



Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 | 9:30 a.m.

How to Attend:

DeSoto County Administration Building, County Commission Chambers
201 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

Call To Order – Chair Nathaniel J. Birdsong, Jr.

- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Members Oath of Office
- Roll Call
- Announcements
- Recognitions

1) Opportunity for Public Comments

2) Election of Council Officers for 2025

The Council Nominating Committee (City of Lakeland Commissioner Stephanie Madden, Okeechobee City Councilmember Noel Chandler, Sebring City Councilmember Harrison Havery) is scheduled to meet prior to the Council meeting to consider nominations for a Council Chair and Vice Chair for 2025.

Actions Requested:	Elect Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025
Exhibits:	None

3) Council Administration

- A) Approval of Minutes
- B) December 2024 Financial Report

Actions Requested:	Approval by Council
Exhibits:	#3A: December 11, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes #3B: December 2024 Financial Report

4) DeSoto County Activities Report

Mandy Hines, DeSoto County Administrator, has been invited to update the Council on current activities in DeSoto County.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

5) City of Arcadia Activities Report

Beth Carsten, City of Arcadia Interim City Manager, has been invited to update the Council on current activities in the City.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

6) Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilience Project Grant

The CFRPC has received a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to create a plan or guidance manual that will help various entities coordinate regionally when conducting vulnerability assessments, developing adaptation plans, and prioritizing projects for implementation.

Actions Requested:	Authorize the Executive Director to execute agreement and administer FDEP Grant.
Exhibit:	None

7) Polk County Adaptation Plan

Staff issued a Request for Qualifications to complete a Polk County Adaptation Plan consistent with the Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook and Resilient Florida Legislation. The selected consultant will assess flood risks through advanced mapping and vulnerability analyses. Community engagement will be a critical component of this project to ensure the adaptation plan aligns with local needs and priorities. The Selection Committee has evaluated and ranked the Proposals.

Actions Requested:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Selection Committee’s rankings and authorize Executive Director to negotiate and execute contract with the top ranked firm. • Authorize Executive Director to negotiate and execute contract with the second ranked firm should negotiations be unsuccessful with the top ranked firm.
Exhibit:	None

8) Economic Recovery & Resiliency Federal Interagency Resource Exchange (FIRE) Listening Session

The Federal Economic Recovery Support Function, in collaboration with Florida’s Regional Planning Councils and the Florida Department of Commerce, is hosting regional convenings known as FIRE Listening Sessions. These sessions bring together local, state, and regional stakeholders with federal agencies to facilitate strategic discussions. The goal is to gather and validate information on the impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton and to connect identified needs with available resources. Staff will provide a report on the FIRE Listening Session held in Sebring on January 30, 2025.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	#8: Agricultural Losses per County Public Assistance Damages Hurricane Milton Path Project Summary Worksheet Central Florida Disaster Recovery Contact List

9) Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership

Jennifer Hecker, Executive Director of the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership, will provide an update on regional activities. The partnership’s coverage area includes DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Polk counties.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

10) Report on the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) January Policy Board Meeting

The Executive Director and Policy Board Members will report on the FRCA Policy Board meeting which was held in January in Tallahassee. The FRCA Annual Report will be presented.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	#10: Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) FY 2023-24 Annual Report

11) Executive Director’s Report

The Executive Director will report on Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) activities, and Council programs.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	#11: FRCA Monthly Activities Report

12) Updates and Announcements from Local Governments and Agencies

CFRPC Board members, including Ex-Officio Members, will have the opportunity to share updates and activities from their communities and agencies.

13) Next Meeting and Other Business

A) Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 9:30 AM
Jack Stroup (Sebring) Civic Center
355 W. Center Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870

B) Other Business

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, income, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the CFRPC Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Indihra Chambers, 863-534-7130, or via Florida Relay Service 711, or by email: ichambers@cfrpc.org.

La participación pública es solicitada sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad, discapacidad, religión o situación familiar. Las personas que requieren alojamiento bajo el Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) o la traducción de idiomas, de forma gratuita deben ponerse en contacto Indihra Chambers, CFRPC Título VI de Enlace, 863-534-7130 (voz), oa través de la Florida Relay Servicio 711, o por correo electrónico ichambers@cfrpc.org al menos tres días antes del evento.



Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 | 9:30 a.m.

SunTrax
100 Transformation Way
Auburndale, FL 33823

Chair Nathaniel Birdsong called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Council Attorney Norman White led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Norman White swore in new Council Members Kenny Miller, Hardee County Commissioner and Michael Sumner, Okeechobee County Commissioner.

Roll was called and the following Council Members were in attendance:

Commissioner Nathaniel J. Birdsong, Jr., City of Winter Haven Mayor, Chair
Donna Howerton, Highlands County Gubernatorial Appointee, Vice Chair
Council Member Keith Keene, City of Arcadia
Council Member Judy Wertz-Strickland, City of Arcadia, Ridge League of Cities
Commissioner Rick Wilson, Polk County Board of County Commissioners
Commissioner Stephanie Madden, City of Lakeland
Robert “Jeff” Kincart, Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Michael Sumner, Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners
Councilmember Noel Chandler, City of Okeechobee
Commissioner Kenny Miller, Hardee County Board of County Commissioners
Commissioner Neda Cobb, City of Wauchula, Mayor Pro-Temp
Councilmember Harrison Havery, City of Sebring
Benjamin Dunn, Polk County, Ex-Officio
Kelly Boatwright, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Ex-Officio

A quorum of members was present.

Announcements

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, CFRPC Executive Director, thanked SunTrax for the use of the facility and for the tour that followed the meeting. Jennifer also thanked Citrus Connection for the use of one of their vehicles for the tour of the facility. Jennifer welcomed Benjamin Dunn, Polk County Director/Office of Planning & Development, as the Polk County Ex-Officio Member.

Recognitions

Chair Birdsong presented Polk County Commissioner Rick Wilson (6 years) and Wauchula City Commissioner Neda Cobb (11 years) certificates of Appreciate for their years of service to the Council and to their communities and the Region. Both Commissioners offered their thanks to the Council and staff for their work. Hardee Commissioner Judith George (3 years) and Okeechobee County Kelly Owens (3 years) were recognized for their service to the Council as well.



1) Opportunity for Public Comments

No comments.

2) Council Administration

A) Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by: Noel Chandler
 - The motion was seconded by: Keith Keene
 - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

B) Approval of November 2024 Financial Report

- A motion was made by: Rick Wilson
 - The motion was seconded by: Donna Howerton
 - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

3) Welcome to Suntrax!

Pamela Foster, SunTrax Strategic Development Manager with Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise provided an overview of the SunTrax facility.

4) Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Project – Sebring Airport

Andrew Bennett, Deputy Director of the Sebring Regional Airport Authority, and Dr. Dan Nale, a civil engineering professor at The Citadel, provided an overview of the Advanced Air Mobility Project at Sebring Regional Airport.

5) Audit Report for the Year Ended September 30, 2024

Julie Fowler of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP presented the audit report for FY 2023-24. There were no findings or concerns in any category.

6) Recommendations from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on December 2, 2024, and recommended approval to the Council of the following items.

A) Approve Final Budget Amendment for FY 2023-24.

- A motion to Approve was made by: Keith Keene
 - The motion was seconded by: Rick Wilson
 - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

B) Accept Audit Report for FY 2023-24.

- A motion to Accept was made by: Keith Keene
 - The motion was seconded by: Donna Howerton
 - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

C) Approve Budget Amendment #1 for FY 2024-25.

- A motion to Approve was made by: Keith Keene
 - The motion was seconded by: Michael Sumner
 - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

D) Approve Procurement Policy Amendment #.

- A motion to Approve was made by: Michael Sumner
 - The motion was seconded by: Donna Howerton
 - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

7) Title VI/Nondiscrimination Plan

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury provided an overview of the updated CFRPC Title VI/Nondiscrimination Plan adopted in December 2018. The plan includes the Title VI/Nondiscrimination policy and other elements to meet the requirements of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and other federal agencies.

Adopt CFRPC Title VI/Nondiscrimination Plan Update

- A motion to Approve was made by: Stephanie Madden
 - The motion was seconded by: Donna Howerton
 - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

8 Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with the Florida Department of Transportation FTA 5310 Small Urban, 5311 Rural Operating, 5311 DART Operating, and 5311 Mobility Management

Heidi Villa, CFRPC Grants Manager, provided an overview of the transportation grants and requested approval of Resolutions 2024-12A through 2024-12D authorizing the Executive Director to sign the PTGAs and administer the grants.

