

RESTORE Act Direct Component Multi-Year Implementation Plan
Florida Counties Status Reports
Compiled by Jim Muller, Bay County, FL RESTORE Act Coordinator
August 19, 2015 revision

BAY

20150819

Bay County is preparing our Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) in-house. The Bay County Board of County Commissioners established a RESTORE Act Advisory Committee by resolution in January 2014, and the Committee first met in March 2014. The Committee drafted a partial MYIP that includes goals, objectives, project eligibility criteria and ranking considerations, and the evaluation and ranking process. The Board of County Commissioners approved the partial plan in September 2014.

On October 3 we opened a pre-proposal cycle for Direct Component projects, closing November 3. On December 9, our advisory committee selected 22 of the 47 pre-proposals to advance to the full proposal stage. The full proposal form, due February 7, 2015, required submitters to provide much of the information required by Treasury for grant applications. On February 24, proposal applicants made presentations to the Committee. On March 11, the Committee met to discuss the 22 proposals totaling \$11.8 million and to ask questions of the applicants.

On April 14, the Committee voted to select 14 of the 22 proposals and then ranked those 14 proposals to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners. The amount requested for the 14 proposals totaled \$6.7 million. Bay County will receive \$6.3 million from the Transocean settlement. On June 16, the 14 proposals were presented to the Board, which approved all 14 proposals for inclusion in the draft MYIP and added another proposal with an estimated cost of \$1.5 million.

For all 15 projects, staff is preparing the MYIP forms required by the U.S. Treasury. Treasury is being consulted during the preparation. During a public hearing, the draft MYIP will be brought before the Board, which will decide which projects to include in the draft MYIP. It is likely that the cost of the projects included in the draft will exceed the amount of funds available. The public will then have at least 45 days to comment on the draft MYIP. After considering comments, during a public hearing the Board will select projects, with a total cost not to exceed the funds available, and finalize the MYIP for submittal to the U.S. Dept. of Treasury.

County staff are assembling and drafting Treasury RESTORE Act Compliance documents related to the grants process requested by Treasury.

Bay County's partial MYIP and all RESTORE Act Advisory Committee materials, including a link to video-taped meetings are posted at <http://tinyurl.com/BayRESTOREdocs>. The pre-proposal cycle is described at <http://baycountyfl.gov/restore/preproposal.php>.

Table of Bay County RESTORE Act Direct Component pre-proposals

<http://www.baycountyfl.gov/restore/pre-proposals.php>

Table of Bay County RESTORE Act Direct Component proposals and related materials

<http://www.baycountyfl.gov/restore/proposals.php>

Map of pre-proposals and proposals <http://tinyurl.com/BayRESTOREpre-proposalMap>

Jim Muller

Bay County RESTORE Act Coordinator

Florida Gulf coastal counties RESTORE Act updates

August 19, 2015

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CHARLOTTE

20150812

Charlotte County solicited projects for the Transocean Settlement allocation in the Spring and now has the MYIP out for public review and comment. It is anticipated that the MYIP will go before the Board of County Commissioners in September 2015 for final approval to submit to Treasury. Charlotte County's RESTORE information is on our web page at <http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/boards-committees/raab/Pages/default.aspx>

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CITRUS

20150805

Citrus County is moving forward with development of a Multi-Year Implementation Plan for Direct Component funding. The County has hired a consultant to author the plan and coordinate the public participation effort. The County held a public meeting to establish the project ranking criteria and to receive public input in July 2015. The County and its consultant are now moving forward with compiling projects and applying the ranking criteria. The projects and rankings will then be presented to the public at a future Board of County Commissioners meeting.

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Collier County

20150317

Collier County is moving forward with developing our Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) for Direct Component (Pot 1) funding. Collier County's RESTORE website is at: <http://www.colliergov.net/index.aspx?page=7066>.

Integrating past activities into the required MYIP is very important to Collier County. The County's Evaluation Committee has already reviewed and ranked 35 proposed projects that were submitted in response to the County's request for project applications. This effort was aligned with RESTORE directives but U.S. Treasury Rules were not yet finalized. The proposed projects were reviewed for consistency with the RESTORE Act's definition for "Allowable Uses" and for Board-approved "Guiding Principles." However, a key provision of the final Rules requires that environmental projects must demonstrate the "best available science" was addressed in the ranking process. Staff will now review the top-rated projects to determine whether best available science as defined by Treasury Rules can be cited and if the project costs and design are still valid given this new requirement. Additionally, "measures of success" must be developed for projects that are recommended for the MYIP.

