractors attended. Bids are due May 26, 2022 by noon in the Calhoun County Clerk of Courts office.

**Calhoun County State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP)**

Calhoun County receives an annual allocation of $350,000 from the Sadowski Trust Fund (Florida Housing Finance Corporation) to assist residents in addressing housing repairs that impact life, safety, and code. The program also serves as a vehicle to assist first-time home buyers with closing costs, as well as residents who have fallen behind on mortgage payments and are at-risk for foreclosure (Foreclosure Prevention Program).

Housing staff has been working diligently to continue providing housing assistance to Calhoun residents who qualify for SHIP. The process for applying has been refined and now includes a prescreening questionnaire prior to receiving an application. Staff also finalized an update to the Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP) and submitted the draft to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. Among other clarifications, a major update included an increase in the amount of the Purchase Assistance award (First Time Homebuyer strategy). Based on income and household size, applicants are eligible to receive $5,000 (moderate income), $10,000 (low income), and $15,000 (very low income). The award amounts were previously $2,500 (moderate income), $5,000 (low income), and $7,500 (very low income).
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 (CBDG-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 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 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.

The agreement for the Shelter Plan was fully executed on December 13, 2021, and work is in progress toward completing deliverables. The first deliverable is due in June. ARPC staff attended the Shelter Coordination Meeting hosted by the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office on March 7, 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the County’s current use of shelters and explore the feasibility of additional, potential shelter sites. This discussion will aid in the completion of the first deliverable, which is to identify and assess current and potential shelter sites in order to develop a coordination strategy. Stakeholders provided feedback at public meetings that were held on May 18, 2022 at the Wakulla County Community Center in Crawfordville, and May 23, 2022 at the Panacea Community Center in Panacea. Additional information can be found in *The Wakulla News* and on the county’s website.

Jackson County State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP)

Since July 2021, 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. Notably, Jackson County received a boost in their SHIP allocation, increasing their minimum allocation of $350,000 to $464,293.

ARPC staff currently completed a pre-bid conference that included six (6) homes for rehabilitation. Four (4) homes received acceptable bids and were awarded. Additional walk-throughs will take place over the next few months. ARPC staff has also assisted a total of five (5) 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: home ownership!
850 Industrial Hemp 2022 Summit
In the final months leading up to the 850 Industrial Hemp Summit, ARPC staff worked diligently to finalize all remaining details. The Welcome Reception at Oyster City Brewing Company was a huge success, and both Summit attendees and participants enjoyed the opportunity to socialize and network with each other.

The Summit itself went off without a hitch! Not only were the attendees thrilled with the information presented, but the speakers were also more than grateful for the connections established while visiting Tallahassee.

Moving forward, public education remains a top priority. Staff is already coordinating with partners and interested parties to formulate a strategy that leverages the current momentum, and provides further opportunities for regional farmers, entrepreneurs, and the general public to learn about the potential of industrial hemp. Behind the scenes at the Summit, each speaker was asked to answer questions for brief soundbite videos and ARPC staff is eager to utilize this content in future educational and promotional efforts!

“Once again, I want to thank you for making my time at the Hemp Summit-literally from the moment of arrival to departure- so incredibly pleasant. I am grateful for all the connections that I developed as a result of your work, and wish you all the Best. Warm Regards, Tim Callahan”
ARPC General Communications
ARPC staff was responsible for the development and design of all Summit materials, including but not limited to the logo, website, social media graphics, billboards, newspaper advertisements, program, banners, thank you cards, and the media kit. In March, ARPC staff developed and distributed the *March 2022 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.
Item 1. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Dozier called the meeting to order at 10:08 am. As this was a hybrid meeting, the proceedings were digitally recorded via the GoToMeeting platform. Chair Dozier welcomed all attendees and introductions were made around the room.

