



Sheri Coven
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
sheri.coven@flregionalcouncils.org
(850) 294-0526

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: November 2014

OUTREACH

- Attended the annual Rural Economic Development Summit and participated in a rural issues working group meeting focused on connecting regional partners, including the Regional Education Consortia, Rural Areas of Opportunity, and regional planning councils, as well as seeking support for continuation of the Florida Learns STEM Scholars program.
- Prepared an informational summary and distributed it along with a sample letter of support for the Florida Learns STEM Scholars program to the appropriate regional planning councils for execution at their discretion.
- Worked with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to position the regional planning councils to receive a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Special Merit Grant to increase community resiliency capacity at the regional level.
- Spoke multiple times with Julie Dennis in the Division of Community Development at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to continue exploring opportunities for the regional planning councils in the Department's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the National Disaster Resiliency Competition.
- Explored the costs versus benefits of joining VISIT FLORIDA's Partnership Program, which are still being analyzed.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- Participated in a U.S. Economic Development Administration grant training session for Florida's Economic Development Districts and spent time networking with agency staff.
- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in meetings of the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition, Florida Transportation Commission, and Rural Economic Development Initiative; and, participated in Enterprise Florida's monthly teleconference for its economic development partners; a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission teleconference to finalize the agency's Wildlife Best Management Practices report; and, a Florida Department of Economic Opportunity on-line meeting for its community resiliency work group.
- Participated in the Florida Chamber Foundation's first 2015 Future of Florida Forum Partners Meeting to begin planning for next year's Forum.
- Participated in a planning meeting for the Florida Civic Advance inaugural annual conference, which is an initiative of the Florida Consensus Center.
- Distributed funding announcements from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Forest Service.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Finalized the Executive Directors Advisory Committee's Position Statement regarding the Developments of Regional Impact and Sector Planning programs and provided it to staff at the Senate Committee on Community Affairs as well as others as appropriate.
- Drafted FRCA's 2015 Legislative platform, which will first be reviewed by the Executive Directors Advisory Committee in December for further consideration by the Policy Board at its January 9, 2015 meeting.
- Updated the Lobbytools account and settings in preparation for the upcoming Legislative Session and began reviewing newly filed bills.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Developed a Draft Strategic Operating Plan for FRCA based on the Policy Board's Strategic Assessment Retreat Final Report and additional recommendations generated at their August 2014 Policy Board meeting, which will be presented to the Policy Board at their January 9, 2015 meeting for further consideration.
- Began soliciting speakers for the January 9, 2015 Policy Board meeting and February, March, and April Executive Directors Advisory Committee Partners meetings.
- Finalized preparations for the December 2-3, 2014 FRCA Business and Partners meetings, which will be held at the Tampa Bay RPC; secured speakers and developed the meeting agendas for these meetings; and, prepared the October 1, 2014 business and partners meeting summaries.