The project proposals received in 2013 were submitted by several different entities including the City of Naples, County staff, non-profit organizations, and private individuals. In soliciting these proposals, the County was not explicit as how RESTORE funds would be disseminated to non-County entities. Although the RESTORE Program allows for the County to have grant sub-awards with sub-recipients, this framework does not work for Collier County. Staff is considering a framework where projects that have been proposed by non-County entities will be managed by a RESTORE Project-specific Delivery Team (PDT). The RESTORE PDT will be led by a County Project Manager and have an individual assigned by the non-County partner on the PDT. Therefore, the County can develop a collaborative approach to implementing projects proposed by non-County entities without setting up a system for monitoring grant sub-awards and sub-recipients.

Staff is recommending that the County prepare an MYIP as soon as practicable which selects the top-ranked projects that, as best as possible, have a cumulative cost that does not exceed Treasury estimates. The remainder of the projects will be on a list that can be used to amend the MYIP when additional funds become available.

Staff is also suggesting the use of the proposed planning grant application for acquiring a consultant to assist in development of the County's MYIP, which is permitted according to the Treasury Rules. Reiterating, the cost of the MYIP may be fully funded with RESTORE Act funding awards. Staff recommends that the County use planning assistance dollars to procure a consultant.

Staff is also in the process of evaluating the adequacy of existing staff resources and organizational placement of the program. Additional staff may be needed depending on the number of projects that will be proposed and, if funded, must be adequately managed to bring the project through a design and construction process.

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DIXIE

20141030

In August 2013, the Dixie County Board of County Commissioners approved the recommended structure for the Local Restore Advisory Committee (LRAC) and the members were selected.

The first official meeting of the (LRAC) took place October 13, 2013 at which time an overview of objectives, possible funding and potential projects were discussed. Due to delayed Treasury Ruling and uncertainty of funding, committee meetings have been limited; however, the (LRAC) has received regular updates and the Board of County Commissioners continue to take public input on potential projects.

On March 7, 2013 and April 21, 2013 Multi-County/Multi-agency meetings were held to discuss a Regional approach for project identification and project leveraging.

Over the past few months, several meetings have been held with local stakeholders and members of the Shellfish industry, resulting in a Shellfish Advisory Committee being formed.

Currently, staff has been assigned by the Board of County Commissioners to review criteria and develop a project scoring system. Discussion remains as to whether the Board of County Commissioners will hire a consultant to assist with the Multi-year Implementation.

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ESCAMBIA

20150226

Escambia County formed our RESTORE Advisory Committee in March of 2013. Their charge is to take public and professional input on a Needs Assessment for Escambia County. This process brought several dozen professional speakers and hundreds of public members to meeting over an 18 month period to conduct fact finding and significant public input on what are the real issues facing Escambia County. With \$150M potentially in Direct Allocation funding, we have the opportunity to adopt some game changing projects for our citizens. The committee has completed the Needs Assessment Phase and received the approval of our Board of County Commissioners. The Committee developed the criteria that projects may be judged by on how they address those needs or not. We are currently developing a community weighting of those criteria to enable project applicants to better formulate their projects to fit the true game changing needs of the County. The weighting will be complete in March and brought to the BCC later that month for approval. Once we have Board approval, we will open a county portal for receipt of project applications. Hardcopy will be also be distributed and accepted for those without computer resources. It is expected the committee will review and rank projects by the end of summer. The MYIP may then be completed and submitted to Treasury by year end.

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FRANKLIN

20150311

Franklin County did form a RESTORE Council in 2013. We have not solicited for proposals as we did not want to be overwhelmed with projects that would then be out of line with the funding available from the Transocean settlement. We have modified the US Treasury application to be used to solicit proposals and that process will start shortly. The County Commission has not decided whether to hire a consultant or not to assist with the MYIP, so at this time the plan is being developed in-house.

