



APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS REGIONAL IMPACT

**FULL COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
343rd Public Meeting
Thursday, October 30th, 2025
10:00am EST/ 9:00am CT**

arpc.org

850.488.6211 2507 Callaway Road, Suite 100, Tallahassee, FL 32303

ARPC Mission: To serve our member local governments by providing technical assistance & planning expertise in a variety of disciplines.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



FULL COUNCIL

Ricky Jones, Chair – Franklin

Quincee Messersmith, Vice Chair – Wakulla

Jack Porter, Secretary/Treasurer – City of Tallahassee

John Jones, Past Chairman – City of Monticello

FRCA POLICY BOARD MEMBERS:

Jack Porter, Rick Minor, and Lisa Miller

Calhoun County

Darryl O'Bryan

Martha "Mert" Stephens

County Commissioner

Councilmember, City of Blountstown

Franklin County

Ricky Jones

Sebrina Brown

County Commissioner

Mayor, City of Carrabelle

Gadsden County

Brenda Holt

Evelyn Goldwire

County Commissioner

Mayor, City of Gretna

Gulf County

Sandy Quinn, Jr.

Johnny Paul

Michael Hammond

County Commissioner

Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka

Governor's Appointee

Jackson County

Paul Donofro

Kim Applewhite

County Commissioner

Councilmember, Town of Grand Ridge

Jefferson County

Jessica Gramling

John Jones

County Commissioner

Councilmember, City of Monticello

Leon County

Rick Minor

Jack Porter

Lisa Miller

County Commissioner

Commissioner, City of Tallahassee

Governor's Appointee

Liberty County

Doyle Brown

Jennifer Hudgins

County Commissioner

Councilmember, City of Bristol

Wakulla County

Quincee Messersmith

Mary Katherine Westmark

County Commissioner

Councilmember, City of Sopchoppy

Ex-Officio Members

Kristine Morris

Darryl Boudreau

Tanya Branton

Diane Scholz

Greg Slay

Fl. Dept. of Environmental Protection

NW Fl. Water Management District

Fl. Dept. of Transportation

Florida Commerce

Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency

AGENDA – OCTOBER 30TH, 2025

**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY – OCTOBER 30TH, 2025
10:00 AM EST / 9:00 AM CT
[Click here to join the meeting.](#)**

Meeting ID: 260 759 521 400 1

Passcode: CX3KT9XP

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Introductions
2. **Approval of Agenda** **3**
3. **Approval of Minutes – August 28th, 2025 Board Meeting** **4**
4. Advanced Air Mobility - David Pollard, Director of Aviation
5. Foreign Trade Zone Update – Vanessa Spaulding, Airport Foreign Trade Zone & Air Service Development
6. Executive Director’s Report – ARPC Chris Rietow, Executive Director **8**
 - A. **Financial Report** **9**
 - B. Staff Program Reports
 1. Economic & Community Development 13
 2. Emergency Planning 22
 3. Geospatial, Environmental, & Resilience 24
 4. Transportation Planning 27
 5. Communications 30
 6. Growth Management 31
7. Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion
8. Ex-Officio Member Updates
9. Public Comment
10. Adjournment

Next ARPC Board Meeting – February 5, 2026

**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY – AUGUST 28TH, 2025
10:00 AM EST/ 9:00 AM CT**

Call to Order and General Business

- Commissioner Ricky Jones called the meeting to order at 10:06am.
- Quorum confirmed.
- Pledge

ARPC Board Members in Attendance

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Martha “Mert” Stephens | Councilmember, City of Blountstown |
| Ricky Jones | Franklin County Commissioner |
| Sebrina Brown | Commissioner, City of Carrabelle |
| Brenda Holt | Gadsden County Commissioner |
| Evelyn Goldwire | Mayor, City of Gretna |
| Johnny Paul | Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka |
| Kim Applewhite | Councilmember, Town of Grand Ridge |
| John Jones | Councilmember, City of Monticello |
| Rick Minor | Leon County Commissioner |
| Jack Porter | Commissioner, City of Tallahassee |
| Doyle Brown | Liberty County Commissioner |

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Darryl Boudreau – NW FL Water Management District

ARPC Staff in Attendance

Josh Adams – Environmental Planning Manager/ Resilience Officer
Evan Blythe – Environmental Project Manager
Kwentin Eastberg – Deputy Director
Juliette Kearce – Finance Administrator
Divina Lade – Geospatial Planning Manager/ Resilience Officer
Khalig Atakishiyev – Geospatial Planner
Christian Levings – Emergency Planning Manager
Isabella Marmanidis – Economic Development Planner
Mary O’Brien – Transportation Planning Manager
Logan Patten – LEPC Coordinator
Monica Pitts – Finance & Human Resources Director
Chris Rietow – Executive Director
Caroline Smith – Economic Development Manager
Justin Stiell – Growth Management & Land Use Manager
Tom Thompson – Commuter Assistance Coordinator
Matthew Vossler – RLF Manager
Josh Pasqualone – ARPC Legal Counsel
Lydia Johnson – Environmental Planner
Hilary Carrasco – Housing Coordinator
Rick McCraw – Senior Planner
Marcus Thompkins – Housing Manager
Austin Britt – Transportation Planner
Melissa Franklin – Communications Coordinator



Others in Attendance

Ben Naselius – Red Hills Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy
Caitlyn Jones – Jacobs Engineering Group
Jolene Martin – Florida Makes
Hope Childree – Wakulla Environmental Institute, Associate Director

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Porter moved to approve agenda as presented.

Commissioner Minor seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of Board Minutes

Councilmember Jones moved to approve the January 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Minor seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Tall Timbers, Ben Naselius, Red Hills Planner

Tall Timbers was established in 1958 as a research station, with expansion into land conservancy in 1991. Their focus is the Red Hills and Albany quail regions, landscapes that are shaped by frequent prescribed fire. With a goal of conserving ecological, scenic, & historical resources of the Red Hills and surrounding areas, Tall Timbers primary focuses are:

- Private land conservation through conservation easements
- Landowner outreach & extension services
- Regional planning
- Advocacy

Through Tall Timbers' strategic planning efforts, Extension work has expanded. Tall Timbers applied for the "Red Hills to the Coast" Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RRCP) in 2019 and began related land management & easements in 2021. Currently, 114 contracts are secure.

- 36% are historically underserved
- 13,000 acres of prescribed fire
- over 5,000 trees have been planted
- 2,000+ acres of forest stand improvement
- 900 acres of invasive exotic, non-native plants
- closed 3 entity-held-easements in 2024 (686 acres)

With a track record of success, Tall Timbers was awarded \$25 million from National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to continue the landowner assistance program. Spanning a region of eleven counties, the program will be active through 2029. Technical and financial assistance is available for eligible activities, including prescribed fire, invasive control, forest stand improvement, and tree planting. These services are available to anyone with 10+ acres, and 2025 applications are open from September 2nd - October 3rd. Consult with one of Tall Timbers dedicated biologists and help conserve this unique Region. Visit talltimbers.com/wildlife-corridor to learn more!

Florida Wildlife Corridor, Jason Lauritsen, Chief Conservation Officer

Floridians love wildlife! And wildlife love the Florida Wildlife Corridor! FWCF has been identifying, conserving, purchasing and stewarding the best wildlife places in the state. But what really brings it all together? Connection! Networks of connected protected areas are inherently more resilient than individual isolated patches. And that's where the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation can help. How do we recognize and retain the connections, while maintaining resiliency and biodiversity?

The Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation champions a collaborative campaign to permanently connect, protect and restore the Florida Wildlife Corridor – a statewide network of connected lands and waters that supports wildlife and people. The organization aligns efforts to lead conservation of the Corridor's highest priorities, accelerates connectivity by providing tools and resources that elevate partners' work, and celebrates collective Corridor successes through storytelling and art.

Corridor Foundation programs include the multi-day summit called Corridor Connect, expeditions, film screenings and presentation, the Corridor mural campaign, and sharing a window into wild Florida through exhibits, installations, and their gallery. These actions raise awareness of the Corridor and inspire support statewide and beyond for the protection of the missing links in the Corridor.

As a part of their stewardship, FWCF is documenting the connected landscape and wildlife, and the people whose lives and livelihoods are tied to the landscape. According to a study by the McKenzie Group in 2022, the FWC supports 114,000 jobs in Florida, and the corridor is utilized by over 1,700 species.

