

Chattahoochee Main Street – Monthly Meeting
March 23, 2015
6:30 pm

Executive Director's Report

1. February 25 – Mr. Chandler and Laura Lee Corbett met with staff and the Gadsden County Property Appraiser's office to finalize the mapping for the coverage area of the Historic Structures Survey.
2. February 27 – Mr. Chandler attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the new Goodwill Industries facility in Quincy. This new facility provides 24 new local jobs and also provides workforce training opportunities for the Gadsden County.
3. March 3 – Received \$5,000.00 budget allocation from Gadsden County to start the downtown Main Street banner program.
4. March 3 – Mr. David Gardner (Executive Director, Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce) and Mr. Rob Nixon (BRE Consultant, Gadsden County Development Council) attended the City Council's monthly business meeting. Mr. Gardner provided support for Chattahoochee Main Street's economic development efforts and gave information about the proposal for a new type of collection box being used by Goodwill Industries. Goodwill would like to locate one of their new collection boxes in Chattahoochee for convenience of our community. Mr. Nixon provided an update on the BRE efforts that are ongoing in our community.
5. March 9-12 – The US Army Corps of Engineers, provided a tour of the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint River basin area for the new Commander of the South Atlantic Division, Brigadier General C. David Turner. The tour began in Columbus, GA and included visits to Phenix City, AL; Eufaula, AL; Dothan, AL; Bainbridge, GA; Chattahoochee, FL; and Apalachicola, FL.
6. March 9 – Mr. Chandler went to Apalachicola to meet with Mayor Van Johnson, Betty Webb (City Manager), George Floyd (Apalachicola Maritime Museum), Pat Floyd (City Attorney), and Dan Tonsmeire (Apalachicola Riverkeepers) to discuss and plan the agenda for the closing meeting of the US Army Corps of Engineers tour of the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint River Basin. This tour was conducted for the new South Atlantic Division Commander, Brigadier General C. David Turner.
7. March 10 – Mr. Chandler attended and participated in the monthly GCDC business meeting representing Chattahoochee Main Street. A presentation was given by the editor of 850 Magazine. The GCDC is planning to partner with the magazine for promoting businesses in the County and economic development.
8. March 11 – Mr. Chandler participated in a meeting of the GCDC's BRE Consortium. Mr. Rob Nixon presented the interview/survey form that will be used going forward when meeting with

existing businesses. It is planned to have two go to these interviews. One to conduct the interview and one to record. It will be important to have two sets of eyes and ears to be sure that correct information is recorded.

9. March 11 – The USACE tour came through Chattahoochee to meet at the Corp’s Resource Office and to tour the Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam. The CMS Board of Directors and I had an opportunity to meet with Brigadier General Turner and his staff and discuss our concerns for the health of the river and its economic development and eco-tourism potential.
10. March 12 – The Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Apalachicola City Commissioners hosted a breakfast and presentations on flows and navigation on the Apalachicola River. This event was held to honor the visiting USACE Commander, Brigadier General C. David Turner, Colonel Jon Chytka, Captain Samuel Walker, and 1st Lt. Richard Naseer.

The breakfast event was held at Tamara’s Café in Apalachicola. Mayor Van Johnson, County Commissioner Joseph “Smokey” Parrish, and I provided welcoming and opening remarks. This was followed by presentations by the following:

Shannon Hartsfield, Chair, SMARRT and Franklin County Seafood Works Association

- River Flow Effects on Apalachicola Bay Seafood Harvesting Industry

Steve Rash, Franklin County Seafood Dealers Association

- River Basin Flow Effects on Apalachicola Bay Seafood Dealers

Chad Taylor, Coordinator, Riparian County Stakeholders Coalition

- RCSC Six County Coalition Structure
- Importance of Working Together on River Basin Issues
- Proposed Water Shed Recovery and Management Plan

Dan Tonsmeire, Apalachicola Bay and Riverkeeper

- ABARK Support for Recreational and Commercial Navigation
- River Flow Return to Floodplain
- Need for Geomorphic Assessment

George Floyd, Apalachicola Maritime Museum

- Utilization of New Technologies for Navigational Channel Maintenance
- Flow Regime and New Approaches
- Need for Improved Navigation at Critical Choke Points

11. March 12 – Karen Marsh and I attended the first of a series of Community Conversations for the Competitive Florida Partnership program. The workshop was held in Quincy and serves as the first public meeting regarding the grant with the Department of Economic Opportunity. Gadsden County is a recipient of an award from DEO for economic development initiatives. This initiative will result in the creation of several economic development strategies and/or policies to further economic development in Gadsden County.

12. March 15 – Local author and historian, Dale Cox, led an event at the historic marker for Nicolls’ Outpost on the large Indian Mound at the River Landing to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Nicolls’ Outpost. It was 200 years ago that British officers signed a treaty with chiefs of the Apalachicola Seminole, Miccosukee, Yuchi and Red Stick Creek Indians. It was the last treaty ever signed between British and the American Indians in the Eastern US.
13. March 19 – Pam Medley, Karen Marsh, Mayor Champ James, and Mr. Chandler represented Chattahoochee in attendance at the Chamber of Commerce’s most recent Go-Gadsden event held at the IFAS Center in Quincy. Skip Foster, President and Publisher of the Tallahassee Democrat gave a presentation on growth of the Tallahassee Democrat’s reach through mobile devices and the opportunities to promote economic development through this medium. This regularly scheduled meeting always serves as a very important county-wide networking opportunity for our community. Plans are still be developed to hold a Go-Gadsden meeting in Chattahoochee.
14. March 19 – The Economic Restructuring Committee held its regularly scheduled meeting.
15. March 23 – a Preliminary Draft Strategic Community Vision Plan was submitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity for initial review and comment. This document serves as an interim deliverable for the final product that will be due May 29 under terms of the technical assistance grant received from DEO.
16. March 23 – Instead of our regularly scheduled monthly Chattahoochee Main Street meeting, we will be holding two (2) very important workshops. The first workshop will be led by Laura Lee Corbett, consultant and architectural historian, to provide information regarding the historic structures inventory that is currently underway. In addition, the County will be conducting a Community Conversation workshop similar to the one held in Quincy on March 12.
17. March 30-April 2 – The 2015 National Main Street Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA. Pam Medley will be attending as a representative of Chattahoochee Main Street.
18. March 31 – Competitive Florida Asset Mapping Team Visits

Gadsden County is working to spur economic opportunity in our area. On March 31, 2015 state and regional partners from the Department of Economic Opportunity, Department of Transportation, Department of State, Enterprise Florida, Inc., North Florida Water Management District, and the Apalachee Regional Planning Council will be visiting places that have been identified as assets important for the economic development of the community. Your participation has been requested because you are an expert on an identified asset. Assets may include:

- Educational Facilities
- Businesses
- Public Facilities
- Vacant Property and Buildings Available for Development
- Parks/Recreational Space
- Historic Downtowns/Business Districts
- Shopping Centers

- Hospitals/Health Clinics
- Lodging
- Museums
- Infrastructure (Roads, Rail, Port, Airport, Wastewater Treatment, etc.)
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Natural Resources

19. April 7 – Florida League of Cities – Tools That Work for Economic Development
This workshop will give participants an opportunity to network among themselves for best practices and innovations.
20. April 10-11 – Flea Across Florida
21. May 29 – DEO final deliverable of the Draft Strategic Community Vision Plan.