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GULF

20150805

Gulf County formed our RESTORE Advisory Committee in July of 2012. Their charge was to take public and professional input on a Needs Assessment for Gulf County. This process brought several dozen professional speakers and hundreds of public members to meetings over a 2 year period to conduct fact finding and significant public input on what were the most important needs facing Gulf County. A total of 82 Pre-Applications were solicited and accepted by the committee for evaluation. The County has contracted with Dewberry for our MYIP application. The MYIP application submitted to Treasury in July, 2015. Treasury has submitted questions in reference to the application and we are in the process of revising some of the information in the grant application per our discussion with Treasury. County staff are working on the TRAC Initial Review criteria and are developing the required Federal policies and procedures. Some have already been submitted to Treasury for review and our deadline for submittal of the needs assessment is September 1st.

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HERNANDO

20141023

Hernando County Assistant County Administrator, Brian Malmberg presented an update to our BOCC, staff and public at the October 14, 2014 meeting. This included advice that the RESTORE website for Hernando County is up and running. It has the ability to accept project applications from outside entities and the ability to accept public comments via website or email. At the BOCC meeting on October 28, 2014, Mr. Malmberg will be making a presentation to present the RESTORE Act ranking criteria for BOCC and citizen comments. We anticipate securing BOCC approval of said ranking criteria.

We are scheduling the December 9, 2014 BOCC meeting as the time to introduce Hernando County's Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) for public discussion with our citizens and BOCC. During previous town hall style meetings and BOCC meetings, our staff and citizens have discussed potential, eligible RESTORE Act projects. Later in that month at the BOCC meeting of December 16, 2014, staff will introduce the MYIP to the BOCC and public for further discussion and comments. It is anticipated that BOCC approval could be given at such time. If this happens, it will be the commencement of the 45 day public comment period.

After the end of the 45 day public comment period, Hernando County plans to submit its approved MYIP to the US treasury for review and approval. This should happen on or about February 2, 2015. Once our MYIP is approved by the US Treasury, Hernando County will be able to start submitting project grant applications to the Treasury for their consideration and funding.

Leonard (Len) Sossamon
Hernando County Administrator
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HILLSBOROUGH

20150810

No major updates at this time. County staff is monitoring the settlement process and has distributed Direct Component estimates to internal stakeholders. Regarding the local claims portion, Hillsborough County will receive approximately \$22.8 million (after fees). This amount is almost double what the county will receive via the Direct Component, with no restrictions, so our commissioners have been focused on this portion of funding since the BP settlement was announced.

Robert Salmon
Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator
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Jefferson

20150331

Jefferson County has approved setting up the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee and the make-up of the committee. The positions have not been filled to date but the system is on ready to be completed. Currently Jefferson County is reviewing steps taken by other governments to develop a best practice method for our government. Discussion has taken place to bring on board assistance that will assist developing our multi-year Implementation Plan along with setting up the guidelines for the local advisory committee to review submitted projects. We have multiple projects submitted that will be utilized once the BOCC approval sets into action the committee and assistance taking our program forward.

Outside many opinions and impressions, this county has been watching patiently from the sidelines to see what appropriate steps need to be taken. We feel several mistakes and unnecessary expenditures have been avoided but the time to act has come. We expect to have action from the BOCC over the next several meetings that will catch us up to the needed position and our community will be poised to take advantage of opportunities in the coming years.

Parrish Barwick, County Coordinator

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LEE

20150305

On April 9, 2013 Lee County passed a resolution creating the Lee County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee which also established the guiding principles for eligible projects seeking the direct component funding.

The Lee County RESTORE Advisory Committee has approved a detailed criteria and ranking form for the Direct Component funds but are deferring any solicitation of projects for now as our Commissioners and several community efforts continue to formulate the County's water quality project priorities. Legislative Session will be complete in the Spring of 2015 and we will have a clearer picture of projects that may be funded. The RESTORE Committee is also not averse to discussing the combination of funds from the Trans Ocean settlement with the upcoming BP settlement to potentially fund larger more comprehensive projects.

As of March 2015, the Committee is putting completed "test" projects through the criteria to see if any adjustments need to be made.

The local RESTORE Committee criteria and ranking score sheets and request for proposal process will be submitted to our Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) for discussion and approval in Summer 2015.