There's a footprint of 18,000,000 acres that defines the Florida Wildlife Corridor, including both land and water. It represents the best opportunity to safeguard a bio-diverse and sustainable Florida for future generations. FWCF aims to partner with local governments and agencies and provide tools and understanding of what necessary to make and keep these connections.

Through murals and films, FWCF's public awareness campaign seeks to raise awareness and continue the rich legacy of conservation investment in Florida. The recently finished film, "O to O" takes viewers on a journey from the Osceola National Forest to the Ocala National Forest. And the latest film, "Patchwork Wild: Stitching the Last Strands" will premiere September 18th. Visit floridawildlifecorridor.org to learn more!

Executive Director Report

Financial Reports

Councilmember Applewhite moved to approve the ARPC Financial Summary. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Staff Program Reports

- **Economic Development** – Developed a database, drawing down data from national and state sources to provide quarterly County data snapshots. Moving forward this data will be included in future Board reports and posted on ARPC's website.

- **RLF** – The final REVIVE! loan has closed.
- **Transportation** – Board approval is needed for TD member certifications and RRTP TAC bylaws,

Commissioner Porter moved to approve TD Members, Resolution 25-07, and TAC Bylaw updates. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

- **Env. Planning** – Phase II of F-98 Living Shoreline will be underway soon!
- **Housing** – Marcus Thompson is no longer working with ARPC.

Executive Committee Meetings Summary –

Commissioner Doyle Brown moved to approve Ex Committee Actions. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

- The Apalachicola River Dreg could occur as early as 2026-2027. The Army Corps has been given the responsibility of dredging the navigation of the river. Past practices left spoil on the banks, causing ecological stress.
- RFP process – ARPC has recently completed the RFP process, securing consultants that expand the capabilities of the Council.
- FRCA Policy Board Meeting – Each council has three board members on the policy board. The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) has been struggling for the past three or four years and several counties stop paying dues. The long time director recently retired, and the interim director is working diligently to turn things around, already convincing three counties to rejoin SWFRPC.

Next Board Meeting on October 30th, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55am.

APPROVED BY: THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON MAY 29th, 2025.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Ricky Jones
Chair

Chris Rietow
Executive Director

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

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

- **FY 2024/2025 Expense Summary through September 30th**

B. Staff Reports: Staff program reports are included on the following pages. Staff will be present at the meeting to answer any questions and report on any additional program updates.

C. ARPC Strategic Plan: Overview on the process of developing the ARPC's first 3-year strategic plan for sustaining the organization's level of performance.

D. Pre-qualified Vendors: Summary on ARPC's process to contract / with 9 pre-qualified vendors to expand technical capabilities and bandwidth.

ACTIONS NEEDED

- **Motion to approve the Financial Summary through September 2025.**



Statement of Activity

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025

Preliminary Report Pending Year End Closing Adjustments

| DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT | TOTAL | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | OCT 1 2024 - SEP 30 2025 | OCT 1 2023 - SEP 30 2024 (PY) |
| Income | | |
| 01-341.100 General - County Dues | 147,358.66 | 87,131.07 |
| Investment income | | |
| 01-361.100 Interest Gen (Sweep) | 12,907.90 | 29,478.07 |
| 02-361.100 Interest & Earnings RLF (Borrower) | 61,836.94 | 56,276.00 |
| 02-361.110 Interest RLF (Sweep) | 28,466.79 | 27,990.32 |
| Total for Investment income | \$103,211.63 | \$113,744.39 |
| Other | | \$0.00 |
| 01-366.100 NFWF Emerg Coastal Resilience Fund (BP Oil Spill) | 32,190.06 | 669,963.64 |
| 01-369.300 Admin Misc. | | |
| 01-349.800 Admin Service Fees | 6,132.17 | 5,008.71 |
| 01-369.900 Misc. Revenue | 1,226.14 | 6,961.57 |
| Total for 01-369.300 Admin Misc. | \$7,358.31 | \$11,970.28 |
| 02-369.300 Admin Misc | | |
| 02-349.120 OEV (RLF) Match | 10,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 02-349.800 RLF Admin Service Fees | 25,000.00 | 25,000.00 |
| 02-369.900 Misc Income RLF | | 0.00 |
| Total for 02-369.300 Admin Misc | \$35,000.00 | \$28,000.00 |
| 02-369.200 Clearing account | | -0.14 |
| Total for Other | \$74,548.37 | \$709,933.78 |
| Pass-thru | | |
| 01-300.300 FRCA (Staffing) | 68,178.86 | 95,305.04 |
| 01-300.200 BBHCC | | 0.00 |
| 01-349.610 COC (Staffing) | | 758,816.35 |
| Total for Pass-thru | \$68,178.86 | \$854,121.39 |
| Program Funding | | |
| 01-331.200 Federal Grants - Public Safety | | \$0.00 |
| 01-331.211 Hospital Prep Prog (New BBHCC Agreement) (CFDA 93.889) | 362,488.64 [a] | 242,873.00 |
| 01-331.212 HMEP (CFDA 20.703) | 84,773.44 | 65,559.32 |
| 01-331.250 RISK (CFDA 14.228) | 12,500.00 | 37,500.00 |
| 01-331.251 SHELTER (CFDA 14.231) | 6,111.11 | 33,888.89 |
| 01-349.210 BBHCC Service Fee (CFDA 93.889) | | 0.00 |
| Total for 01-331.200 Federal Grants - Public Safety | \$465,873.19 | \$379,821.21 |



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|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | OCT 1 2024 - SEP 30 2025 | OCT 1 2023 - SEP 30 2024 (PY) |
| 01-331.500 Federal Grants - Economic Environment | | |
| 01-331.510 CEDS (CFDA 11.302) | 70,000.00 | 52,500.00 |
| 01-331.520 DRC | 35,000.00 | |
| 02-331.501 EDA (RLF) Match | 40,000.00 | 188,000.00 |
| Total for 01-331.500 Federal Grants - Economic Environment | \$145,000.00 | \$240,500.00 |
| 01-331.600 Federal Grants - Human Svcs | | |
| 01-331.690 COC HUD (CFDA 14.267) | 189,581.57 | 241,997.30 |
| Total for 01-331.600 Federal Grants - Human Svcs | \$189,581.57 | \$241,997.30 |
| 01-334.200 State Grants - Public Safety | | \$0.00 |
| 01-334.210 Local Emergency Planning Committee (CFDA 31.067) | 91,800.00 | 79,270.00 |
| 01-334.220 Hazard Analyses (CFDA 31.067) | 15,877.55 | 24,904.38 |
| Total for 01-334.200 State Grants - Public Safety | \$107,677.55 | \$104,174.38 |
| 01-334.300 State Grants - Physical Env. | | |
| 01-334.390 RRE | 224,502.79 | 233,514.98 |
| Total for 01-334.300 State Grants - Physical Env. | \$224,502.79 | \$233,514.98 |
| 01-334.400 State Grants - Transportation | | \$0.00 |
| 01-334.410 CTD (CFDA 55.002) | 176,058.71 [a] | 210,721.96 |
| 01-334.420 RideOn (CFDA 55.007) | 174,617.07 [a] | 181,073.63 |
| Total for 01-334.400 State Grants - Transportation | \$350,675.78 | \$391,795.59 |
| 01-337.100 Local Grants - General | | \$133,468.00 |
| 01-337.140 Franklin V.A. | 85,000.00 | |
| 01-337.160 Town of Havana GM | 7,716.47 | 20,000.00 |
| 01-337.161 Franklin GIS | 11,250.00 [a] | 15,000.00 |
| 01-337.162 Calhoun GIS | 1,875.00 [a] | 5,856.25 |
| 01-337.163 Gadsden GIS | 11,250.00 [a] | 11,250.00 |
| 01-337.186 Franklin GM | 60,000.00 [a] | 20,000.00 |
| 01-337.188 Liberty GM | 29,558.83 | 8,063.25 |
| 01-337.110 Jacob City Broadband | | 76,167.00 |
| 01-337.113 Franklin Logo | | 0.00 |
| 01-337.120 Gadsden Competitive FL | | 59,475.00 |
| 01-337.130 Franklin CPTA | | 50,000.00 |
| 01-337.145 Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition | | 10,700.00 |
| 01-337.164 City of Marianna | | 0.50 |
| 01-337.165 City of Carabelle GIS | | 7,000.00 |
| 01-337.180 Quincy GM | | 25,391.40 |