ARPC Executive Committee Members in Attendance
Kristin Dozier, Chair  Leon County Commissioner
Ricky Jones, Vice-Chair  Franklin County Commissioner
John Jones, Past Chair  City of Monticello Councilman
Jack Porter, COT Representative  City of Tallahassee Commissioner

ARPC Staff in Attendance
Chris Rietow  Executive Director
Monica Pitts  Finance Director
Janice Watson  Past Finance Director
Jana Williams  RLF Manager
Chris Moran  Moran & Smith CPA
Lauren Schlitt  Assistant to Commissioner Porter
Jenna Phillips  Planning Consultant, Cummins Cederberg

Item 2. Approval of Minutes.
A motion was made by Commissioner Jack Porter to approve the Minutes of the February 24, 2022 ARPC Executive Committee Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Jones. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. REVIVE! RLF Applications (Jana Williams)
   a. Wall Doctors Plastering, LLC – Leon County: ARPC staff recommended approval of a loan request for $15,000 from Shaunke’ Barber (owner and manager), amortized for a period of 10 years at 5% interest with a monthly payment of approximately $175.00 to begin on October 1, 2022 and monthly interest-only payments for ninety (90) days beginning July 1, 2022. To serve as collateral for the loan, Mr. Barber is offering a first mortgage on a 0.35-acre residential lot with a 924 sq. ft. mobile home in Leon County (Parcel ID 4124550001760), an assignment of his life insurance policy, and a lien on the new plaster sprayer he intends to purchase with the funding. The loan shall be funded from the REVIVE! RLF.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ricky Jones to approve the REVIVE! RLF loan for Wall Doctors Plastering, LLC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jack Porter. A vote was held, and the motion carried unanimously.
b. Community Business Services (CBS), Inc. – Leon County: ARPC staff recommended approval of a loan request for $100,000 from ReShaye Greenlee (President), amortized for a period of 10 years at six (6) percent interest with a monthly payment of $1,100.00 to begin on October 1, 2022 and monthly interest-only payments for ninety (90) days beginning July 1, 2022. To serve as collateral for the loan, CBS is offering the ARPC a second mortgage on the 8,720 sq ft. commercial building situated on 0.358 acres at 1211 W. Tharpe Street in Tallahassee, Florida (Parcel ID: 2126201380000), which will also serve as the new headquarters for the business. The loan shall be funded from the REVIVE! RLF.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jack Porter to approve the REVIVE! RLF loan for Community Business Services, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Jones. A vote was held, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ricky Jones inquired regarding the dollar amount of the balloon payment that CBS, Inc. is scheduled to pay on Month 60 per their 1211 W. Tharpe Street mortgage agreement. ARPC staff did not know the exact amount, but assured the Executive Committee that they would be supplied with this information within the next week.

Chair Dozier suggested that CBS, Inc. should become a partner with the Alliance of Entrepreneur Resource Organizations (AERO), which is a Tallahassee-based coalition of public agencies and community non-profit organizations united to provide current and new businesses with resources to aid in their success. ARPC staff will follow up with CBS, Inc. regarding this recommendation.

Commissioner Ricky Jones also asked Mr. Rietow if the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) had followed up with the ARPC about the unused funds from Franklin County that could potentially be leveraged as a match for a new revolving loan fund. Mr. Rietow responded that the Franklin County BoCC had not followed up with him just yet, but he had spoken to Greg Vaday, the Florida EDA representative, and Mr. Vaday recommended that the ARPC should continue to demonstrate progress within its CARES Act RLF and Hurricane Michael RLF before applying for a third new revolving loan fund. Mr. Rietow noted that they will likely begin the application process for the Franklin RLF in late summer.

Item 4. FY 2019-20 & 2020-21 Audit Presentations (Chris Moran)
For the record, Chair Dozier first clarified that the reason Mr. Moran performed audits on ARPC bookkeeping for the past two fiscal years rather than the immediate past year is because things understandably fell behind during the unusual circumstances of the COVID lockdown.