Approve Resolution 2024-12A – 5310 Small Urban Operating

- A motion to Approve was made by: Rick Wilson
 - The motion was seconded by: Michael Sumner
 - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Approve Resolution 2024-12B – 5311 Rural Operating

- A motion to Approve was made by: Rick Wilson
 - The motion was seconded by: Michael Sumner
 - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Approve Resolution 2024-12C – 5311 DART Operating

- A motion to Approve was made by: Noel Chandler
 - The motion was seconded by: Rick Wilson
 - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Approve Resolution 2024-12D – 5311 Mobility Management

- A motion to Approve was made by: Noel Chandler
 - The motion was seconded by: Donna Howerton
 - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

9) Opportunity For Public Hearing for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grants

Heidi Villa stated that staff prepared FTA grant applications that require a public hearing be set in the event anyone from the public would like to comment on the grants. She stated there were no requests to conduct a public hearing received.

10) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant Agreement and Applications

Each year, the Council submits requests to the Florida Department of Transportation for FTA funding. The annual grant applications for operating and capital support the Transportation Disadvantaged Program, rural transit services, and mobility management programs in DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties. Heidi Villa explained that this resolution would grant the Executive Director the ability to apply for FTA grants.

Approve Resolution 2024-12E – to authorize staff to apply for FY 25/26 FTA 5310, 5311, and 5339 Grant Programs.

- A motion to Approve was made by: Noel Chandler
 - The motion was seconded by: Michael Sumner
 - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

11) Adoption of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2023 Update

The CFRPC serves as the Economic Development District for the Central Florida Region, as designated by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). One role of the EDD is to develop and maintain the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region, including updating the CEDS annually. CFRPC Program Manager Beneshea Frazier briefed the Council on updates to the CEDS.

Adopt 2024 CEDS Update and approve for publishing and transmitting to EDA.

- A motion was made by: Rick Wilson
- The motion was seconded by: Noel Chandler
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

12) U.S. Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Grant

The CFRPC has been awarded the U.S. Economic Development Administration 2023 Disaster Supplemental Grant for a multi-jurisdictional transportation corridor study. Beneshea Frazier shared that the goal of the grant is to increase economic development in the region with a targeted approach for those communities. Staff requested authorization to execute the agreement and administer this grant.

Approve Resolution 2024-12F authorizing the Executive Director to execute the agreement and administer the EDA Grant.

- A motion was made by: Noel Chandler
- The motion was seconded by: Donna Howerton
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

13) U.S. Economic Development Administration Grant

The US Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Grant is available for communities recovering from Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Staff requested authorization to submit, execute agreement, and administer this grant. The CFRPC will also be issuing a Request for Proposal to consultants for this project.

Approve Resolution 2024-12G authorizing the Executive Director to execute the agreement and administer the EDA Grant.

- A motion was made by: Rick Wilson
- The motion was seconded by: Michael Sumner
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

14) Appoint Committee to Nominate Council Officers for 2025

Nathaniel Birdsong, Chair, appointed a committee to nominate officers of the Council for 2025. The appointments included Noel Chandler, Stephanie Madden, and Harrison Havery. The election will occur at the Council Meeting on February 12, 2025.

15) 2025 Holiday Schedule

The 2025 Holiday Schedule was shared for Council approval.

- A motion to approve was made by: Donna Howerton
- The motion was seconded by: Rick Wilson
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

16) Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation

The Council is responsible for conducting an annual evaluation of the Executive Director's performance over the past year. The link to the Evaluation was sent to each Council Member via email in September. A summary of the evaluation results was presented by Chair Birdsong. Chair Birdsong shared that Jennifer received high marks in every category, and that she effectively leads CFRPC staff with both professionalism and leadership. The chair called for the vote to approve the evaluation and a three percent Cost of Living Adjustment consistent with CFRPC Staff Adjustment.

- A motion to approve was made by: Keith Keene
- The motion was seconded by: Rick Wilson
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

17) Executive Director's Report

Jennifer presented information on the two awards recently won by CFRPC staff. Both awards were presented to the Council for exceptional work.

18) Next Meeting and Other Business

- A) Next Meeting: **February 12, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners Chambers, 201 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266.**
- B) Other Business – No other business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned followed by optional tour of the SunTrax Facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathaniel J. Birdsong, Jr., Chair

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FY 2024-2025
For the Month Ended December 31, 2024

Exhibit #2B

UNAUDITED

December = 25%

	ACCRUAL	ACTUAL	Approved Budget	ACCRUAL
	December 2024	December 2024	Budget	% of Budget
ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE				
INCOME				
1 Use of Prior Year Surplus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
2 Member Assessments	166,484	95,067	370,818	45%
3 Local Revenue	344,242	433,007	2,391,520	14%
4 State Revenue	40,201	123,559	455,808	9%
5 Federal Revenue	812,683	909,946	3,344,966	24%
6 TOTAL INCOME	1,363,610	1,561,580	6,563,112	21%
7 EXPENSE				
8 Salaries & Fringe Benefits	620,592	620,919	2,735,644	23%
9 Consultants	59,446	96,304	1,287,000	5%
10 Transportation for the Disadvantaged Trips	408,507	587,845	1,611,000	25%
12 Accounting/Payroll Services	-	-	3,000	0%
13 Advertising	1,744	843	12,000	15%
14 Audit	36,225	36,225	35,000	104%
15 Auto Expense	2,685	3,062	15,000	18%
16 Building Security	412	206	1,600	26%
17 Dues & Fees	8,612	6,616	55,000	16%
18 Equipment Expense	2,351	1,705	8,400	28%
19 File Management	-	-	-	0%
20 Insurance	21,878	21,878	40,000	55%
21 Janitorial/Maintenance	3,473	3,473	15,500	22%
22 Legal Fees	9,171	9,171	38,625	24%
23 Meeting Expense	3,245	870	25,000	13%
24 Miscellaneous	-	-	1,000	0%
25 Office Supplies	3,211	1,377	15,000	21%
26 Postage & Delivery	324	109	5,000	6%
27 Printing	2,072	1,369	10,000	21%
28 Repair & Maintenance	3,338	3,999	20,000	17%
29 Technology Supplies	9,023	4,458	65,000	14%
30 Telephone	5,007	4,628	20,000	25%
31 Travel & Registration Fees	11,323	4,975	75,000	15%
32 Utilities	1,651	1,332	15,000	11%
33 Capital Outlay - Office & Technology	-	1,684	50,000	0%
34 Capital Outlay - Vehicle	-	-	-	0%
34 Capital Outlay - TD Vehicle	143,896	143,896	334,343	43%
35 Capital Outlay - Building	-	-	70,000	0%
36 TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 1,358,186	\$ 1,556,944	\$ 6,563,112	21%
37				
38 INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSE	\$ 5,424	\$ 4,636	\$ -	

CASH ON HAND 12/31/2024

Checking Account + Petty Cash	\$ 165,468
Cash Held in Reserve:	
Money Market Account	\$ 276,506
Local Govt Investment Pool	\$ 10,708
Total Cash	\$ 452,682

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
December 31, 2024

<u>UNAUDITED</u>	<u>ACCRUAL</u>
ASSETS	
1 Cash	\$ 165,468
2 Petty Cash	15
3 Accounts Receivable	670,886
4 Unbilled Costs	625,961
5 Prepaid Expenses	28,319
6 Fixed Assets	877,857
7 Funds Held in Reserve	287,214
8	
9 TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,655,719</u>
10	
11 LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
12	
13 Liabilities	
14 Accounts Payable	\$ 640,222
15 Compensated Absences Liability	175,115
16 Deferred Revenue	10,562
17 Total Liabilities	<u>825,899</u>
18	
19 Fund Balance	1,829,820
20	
21 TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>\$ 2,655,719</u>

Agenda Item #6
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
Resilience Project Grant

Actions Requested:	Authorize the Executive Director to execute agreement and administer FDEP Grant
Exhibits:	None

Background: The CFRPC has been awarded a grant from FDEP to facilitate regional coordination and planning and prepare best practices for regional coordination.

The total grant amount is \$32,000.00.

Project Description:

Regional Coordination and Planning: Conduct meetings to coordinate with city and county governments and other entities across the region. The meetings will serve to provide a forum for collaboration and communication, share best practices, and receive information related to program implementation. Coordination will be on a variety of resilience priorities such as vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans, and implementation projects through a minimum of four regional meetings with the local governments, working groups, and committees.

Best Practices for Regional Coordination: Coordinate with the city and county governments and other entities across the region and develop best practices for regional coordination. Develop a plan and/or guidance manual to distribute amongst the entities to support regional coordination when conducting vulnerability assessments, developing adaptation plans, and prioritizing projects for development and implementation.

Agenda Item #7
Polk County Adaptation Plan

Actions Requested:	Approve Selection Committee’s rankings and authorize Executive Director to negotiate and execute contract with top ranked firm. Authorize the Executive Director to move to the second ranked firm should negotiations be unsuccessful with the top ranked firm.
Exhibits:	None

Background: The Central Florida Regional Planning Council is working with Polk County on an Adaptation Plan which is a project through a grant awarded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida Program.