Once a Request for Proposals is open for project submittals, the Committee will accept and rank the projects and a list will be approved by BoCC. These projects will be the basis of the MYIP. The MYIP will be drafted in-house by staff and the local committee and approved by the BoCC following the Treasury rule of 45 days of public comment.

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Join our online public forum at www.leecountytownhall.com

LEVY

20140917

Levy County created an advisory committee in January 2013, which currently has 9 members. Prior to that, the county hired SCG Consulting (Bill Williams) to assist with administrative tasks in dealing with RESTORE Act issues. The committee has conducted workshops on the RESTORE Act throughout the county, and established an application process for Pot 1 (Direct Component) projects and has been receiving applications over time. There are currently 25 applications submitted, and 24 have made their presentations to the committee in public meetings. The 25th is scheduled for a presentation later this month. The application period has not been closed, so more applications may arrive. The applications themselves are not available on the county's website, but the committee's meeting agendas, notices of meetings, minutes, and other RESTORE-related information is located on the county's website under a tab for RESTORE issues. The committee has been meeting every 2 months or so for some time and will continue to meet as needed.

In October 2013, the county hired the engineering firm TetraTech through an RFP process for TetraTech to assist in administrative tasks and with the development of the county's multi year plan (MYiP). The County has not issued any task order under that agreement to start with MYiP development because there have been no funds and because the county was awaiting the final Treasury rules. The contract with SCG Consulting expired, and the county did enter into a task order with TetraTech for Bill Williams to continue his services as a subcontractor under TetraTech. That task order for Mr. Williams' services expires in October 2014. It is not anticipated that the county will extend that task order for Mr. Williams' services.

With the issuance of the final Treasury rules and the clarification that counties can use Pot 1 money for MYiP development, the county is considering its options for application for a planning grant and how the county would use planning funds. It is not determined whether the county will use planning (and administrative) Pot 1 funds to acquire another consultant or partially fund an employee position and hire someone as a RESTORE Act coordinator. Discussions at the staff level have focused on creating an employee position with RESTORE Act coordination as part of that employee's duties, so the county would do the plan in-house with any engineering assistance (if needed) provided by TetraTech through task order under their agreement.

The county does not have a time line for completion of review of applications or for completion of an application for planning grant funds.

The county has made some efforts to discuss regional projects with other county administrations in the Big Bend area. These efforts have been slow, but may pick up with hiring of a RESTORE Act coordinator.

20141023

To bring you up to date since our last report September 17, Levy County's Restore advisory committee continues to meet, last meeting Tuesday, October 21st. The committee continues to receive Pot 1 project applications and the latest was presented at the October 21 meeting. At that meeting it was decided and approved to close the application process December 31, 2014.

The Board of County Commissioners recently approved a job description and salary range for a Grants Coordinator and in that description it requires the successful candidate to "serve as Coordinator for the County's interests related to the Restore Act. Overseeing and coordinating all aspects of the programs development and implementation." As stated in our previous correspondence, we have already hired the engineering firm TetraTech to assist going forward with administrative tasks and with the development of the county's MYIP.

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MANATEE

20150807

Manatee County is working to develop its multi-year plan as an in-house product at this time. We are weighing the option to solicit consultant services and assistance as we receive more information on the amount and timing of the direct component funds available to the County. Manatee County established a website portal in October 2012 to receive abstracts proposals meeting RESTORE Act criteria. This application process and procedure remains open for public participation. We will formulate an Executive Summary to be distributed in a series of public forums and meetings leading to a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners. It is anticipated that the initial projects considered for funding under the proceeds available from the Transocean settlement will be directed to environmental restoration and management needs in our coastal areas. We anticipate our MYIP process to be completed for Treasury review in calendar year 2016. We will advise the Commission to leave open the possibility for a far more detailed and updated MYIP.

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MONROE

20150812

December 2014, after an in-depth project application and solicitation process, the County's Local Advisory Committee evaluated, scored and ranked project submissions during a 2-day meeting.

February 2015, the Committee's project ranking recommendation was forwarded the Board of County Commissioners for review and approval. The BOCC approved the Committee's top three projects, and assigned funding amounts to each project. With the Board-approved projects and funding amounts, we entered the MYIP drafting phase.