[a] Final invoice has not been processed as of this report date



Statement of Activity

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025

Preliminary Report Pending Year End Closing Adjustments

| DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT | TOTAL | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | OCT 1 2024 - SEP 30 2025 | OCT 1 2023 - SEP 30 2024 (PY) |
| 01-337.181 Town of Grand Ridge | | |
| 01-337.181a Grand Ridge GM | | 6,300.00 |
| Total for 01-337.181 Town of Grand Ridge | | \$6,300.00 |
| 01-337.187 City of Chatahoochee | | 3,678.04 |
| 01-337.190 Jackson GM | | 62,000.00 |
| Total for 01-337.100 Local Grants - General | \$206,650.30 | \$514,349.44 |
| 01-337.200 Local Grants - Public Safety | | |
| 01-337.210 Hurricane Milton Assistance | 25,200.00 | |
| 01-337.220 Cyber | 105,000.00 | |
| Total for 01-337.200 Local Grants - Public Safety | \$130,200.00 | |
| 01-337.300 Local Grant - Physical Env. | | |
| 01-337.310 SQG | 32,568.21 | 24,361.04 |
| 01-337.301 SQG- NEFRC | | 8,500.00 |
| Total for 01-337.300 Local Grant - Physical Env. | \$32,568.21 | \$32,861.04 |
| 01-337.400 Local Grants - Transportation | | \$0.00 |
| 01-337.430 RRTP- D3 | 81,300.00 [a] | 116,250.00 |
| Total for 01-337.400 Local Grants - Transportation | \$81,300.00 | \$116,250.00 |
| 01-337.500 Local Grants - Economic Environment | | |
| 01-337.530 Calhoun SHIP Revenue | 26,250.00 [a] | 34,600.00 |
| 01-337.550 Jackson HHRP #2 | 216,450.00 | 72,150.00 |
| 01-337.560 Jackson SHIP | 23,023.08 [a] | 42,085.38 |
| 01-337.570 Gulf SHIP | 3,153.39 | |
| 01-337.510 Calhoun HHRP #2 | | 30,884.43 |
| 01-337.540 Jackson HHRP #1 | | 260,474.19 |
| Total for 01-337.500 Local Grants - Economic Environment | \$268,876.47 | \$440,194.00 |
| 01-331.300 Federal Grants - Physical Env. | | |
| 01-331.390 Living Shore (CFDA 11.473) | | 4,375,893.33 |
| Total for 01-331.300 Federal Grants - Physical Env. | | \$4,375,893.33 |
| Total for Program Funding | \$2,202,905.86 | \$7,071,351.27 |
| Total for Income | \$2,596,203.38 | \$8,836,281.90 |
| Cost of Goods Sold | | \$488.00 |
| Gross Profit | \$2,596,203.38 | \$8,835,793.90 |
| Expenses | | |
| 01-569.57 Reimbursements (COC & FRCA) | 489.60 | |

[a] Final invoice has not been processed as of this report date



Statement of Activity

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025

Preliminary Report Pending Year End Closing Adjustments

| DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT | TOTAL | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | OCT 1 2024 - SEP 30 2025 | OCT 1 2023 - SEP 30 2024 (PY) |
| 10 Personnel Services | | |
| 12 Salaries And Wages | \$1,473,140.78 | \$2,012,869.41 |
| 15 Special Pay | \$3,658.00 | \$300.00 |
| 21 Fica Taxes | \$109,199.71 | \$150,854.18 |
| 22 Retirement Contributions | \$216,094.62 | \$287,654.28 |
| 23 Life And Health Insurance | \$111,571.28 | \$194,615.39 |
| Total for 10 Personnel Services | \$1,913,664.39 | \$2,646,293.26 |
| 30 Operating Expenditure | | |
| 31 Professional Services | \$132,782.54 | \$159,325.17 |
| 32 Accounting And Auditing | \$42,766.38 | \$38,215.98 |
| 34 Other Contractual Services | \$4,603.01 | \$4,873,938.42 |
| 40 Travel And Per Diem | \$43,447.90 | \$72,086.40 |
| 41 Communication | \$4,193.16 | \$4,513.50 |
| 42 Freight & Postage Services | \$49.24 | \$123.71 |
| 43 Utility Services | \$6,022.19 | \$6,556.47 |
| 44 Rentals And Leases | \$126,449.08 | \$123,392.71 |
| 45 Insurance | \$108,273.13 | \$38,658.17 |
| 48 Promotional Activities | \$6,809.04 | \$3,961.82 |
| 49 Other Misc | \$93,689.97 | \$136,319.31 |
| 52 Operating Supplies | \$21,895.39 | \$24,491.15 |
| 54 Books, Publications, Subscriptions, And Memberships | \$47,350.86 | \$40,169.78 |
| 55 Training | \$3,000.00 | |
| 60 Capital Outlay | \$10,107.64 | \$10,667.23 |
| 46 Repair And Maintenance Services | | \$516.07 |
| Total for 30 Operating Expenditure | \$651,439.53 | \$5,532,935.89 |
| 70 Pass Through | | |
| 01-515.574 BBHCC Pass Thru | 362,439.14 | 0.00 |
| 01-569.575 CoC Pass-thru Account | 189,480.57 | 241,547.30 |
| Total for 70 Pass Through | \$551,919.71 | \$241,547.30 |



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Apalachee Regional Planning Council

October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025

Preliminary Report Pending Year End Closing Adjustments

| DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT | TOTAL | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | OCT 1 2024 - SEP 30 2025 | OCT 1 2023 - SEP 30 2024 (PY) |
| 01-513 General Government | | \$0.00 |
| Total for Expenses | \$3,117,513.23 | \$8,420,776.45 |
| Net Operating Income | -\$521,309.85 | \$415,017.45 |
| Other Income | | |
| Other Expenses | | |
| Net Other Income | | |
| Net Income | -\$521,309.85 | \$415,017.45 |

ARPC Consultants

To best serve the Apalachee Region, ARPC has secured several consultants to assist in an array of projects as needed. Please take a moment to review the services offered, and let us know if there are any questions. Contract with ARPC directly to access the services of these pre-qualified vendors.



Cumins Cederberg, Inc.

Services available to ARPC:

- **Environmental & Engineering**
- **GIS**
- **Planning**

Cummins Cederberg is among the largest Florida-based coastal and marine engineering firms, specializing in complex engineering and environmental solutions. Established in 2010 (15+ year existence), we have grown to over 70 employees and become a leader in coastal and waterfront engineering, coastal planning, environmental assessment, regulatory compliance, permitting, and grant administration. Our staff includes coastal engineers, marine structural engineers, engineer divers, resiliency planners, environmental consultants, regulatory and policy experts, and marine scientists, all with extensive experience in their respective fields. More than 75% of our team holds advanced degrees, professional certifications (e.g., Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP), Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (WEDG), Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM), LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP)), and positions on advisory boards and state and nationwide professional organizations. Cummins Cederberg is a corporation holding small business certifications with several Florida municipalities owned by Jason Cummins, PE, and Jannek Cederberg, PE.

Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.

Services available to ARPC:

- **Environmental & Engineering**
- **Geotechnical**
- **GIS**
- **Planning**

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., founded in 1967, is a national planning and engineering firm with over 8,400 staff across 140 offices. We offer services in transportation planning, engineering, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental planning, and public policy. We strive to understand each community's values and transform them into a guiding vision. By partnering with diverse professionals, we foster visionary thinking focused on implementation.

Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.

Services available to ARPC:

- **Environmental & Engineering**
- **Planning Services**

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH®) is an employee-owned engineering, architectural, environmental, and planning company that helps government, industrial, and commercial clients find answers to complex challenges.

WSP USA, Inc.

Services available to ARPC:

- **Environmental & Engineering**
- **Geotechnical**
- **GIS**
- **Planning**

We design lasting solutions in the Earth & Environment, Transportation & Infrastructure, Property & Buildings, Power & Energy, Water, and Federal Programs sectors, as well as offering strategic advisory services. We are united by the common purpose of creating positive, long-lasting impacts on the communities we serve through a culture of innovation, integrity, and inclusion.

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Services available to ARPC:

- **Environmental & Engineering**
- **Geotechnical**
- **GIS**
- **Planning**

Since its founding in 1966, Tetra Tech has established itself as a leading engineering and scientific consulting firm in the country. Choosing Tetra Tech means opting for a global team of over

30,000 employees spread across more than 550 offices in over 125 countries. We have a strong presence in Florida, with over 1,200 employees in 27 offices, supported by efficient quality control, health and safety, and management systems. Our team is comprised of registered professional geologists, engineers, site assessors, wetlands professionals, environmental scientists, air and water professionals, archaeologists, biologists, chemists, planners, data managers, construction managers, risk assessors, geospatial experts, modelers, and trainers.