The Consultant will develop adaptation needs and strategies for inclusion in the Adaptation Plan (AP). The AP will include the adaptation needs and corresponding recommended strategies for each as well as a map illustrating the critical assets identified as adaptation needs. The AP shall be consistent with the guidelines in the Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook.

The project Team will coordinate the following:

- **Draft Adaptation Needs and Strategies**
- **Community Prioritization of Adaptation Needs**
- **Final Adaptation Plan**

The AP will also include a list of prioritized projects for each asset class as defined in subsection 380.093(2), Florida Statutes, for consideration and implementation.

- **Public Presentations**

The Consultant will present the final AP results to local governing boards, technical committees, or other appropriate officers and elected officials in a public presentation during at least two public meetings. The purpose of the presentation is to share the outcomes of the final AP including resulting prioritized project recommendations and future project funding.

Staff issued a Request for Qualifications for the project received two proposals listed below.

- Halff
- Black and Veatch

The Selection Committee met on February 3, 2025, to evaluate and rank the Proposals. **Black and Veatch ranked first and HALFF was ranked second.**

Staff requests the Board approve the Selection Committee’s rankings and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract for this project consistent with the grant.

Agenda Item #8
**Economic Recovery & Resiliency Federal Interagency Resource Exchange (FIRE)
 Listening Session**

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	#8: Agricultural Losses per County Public Assistance Damages Hurricane Milton Path Project Summary Worksheet Central Florida Disaster Recovery Contact List

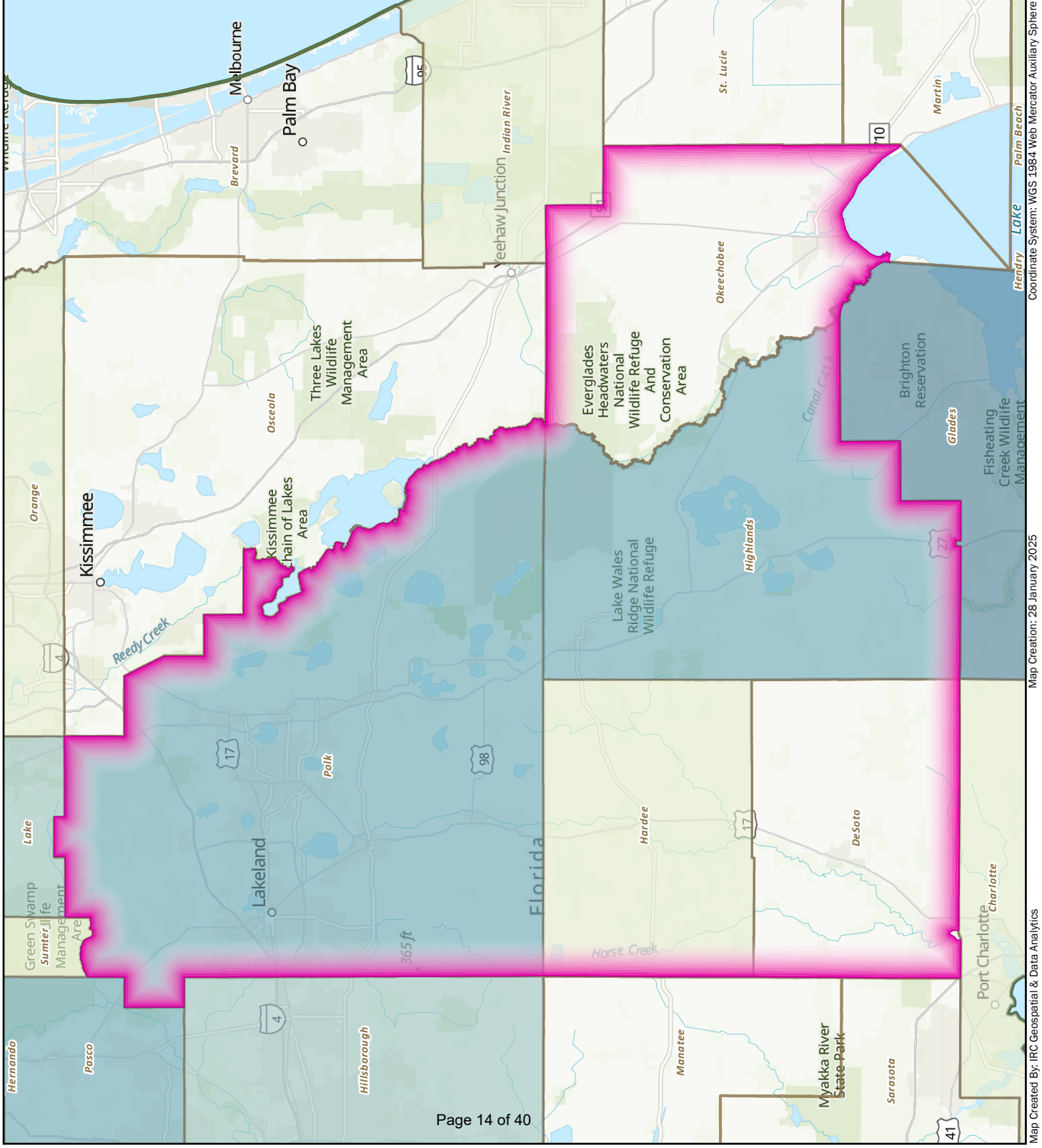
Background: The effects of Hurricanes Helene and Milton have significantly impacted the Central Florida Region. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) activated the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) to facilitate coordinated interagency capacities and supplement state, tribal and local response efforts in the affected areas.

The Economic Recovery Support Function (ERSF), led by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) mission began in the fall of 2024 to serve alongside FEMA and the other RSFs in the Joint Field Office (JFO) in Florida. EDA is working with federal, state, and regional partners in the post-disaster recovery mission for Florida. The Economic RSF, in partnership with Florida’s Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) and the Florida Department of Commerce, is facilitating regional events to enable strategic conversations between local, state, and regional stakeholders and federal agencies. A listening session was held in Sebring on January 30, 2025, and was facilitated by the staff of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

Staff will provide an update regarding these efforts.

Agricultural Losses per County, Total Sum Indemnity Amount

FEMA-DR-4834-FL : Hurricane Milton



This map depicts total sum indemnity amount of the agricultural losses by county associated with Hurricane Milton (DR-4834-FL)

- County
- State of Florida
- State
- Hurricane Track

Regional Planning Councils

- Central Florida
- Apalachee
- East Central Florida
- Emerald Coast
- North Central Florida
- Northwest Florida
- South Florida
- Southwest Florida
- Tampa Bay
- Treasure Coast

Total Sum Indemnity Amount

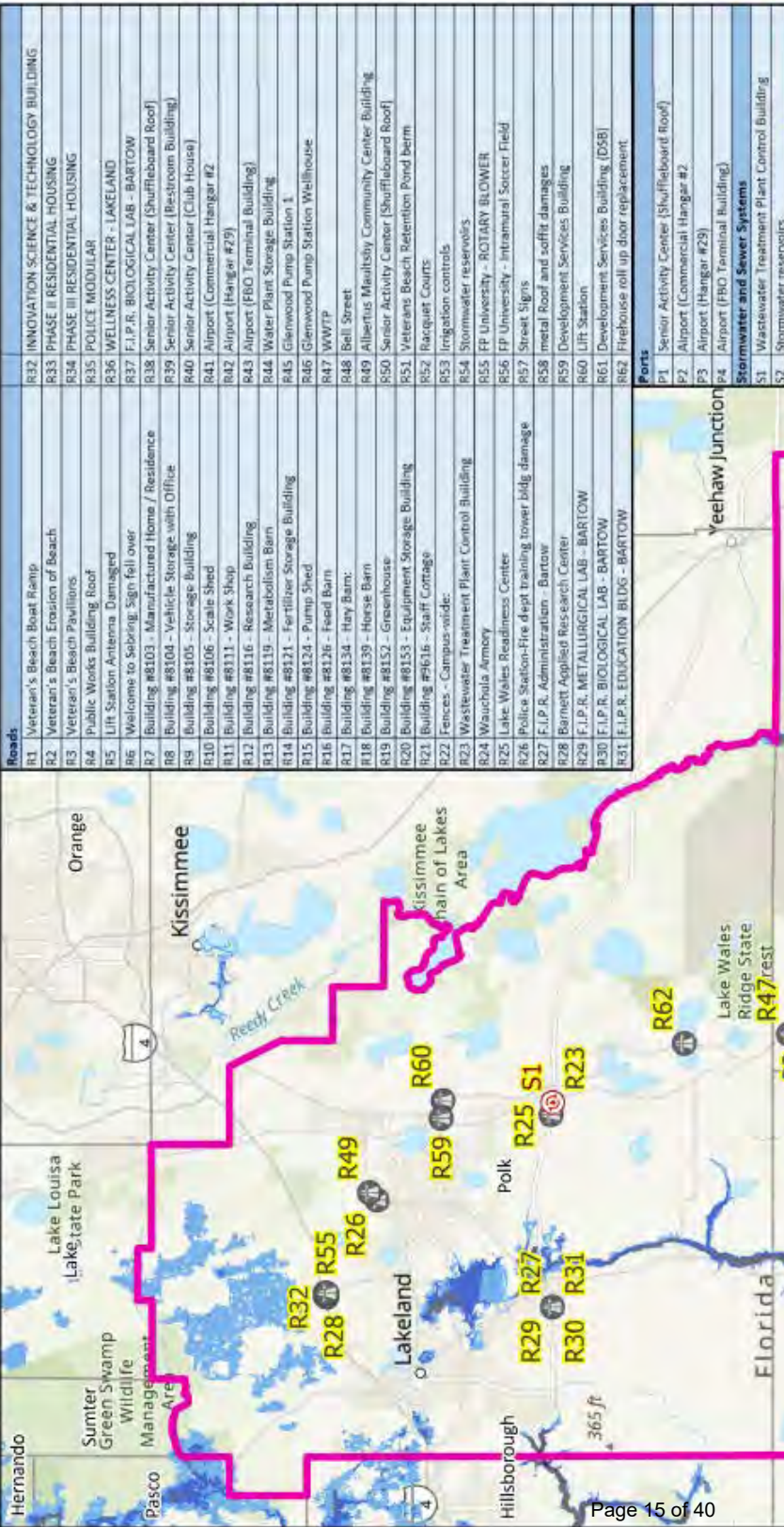
- \$2,335,523.00 - \$15,499,793.00
- \$1,284,810.00 - \$2,335,522.00
- \$376,704.00 - \$1,284,809.00
- \$157,934.00 - \$376,703.00
- \$697.00 - \$157,933.00



