

Executive Director Report

COVID-19 Impacts

- Impact on the office has been minimal as staff has been able to work remotely and continue to be productive
- Janice is in the office full-time and I'm in M,W,F
- Biweekly virtual staff meetings using Microsoft Teams have kept staff connected
- We know that COVID-19 will significantly impact the budgets of our member local governments
 - Budget request letters (dues) were sent out this week

Economic Development

- The Apalachee Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) will be receiving an additional \$580K in recapitalization funds from EDA
- Additionally, all Florida Economic Development Districts received a 2-year \$400K planning grant to assist with COVID-19 recovery efforts (no match required)
 - Funds will allow us to hire a full-time RLF Coordinator and to extend Ben's services for a third year
 - Still hopeful that the EDA Hurricane Michael Disaster funds for an addition \$1M in RLF recapitalization will be awarded Leon/City of Tallahassee

Environmental Planning

- The Franklin 98 Coastal Restoration project was awarded construction funds via NFWF and GEB
 - 12 miles of miles of living shoreline to be built between Eastpoint and Carrabelle
 - Three-year project includes funding for a full-time project manager that will be housed at the ARPC
 - We've interviewed and hired our newest employee and he'll begin in June

Emergency Planning

- The Big Bend Healthcare Coalition which is staffed by the ARPC has been extremely active due to COVID-19
- This was the ARPC's first year with this program and the BBHCC's board was very impressed with staff and has moved forward with renewing the contract (\$120K)

GIS

- Apalachee Online Phase II will be completed next month
 - All municipalities will be now be included on this GIS-based website

Housing

- The ARPC officially has started a housing program
- Through a partnership with the Emerald Coast Regional Council, ARPC has contracted with Calhoun County to administer the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP)
 - Two full-time housing planners have been hired feedback from Calhoun has been very positive
 - We have recently submitted a proposal to administer Calhoun County's SHIP program
- We hope to be able to grow the Housing Program by assisting other counties as well

Transportation

- The CRTPA recently approved for the ARPC to become the official planning agency to contract directly with the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
- Implementation of the DOT District 3 Ride On program is still progressing but COVID-19 has definitely impacted ride-sharing efforts