PPM Consultants, Inc.

Services available to ARPC:

- **Geotechnical**

PMM Consultants, Inc. (PPM), established in 1994, is a leading environmental science and engineering firm in the southeastern United States. Over the past 30 years, we have built a strong reputation for delivering high-quality services across Florida, including Escambia County, which we have served since 1999. From our beginnings in Monroe, Louisiana, we have grown into a team of 120 skilled professionals operating out of eight offices, including key locations in Pensacola, Florida, and Mobile, Alabama, to serve Apalachee Regional Planning Council's nine-county region.

Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Services available to ARPC:

- **Geotechnical**

From environmental consulting services to geotechnical engineering, construction materials testing, and facility engineering, we forge new paths to provide you with strategic foresight to unlock new opportunities. With decades of data advancing our intelligence, we minimize your risk along the way. From the fundamental to the complex, we have the people and resources to tell you what you need to know and keep your initiative on track.

Michael Baker International

Services available to ARPC:

- **GIS**

Michael Baker International, Inc. (Michael Baker) founded in 1940, is a leading provider of engineering, development, intelligence and technology solutions with global reach and mobility. We have over 90 office locations across the United States, with our headquarters currently located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Our efforts will be led by our Tallahassee office with added support from our other Florida offices in Jacksonville, Orlando, and Tampa.

HDR Engineering Inc.

Services available to ARPC:

- **Planning**

Founded in 1917, HDR is a recognized leader in providing architectural and engineering services to the transportation, water, power, waste, federal, mining, oil and gas, industrial, and federal market sectors. Our operating philosophy is to be an expertise-driven firm that delivers tailored solutions through a strong local presence. We provide a comprehensive suite of in-house services and similar project experience, as demonstrated in detail throughout this proposal response.

Rural Florida counties may be eligible for **Alternative Advance payments** while working on state grant-funded projects.

This option allows for the **state grant-funding agency to pay outstanding invoices directly**, providing support to rural and economically constrained counties that may otherwise face challenges utilizing the traditional reimbursement model.

Friendly Reminder!

HB 1209 - Passed in 2023, this legislation **lowers local matches to ZERO dollars** in Rural Areas of Opportunity (that's eight of our nine member counties)!

Contact us if you have any questions, or would like further information!

**DID
YOU
KNOW**





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Caroline Smith

Grant Opportunities

For support with grant application preparation, please contact Caroline Smith, ARPC Economic & Community Development Manager, at csmith@arpc.org. Recent grant application activities include:

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Grant:** ARPC staff have partnered with a consultant to submit a grant application for brownfields funding to conduct Phase 1/2/3 Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) across the Apalachee Region. The application will be submitted in Fall 2025.
- **U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Disaster Supplemental – Readiness Pathway:** ARPC staff have partnered with Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC), North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC), Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC), and FloridaMakes to submit an EDA grant application for a North Florida Advanced Manufacturing Corridor Study. The application will be submitted in Fall 2025.
- **U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant:** ARPC Economic Development staff partnered with ARPC Transportation staff to apply for multi-year project funding to create a Regional Safety Action Plan that would complement the Rural Regional Transportation Plan (RRTP). ARPC was awarded 2-year federal funding in the amount of \$497,839. After a long review period, the contract has been fully executed and project activities are underway.
- **Florida Commerce Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) Grant:** ARPC staff submitted RIF grant applications on behalf of the following local governments, which are awaiting award announcements:
 - o City of St. Marks – Commercial Access & Streetscape Plan
 - o City of Sopchoppy – Catalyst Site Master Plan & Well Rehabilitation
 - o Town of Sneads – Water System Improvements (Part 2)
- **Florida Commerce Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) Grant:** ARPC staff worked with local governments to submit several applications to the CPTA grant, including for the following projects, which are awaiting award announcements:
 - o Town of Malone Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map Update
 - o Strategic Sites Inventory (SSI) Update for Calhoun, Gadsden, and Liberty counties
 - o Regional Workforce Housing Study
- **Florida Commerce Competitive Florida Partnership (CFP) Program Grant:** ARPC staff worked with Jackson County Economic Development Council (EDC) to apply to this program on their behalf. If awarded, the project will fund the development of a retail recruitment strategy for Jackson County. Awards have not yet been announced by Florida Commerce.
- **Florida Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:** ARPC staff partnered with City of St. Marks to submit a CDBG application for water and wastewater system improvements. The application was not selected for funding. Workshops, Facilitations, and Meetings

Meeting Participation:

- RPC Coordination: ARPC Economic Development staff is planning a statewide RPC training on economic modelling, which will take the form of a virtual training series.
- ARPC staff participated in meetings for organizations across the Region, including Opportunity Florida, Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), Wakulla County EDC, Jackson County EDC, Gadsden County Development Council (GCDC), and the Alliance of Entrepreneur Resource Organizations (AERO).

Project Tour – Town of Sneads: ARPC staff facilitated a tour of the Town of Sneads water system for Florida Commerce staff to visit a recently completed, Commerce-funded project and to highlight remaining infrastructure improvement needs, which ARPC staff recently submitted as a RIF grant application.

Active Projects

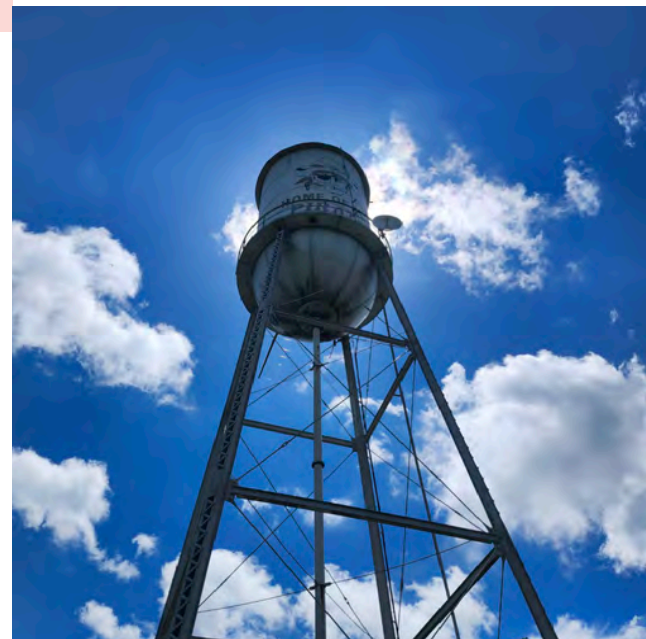
• Gadsden County Economic Development Plan:

ARPC staff continues activities toward the updating of Gadsden County's Economic Development Plan. Adoption of the Plan is expected in 2025.

• St. Marks Master Planning with Florida State University (FSU) Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP):

ARPC staff coordinated an FSU student project with the City of St. Marks in which the students worked during the spring 2025 semester to propose a set of site alternatives for a new St. Marks Master Plan. The final product has not yet been finalized.

• **St. Marks Technical Assistance:** ARPC Economic Development staff is assisting the City of St. Marks with grant writing and other planning activities.



REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) PROGRAM
Legacy, CARES Act & REVIVE! RLFs
Matthew Vossler

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Overview

The ARPC RLF Program consists of three revolving loan funds: Legacy, CARES Act and REVIVE! and as of March 2024, is servicing thirty-two loans. The main priorities for ARPC staff regarding RLF support and administration are to service the existing loans, provide borrowers with technical assistance when needed, and seek qualified applicants for new loans through marketing. The three RLF programs are briefly described below.

Legacy RLF (Defederalized)

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

CARES Act RLF (Revolving Phase)

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act RLF provides small business owners within the Apalachee Region with gap financing to help them recover from the impacts of the COVID pandemic.

Hurricane Michael/REVIVE! RLF (Entering Revolving Phase)

The Hurricane Michael/Regional Economies Vested in Vital Enterprises (REVIVE!) program is a \$1 million RLF to help establish new businesses and create employment opportunities or expand existing businesses and save existing jobs within Leon County/Tallahassee.