Data Sources: USDA RMA, NHC, FEMA, Census, Esri

Central Florida: Ports, Roads and Stormwater Systems Public Assistance Damages

DR-4834-FL: Hurricane Milton



Roads	
R1	Veteran's Beach Boat Ramp
R2	Veteran's Beach Erosion of Beach
R3	Veteran's Beach Pavilions
R4	Public Works Building Roof
R5	Lift Station Antenna Damaged
R6	Welcome to Sebring Sign Fall over
R7	Building #8103 - Manufactured Home / Residence
R8	Building #8104 - Vehicle Storage with Office
R9	Building #8105 - Storage Building
R10	Building #8106 - Scale Shed
R11	Building #8111 - Work Shop
R12	Building #8116 - Research Building
R13	Building #8119 - Metabolism Barn
R14	Building #8121 - Fertilizer Storage Building
R15	Building #8124 - Pump Shed
R16	Building #8126 - Feed Barn
R17	Building #8134 - Hay Barn
R18	Building #8139 - Horse Barn
R19	Building #8152 - Greenhouse
R20	Building #8153 - Equipment Storage Building
R21	Building #8161 - Staff Cottage
R22	Fences - Campus-wide
R23	Wastewater Treatment Plant Control Building
R24	Wauchula Armory
R25	Lake Wales Readiness Center
R26	Police Station-Fire dept training tower big damage
R27	F.L.P.R. Administration - Bartow
R28	Barnett Applied Research Center
R29	F.L.P.R. METALLURGICAL LAB - BARTOW
R30	F.L.P.R. BIOLOGICAL LAB - BARTOW
R31	F.L.P.R. EDUCATION BLDG - BARTOW

Ports	
P1	Senior Activity Center (Shuffieldboard Roof)
P2	Airport (Commercial Hangar #2)
P3	Airport (Hangar #29)
P4	Airport (FBO Terminal Building)

Stormwater and Sewer Systems	
S1	Wastewater Treatment Plant Control Building
S2	Stormwater reservoirs

Map Description:
This map depicts the reported damage and impacts to ports, roads, stormwater, and sewer systems from the Hurricane Milton (DR-4834-FL). Also present inundation areas by height and feet from hurricane Milton trajectory.

Public Assistance Damage Type

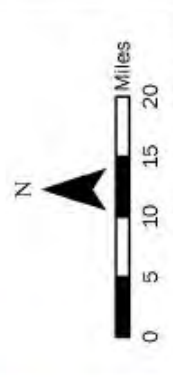
- Ports
- Stormwater and Sewer Systems
- Roads

Regional Planning Councils

- Central Florida

Milton Inundation Height

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

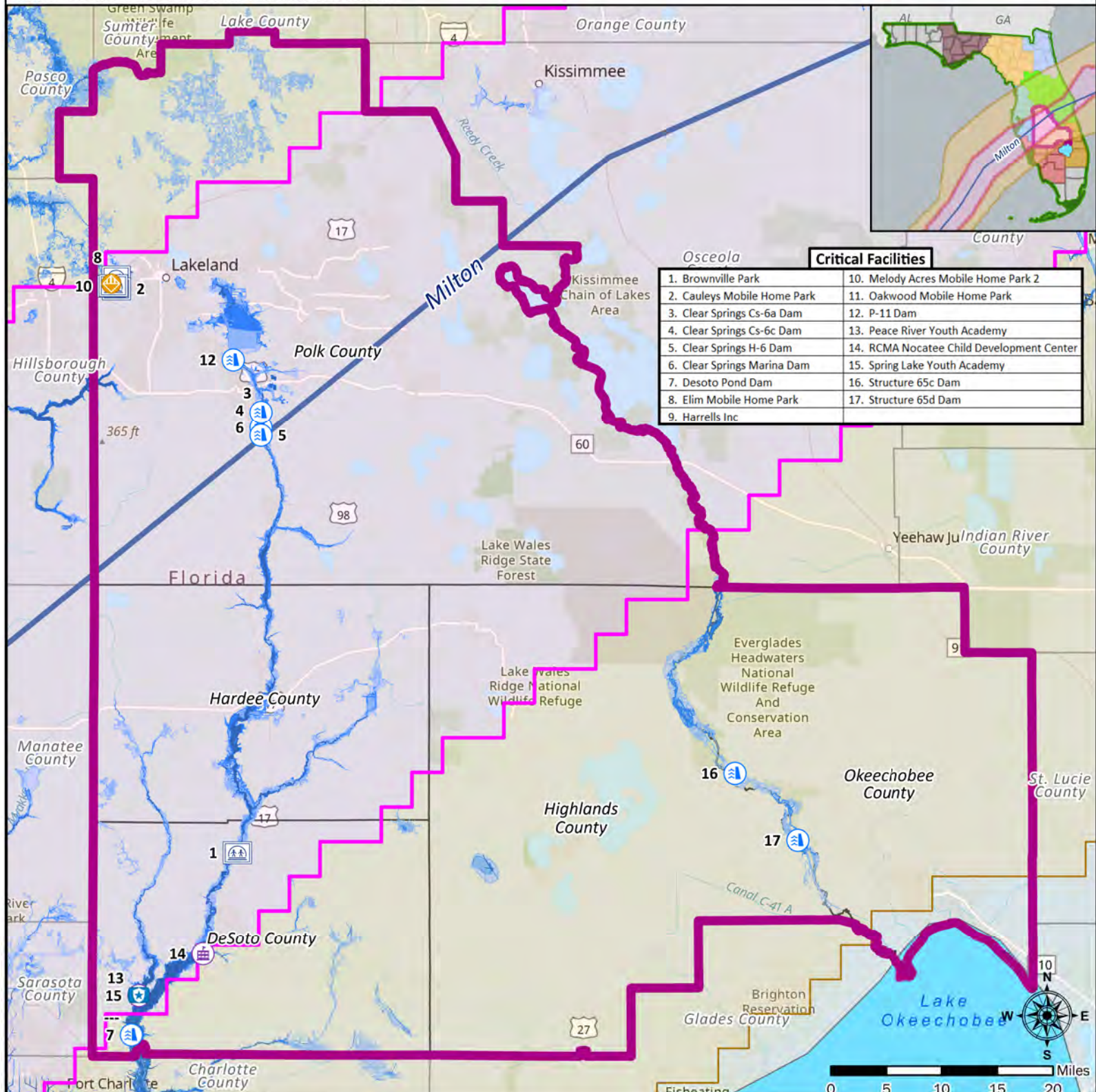


Central Florida Regional Planning Council

DR-4834-FL: Hurricane Milton



FEMA



Critical Facilities	
1. Brownville Park	10. Melody Acres Mobile Home Park 2
2. Cauleys Mobile Home Park	11. Oakwood Mobile Home Park
3. Clear Springs Cs-6a Dam	12. P-11 Dam
4. Clear Springs Cs-6c Dam	13. Peace River Youth Academy
5. Clear Springs H-6 Dam	14. RCMA Nocatee Child Development Center
6. Clear Springs Marina Dam	15. Spring Lake Youth Academy
7. Desoto Pond Dam	16. Structure 65c Dam
8. Elim Mobile Home Park	17. Structure 65d Dam
9. Harrells Inc	

Hurricane Track

- Sustained Wind Speed
 - >= 74 mph
 - >= 58 mph
- Storm Surge (ft)
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
- County
- State of Florida
- Other State

Regional Planning Council of Interest

- Central Florida

Other Regional Planning Councils

- Apalachee
- East Central Florida
- Emerald Coast
- North Central Florida
- Northeast Florida
- South Florida
- Southwest Florida
- Tampa Bay
- Treasure Coast

Critical Facilities

- Dam
- Education
- Hazardous Materials
- Law Enforcement
- Public Venue

Map Description:
 This map displays the Central Regional Planning Council (RPC) region in the state of Florida and the critical facilities located therein impacted by Hurricane Milton in 2024. Also displayed are the counties served within the region. The displayed critical facilities (obtained from HIFLD, USACE, DataAxle, and ESRI) were derived from exposure analysis using ICEYE Revision 9 of storm surge and inland flooding data. Areas of observed flood height >= 1ft is used for the analysis.

