It has been an honor to take over for Commissioner Merritt as ARPC Chair and continue the tradition of growth and innovation at the ARPC.

Despite the setbacks caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the ARPC has continued to find innovative solutions to the complex issues facing our diverse Region. By channeling the momentum and new partnerships that have developed over the past year, we seek to continue to evolve ARPC programs and initiatives in a manner that best suits the needs of our member local governments and regional stakeholders.

Please use this annual report as a guide to ARPC’s activities and accomplishments over the past year. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we approach 2022 with renewed energy, insight, and motivation.

Sincerely,

Kristin Dozier
Chair

2020 - 2021 PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL HOPES TO STRENGTHEN NORTHWEST FLORIDA’S HEMP INDUSTRY

HOW THE FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE BILL COULD IMPROVE FLORIDA’S CAPITAL REGION

HEMP AND ‘BUILD BACK BETTER’: PERFECT TOGETHER TO BOOST JOBS, ECONOMY IN NORTH FLORIDA?

TLH BRIEFCASE: AUG. 29, 2021

RENEWAL FUELS INC. (RNWF) ANNOUNCES INITIATION OF FLORIDA HEMP FIBER INNOVATION PROJECT

TECHSTARS STARTUP WEEK TALLAHASSEE SPOTLIGHTS NEEDS, STRENGTHS OF LOCAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

PEDALING AND PAINTING: MELISSA FRANKLIN PUTS CYCLING AT HEART OF TALLAHASSEE PUBLIC ART
APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
2020–2021 ANNUAL REPORT

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL HOSTS ECONOMIC WORKSHOP

FLORIDA HEMP STAKEHOLDERS MULL HOW TO GROW INDUSTRY IN BIG BEND

NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE CAN BOOST THE POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY

HURDLES STILL REMAIN FOR ROOTING NORTH FLORIDA’S HEMP INDUSTRY

FRANKLIN 98 LIVING SHORELINE

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS ANNOUNCED NEARLY $1 MILLION IN COMMUNITY PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

TALLAHASSEE MAN WORKING TO ADD AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO SOUTH SIDE

FLORIDA AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SETS HIGH GOALS FOR HEMP PRODUCTION

SHORELINE RESTORATION: ‘PROTECTING COMMUNITY, CONSERVING THE COAST’
2021 ARPC MEMBER DUES YIELDED A $2,991,200 DIRECT/INDIRECT RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF $69,700.

Distribution Of Total Investment Per County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun County</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin County</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadsden County</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf County</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson County</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon County</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty County</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakulla County</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ARPC received a grant from the American Flood Coalition to set up and implement a Regional Resiliency Collaborative. The Collaborative allows the Region to take advantage of potential funding opportunities for resiliency projects across multiple sectors and provides a forum for resiliency-specific initiatives.

The structure of the Collaborative is comprised of 1) a Steering Committee, the same as the Council’s Executive Committee; 2) a Working Group consisting of county and municipal-elected officials and staff; and 3) Private Sector Partners. This structure allows the Region to identify and set initiatives important to our locality. The Resiliency Collaborative has been branded “Apalachee Strong Regional Resiliency Collaborative”.

FDEP developed guidance for its new Resilient Florida program, a result of the adopted Senate Bill 1954. The new program will “enhance efforts to protect our inland waterways, coastlines and shores, which serve as invaluable natural defenses against sea level rise. The legislation will yield the largest investment in Florida’s history to prepare communities for the impacts of climate change – including sea level rise, intensified storms and flooding” (FDEP).

Apalachee Strong Regional Resiliency Collaborative submitted a project proposal under the FDEP’s new Resilient Florida grant program, stemming from Florida’s Always Ready legislation. The project, if awarded, will see the creation of Vulnerability Assessments (VAs) for the ARPC’s nine counties and their municipalities. The VAs will document infrastructure that is at-risk to flooding and sea level rise under 2040 and 2070 planning horizons, compounded with projected rainfall events. Once completed, project funding can be pursued to address the findings of the VAs. If accepted in its current format, the project will be completed in approximately one (1) year.