CURRENT PORTFOLIO STATUS AS OF 9/30/2025

Portfolio Balance \$1,104,106.57

Portfolio Yield 5.74%

INTEREST PAID IN 2024 \$46,932.81

DEFAULTED LOANS

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Legacy - Sloan Grainworks | CARES - Chef Shac |
| Legacy - Deep South | CARES - Dansby |
| Legacy - Busy Bee (Smiley) | CARES - Rutabaga Café |
| Legacy - Saucy Lady Oyster | CARES - SWAT (Seafood Wings And Things) |
| Legacy - H.E.R.Z. Development | REVIVE - Community Business Services |
| | REVIVE - Tremont Concrete |

ARPC staff have been diligently working to resolve the defaulted loans either through write-off or collection proceedings.

LOAN STATUSES AS OF 09.30.2025

| Borrower Name | Interest Rate | Maturity Date | Next Payment | Regular Payment | Loan Balance |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Corner Cafe 1 | 6.00% | 02/01/2027 | 10/15/2025 | \$600.00 | \$9,371.62 |
| Herz Development | 5.00% | 10/01/2031 | 06/15/2025 | \$325.00 | \$20,092.13 |
| Peaks Ink | 6.00% | 12/01/2034 | 10/15/2025 | \$600.00 | \$43,531.49 |
| Pretty Girlz | 6.00% | 12/01/2027 | 10/15/2025 | \$500.00 | \$48,033.82 |
| Saucy Lady Oyster Company | 5.00% | 04/01/2026 | 08/15/2024 | \$500.00 | \$9,992.10 |
| Southern Fields Brewing | 6.00% | 12/01/2029 | 04/15/2025 | \$1,000.00 | \$59,627.44 |
| Marlowe Logging | 5.00% | 03/01/2029 | 10/01/2025 | \$550.00 | \$21,481.05 |
| Norris Smokehouse | 5.00% | 04/01/2031 | 10/15/2025 | \$550.00 | \$31,058.02 |
| Rejuvenate U Massage Studio | 5.00% | 07/01/2029 | 09/15/2025 | \$175.00 | \$6,533.97 |
| Seafood Wings and Things (SWAT), LLC | 6.00% | 04/01/2028 | 04/15/2024 | \$775.00 | \$27,936.99 |
| Springbreeze Accounting & Taxes | 5.00% | 09/01/2034 | 08/15/2025 | \$1,200.00 | \$158,174.15 |
| Telogia Trading Post | 5.00% | 03/01/2035 | 10/15/2025 | \$800.00 | \$76,901.23 |
| Tri-State Pest Control | 5.00% | 02/01/2026 | 10/15/2025 | \$500.00 | \$2,076.08 |
| Kids First Learning Academy | 7.00% | 06/15/2034 | 06/15/2025 | \$525.00 | \$14,217.70 |
| Boss Chic | 6.00% | 04/01/2032 | 10/15/2025 | \$600.00 | \$33,330.86 |
| CBS Inc | 6.00% | 10/01/2032 | 02/15/2025 | \$1,100.00 | \$82,344.73 |
| Crowning Glory | 5.00% | 09/01/2031 | 10/02/2025 | \$225.00 | \$16,225.04 |
| Law Office of Felicia S.W. Thomas | 5.00% | 11/01/2031 | 10/15/2025 | \$425.00 | \$19,820.42 |
| Revolutionary Expressions | 5.00% | 10/01/2031 | 10/15/2025 | \$650.00 | \$39,291.45 |
| Tremont Concrete Construction Inc | 5.00% | 07/01/2032 | 05/15/2025 | \$975.00 | \$68,539.99 |
| Wall Doctors Plastering LLC | 6.00% | 02/15/2034 | 10/15/2025 | \$175.00 | \$12,905.60 |
| WCRx Pharmacy | 5.00% | 08/01/2031 | 10/15/2025 | \$1,100.00 | \$64,275.16 |
| Om Sairam LLC | 7.00% | 06/15/2039 | 10/15/2025 | \$1,798.16 | \$189,967.20 |
| North Florida Public Safety, LLC | 8.50% | 07/15/2030 | 10/15/2025 | \$1,026.10 | \$48,378.33 |
| Total | | | | | \$1,104,106.57 |

HOUSING

Hilary Carrasco – Rick McCraw – Gianna Brooks

Activity Overview

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) administers SHIP programs across Calhoun, Jackson, and Gulf counties, helping residents access housing repairs, first-time homebuyer support, and emergency assistance. ARPC staff has been restructuring the Housing Program to function more efficiently and effectively, including revamping the Neighborly application portal for county residents, honing the ARPC filing system, and creating new ways to streamline Statewide Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP) administration.

In addition to this restructuring, recent activities include:

- ARPC staff and Franklin County discussed administration of the County's SHIP funding;
- Hands-on, on-site work with Gulf County to encumber SHIP funds;
- ARPC staff provided guidance to the Jackson County AHAC board during discussions on increasing the purchase assistance award;
- In Calhoun County, six projects reached initial closing, with work beginning in September and continuing into the first week of October; and
- In Jackson County, one Demo/Reconstruction project has officially closed and another is in progress and on track.

Current market concerns

Market conditions and newly imposed tariffs are projected to increase the cost of key construction materials such as steel, aluminum, and lumber. These added expenses, combined with ongoing supply chain delays, create additional volatility in pricing and scheduling. Industry reports estimate that tariffs alone could raise overall construction costs by 1.5 to 2.5 percent in 2025. For SHIP projects, this means higher per-unit costs and the need to closely manage budgets, margins, and potential adjustments to project scope.

State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program – General Information

- **Calhoun SHIP:** ARPC administers Calhoun County's SHIP Program to / assist residents with housing repairs that impact life, safety, and code compliance. The program offers four assistance strategies:
 - o Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation
 - o Purchase Assistance (with or without rehabilitation)
 - o Foreclosure Prevention / Mortgage Assistance
 - o Emergency Housing Repair
- **Jackson SHIP:** Since July 2021, ARPC has helped Jackson County residents with housing repairs and first-time homebuyer support. The SHIP program offers four strategies:
 - o Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation
 - o Purchase with/without Rehabilitation (First-Time Homebuyer)
 - o Emergency Repair



- **Jackson HHRP:** Jackson County's Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP) program, now concluded, was administered by ARPC and successfully passed its audit.
- **Gulf SHIP:** ARPC staff is administering SHIP funds for Gulf County. Applications are accepted on an ongoing, first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to veterans and elderly households, subject to funding availability. Residents can submit the pre-screening and application online and ARPC staff are available to provide technical assistance and accommodation to ensure accessibility. The program offers:
 - o Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation
 - o Purchase Assistance (with or without rehabilitation – First-Time Homebuyer Program)





EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM **Christian Levings – Elizabeth Todak – Logan Patten**

REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM

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 Quarter 1 meeting of the Apalachee LEPC at the Leon County Emergency Operations Center on September 17th. Tetra Tech presented their company's offering to the LEPC community.

Hazardous Materials Training

Notable training courses include the annual refresher training for the City of Tallahassee's Purdom and Hopkins power generating plants. The LEPC sponsors this refresher training course for the plants every year to help keep staff up to date with hazardous materials trainings.

Apalachee LEPC-Sponsored Training Dates

- **CoT Power Generating Plants HazWoper Refresher, held August 11-14, trained 69 students!**

*Upcoming Apalachee LEPC-Sponsored Trainings to be announced as scheduled.

SERC Meetings

ARPC staff attended the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Meeting on July 16-18 in Cocoa Beach, FL. The meetings discussed concerns over lithium-ion battery disposal as well as funding for HazMat Team assessments to be conducted by a third-party vendor.



Planning Project

ARPC Staff completed updates to HazMat Transportation SOPs for Gadsden and Liberty counties on September 30th. These updated SOPs will be added to the Regional LEPC plan for this upcoming year.

BIG BEND HEALTHCARE COALITION (BBHCC)

ARPC staffs the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition (BBHCC.) The next general membership meeting will be held on January 13th, 2026.

Pulsara Patient Tracking Coordination

Pulsara is a software platform that allows a robust patient tracking system from field to hospital. A system of this type has been in need for decades, and is finally available. The Apalachee Region is one of the earliest adapters of this new technology.

The BBHCC is coordinating a Health & Medical group comprised of EMS, Public Health, and Hospital partners to exercise the full spectrum of patient tracking during the 2026 Tallahassee International Airport Full Scale Exercise. The goal is to utilize and test the system in a controlled Mass Casualty Incident scenario to reveal any gaps that warrant further training.