Hurricane Milton made landfall on the night of 09 October 2024. Sustained hurricane wind speed refers to the highest one-minute average wind and is calculated by the National Hurricane Center.

Regional Planning Councils focus on regionally shared issues such as transportation, planning, economic development, emergency preparedness, housing, infrastructure, and community development.

Economic Recovery & Resiliency Project Summary Work Sheet

Name of Project: _____

Description:

Estimated Project Cost (if known): _____

Estimated Development Timeframe (if known): _____

Location of Project:

Potential Applicant for Project:

Potential Benefits to the Area:

Primary Point of Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

CONTACT LIST



FEDERAL INTERAGENCY RESOURCE EXCHANGE (FIRE)A & ECONOMIC RECOVERY WORKSHOPA

Milton Cochran
Economic RSF Field
Coordinator
mcochran@eda.gov
404-884-5107



U.S. Economic Development Administration

EDA provides strategic investments and resources to support economic recovery, resilience, job creation, and long-term recovery planning.

Greg Vaday
Economic Development
Representative
gvaday@eda.gov
772-521-4371



U.S. Economic Development Administration

EDA provides strategic investments and resources to support economic recovery, resilience, job creation, and long-term recovery planning.

Ilia Vélez-Dávila
Community Assistance Field
Coordinator
ilia.velezdavila@fema.dhs.gov
256-343-8619



Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA is the primary federal agency responsible for coordinating disaster response and recovery efforts, providing financial assistance and resources to communities affected by disasters.

Robert Swithers
Natural and Cultural
Resources RSF Field
Coordinator
rswithers@blm.gov



Department of Interior

DOI provides resources and expertise to restore public lands, protect natural and cultural resources, and support economic revitalization efforts.

Vanessa Morgan
Regional Recovery Coordinator
(Region 4)
Vanessa.Morgan@sba.gov



U.S. Small Business Administration

SBA offers low-interest loans to businesses, homeowners, and renters to repair or replace property damaged in a disaster.

Aja Brown
aja.brown@sba.gov

Henry Cassetta
Henry.Cassetta@sba.gov



U.S. Small Business Administration

SBA offers low-interest loans to businesses, homeowners, and renters to repair or replace property damaged in a disaster.

Tony Krause
Infrastructure RSF Field
Coordinator
tony.d.krause@usace.army.mil



Brianne McGuffie
brianne.e.mcguffie@usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USACE provides engineering expertise and resources for rebuilding critical infrastructure and managing flood risks.

Paul Myers
HEHS RSF Recovery Field
Coordinator
paul.myers@hhs.gov



Department of Health and Human Services

HHS offers support for public health and medical services in disaster recovery, ensuring affected communities have access to essential healthcare and social services.

CONTACT LIST



FEDERAL INTERAGENCY RESOURCE EXCHANGE (FIRE)A & ECONOMIC RECOVERY WORKSHOPA

Matthew Applegate
HUD Housing RSF
matthew.d.applegate@hud.gov



Department of Housing and Urban Development
HUD provides grants and funding for long-term disaster recovery efforts, focusing on housing and community development to rebuild affected areas.

Andrew Richard
Regional Aquaculture
Coordinator, Southeast Regional
Office
andrew.richard@noaa.gov



Fishery Disaster Assistance
NMFS.hq.disasters@noaa.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA provides critical data, forecasts, assessments, and resources that aid in effective planning and decision-making for rebuilding and resilience efforts.

Elizabeth Hieb
Gulf Coast Regional Preparedness
Coordinator
elizabeth.hieb@noaa.gov



Allyssa Zebrowski
Southeast & Caribbean Regional
Preparedness Coordinator
allyssa.zebrowski@noaa.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA provides critical data, forecasts, assessments, and resources that aid in effective planning and decision-making for rebuilding and resilience efforts.

Joe Labadie
USDA Advisor
joseph.labadie@usda.gov



U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDA supports communities in disaster recovery by offering financial assistance and technical expertise to restore agricultural operations and rural infrastructure.

Deborah Tannenbaum
State Executive Director
deborah.tannenbaum@usda.gov
352-379-4500



USDA Farm Service Agency
The USDA Farm Service Agency provides financial assistance, resources, and support to farmers and ranchers, ensuring agricultural stability and resilience in the aftermath of adverse events.

Wauchula Service Center
Kaylee Brummett
kaylee.lambert@usda.gov

Okeechobee Service Center
Jenny Hoover
jenny.hoover@usda.gov

Bartow Service Center
Marcinda Kester
marcinda.kester@usda.gov



USDA Farm Service Agency
The USDA Farm Service Agency provides financial assistance, resources, and support to farmers and ranchers, ensuring agricultural stability and resilience in the aftermath of adverse events.

Okeechobee & Sebring Service Center
Carlos Torres
carlos.torres2@usda.gov

Wauchula Service Center
Dan Schabillion
Dan.Schabillion@usda.gov

Bartow Service Center
José L. Núñez Maldonado
jose.nunezmaldonado@usda.gov



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to restore and protect natural resources, ensuring sustainable and resilient land management practices.

**Royal Palm Beach & Ft Myers
Service Center**
Ada Rivera
ada.rivera@usda.gov

Champions Gate Area Office
Angela Smith
Angela.Smith2@usda.gov



USDA Rural Development
USDA RD provides essential financial resources, technical assistance, and support to rebuild infrastructure, housing, and local economies in rural areas.



Annual Report

2023 - 2024



LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE

REGIONAL
SOLUTIONS

STATEWIDE
IMPACT



Our Mission

Leveraging partnerships to build a strong economy and improve the lives of all Floridians

President's Message



Florida's regional planning councils continue to lead the way in supporting communities through economic recovery, disaster preparedness, and building resilience for the future. FRCA is uniquely positioned to shape Florida's future by empowering our regional councils to drive transformational initiatives. Together, we can build vibrant, resilient communities that reflect the values and aspirations of Floridians.

Through partnerships with organizations such as the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Small County Coalition, Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association, and others, FRCA has strengthened connections and advanced innovative solutions to shared challenges. These collaborations are essential to ensuring that Florida's regional planning councils remain leaders in innovation and cooperation across all 67 counties.

It has been my privilege to serve as President of FRCA and to work alongside Policy Board Members from across the state. Regional planning councils bring unparalleled local knowledge and technical expertise to address shared challenges and build opportunities for Florida's communities. This Annual Report reflects the diverse and impactful work of Florida's regional planning councils over the past year, and I invite you to explore the accomplishments within its pages.

Tray Hawkins

Commissioner Tray Hawkins, President
Emerald Coast RC | FRCA



1st VICE PRESIDENT
Councilman Jeff Hmara
Treasure Coast RPC



2nd VICE PRESIDENT
Mr. Darryl Register
Northeast Florida RC
Page 22 of 40



PAST PRESIDENT
Mr. John Lesman
East Central Florida RPC

A Message from the Association Director

As I step into the role of Executive Director for the Florida Regional Councils Association, I do so with profound gratitude and excitement. This new chapter represents an opportunity to build upon the strong foundation laid by my predecessor, Denise Imbler, who dedicated almost a decade to advancing the mission of FRCA. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement and extend our deepest thanks for her remarkable service.

My journey to this role has been shaped by a lifelong dedication to Florida's growth and prosperity. Growing up in Tallahassee, I developed an early appreciation for the diversity and potential of our great state. As a Leon County Commissioner for 12 years, and during my tenure as FRCA's Policy Board President, I worked to champion collaboration, public trust, and inclusive processes that reflect the voices of our communities. My career has been driven by a belief that thoughtful planning, engaged leadership, and innovative solutions are the keys to tackling challenges and seizing opportunities.

