

ADD-ON

Attached is Agenda Item #29

**Approval of Resolution Supporting the Retention of
Funding for Florida's Regional Planning Councils as
Appropriated by the Florida Legislature**

(This Item will be included in the Consent Agenda)

Meeting of Tuesday, May 14, 2013

This document distributed May 9, 2013

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

Cover Sheet for Agenda #29

May 14, 2013

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator

Title: Approval of Resolution Supporting the Retention of Funding for Florida's Regional Planning Councils as Appropriated by the Florida Legislature

County Administrator Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department/ Division Review:	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator
Lead Staff/ Project Team:	Kim Dressel, Senior Assistant to the County Administrator

Fiscal Impact:

This item does not have a fiscal impact.

Staff Recommendation:

Option #1: Approve Resolution supporting the retention of funding for Florida's Regional Planning Councils as appropriated by the Florida Legislature (Attachment #1).

Report and Discussion

Background:

This agenda item and proposed Resolution have been prepared at Commissioner Saul's request. Commissioner Sauls is the Board's appointee to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC), and serves on its Board of Directors. Geographically, Leon County has three appointments to the ARPC: one County Commissioner, appointed by the full Board; one City Commissioner, selected by the City Commission; and, the Governor appoints the third representative. The appointees serve a one-year term.

Analysis:

Florida's 11 Regional Planning Councils (FRPCs) are designated by the federal government as economic development districts, tasked with promoting economic development throughout Florida. In that capacity, the FRPCs work in partnership with community leaders to develop regional visions that link business development, job creation, infrastructure, environment, land use, and transportation into long-term investment plans.

For the past two years, FY 11/12 and FY 12/13, the Governor has line-item vetoed the State of Florida's appropriation of \$2.5 million to the FRPCs. The 2013 Florida Legislature supported the restoration of funding, and again included \$2.5 million in the appropriations bill for the FRPCs.

Charles Blume, Executive Director of the ARPC, advises that funding among the FRPCs is allocated by formula, with 75% of the allocation divided equally, and 25% of the allocation based on population. He estimated ARPC's allocation would be approximately \$200,000.

At its regular meeting on March 28, 2013, the ARPC was informed that 2013/2014 funding had been provided in their respective budgets by the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives. The ARPC voted unanimously to send resolutions from each of the local governments represented on the ARPC to the Governor, formally requesting that he retain the funding for FRPCs as appropriated by the Legislature (Attachment #2). The proposed Resolution respectfully urges Governor Rick Scott to support funding for the FRPCs.

If the Board approves the proposed Resolution, staff will transmit an executed copy to Governor Rick Scott, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and the Chairman of the ARPC.

Options:

1. Approve Resolution supporting the retention of funding for Florida's Regional Planning Councils as appropriated by the Florida Legislature
2. Do not approve Resolution supporting the retention of funding for Florida's Regional Planning Councils as appropriated by the Florida Legislature
3. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Resolution
2. Letter from the Chairman of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA,
IN SUPPORT OF RESTORING AND MAINTAINING FUTURE STATE FUNDING FOR
THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Whereas, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is an association of local governments and gubernatorial representatives; and

Whereas, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council brings together governments to coordinate planning for the region's future and provides an opportunity for sharing solutions among the 37 jurisdictions in the Apalachee region; and

Whereas, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council encompasses the counties of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla, which are required by law to exercise regional cooperation through membership on the Council; and

Whereas, the regional planning councils, including the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, are federally designated economic development districts and promote economic development in conjunction with local economic development organizations, provide access to federal economic development funding, and provide technical assistance to local governments, private businesses and neighborhood-based organizations with respect to the creation and expansion of infrastructure and jobs; and

Whereas, regional planning councils, including the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, have prepared five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies using the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars as an organizing framework to help implement the State Strategic Plan for Economic Development and meet the Governor's job creation goals; and

Whereas, regional planning councils, including the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, use econometric modeling to provide objective economic impact analyses on policy and investment decisions in support of local economic development organizations, helping them create jobs and invest in local communities; and

Whereas, regional planning councils, including the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, prepare grant applications for federal and state economic development and job creation projects at the request of local economic development organizations and local governments; and

Whereas, regional planning councils, including the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, convene community leaders to develop regional visions that link business development, job creation, infrastructure, environment, land use, and transportation into long-term investment plans; and

Whereas, the state appropriation for regional planning councils has been vetoed for the past two years, negatively affecting the ability of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council to address problems of greater-than-local concern, provide technical assistance to the local governments and economic development organizations in its region, and begin implementation of the State Strategic Plan for Economic Development.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, that:

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida hereby supports restoring state funding for Florida's 11 regional planning councils, including the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, in recognition of their valuable economic development role within their respective regions and to the State of Florida.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida hereby urges Governor Rick Scott to recognize the contribution of Florida's 11 regional planning councils to the Governor's job creation goals and partnership with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in the development and implementation of the State Strategic Plan for Economic Development.

Section 3. The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida hereby urges Governor Rick Scott to support and restore funding for Florida's 11 regional planning councils.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DONE, ADOPTED, AND PASSED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, this 14th day of May, 2013.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Nicholas Maddox, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:
Bob Inzer, Clerk of the Court
Leon County, Florida

By: _____

Approved as to Form:
Leon County Attorney's Office

By: _____
Herbert W.A. Thiele, Esq.
County Attorney



Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Serving Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson
Liberty, Leon and Wakulla Counties and their municipalities

April 29, 2013

The Hon. Jane Sauls
Leon County Board of Commissioners
301 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Commissioner Sauls:

At its regular meeting on March 28, 2013, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) was informed that 2013/2014 funding had been provided in their respective budgets by the FL Senate and FL House of Representatives for the 11 regional planning councils in Florida. The ARPC voted unanimously to send resolutions from each of the local governments represented on the Council and letters from each of the serving Gubernatorial Appointees to the Governor, formally requesting that he retain the funding for Florida's regional planning councils as appropriated by the Legislature.

Enclosed is a resolution in support of the ARPC to be presented to the Leon County Commission for their review and approval as soon as possible. Also included for your convenience are labels for mailing copies of the resolution to the Governor, President of the FL Senate, Speaker of the FL House of Representatives, and also to me. If your County policy allows, it would be advisable that the resolution mailed to the Governor include original signatures.

If you have any questions, or if your staff would rather have an electronic version of this resolution, please contact Janice Watson at the ARPC office number listed below.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this most urgent matter. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued service on the ARPC and your support of the Council and its service to the local governments and communities of the Apalachee Region.

Sincerely,


John S. Jones, Jr.
Chairman