**APA FLORIDA VIRTUAL MOBILE TOUR:**
On February 23, 2021, the ARPC hosted a virtual mobile tour for attendees of the Florida American Planning Association’s annual conference. The virtual tour allowed the ARPC to familiarize conference attendees with the Apalachee Region and learn more about specific ARPC projects within the Environmental Planning, Housing, and Economic Development program areas.

Live on location, ARPC environmental planning team presented a deep dive into the Franklin 98 Living Shoreline project, ARPC housing team demonstrated the process needed to rebuild after a catastrophic hurricane, and ARPC economic development team highlighted success stories and projects in the lovely Town of Campbellton.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Kristin Dozier – Chair (Leon)
Ricky Jones – Vice-Chairman (Franklin)
Jim Peacock – Secretary/Treasurer (Franklin)
Randy Merritt – Past Chairman (Wakulla)

FRCA POLICY BOARD MEMBERS:
Kristin Dozier, Gene Wright & Lisa Miller

CALHOUN COUNTY
Darryl O’Bryan – County Commissioner
Sheila Blackburn – Councilwoman, City of Blountstown
Don Stephens – Governor’s Appointee

FRANKLIN COUNTY
Ricky Jones – County Commissioner
Despina George – Commissioner, City of Apalachicola
Vacant – Governor’s Appointee

GADSDEN COUNTY
Brenda Holt – County Commissioner
Evelyn Riley-Goldwire – Commissioner, City of Gretna
Henry Grant – Governor’s Appointee

GULF COUNTY
Ward McDaniel – County Commissioner
Johnny Paul – Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka
Michael Hammond – Governor’s Appointee

JACKSON COUNTY
Jim Peacock – County Commissioner
Gene Wright – Mayor, Town of Malone
Vacant – Governor’s Appointee

JEFFERSON COUNTY
Stephen Walker – County Commissioner
John Jones – Councilman, City of Monticello
Vacant – Governor’s Appointee

LEON COUNTY
Kristin Dozier – County Commissioner
Jack Porter – Commissioner, City of Tallahassee
Lisa Miller – Governor’s Appointee

LIBERTY COUNTY
Daniel Stanley – County Clerk
Margaret Rankin – Councilwoman, City of Bristol
Davis Stoutamire – Governor’s Appointee

WAKULLA COUNTY
Randy Merritt – County Commissioner
Don Grimes – Mayor, City of St. Marks
Vacant – Governor’s Appointee

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
Michael Fuller – Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Darryl Boudreau – NW Florida Water Management District
Maria Showalter – Florida Department of Transportation
Diane Scholz – Florida Department of Economic Development

NEW TEAM MEMBERS
DEVINA LADE
GIS SPECIALIST
CHRISTIAN LEVINGS
HEALTHCARE COALITION COORDINATOR
SHARRAND PINARD
URBAN DESIGNER
MONICA PITTS
DEPUTY FINANCE DIRECTOR
The Apalachee are a Native American people who historically lived in the Florida Panhandle. They lived between the Aucilla River and Ochlockonee River, at the head of Apalachee Bay, an area known to Europeans as the Apalachee Province. They spoke a Muskogean language called Apalachee, which is now extinct.

The Apalachee occupied the site of Velda Mound starting about 1450 CE, but had mostly abandoned it when Spanish started settlements in the 17th century. They first encountered Spanish explorers in 1528, when the Narváez expedition arrived. Traditional tribal enemies, European diseases, and European encroachment severely reduced their population. The survivors dispersed, and over time many Apalachee integrated with other groups, particularly the Creek Confederacy, while others relocated to other Spanish territories, and some remained in what is now Louisiana. About 300 descendants in Rapides and Natchitoches parishes assert an Apalachee identity today.

Source: http://fcit.usf.edu/Florida/lessons/apalach/apalach1.htm