In June 2015, we completed our draft MYIP. We did it in-house with a small amount of outside technical assistance. (Our TA assistance is valuable to us in terms of ensuring that our Plan and RESTORE Act-related work is compliant with Treasury rules and expectations, and to deal with things like "Best Available Science" and other interpretation needs.)

In July 2015, The County's MYIP was posted for public review, and is currently in the 45-day public posting period (July 8-August 31, 2015). We have posted in it on the Monroe County website, and noticed the posting widely in various media outlets.

In September 2015, after public review and comment period, the final MYIP will go before the Board of County Commissioners for approval to submit to the Treasury. Upon the Board's approval, the MYIP shall then be submitted to the Treasury.

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OKALOOSA

20150805

Okaloosa County advisory board scored proposals for small projects (<\$90K) and large projects (>\$90K) and heard presentations on the top 200% of available funding for each category (~\$1.9M for small projects; ~11.8M for large projects). The list was further reviewed and trimmed to 100% for each category and final combined list was approved by the committee on July 15th. This list will be presented to the BCC at the second meeting in August. After review, discussion, and approval by the Commission, County staff and consultant will develop MYIP for the BCC's final approval in September/October 2015, with an anticipated transmittal to Treasury in December 2015/January 2016.

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PASCO

20150805

Pasco County Board of County Commissioners approved the projects for the MYIP on January 13, 2015. The MYIP was published on February 19, 2015. Comments were received and addressed by the committee in May. The updated MYIP was then approved by the BCC and published in late May. The MYIP was submitted to Treasury and approved by them on July 19, 2015. We have provided documents related to the Treasury request and are awaiting their review. In addition, we are beginning work on the grant application forms starting 8/10/15 and will be submitting them in late August. Working in tandem with John stutts at Treasury has been extremely beneficial in getting the process completed. Our Committee is currently inactive and we are awaiting funding news from the Treasury before proceeding with the projects. Currently we are working on an inter-local agreement between the City of New Port Richey and Port Richey and the County on the conditions under which grant funding will be issued. The MYIP was written in house.

The MYIP can be viewed at the link below.

<http://www.pascocountyfl.net/DocumentCenter/View/17492>

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PINELLAS

2015-08-06

Our RESTORE website is at: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore/default.htm> Draft MYIP Executive Summary is shown below.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act) allocates 80% of the Clean Water Act penalties from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is allocated to five funding components including the Direct Component allocation that provides funds directly to each of 23 Gulf coast Florida counties. As of March 2015, Pinellas County had received a Direct Component allocation of \$1,548,321 available to fund projects.

Each of the 23 eligible Florida counties, including Pinellas, must submit a Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP) with proposed projects to the U.S. Treasury for approval prior to receiving project-specific Direct Component grant funding. This document includes the requirements for Pinellas County's MYIP as published in the RESTORE Act Direct Component Guidance and Application to Receive Federal Financial Assistance, which can be found at

http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore/pdf/Treasury-Direct-Component-Guidance_August-2014.pdf. Upon approval of the MYIP by the Treasury, county staff working with the project applicants will submit Direct Component Financial Assistance (grant) Applications to the Treasury for each project proposed in an MYIP.

Pinellas County's MYIP was developed by county staff with assistance from a citizen-based Working Group over several months and meetings since January 2014. The planning effort involved establishing the Working Group; developing county-specific project goals, priorities, and project selection and ranking criteria; and ranking of 17 submitted project proposals by a subcommittee of county staff and Working Group members. Periodic updates were provided to the County Commission throughout MYIP development.

Pinellas County's MYIP includes proposed funding of four projects:

- **Pinellas County Assessment of Vulnerability to the Impacts of Sea Level Rise & Infrastructure Resiliency Plan**, by *Pinellas County Planning Dept*, **\$300,000**,
 - **Coastal Ocean Monitoring & Prediction System (COMPS)**, by *USF College of Marine Science*, **\$233,934**,
 - **A Very High Resolution Estuary Circulation Nowcast/Forecast Model for Tampa Bay & Vicinity**, by *USF College of Marine Science*, **\$479,493**,
 - **Ft. De Soto Park Dune Walkovers**, by *Pinellas County Office of Management & Budget*, **\$534,894**.
-

Schedule moving forward

- Summer 2015
 - 45-day public review of MYIP to end 8/20/15
 - Commission approval of MYIP (late summer 2015)
- Fall 2015 – Treasury Submittal and Approvals
 - MYIP
 - Project-specific grant applications

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SANTA ROSA

2015805

On September 13, 2012 Santa Rosa County Commissioners passed a [resolution](#) which established the frame work for the county's local RESTORE council (LRC). The council first met in December 2012. Following an open request for proposals process in March/April 2013, Santa Rosa County hired Atkins Consulting in June 2013 to assist with matters concerning the RESTORE Act. Since that time, the council has received regular updates on the RESTORE Act process, treasury rules, received public input from various entities and has worked to develop goals, objectives, project categories, review criteria, grant application, and scoring mechanisms.