Carter Sensory Comfort Kits

The BBHCC purchased 104 Carter Sensory Kits for its members. These kits aim to provide sensory comfort to pediatric patients – especially those with Autism Spectrum Disorders – during traumatic or other high-stress situations. Each kit comes with a weighted blanket, sunglasses, toys, earmuffs, and a nonverbal communication card. The BBHCC traveled around the region to disperse the kits among 12 agencies in 7 counties.

Training and Exercise

The Big Bend Healthcare Coalition is primarily a preparedness organization and offers several training and exercise opportunities to its membership throughout the year. These trainings and exercises can be in-person, virtual, or hybrid.

- Workplace Safety
- Medical Response and Surge
- Cybersecurity Response

Special Emergency Preparedness Projects FSU Resilient Infrastructure & Disaster Response (RIDER) Center Project

The FSU RIDER Center reached out to the ARPC regarding collaboration on a National Science Foundation grant. This project aims to utilize Artificial Intelligence to predict increase in wildfire risks following hurricanes.





ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROGRAM

Josh Adams – Divina Lade – Khalig Atakishiyev

Evan Blythe – Lydia Johnson – Lauryn Meeks

Project Highlights

- Franklin-98 Living Shoreline is awaiting the Environmental Resource Permit for the second phase of the project. Once in-hand, the third and final phase will be permitted and constructed. Construction is anticipated to resume in fall 2025.
- SQG is on track to be completed by the end of 2025.
- C30 –ARPC received an off-cycle grant through the FWC Marine Habitat Restoration, Monitoring, and Assessment Program to conduct monitoring in Franklin County. Specific activities for this assessment include a seagrass survey, development of 50 percent level design plans, and initiation of the permitting process.



GEOSPATIAL PLANNING PROGRAM

Josh Adams – Divina Lade – Khalig Atakishiyev
Evan Blythe – Lydia Johnson – Lauryn Meeks

Ongoing Support to Counties & Municipalities

- **Calhoun** – Maintenance of the Calhoun County Land Use Map
- **Franklin** – Maintenance of the Franklin Zoning Web Application
- **Gadsden** – Maintenance of geospatial data and fulfillment of ad-hoc mapping services

Ongoing Support to Existing Projects

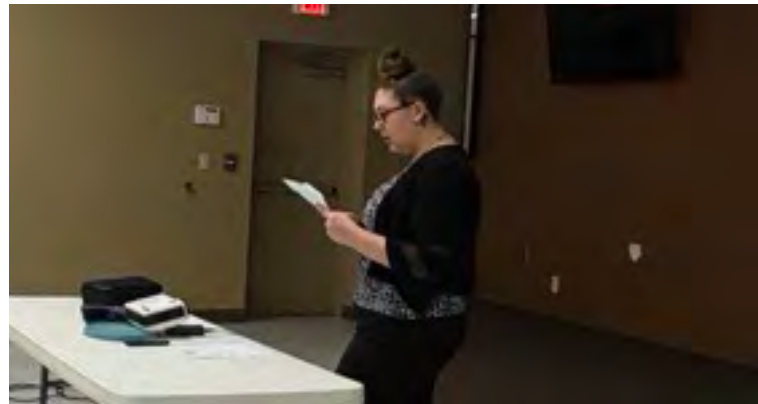
- **Transportation** – Regional Rural Transportation Plan
- **Geospatial/Environmental**
 - Gadsden County Vulnerability Assessment
 - Wakulla Local Mitigation Strategy Plan 2026

Incoming Projects (Funded by FDEP), FY 2025-2026

- **RainReady500** - Using the new Inundate tool, this project will generate 500-year rainfall-induced flood scenarios for 2050 and 2080. The project supports climate adaptation planning and vulnerability assessments across all nine counties.
- **ARMOR (Apalachee Regional Mitigation & Operations Roadmap)** - This project will focus on developing Phase 1 of the Regional Adaptation Plan, establishing a framework for project prioritization and coordinated funding strategies across the Apalachee Region.

Wakulla County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)

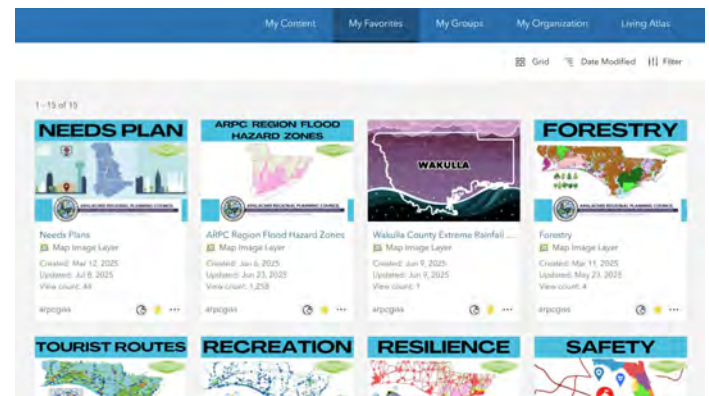
The LMS update for Wakulla County is progressing as planned. The Wakulla County LMS Working Group met on October 9, 2025, to review and approve the draft.



ARPC Intern, Lauryn Meeks, facilitates the hazard ranking exercise, weighing risks by priority, magnitude, and probability.

ARPC ArcGIS Enterprise Portal

Continual maintenance of ARPC's ArcGIS Enterprise Portal's geospatial features and layers is crucial to managing other GIS components across various planning projects. The Geospatial program is committed to carefully populating metadata for all published content and establishing a consistent thumbnail layout for each item, as illustrated in the image below. This ongoing task emphasizes our commitment to upholding a standardized and well-organized repository of geospatial data.





GEOSPATIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, & RESILIENCE PLANNING SUPPORT & SERVICES

ARPC continues to offer planning support across the Region. Here are the support and services available to cities, towns, and counties:

RESILIENCE PLANNING & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- Local Mitigation Strategy Plan
- Project Management
- Participatory Mapping
- Strategic & Behavior Change Communications Plan
- Climate Adaptation Plan

GIS EDUCATION & TRAINING

- In-person or remote technical support to county planning staff.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Aligning community needs with project/grant funding opportunities.

GEOSPATIAL PRODUCT STORAGE & MAINTENANCE

- Storage and annual maintenance of published web maps and applications via ARPC's Geospatial Enterprise Portal.

CUSTOM MAPPING, DIGITIZATION, & SPATIAL ANALYSIS,

- including digitization of paper maps, etc.

DRONE IMAGE, VIDEO, & 3D MODELLING

- Aerial mapping, disaster mapping, including mapping the extent of flooding, structural damage, risk analysis, utilizing imagery and videos to better engage the community in a planning process, water tower inspection, documentation of existing road conditions, and asset inventories.

GEOSPATIAL DATA CREATION & EDITING

- Creation of geospatial features, e.g., setting up a field maps database to collect location information of fire hydrants as the basis for developing an interactive map, and transforming non-spatial information into geographic information data.

WASTE STREAM COMPLIANCE

- Maintain and provide updated compliance documents for potentially hazardous waste generators (small business).

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE REVIEW

- Aid counties and municipalities on environmental compliance and permitting projects needs.

PROJECT DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION

- Collaborating with county project partners to plan, design, and implement nature-based solutions (e.g. Franklin 98 Living Shoreline Project).

WEB APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT & GEO-VISUALIZATION

- Development of interactive web applications from zoning maps, comprehensive land use maps, utilities maps, fire hydrants, story maps and dashboard development.

To learn more about our support and services, please contact:

DIVINA LADE
Geospatial Planning Manager & Resilience Officer
APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Email: dlade@arpc.org

JOSH ADAMS
Environmental Planning Manager & Resilience Officer
APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Email: jadams@arpc.org



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM Kwentin Eastberg – Mary O'Brien Tom Thompson – Austin Britt



Transportation Disadvantaged Program (TD)

The TD Program is a statewide effort that assists with travel to and from life-sustaining and quality of life trips for qualified community members (elderly, disabled, low-income, or at-risk children). For more information, visit [FDOT CTD](#).

Positive Impacts

There have been continuous improvements to the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) educational and marketing efforts throughout the Region. Some examples include updated websites, new transit brochures, and sending out more holistic information packets to those requesting information.

**CTCs provide transportation directly to transportation disadvantaged community members or contract with operators. Ex. Star Metro, Big Bend Transit, etc.*

Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board (TDCB) Meetings

Each county has a TDCB of 18 members representing different stakeholders.