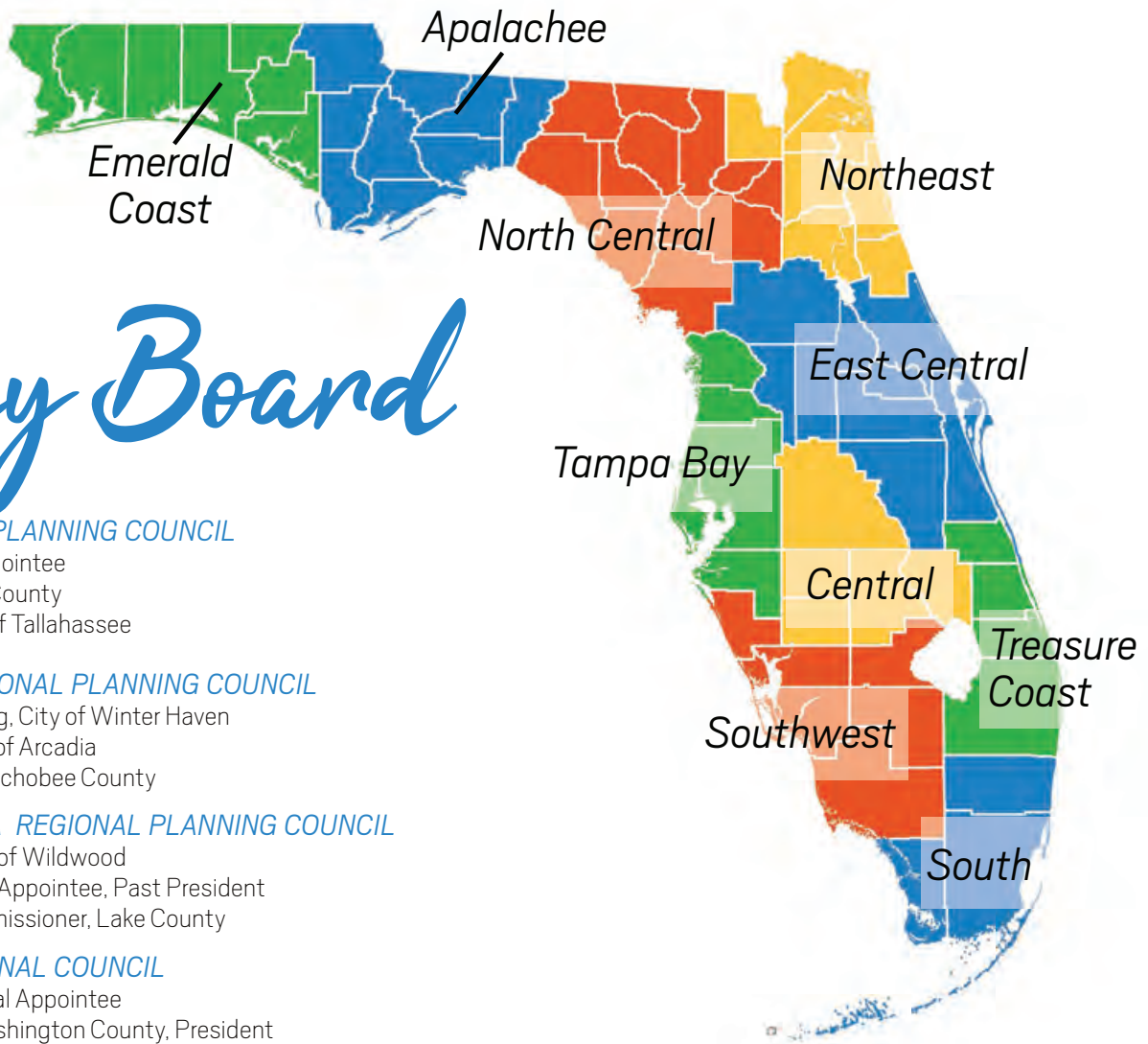
I look forward to connecting with each of you, learning from your experiences, and amplifying the incredible work of our councils across the state. Let us continue this vital work together, inspired by the remarkable progress we've achieved and energized by the possibilities ahead.

Sincerely,

Kristin Dozier

Kristin Dozier, Association Director
Florida Regional Councils Association





2023-2024

Policy Board

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Lisa Miller, Gubernatorial Appointee
 Honorable Rick Minor, Leon County
 Honorable Jack Porter, City of Tallahassee

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Nathaniel Birdsong, City of Winter Haven
 Honorable Keith Keene, City of Arcadia
 Honorable Kelly Owens, Okeechobee County

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Julian Green, City of Wildwood
 John Lesman, Gubernatorial Appointee, Past President
 Honorable Sean Parks, Commissioner, Lake County

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Kasey Cuchens, Gubernatorial Appointee
 Honorable Tray Hawkins, Washington County, President
 J.D. Smith, Gubernatorial Appointee

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
 Honorable Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
 Lorene Thomas, Gubernatorial Appointee

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Honorable David Alfin, City of Palm Coast
 Darryl Register, Gubernatorial Appointee, 2nd Vice President
 Honorable Chrisitan Whitehurst, St. Johns County

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Mario Bailey, Gubernatorial Appointee
 Honorable Frank Caplan, Village of Key Biscayne
 Honorable Michael Udine, Broward County

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Brandi Gabbard, City of St. Petersburg
 Honorable Jack Mariano, Pasco County
 Barbara Sheen Todd, Gubernatorial Appointee

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Jeff Hmara, Village of Royal Palm Beach, 1st Vice President
 Reece Parrish, Gubernatorial Appointee
 Honorable Doug Smith, Martin County

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair, Beth Payne, Northeast Florida RC
 Vice Chair, Tom Lanahan, Treasure Coast RPC
 Treasurer, Tara McCue, East Central Florida RPC

STAFF

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2023-2024

By the Numbers

▶ 5

METROPOLITAN/
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
ORGANIZATIONS STAFFED

▶ 37

ECONOMIC ANALYSES
COMPLETED (REMI)

▶ 110

GRANTS AWARDED TO COUNCILS
AND COMMUNITIES

▶ 687

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
INSPECTIONS OF SMALL
QUANTITY GENERATORS
(SQG)

▶ 2,010

FIRST RESPONDERS TRAINED
WITH LEPC/HMEP FUNDING

▶ 1,069,178

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED
TRIPS PLANNED

The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA)
unites Florida's **Regional Planning Councils (RPCs)** to

*foster collaboration,
innovation, and impactful solutions*

RPCs serve as consensus builders and problem solvers.
They are **regional conveners**, helping to resolve complex, multi-jurisdictional issues while

delivering programs and services

Together, FRCA and the RPCs are shaping a future where local
knowledge drives regional solutions and creates

statewide impact.

Regional Councils *bring local governments together to solve problems at the regional level and help communities grow.*

	Date Established	2024 Regional Population ¹	Governing Board Size	Staff Size (FTE) ²	Square Miles ³	Budget (in millions)
 <p>Apalachee Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla</p>	Aug. 23, 1977	501,359	27	17	6,757	\$7.6
 <p>Central Florida DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Polk</p>	July 1, 1974	1,033,799	18	22	5,287	\$5.4
 <p>East Central Florida Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia</p>	Feb. 22, 1962	4,714,011	35	18	9,244	\$3.5
 <p>Emerald Coast Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington</p>	Oct. 1, 1964	1,096,614	28	28	6,509	\$10.2
 <p>North Central Florida Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union</p>	May 7, 1969	604,508	45	7	8,660	\$1.5
 <p>Northeast Florida Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns</p>	Feb. 14, 1977	1,975,774	35	18	5,097	\$2.7
 <p>South Florida Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe</p>	July 1, 1974	4,840,876	19	13	7,492	\$3.3
 <p>Southwest Florida Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota</p>	Nov. 8, 1973	1,983,297	36	3	7,278	\$1.0
 <p>Tampa Bay Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas</p>	Feb. 16, 1962	3,996,780	44	12	4,998	\$3.1
 <p>Treasure Coast Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie</p>	Aug. 19, 1976	2,267,533	28	10	4,441	\$2.6

¹Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research (2024 Estimates)

²FTE means Full-Time Equivalent.

³Total land and water area.

Quality of Life

Celebrating Five Years of Progress: Tampa Bay RPC Advances Regional Resiliency

The **Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council** (TBRPC) celebrated five years of progress at its 4th Annual Regional Resiliency Summit. Over 350 attendees gathered to discuss policies, technologies, and strategies to address climate change and sea level rise. The Summit emphasized cross-sector collaboration to support regional resilience and attendees and sponsors heard success stories from member governments throughout the region. The event featured local and national speakers, interactive breakout sessions and spotlighted policy updates, emerging technologies, and strategies to address climate change and sea level rise. Attendees, including government officials, community leaders, and industry experts, engaged in discussions to identify practical solutions that support regional resilience.

By convening experts and decision-makers, TBRPC empowers local governments with the tools and knowledge to make informed decisions about community resilience and climate adaptation.