Mr. Moran stated that ARPC received clean audit findings for the FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 audits. Mr. Moran added that Ms. Watson retiring from her position as ARPC Financial Director could result in ARPC losing a significant amount of institutional knowledge regarding internal controls. Chair Dozier assured the Executive Committee that she feels confident moving forward with Ms. Pitts as the ARPC’s new Finance Director. Ms. Watson has been training Ms. Pitts for the past six months and she has promised to continue to be a source of information and support to Ms. Pitts beyond retirement. Mr. Rietow seconded his confidence in Ms. Pitts and also mentioned that the other FL Regional Planning Councils can also serve as resources for ARPC staff to lean on.
A motion was made by Commissioner Ricky Jones to accept the ARPC FY 2019-20 audit and the ARPC FY 2020-21 audit, both prepared by Moran & Smith, CPA. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jack Porter. A vote was held, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item 5. Water Resource Investments – ARPC Resolution 22-07**

Mr. Rietow presented to ARPC Resolution 22-07, concerning Water Resource Investments (see Attachment 1), to the Executive Committee. The Resolution’s language originated with the Florida Association of Counties and half of Florida’s Regional Planning Councils have already provided their approval and support. Resolution 22-07 states that efficient investment of sufficient state funding for regional systems in concert with local funding of local systems is needed in order to meet water needs and protect water resources and the environment now and into the future. It notes that a significant roadblock to effectively addressing the water challenges facing Florida is the fractured nature of responsibility for water and the uncoordinated investment of funds to meet constituent needs. Additionally, funding at the state level has been subject to shifting legislative priorities and local perspectives rather than a strategic approach, leading to inefficiencies and a growing backlog of needed infrastructure. Recognizing this situation, the Water and Environmental Sustainability Committee of the Florida Association of Counties is proposing that the state should model its water resource investments off of the approach currently utilized by the Florida Transportation Commission and Florida Transportation Plan for planning, prioritization, a predictable multi-year capital construction program, and oversight.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ricky Jones to approve ARPC Resolutions No. 22-07. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jack Porter. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item 6. 401k Adopting Resolution (Part 2) – ARPC Resolution 22-08**

Mr. Rietow next presented ARPC Resolution 22-08 to the Executive Committee (see Attachment 2), which includes specific retirement provisions and finalizes the reinstatement of the ARPC 401k Plan and its supporting documents as a benefit to ARPC employees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ricky Jones to approve the ARPC Resolution No. 22-08. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jack Porter. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item 7. Other Business**

Mr. Rietow commented that the ARPC Full Council Board Meeting in July is typically the most poorly attended Board meeting of the year. He suggested that unless there are topics that are absolutely necessary to discuss, this meeting should be cancelled. Chair Dozier suggested the idea of pushing the July 2022 meeting to August 2022 and then transitioning to an October 2022/December 2022 ARPC Full Council Board meeting schedule which was positively received by the Executive Committee. Mr. Rietow stated that he would mention these ideas at the next Executive Committee Meeting to determine a final decision.
Mr. Rietow shared with the Executive Committee that he recently executed a lease to re-locate the ARPC offices to the ground-level of office building in which ARPC currently resides. The move is scheduled to occur in October 2022 and Mr. Rietow hopes to host future ARPC Full Council Board Meetings in the large board room located within the new office space.

Commissioner Jack Porter inquired as to whether Mr. Rietow had drafted his template letter of support for ARPC members to sign regarding having the ARPC join the Southern Rail Commission. Mr. Rietow stated that he would finish drafting his template letter within the week and would email it for Executive Committee approval so that ARPC counties and municipalities can begin to sign and send in these letters to the FL Dept. of Transportation.

Finally, Chair Dozier commented that Mr. Rietow and his team did a great job planning and hosting the second 850 Industrial Hemp Summit. Despite the fact that the number of attendees was lower than anticipated, all participants agreed that the Summit contained some of the best programming they had encountered as composed to similar conferences. Chair Dozier suggested that the Executive Committee should spend some time at their next meeting to have a ‘Summit Debriefing’ session and that Commissioner Peacock needs be available so that he can participate.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.