Q1 (July 1 – Sept. 30, 2025): TDCB meetings were held between September 9th and 18th. Each county's TDCB successfully elected a Vice-Chairperson (the Chairperson is always the TDCB's county elected official); reviewed and voted to approve their Bylaws and Complaint and Grievance Procedures; and updated members of both their Administrative Committees and Grievance Committees.

Q2 (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025): TDCB meetings will be held between November 12th and 20th. These meetings are the annual time to:

- Review Annual Operating Reports (AORs) of the CTCs
- Attend a new-member training/public workshop held immediately preceding the regularly scheduled meetings

***Refer to the ARPC website for meeting details per county.*



Transportation Planners throughout the state collaborated to find ways to improve TD services in their regions.
Photo: Smoke N Mirrors Photography.

2025 FPTA Annual Conference

ARPC staff attended the annual Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) conference from September 2 – 4 in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. Examples of conference topics included TD Official Planning Agency training sessions, closing gaps in current transportation services, and defining methods to improve coordination between the CTCs.

For more information about the TD Program, reach out to Austin Britt at abritt@arpc.org or Kwentin Eastberg at keastberg@arpc.org.

The Commuter Assistance Program is a statewide initiative funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The program's primary purpose is to educate and encourage commuters to try alternate forms of transportation for their daily commutes. In the Florida panhandle the program is branded as RideOn Commuter Services.



Fall Marketing Push Nearly Doubles the RideOn User base

RideOn staff launched a multi-media marketing campaign that began in August and ran through the end of September. The campaign primarily targeted young commuters, especially college students. As a result, the RideOn program nearly doubled its active user base in less than two months.

FSU Fellows Program and Campus Outreach

RideOn staff participated in the Fellows program at FSU where staff mentored grad student Maritza Marino on the importance of effective marketing when trying to promote a sustainability initiative. Her final project was to create a social media ad for Instagram where her ad proved to be very successful.

For more information, visit www.rideontotogether.org or reach out to Tom Thompson at TThompson@arpc.org.



@rideontgether.org



Regional Rural Transportation Plan (RRTP)

ARPC is contracted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 3 to maintain the Apalachee Regional Rural Transportation Plan (RRTP).



The main goals are to facilitate regional transportation coordination and education; collect and prioritize the greatest transportation needs within the rural area of Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, and Liberty counties; and share funding opportunities to assist communities in systematically implementing projects.

TAC Meeting

Staff coordinated a RRTP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting on September 4th where the TAC approved draft scoring criteria for the SUN Trail, Transportation Alternatives (TA), and Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) grants.

Additional discussion topics included the Safe System Approach, potential project collaborations and updates on recent improvements and upcoming FDOT grants.



Tanya Branton (FDOT District 3) provides updates at the September 4th RRTP TAC meeting.

Approval of SUN Trail, TRIP, and TA scoring criteria:

Moving forward, projects from Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, or Liberty counties that apply for funding from SUN Trail, TRIP, or TA grants will be ranked regionally using the draft scoring criteria, per the Board's approval. The proposed ranking quantifies what is in the respective grant applications, as well as the project's ranking in the RRTP.

Visit the Regional Rural Transportation Plan's page on the ARPC website for more information about the RRTP and its interactive map, or reach out to Mary O'Brien at MOBrien@arpc.org.



ARPC COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

Melissa Franklin

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

- **Transportation**
 - RideOn web updates
 - CTC brochure updates
- **Emergency Planning**
 - BBHCC web updates
- **Housing**
 - Assisted in document creation
- **Communications**
 - ARPC web updates
 - ARPC Board Package
 - ARPC Board Notes
- **Finance**
 - Created flyer and slides for strategic retreat

From Back Roads To Bright Futures

ARPC Communications program has developed an awareness campaign, “From Back Roads to Bright Futures.” The campaign highlights ARPC’s role in shaping the future of Florida’s nine-county Apalachee Region. By telling the story of how small towns, rural communities, and regional partnerships work together, the campaign connects the past to the future—showing how investment in planning, infrastructure, and collaboration paves the way for growth, opportunity, and resilience.

The campaign elevates voices from across the Region through testimonials, success stories, and community spotlights, demonstrating how ARPC projects in transportation, housing, economic development, and emergency preparedness directly impact local lives. Using a mix of storytelling, visuals, and digital engagement, the campaign reinforces that progress is not just about big cities—it begins on the back roads and leads to brighter futures for everyone.

Nine
counties are
stronger
than one.

Regional planning
reduces costs,
improves services,
& benefits
everyone.

APALACHEE REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL

Campaign Goals

- Increase awareness of ARPC’s role among rural communities and local leaders.
- Show how ARPC helps transform small-town challenges into regional opportunities.
- Build public support for collaborative planning across county lines.
- Strengthen ARPC’s brand identity as approachable, innovative, and future-focused.

Campaign Messaging

Small towns and rural communities are the backbone of Northwest Florida. With planning and partnerships, we can turn today’s challenges into tomorrow’s opportunities.

Supporting Points:

- ARPC connects communities to tackle issues bigger than one county.
- Planning improves jobs, roads, housing, and storm preparedness.
- Regional collaboration helps rural towns thrive without losing their identity.

IN PROGRESS & UPCOMING

- 2026 ARPC Planner
- 2024 – 2025 ARPC Annual Report
- ARPC Staff App!
- ARPC Communications Plan
- Apalachee Online
- Safe Streets 4 All



GROWTH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM **Justin Stiell – Brianna Williams**

PROGRAMMING CHANGES

The Growth Management program is primarily responsible for a range of planning activities, including comprehensive plan amendments (such as Future Land Use amendments), zoning changes, land use recommendations, and writing and amending land development regulations. Additionally, the program supports local public workshops, assists with planning grant administration, and coordinates special planning projects. These activities provide essential technical assistance to ARPC's member local governments and municipalities.

CURRENT AND ONGOING PLANNING SERVICES

Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) continues to provide planning services through direct collaboration with local government staff on project reviews and comprehensive planning efforts. ARPC currently supports the Town of Havana and the City of Apalachicola with their respective growth management needs. Through the Growth Management Program, ARPC maintains five active service contracts with Liberty County, Franklin County, Gadsden County, the City of Apalachicola, and the Town of Havana. ARPC staff serve as county planners for Liberty County and the City of Apalachicola, while providing support roles in Franklin County, Gadsden County, and the Town of Havana.

In our last report, we noted that the City of Quincy was considering a contract with ARPC. However, the Interim City Manager has since indicated that budget constraints prevent them from moving forward at this time. ARPC is also assisting the Town of St. Marks with an update to their Comprehensive Plan, further demonstrating the Council's ongoing commitment to supporting local governments with their planning and development goals.

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANS & LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Serving as an extension of our member local governments, ARPC staff reviews development applications to ensure they comply with local Comprehensive Plans and Land Development Regulations. ARPC's current review practices include completing site plan reviews and providing recommendations for approval, approval with conditions, or denial for residential development, commercial development, subdivisions, accessory uses, accessory buildings, and code enforcement issues. Additionally, ARPC staff participate in meetings with developers to offer guidance on relevant sections of the land development code and comprehensive plan, as requested by local governments.



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: August 2025

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Prepared agenda, coordinated and hosted FRCAs Policy Board Nominating Committee Meeting
- Finalized FRCAs FY25-26 Budget and reports for August Executive Directors Advisory Committee meeting and FRCAs Summer Policy Board and Annual Meeting
- Prepared agenda and coordinated the August Executive Directors Advisory Committee Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting at the Tampa Bay RPC
- Prepared agenda and coordinated FRCAs Summer Policy Board and Annual Meeting at the Tampa Bay RPC
- Monthly meeting with FRCA's Bookkeeper and EDAC Treasurer
- Worked on FRCAs website and communications plan

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Attended **Florida League of Cities Annual Conference** and managed FRCA's booth in the exhibit hall.
- Meeting with RPC Communications Workgroup
- Followed up with contacts made at Florida Association of Counties and Florida League of Cities Annual Conferences



CALHOUN COUNTY

Current state of Calhoun County, Florida, per the Florida Scorecard, BLS, BEA, & ACS

ECONOMY

256
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$33,709,242
TOTAL QUARTERLY
WAGES

\$38,342
AVERAGE. INCOME

-6

YEARLY CHANGE IN
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$799
AVERAGE
WEEKLY WAGES