Planning for Safer, More Efficient Correctional Systems

The **Northeast Florida Regional Council** (NEFRC) partnered with Jacksonville's City Council to develop a plan for modernized correctional facilities. After over 30 committee meetings, NEFRC's Final Report outlines a strategy to create a safer, more humane correctional system.

The recommendations focus on streamlining intake processes, enhancing inmate support, and upgrading facilities to improve operational efficiency and security. These upgrades aim to deliver a correctional system that meets modern standards for safety, dignity, and cost-effectiveness. The Final Report provides detailed recommendations to guide the City of Jacksonville in enhancing its correctional infrastructure, ensuring it meets contemporary standards and effectively serves the community's needs.

Modernizing Zoning Maps

Apalachee RPC's new Zone Lookup App provides fast, user-friendly access to zoning information, promoting smarter development and planning decisions.

The **Apalachee Regional Planning Council** (ARPC) has modernized Franklin County's zoning maps, replacing outdated paper versions with an interactive, user-friendly online system. The new Zone Lookup App allows residents, developers, and planners to view and search zoning information from any device.

The app's intuitive interface highlights zoning details like building height limits, lot sizes, and permitted land uses. The modernization enables faster zoning updates and more efficient development planning. Apalachee RPC's innovative approach is now being replicated in Carrabelle, showcasing the council's commitment to improving access to planning resources.



Addressing Challenges of Unfinished Housing Developments

The **East Central Florida Regional Planning Council** (ECFRPC) led the revitalization planning for "The Compound," a 12-square mile undeveloped pre-platted community in Palm Bay. With over 5,000 fragmented parcels and outdated zoning, redevelopment poses significant challenges. The ECFRPC developed a revitalization plan, identifying a multi-prong approach that includes infrastructure investments, public-private partnerships, and modifying land use designations to include industrial, recreation, and open space protections. Through the ECFRPC Brownfields grant, an EPA Technical Assistance project, community engagement, and strategic partnerships, the ECFRPC and the City continue to work to implement the strategic and conceptual plan to address infrastructure, land use, and environmental needs to transform The Compound into a vibrant, sustainable hub for recreation, business, and residential growth.

Emergency Preparedness

Supporting Hurricane Idalia Recovery

Empowering Communities to Rebuild Stronger and Smarter

In response to Hurricane Idalia's impact in August 2023, the **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC)** played a key role in supporting recovery efforts across affected communities. The Category 3 storm caused widespread damage, prompting a coordinated effort with federal, state, and local partners.

NCFRPC co-hosted a "listening session" at Big Bend Technical College in Perry with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA). Local officials, community groups, and economic development organizations shared the storm's impact with federal representatives, who also outlined available recovery resources.



NCFRPC's partnership with federal and state agencies support recovery from Hurricane Idalia, providing technical assistance and strategic guidance to local governments and economic development organizations.

Following the session, NCFRPC and federal and state representatives visited eight of the hardest-hit counties. These one-on-one meetings with local officials helped identify unmet recovery needs and outline long-term resiliency strategies.

The initiative strengthened NCFRPC's connections with local governments and economic development groups. The Council showcased its role in supporting economic recovery through technical assistance, econometric modeling, and regional strategy development, driving long-term stability for communities impacted by Hurricane Idalia.



When emergencies strike,
preparation
and
coordination
saves lives



Enhancing Medical Emergency Response

Strengthening Regional Readiness for Complex Medical Emergencies

The **Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)** led the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition's annual Medical Response and Surge Exercise to strengthen emergency preparedness. Coordinated with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the exercise tested the region's ability to handle large-scale medical incidents.

Over 120 participants, including Healthcare Coalition members, responded to a simulated attack resulting in 170 patients. The exercise required real-time coordination, decontamination efforts, and resource allocation among agency representatives.

The event reinforced relationships among response partners and highlighted the need for improved fentanyl-related medical response protocols. Insights from the exercise will shape the Coalition's focus for the coming year.



Regional Convening

Tampa Bay RPC Launches Regional Government Liaison Program

The **Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council** (TBRPC) launched the Government Liaison Program (GLP) to strengthen connections with member and non-member governments. The initiative is a first of its kind for the TBRPC and provides local elected officials and their staff with tailored support, streamlined services without the procurement process, and access to state of the art technical assistance provided by TBRPC staff.

The TBRPC's Government Liaison Program builds partnerships creating a "hive of information" for local government policy makers and their staff.



Collaboration is *not just a goal,*
it's a *strategy* for *regional success*

Building Stronger Partnerships Through Intergovernmental Cooperation

The **Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council** (TCRPC) facilitated intergovernmental meetings in Indian River County, fostering collaboration between the county and each of its municipalities. By providing a neutral space for dialogue, TCRPC encouraged joint problem-solving on shared issues. Building partnership in a neutral and collaborative setting prepares communities for working together to solve current and future challenges.





The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils jointly host regional events to advance shared goals and promote shared solutions that benefit the entire region including an Annual Regional Conference.

United for Progress: South Florida and Treasure Coast RPCs Address Regional Challenges



The **South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils** held a joint meeting that resulted in new strategies to tackle key issues impacting the seven-county region. Co-chaired by Broward County Commissioner Steve Geller and Martin County Commissioner Doug Smith, the session brought together public officials, private sector leaders, and community members to strengthen regional collaboration and develop action-oriented solutions.

By the end of the session, participants had identified pathways to address three critical challenges: Florida’s property insurance crisis, regional transportation congestion, and the health of Florida’s coral reef. Key outcomes included strategies to stabilize rising insurance costs, support for ongoing transportation improvements, and renewed efforts to protect and restore the state’s coral reef system.

The meeting provided a platform for in-depth discussions on Florida’s property insurance crisis, which has been driving up costs for residents and businesses. Officials explored potential policy changes and market stabilization strategies to make insurance more affordable and reduce financial strain on Southeast Florida communities. The session emphasized the value of ongoing cross-council collaboration. By fostering open communication between the South Florida and Treasure Coast RPCs, the councils aim to streamline regional planning, reduce duplication of efforts, and promote shared solutions that benefit the entire region.

As Southeast Florida continues to face economic, environmental, and infrastructure challenges, the RPCs remain committed to advancing shared goals. By supporting joint initiatives, strengthening partnerships, and advocating for critical funding, the councils are driving progress on issues that affect residents, businesses, and communities across the region.

Leaders from seven member counties of the **South Florida RPC & Treasure Coast RPC** gathered to identify and develop action-oriented solutions for the critical challenges faced by the region.

Economic Development

FloridaCommerce Tours Region with Central Florida RPC

Showcasing Local Projects that Drive Economic Growth and Community Development

In April 2024, Florida Commerce Secretary Alex Kelly and Senator Erin Grall toured the Heartland Region to spotlight initiatives driving economic growth and strengthening communities. Led by the **Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)**, the two-day tour showcased pivotal sites that exemplify regional progress and the power of collaboration.

Over 35 regional partners joined the tour, highlighting local projects that fuel progress, foster partnerships, and drive economic growth across the Heartland Region.



Notable stops included the Sebring Airport and Logistics Center—a critical hub for statewide goods movement—the Avon Park Air Force Range, a vital military training site, and the Okeechobee Airport Commerce Park, which supports job growth and industrial development, and SunTrax in Polk County. These locations illustrate how targeted investments in infrastructure and industry can catalyze regional economic benefits.



East Central Florida RPC Makes Progress in Brownfields Redevelopment

Since 2021, the **East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC)** has spearheaded a transformative brownfields redevelopment initiative, through the support of the EPA. The program has identified over 100 potential brownfield sites, conducted 21 Phase 1 environmental assessments, and completed nine Phase 2 site evaluations, unlocking development potential in distressed areas.

The program's expansion from its initial focus on U.S. Highway 441 and Orange Blossom Trail to an eight-county region exemplifies the council's strategic vision. Community engagement through 20+ outreach events has strengthened public support for redevelopment efforts. As a result, previously underutilized properties are now poised for new development, driving economic revitalization.

Transforming distressed sites into thriving community assets



Southwest Florida Fresh!

Empowering Local Producers, Strengthening Regional Economies

The **Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)** partnered to support the branding efforts of SWFL Fresh, a brand designed to encourage residents and visitors in Southwest Florida to choose food and beverages sourced from the region's six counties—Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, and Sarasota. This initiative reflects the SWFRPC's commitment to fostering regional economic growth, supporting sustainable agriculture, and enhancing community well-being.

Central to the brand's success is its recognizable logo, which serves as a trusted symbol for consumers. By helping shoppers and diners identify local products at grocery stores, farmers' markets, and restaurants, the logo enables informed choices that directly support local farmers and food producers while promoting fresh, high-quality products. The program has established a powerful platform to increase visibility and access to locally produced foods. This collaborative approach strengthens regional connections and delivers benefits for consumers, producers, and communities alike.