APPROVED BY: THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL BOARD MEETING ON May 26, 2022

SIGNED: ATTEST:

______________________________ ________________________________
Kristin Dozier Chris Rietow
Chair Executive Director
RESOLUTION #22-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SUPPORTING CREATION OF A STATEWIDE COORDINATED PLANNING AND PRIORITIZATION APPROACH FOR WATER RESOURCE INVESTMENTS MODELLED ON THE FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is a multi-purpose regional governmental entity with policy responsibility in the areas of economic development, emergency preparedness, resilience, affordable housing, and regional transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council’s geographical area is comprised of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Jefferson and Wakulla counties and the 28 municipalities contained therein; and

WHEREAS, the inlets, estuaries, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and aquifers of the Region are identified as Natural Resources of Regional Significance in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, a significant roadblock to effectively addressing the water challenges facing Florida is the fractured nature of responsibility for water and the uncoordinated investment of funds to meet our needs; and

WHEREAS, funding at the state level has been subject to shifting legislative priorities and local perspectives rather than a strategic approach, leading to inefficiencies and a growing backlog of needed infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, recognizing this situation, the Water and Environmental Sustainability Committee of the Florida Association of Counties recently proposed modeling state water resource investment on the Florida Transportation Commission and Florida Transportation Plan approach for planning, prioritization, a predictable multi-year capital construction program, and oversight which reliably delivers transportation improvements; and
WHEREAS, coordinated and efficient investment of sufficient state funding for regional systems in concert with local funding of local systems is needed in order to meet water needs and protect water resources and the environment now and into the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL THAT:

Section 1. The above recitals are declared to be true and correct and are hereby made a part of this Resolution.

Section 2. The Council expresses its support for statutory changes that will lead to coordinated and strategic investment of state funds for water resources using a structure modelled on the Florida Transportation Commission and Florida Transportation Plan.

Section 3. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida League of Cities, and all Regional Planning Councils in Florida.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council this 12th day of May 2022.

Kristin Dozier  
Chair

Chris N. Rietow  
Executive Director
ARPC ADOPTING RESOLUTION 22-08

The undersigned authorized representative of Apalachee Regional Planning Council (the “Employer”) hereby certifies that the following resolutions were duly adopted by the Employer on __May 12__, 2022, and that such resolutions have not been modified or rescinded as of the date hereof:

RESOLVED, that Apalachee Regional Planning Council 401(k) Plan effective January 1, 2022 (the “Plan”), presented to this meeting is hereby approved and adopted and that an authorized representative of the Employer is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to the Administrator of the Plan one or more counterparts of the Plan documents.

RESOLVED, that the Employer hereby approves and adopts the Participant Loan Program attached hereto, the terms of which have been amended effective January 1, 2022, as an addendum to the Plan, designed and intended to comply with the Department of Labor Regulations. Notwithstanding any changes to the Participant Loan Program, any existing loans will continue to be governed by the policies in place at the time such loans were made.

RESOLVED, that notwithstanding the Amendment to Implement Hardship Distribution Provisions of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 which has been adopted by the document provider as part of the Newport Group, Inc. Defined Contribution Plan, the Employer desires to amend and supersede said amendment and hereby approves and adopts the Amendment to Implement Hardship Distribution Provisions of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 in the form attached hereto.

RESOLVED, that the appropriate officers are authorized, empowered and directed to do all acts and things necessary or desirable to effectuate the actions authorized herein.

The undersigned further certifies that attached hereto are true copies of the Plan, the Summary Plan Description, the Qualified Domestic Relations Order Procedure and the Funding Policy and Method which are hereby approved and adopted.