\$341,706
GDP

DEVELOPMENT

26
HOUSING PERMITS

2%
LAND IN CONSERVATION

EDUCATION

94.5%
High School Graduation Rate

EMPLOYMENT



5.0
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE



4830
LABOR FORCE



43.37%
LABOR FORCE
PARTICIPATION



116
OPEN JOBS



+45
YEARLY EMPLOYMENT
CHANGE

POPULATION



13,280
Population



21.2%
Poverty Rate



30.1%
Children in
Poverty



SUMMARY PROVIDED BY
APALACHEE REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Current state of Franklin County, Florida, per the Florida Scorecard, BLS, BEA, & ACS

ECONOMY

422
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$37,436,102
TOTAL QUARTERLY
WAGES

\$45,384
AVERAGE. INCOME

-1
YEARLY CHANGE IN
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$833
AVERAGE
WEEKLY WAGES

\$376,936
GDP

DEVELOPMENT

109
HOUSING PERMITS

86%
LAND IN CONSERVATION

EDUCATION

72.5%
High School Graduation Rate

EMPLOYMENT



5.1%
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE



4962
LABOR FORCE



46.49%
LABOR FORCE
PARTICIPATION



187
OPEN JOBS



-113
YEARLY EMPLOYMENT
CHANGE

POPULATION



12,980
Population



17.3%
Poverty Rate



38.6%
Children in
Poverty



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PLANNING COUNCIL.

GADSDEN COUNTY

Current state of Gadsden County, Florida, per the Florida Scorecard, BLS, BEA, & ACS

ECONOMY

899
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$195,931,541
TOTAL QUARTERLY
WAGES

\$47,181
AVERAGE. INCOME

-28
YEARLY CHANGE IN
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$934
AVERAGE
WEEKLY WAGES

\$1,330,410
GDP

DEVELOPMENT

97
HOUSING PERMITS

6%
LAND IN CONSERVATION

EDUCATION

73.9%
High School Graduation Rate

EMPLOYMENT



5.5%
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE



16763
LABOR FORCE



47.83%
LABOR FORCE
PARTICIPATION



755
OPEN JOBS



129
YEARLY EMPLOYMENT
CHANGE

POPULATION



44,150
Population



27.7%
Poverty Rate



41.6%
Children in
Poverty



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APALACHEE REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL.

GULF COUNTY

Current state of Gulf County, Florida, per the Florida Scorecard, BLS, BEA, & ACS

ECONOMY

544
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$56,360,264
TOTAL QUARTERLY
WAGES

\$50,687
AVERAGE. INCOME

+13

YEARLY CHANGE IN
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$980
AVERAGE
WEEKLY WAGES

\$492,965
GDP

DEVELOPMENT

278
HOUSING PERMITS

21%
LAND IN CONSERVATION

EDUCATION

85.2%
High School Graduation Rate

EMPLOYMENT



4.3%
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE



5,666
LABOR FORCE



43.76%
LABOR FORCE
PARTICIPATION



259
OPEN JOBS



-40
YEARLY EMPLOYMENT
CHANGE

POPULATION



15,880
Population



11.6%
Poverty Rate



15.7%
Children in
Poverty



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PLANNING COUNCIL.

JACKSON COUNTY

Current state of Jackson County, Florida, per the Florida Scorecard, BLS, BEA, & ACS

ECONOMY

1064
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$177,502,024
TOTAL QUARTERLY
WAGES

\$40,972
AVERAGE. INCOME

+9
YEARLY CHANGE IN
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$931
AVERAGE
WEEKLY WAGES

\$1,406,915
GDP

DEVELOPMENT

143
HOUSING PERMITS

4%
LAND IN CONSERVATION

EDUCATION

86.9%
High School Graduation Rate

EMPLOYMENT



5.0%
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE



17,288
LABOR FORCE



43.37%
LABOR FORCE
PARTICIPATION



751
OPEN JOBS



-265
YEARLY EMPLOYMENT
CHANGE

POPULATION



49,980
Population



18.8%
Poverty Rate



28.4%
Children in
Poverty



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APALACHEE REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Current state of Jefferson County, Florida, per the Florida Scorecard, BLS, BEA, & ACS

ECONOMY

397
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$35,536,614
TOTAL QUARTERLY
WAGES

\$52,094
AVERAGE. INCOME

+12
YEARLY CHANGE IN
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$892
AVERAGE
WEEKLY WAGES

\$305,245
GDP

DEVELOPMENT

69
HOUSING PERMITS

38%
LAND IN CONSERVATION

EDUCATION

73.2%
High School Graduation Rate

EMPLOYMENT



4.3%
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE



6,667
LABOR FORCE



53.15%
LABOR FORCE
PARTICIPATION



189
OPEN JOBS



-16
YEARLY EMPLOYMENT
CHANGE

POPULATION



15,920
Population



20.3%
Poverty Rate



27.7%
Children in
Poverty



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LEON COUNTY

Current state of Leon County, Florida, per the Florida Scorecard, BLS, BEA, & ACS

ECONOMY

11,090
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$2,646,727,678
TOTAL QUARTERLY
WAGES

\$57,139
AVERAGE. INCOME

-179
YEARLY CHANGE IN
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$1228
AVERAGE
WEEKLY WAGES

\$17,611,188
GDP

DEVELOPMENT

1,990
HOUSING PERMITS

41%
LAND IN CONSERVATION

EDUCATION

85.1%
High School Graduation Rate

EMPLOYMENT



4.7%
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE



160,971
LABOR FORCE



65.37%
LABOR FORCE
PARTICIPATION



12,432
OPEN JOBS



+3491
YEARLY EMPLOYMENT
CHANGE

POPULATION



300,490,000
Population



18.5%
Poverty Rate



17.6%
Children in
Poverty



SUMMARY PROVIDED BY
APALACHEE REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL.

LIBERTY COUNTY

Current state of Liberty County, Florida, per the Florida Scorecard, BLS, BEA, & ACS

ECONOMY

138
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$23,824,060
TOTAL QUARTERLY
WAGES

\$35,661
AVERAGE. INCOME

0
YEARLY CHANGE IN
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$962
AVERAGE
WEEKLY WAGES

\$370,019
GDP

DEVELOPMENT

14
HOUSING PERMITS

66%
LAND IN CONSERVATION

EDUCATION

82.1%
High School Graduation Rate

EMPLOYMENT



5.1%
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE



2,688
LABOR FORCE



41.64%
LABOR FORCE
PARTICIPATION



135
OPEN JOBS



+36
YEARLY EMPLOYMENT
CHANGE

POPULATION



7,960
Population



20.8%
Poverty Rate



25.83%
Children in
Poverty



SUMMARY PROVIDED BY
APALACHEE REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL.

WAKULLA COUNTY

Current state of Wakulla County, Florida, per the Florida Scorecard, BLS, BEA, & ACS



ECONOMY

643

QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

+6

YEARLY CHANGE IN
QUARTERLY
ESTABLISHMENTS

\$80,580,473

TOTAL QUARTERLY
WAGES

\$926

AVERAGE
WEEKLY WAGES

\$52,124

AVERAGE. INCOME

\$872,371

GDP



DEVELOPMENT

534

HOUSING PERMITS

66%

LAND IN CONSERVATION



EDUCATION

97.1%

High School Graduation Rate



EMPLOYMENT



3.9%
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE



16,355
LABOR FORCE



57.51%
LABOR FORCE
PARTICIPATION



354
OPEN JOBS



+180
YEARLY EMPLOYMENT
CHANGE



POPULATION



37,120
Population



5.6%
Poverty Rate



6.5%
Children in
Poverty



SUMMARY PROVIDED BY
APALACHEE REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL.



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ARPC Mission: To serve our member local governments by providing technical assistance & planning expertise in a variety of disciplines.

ARPC Vision: Leading our communities toward a vibrant future by leveraging expertise to deliver innovative solutions that guide growth, development, and resilience.



HOW CAN WE HELP?

ARPC proudly serves as a dedicated catalyst for responsible growth and development in the Apalachee Region of Florida. Our dedicated staff work closely with local governments, community organizations, and stakeholders on a variety of issues, developing innovative solutions from a regional perspective. Fully committed to collaboration and community engagement, ARPC is better able to position our member governments, creating access and leverage for funding. Our dedicated team works tirelessly to address the unique challenges and opportunities that shape the landscape of our communities.



**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
PLANNING**

**GEOSPATIAL
PLANNING**

**TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING**

**EMERGENCY
PLANNING**

HOUSING

**GROWTH
MANAGEMENT**

**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



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