Transportation

Slicing Into Safety: ECRC's 7-Layer Cake Initiative

Innovative Multi-Layered Approach to Achieving Vision Zero

The **Emerald Coast Regional Council** (ECRC) is revolutionizing transportation safety in Northwest Florida with its 7-Layer Cake initiative. This multi-layered strategy aims to achieve Vision Zero—eliminating roadway fatalities—by implementing a series of interconnected projects that strengthen the region's infrastructure.

The initiative starts with identifying high-crash areas and developing targeted safety strategies through Safe Streets 4 All. Next, the Smart Regions plan maps out essential technology upgrades, while the Data Analytics plan introduces real-time data collection for informed decision-making. The Carbon Reduction plan reduces congestion and emissions, supporting cleaner, more efficient travel. The Plan Implementation phase activates these strategies by installing smart technologies and infrastructure. Broadband and fiber expansions ensure a reliable digital backbone for these systems.

At the foundation of this initiative is the Transportation Management Center (TMC), the most advanced traffic management hub in Northwest Florida. Construction of the facility will begin in 2025 and will be supported by a separate \$10 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant to demonstrate the life safety technology while also enabling real-time traffic monitoring, data analysis, and emergency coordination. This command center will oversee all traffic operations including the critical corridors identified as a High Injury Network. By layering these seven components, ECRC's 7-Layer Cake initiative builds a cohesive system for safer, smarter, and more efficient roadways. This innovative approach earned ECRC the 2024 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations and the 2024 Achievement Award from the National Association of Regional Councils.



Safer,
smarter,
and
more
connected
than ever before.



Driving Economic Growth Through Trails and Ecotourism: NEFRC's Regional Strategy

Fostering Economic Development through Regional Trail and Ecotourism Initiatives

The **Northeast Florida Regional Council** (NEFRC) is driving growth in trails and ecotourism to support regional economic development. In 2023, NEFRC launched a Trails and Ecotourism Steering Committee to guide the effort and strengthen collaboration among its seven member counties.

NEFRC created an inventory of existing trail data, identified key gaps, and mapped out funding opportunities from state and federal programs. This groundwork led to the development of trail projects, many of which were submitted to the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program for technical support. NEFRC also hosted RTCA staff for site visits, fostering project development and capacity-building opportunities.

Looking ahead, NEFRC will continue to support trail branding, assist with ecotourism projects, and help communities achieve Trail Town designation from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. By encouraging strategic investment and fostering regional partnerships, NEFRC aims to make Northeast Florida a leading trails and ecotourism destination.



Awards

NADO Impact Awards

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

- Emergency Planning Platform for Healthcare Facilities
- Franklin County Zoning Map Lookup App

Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- 2024 DeSoto County Economic Development Strategy
- Lake Wales 2024 Economic Development Strategy

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- Regional Risk & Vulnerability Assessment
- The East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative (R2C): Risk, Vulnerability and Insurance
- Voting Power: Regional Cyber-Security Tabletop Exercise

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- Annual Transit Ridership Monitoring Report

Northeast Florida Regional Council

- Northeast Florida Regional Resiliency Action Plan
- Special Committee Report to Review JSO Primary Facilities

South Florida Regional Planning Council

- Clean Cities and Communities
- Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund
- South Florida Military Installation Resilience Review

American Planning Association

Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- Florida Chapter: Award of Excellence – Lake Wales Envisioned
- Heart of Florida Chapter: "Jan Johnson Public Participation Award" Polk County Wahneta Main Street Commercial Overlay; "Plan It Award" - 2024 Lake Wales Economic Development Strategy

National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)

Emerald Coast Regional Council: Achievement Awards: 7-Layer Cake Model to Achieve Vision Zero

NADO/RPO Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards

Emerald Coast Regional Council: 7-Layer Cake Model to Achieve Vision Zero

Other Recognitions

Central Florida RPC: LEPC's Contributions to Officers' Development (Polk County Fire Rescue)

Emerald Coast RC: Excellence in Community Service (Pace Area Chamber of Commerce)

South Florida RPC: Greatest Energy Use Impact for Compressed Natural Gas (Department of Energy, Clean Cities Program)

Tampa Bay RPC: Special Achievement in GIS Award for the TBRIC Project (Presented by ESRI)



Partners

State Agencies and Entities

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Florida Department of Commerce
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Department of Health
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Division of Emergency Management
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida House of Representatives
Florida Senate
Office of Economic and Demographic Research
Office of Governor
Workforce Florida, Inc.

Water Management Districts

Northwest Florida Water Management District
South Florida Water Management District
Southwest Florida Water Management District
Johns River Water Management District
Suwanee River Water Management District

State and Regional Initiatives

Cooperative Conservation Blueprint
Developing Florida's 5-Year Strategic Plan
Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars
Florida Defense Alliance
Florida Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity
Florida Transportation Plan
North Florida Economic Development Partnership
Opportunity Florida
Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Rural Economic Development Initiative
Statewide Regional Evacuation Study
State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials

National Partners and Organizations

National Association of Counties
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of Regional Councils
National League of Cities
SouthEast Regional Directors Institute
U.S. Conference of Mayors

State Partners and Organizations

1000 Friends of Florida
American Planning Association, Florida Chapter
Association of Florida Community Developers
Audubon of Florida
Florida Association of Counties
Florida Chamber Foundation
Florida Chamber of Commerce
Florida City and County Management Association
Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium Consensus Center
Florida Economic Development Council
Florida Home Builders Association
Florida Housing Coalition
Florida Land Council
Florida League of Cities
Florida Local Government Coalition
Florida Planning and Zoning Association
Florida Ports Council
Florida Redevelopment Association
Florida School Board Association
Florida Trails Association
Florida Wildlife Federation
Floridians for Better Transportation
Metropolitan Planning Organizations Advisory Council
Sadowski Housing Coalition
Safe Mobility for Life Coalition
Sierra Club of Florida
Small County Coalition
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land

Federal Agencies

U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Economic Development Administration
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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Tallahassee, FL 32303
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**APALACHEE
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Chris N. Rietow
2507 Callaway Road, Suite 100
Tallahassee, FL 32303
850.488.6211 | arpc.org

**CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Jennifer Codo-Salisbury
555 East Church Street
Bartow, FL 33830
863.534.7130 | cfrpc.org

**EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Tara McCue
LYNX Building, 4th Floor,
455 North Garland Ave., Orlando, FL 32801
407.245.0300 | ecrpc.org

**EMERALD COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Kandase Lee
418 E Gregory Suite 100
Pensacola, FL 32502
850.332.7976 | ecrc.org

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Scott R. Koons
2009 Northwest 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653
352.955.2200 | ncfRPC.org

**NORTHEAST FLORIDA
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Chief Executive Officer: Elizabeth Payne
100 Festival Park Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32202
904.279.0880 | nefrc.org

**SOUTH FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Isabel Cosio Carballo
1 Oakwood Blvd, Suite 250
Hollywood, FL 33020
954.924.3653 | sfregionalcouncil.org

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Margaret A. Wuerstle
1406 SW 8th Place
Cape Coral, FL 33991
844.988.8244 | swfrpc.org

**TAMPA BAY
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Wren G. Krahl
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
727.570.5151 | tbrpc.org

**TREASURE COAST
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Thomas J. Lanahan
421 Southwest Camden Avenue
Stuart, FL 34994
772.221.4060 | tcrpc.org

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: January 2025

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Prepared the Agenda for the January EDAC meeting and Winter Policy Board meeting. Created the PowerPoint presentation for the Policy Board meeting and integrated slides prepared by RPC staff that highlighted recent programs and projects.
- Hosted the January EDAC meeting in Tallahassee at the Apalachee Regional Planning Council.
- Managed logistics and hosted FRCA's Winter Policy Board meeting at the AC Marriot in Tallahassee.
- Finalized the accounting transition – on behalf of the EDAC and Policy Board, I would like to thank ARPC Executive Director Chirs Rietow and his staff for supporting FRCA and managing our bookkeeping for many years!
- Monthly meeting with FRCA's Bookkeeper and EDAC Treasurer.
- Received unanimous support from the Policy Board for FRCA's new Bylaws, aligned with our Articles of Incorporation, and recommendation for nonprofit designation.
- Submitted application to the IRS to designate FRCA as a 501c4 nonprofit Association.
- Built a new website for FRCA and Newsletter template, that will be unveiled in early February.
- Attended NARC meeting and hosted a special EDAC meeting to discuss federal funding.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Hosted individual meetings with the EDA/ERSF Team and eight of our RPCs that were impacted by Hurricanes Debbie, Helene and Milton.
- Attended Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative Coordinators Forum
- Continued to contact FRCA Partners to provide update on FRCA's new Executive Director and organizational structure.
- Worked with Central Florida RPC to finalize FRCA's FY23/24 Annual Report
- Continued discussions to identify opportunities to increase FRCA's capacity and outreach to support Florida's RPCs

