



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: August 2013

OUTREACH

- Met with Tony Carvajal, Executive Vice President of the Florida Chamber Foundation, to strategize next steps for RPCs as Six Pillars Communities and the development of regional scorecards.
- Met with Bill Killingsworth, Director of the Division of Community Development at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, along with his staff: Mike McDaniel, Chief of Comprehensive Planning; Ray Eubanks, Plan Processing Administrator; and, the three Regional Planning Administrators – Ana Richmond, James Stansbury, and Brenda Wittingham, to brief them on the role of RPCs in economic development and explore ways for RPCs to help the Department further its new Competitive Florida Partnership initiative.
- Met with Cissy Proctor, the new Director of the Division of Strategic Business Development at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, for purposes of introduction and to provide an overview of RPCs.
- Met with Patrick Sheehan, Director of the Florida Energy Office at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to discuss the 2014 Florida Energy Summit and whether there may be a role for RPCs on the agenda and as a sponsor.
- Staffed a booth in the Florida League of Cities Grants and Technical Resource Assistance Center at its annual conference to promote the local government services offered by the RPCs, as well as a better understanding of the role of RPCs in economic development.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- Attended and Participated in Enterprise Florida, Inc.'s meetings of its Board, Stakeholders, Community Competitiveness Task Force, and Legislative Committee and shared information from those meetings with the RPC Executive Directors.
- Participated in a meeting of the Economic Development Liaisons, which focused on implementation of the State Strategic Plan for Economic Development through multi-agency efforts and also discussed steps toward development of a State of Florida Long-Term Economic Recovery Framework that aligns with the National Disaster Recovery Framework.
- Attended the National Association of Development Organizations Annual Training Conference and brought back notes, documents, and information to share with RPC

staff on successful programs and projects from other regions across the country that could be duplicated in Florida.

- Attended a Florida Transportation Commission Workshop, which addressed the Florida Department of Transportation's Vision 21 Plan and the Commission's priorities (in no particular order), as follows: alternative revenue sources; future corridors; regional governance; trade and logistics; executive compensation; small business development; legislative strategy; and, wetland mitigation. A prioritization of these subject areas was expected at the meeting, but did not occur.
- Coordinated RPC responses for the Rural Economic Development Initiative portion of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's annual report, due to the Governor and Legislature on November 1 of each year.
- Collected data from each RPC that support and demonstrate implementation of the *Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development*, for the fourth quarter of the 2012-13 Fiscal Year and submitted the data to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, as requested.
- Distributed grant opportunity announcements to each RPC Executive Director pertaining to the U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Transit Administration; U.S. Department of Agriculture/Rural Community Investment Initiative and Utilities Program; and, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Climate Program Office.
- Reviewed and provided comments to RPC staff on the draft Energy Resiliency Strategy.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Reviewed newly filed bills for the 2014 Legislative Session and shared information with the RPC Executive Directors pertaining to House Bill 3, relating to Freight Logistics Zones, which is of particular interest to them. Bill tracking summaries and legislative updates will begin in late September.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Scheduled FRCA's strategic planning retreat for January 9-10, 2014, in Tallahassee, and began working with the SouthEast Regional Directors Institute to set the schedule and develop a list of individuals to be interviewed and surveyed.
- Prepared the meeting summaries for the August FRCA meetings, coordinated and helped prepare the guest speakers, participated in the meetings, and managed all on-site hotel logistics.
- Began hotel and catering contract negotiations for the October, December, and January FRCA meetings and strategic planning retreat.