Date: May 12, 2022

Signed: Kristin Dozier, Chair

[print name/title]
The Honorable Neal Dunn  
U.S. House of Representatives  
316 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

March 29, 2022  

Dear Congressman Dunn:

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) serves its nine-county Region by assisting with grants, outreach, project implementation, and other planning activities to enhance the nine-county Apalachee Region. Economic development is critical for the Region, especially after the catastrophic devastation from Hurricane Michael in 2018 as well as the impacts of the global pandemic the past two years.

At its January 27, 2022 Board Meeting, Philip Clayton, Executive Director of the TriRivers Waterways Development Association, gave the ARPC Board an impressive presentation on his white paper – Request for Funding for Lock and Spillway Repair and Channel Restoration on the Lower Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) Rivers Project. The presentation focused on potential economic benefits that could be realized in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida if federal funding was dedicated for necessary maintenance repairs of the federal ACF reservoirs. A June 2020 report prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identified that $92 million in funding was needed for repairs and activities at the Walter F. George Dam, the George W. Andrews Dam, and the Jim Woodruff Dam. Additionally, an environmental study and coordination funding is required to examine alternative approaches to channel maintenance and flow augmentation on the lower Chattahoochee and Apalachicola Rivers.

Mr. Clayton’s white paper also included the findings of a preliminary economic benefits study on the restoration of infrastructure and resumption of commercial navigation on the ACF system which showed “...significant economic uplift for southwest Georgia, southeast Alabama, and north Florida.” Based on this information the ARPC Board unanimously approved a motion to send letters to its congressional delegation supporting federal funding for identified repairs while being committed to the environmental health of the entire ACF basin especially when it comes to dredging. Therefore, the ARPC respectfully requests that you support allocation of funding to meet the needs of the much needed and long overdue repairs to the ACF system.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (850) 488-6211 ext. 102 or crietow@arpc.org.

Sincerely,

Chris N. Rietow  
Executive Director
MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: March 2022

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Organized and distributed the February 2022 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter, *FRCA Forward*. Updated the FRCA website and Facebook page.
- Updated the email lists for and maintain the email listserv for approximately 2,350 individuals who receive *FRCA Forward*.
- Maintained and updated the FRCA website: www.flregionalcouncils.org.
- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, organized, participated in or attended the following meetings and webinars:
  - Florida Collaborative Coordinators Forum hosted by the Nature Conservancy
  - Mitigate Florida Quarterly Meeting hosted by the Florida Division of Emergency Management
  - Interagency Coordinating Committee on Hurricanes Virtual Meetings

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Hosted the March FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee (EDAC) and prepared for the April EDAC Meeting and Partners Meeting.
- Coordinated sponsorship of the annual Florida Association of County Conference scheduled for June 28-30, 2022, in Orlando.
- Coordinated sponsorship of the annual Florida League of Cities Conference scheduled for August in Ft. Lauderdale.
- Continued to coordinate logistics for the 2022 meeting and conference schedule.
- Coordinated with the FRCA lobbyist and distributed the final FRCA Bill Report.
- Distributed grant opportunities and information of interest from local, state and national organizations.
MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: April 2022

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Organized and distributed the March 2022 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter, *FRCA Forward*. Updated the FRCA website and Facebook page.
- Updated the email lists for and maintain the email listserv for approximately 2,350 individuals who receive *FRCA Forward*.
- Maintained and updated the FRCA website: www.flregionalcouncils.org.
- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, organized, participated in or attended the following meetings and webinars:
  - Florida Collaborative Coordinators Forum hosted by the Nature Conservancy
  - Grant Coordination Call with the Department of Environmental Protection

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Hosted the April FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee (EDAC) and Partners Meetings and prepared for the May EDAC Meeting. The April Partners Meeting included presentations from the Departments of Economic Opportunity, Environmental Protection and Transportation as well as Resiliency Florida.
- Began preparing for the Summer Policy Board Meeting being held at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council on June 10, 2022.
- Continued to coordinate logistics for the 2022 meeting and conference schedule.
- Distributed grant opportunities and information of interest from local, state and national organizations.
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