

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ARPC WORKSHOP MINUTES
MAY 6, 2014**

PRESENT AND ACTING:

**THOMAS G. FLOWERS, CHAIRMAN
WOODROW "LEE" SHELTON, VICE-CHAIRMAN
WILLIE T. GRANT
DARRELL MCDUGALD
MARION "LEE LEE" BROWN**

**MATT FUQUA, ATTORNEY
CARLA PEACOCK, DEPUTY CLERK**

The workshop was called to order by Chairman Flowers at 5:20 p.m., CT.

CHRIS RIETOW – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (ARPC)

Mr. Rietow gave each Commissioner a handout detailing the services provided by ARPC. Mr. Rietow introduced his staff.

BRUCE BALLISTER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNER -ARPC

Mr. Ballister said the ARPC is one of 11 councils in the State. Mr. Ballister gave a presentation on ARPC's role in Economic Development. He explained ARPC provides direct and specific assistance to public, nonprofit, and private entities in the Region to address local economic concerns. The ARPC applies for and administers state and federal grants and loans on behalf of its local jurisdictions through the USDA's Rural Development program, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, the State Department of Community Affairs' CDBG program, and other sources as identified to bring projects to reality. Mr. Ballister said Economic Development Administration (EDA) looks for projects that pay more than the median wage. He stated there have been several area projects funded through EDA by ARPC in the last seven years such as the Family Dollar Distribution Center and Green Circle Bio in Jackson County. He stated ARPC provides physical impact planning, economic analysis – how project will impact County over 10 – 20 years.

JANICE WATSON, REVOLVING LOAN OFFICER – ARPC

Ms. Watson explained the ARPC's Revolving Loan Program. She stated it works like a bank loan, but ARPC is not allowed to make a bankable loan. Ms. Watson stated the Revolving Loan Program provides a source of capital for businesses to promote job creation. The loans are made for periods not exceeding five years, and fixed asset loans are made for periods not exceeding ten years. Eligible borrowers must create or retain full-time jobs within the region. Potential borrowers must have received at least two letters or other documentation of denial for either partial or full funding from a traditional lending institution and also be located in the Apalachee Region. Ms. Watson gave examples of two Calhoun County business owners who have benefitted from the Revolving Loan Program.

Ms. Watson stated ARPC is charged with keeping their ears to the ground for grants and other opportunities and they would like to get Calhoun County back as a paying member. Ms. Watson said Kristy Terry, Calhoun County Chamber Director does a very good job of keeping on top of opportunities for Calhoun County.

There being no further business, the Workshop was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.


THOMAS G. FLOWERS, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


CARLA A. HAND, CLERK