The SRC LRC formally approved its Direct Component grant application in 2015. Proposals were accepted beginning January 12, 2015 and the proposal deadline was April 3, 2015. 56 proposals were received. The proposals were scored by Technical Scoring Teams and then ranked and prioritized by the LRC for recommendation to the Santa Rosa County BOCC. At the July 13, 2015 Local Restore Council meeting, the Local Restore Council selected 15 projects for inclusion in the initial Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP). The initial MYIP will be based only on the Transocean settlement funds available to Santa Rosa County at this time. A timeline for funding proposals with the additional settlement has not been determined at this time.

The LRC directed staff to develop a draft MYIP for consideration at the September 14, 2015 meeting. Once the draft MYIP has been reviewed by the LRC and Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners, it will be available for public review and comments for a minimum of 45 days. The draft MYIP will be made available on this web page and the public will be notified via press release and published advertisements. We are planning to send a draft MYIP to Treasury for initial comments prior to advertising for public comment.

We expect that the MYIP will be completed in December 2015 or January 2016 and submitted to the Treasury for review and approval.

A Direct Component non-construction application for planning assistance to develop the MYIP was submitted in 2015. As of August, 2015 we are still working with Treasury to resolve questions on the application for planning assistance. Santa Rosa County's LRC documents are posted at: <http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/bocc/restore.cfm>

Sheila Fitzgerald
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SARASOTA

20150811

Sarasota County has undertaken an initial in-house effort to produce a preliminary MYIP, that is geared to the first funds that were placed in the system from the sub-contractor. We selected and convened key County staff and reached out to community stakeholders to compile project selection ideas for three major categories: a) natural resource/habitat restoration; b) promotion of tourism; and c) workforce development and job creation. With the recent tentative settlement with BP announced, we have been asked to prepare a briefing document for the County Administrator, and ultimately for discussion with the County Commission. Our final plan/strategy/approach will be laid out in the next few months, pursuant to preparing the MYIP for Sarasota County. This may consist of submitting an initial MYIP to cover only the funds from the Transocean settlement, and then following at a later date with a second/revised MYIP that will incorporate the final total funds from the BP settlement. Alternatively, the County may opt to combine efforts and create one MYIP for the total. Once this direction has been determined, we will provide updated information to the Consortium members.

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TAYLOR

20150303

Taylor County's RESTORE Act Committee solicited, vetted, and ranked 36 projects submitted by residents. These rankings were presented to the Board of County Commissioners during a workshop. The Board has determined to reserve its final decision on the projects until it has a better understanding of the funds available to it. At that time county staff will prepare its MYIP in-house.

20150805

Taylor County still plans to do our MYIP in house. We are currently focused on complying with Treasury's documentation needs. Our RESTORE Committee is currently not active as we have not had another round of project solicitations and the committee has already vetted and ranked the projects we have already received.

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WAKULLA

20141031

Wakulla County formed a RESTORE Committee in late 2012. In early 2013, we gave presentations in 5 locations around the county to educate citizens on the RESTORE Act, answer citizens' concerns and questions and to get their feedback.

We also held monthly meetings in 2013 and developed a draft project proposal form and heard presentations from individuals and organizations for various project ideas. Due to not having US Treasury Rules, guidance or funding we delayed further meetings, setting priorities, acceptance of proposals, etc. Being a small county with very limited resources, we did not want to establish a process, priorities, set unrealistic expectations, or be overwhelmed with projects that would be out of line with the US Treasury rules, guidance or funding available from any settlement.

I made a presentation to our Board shortly after we received notice of the final "interim" US Treasury rule was issued to outline the requirements to access and spent RESTORE act funds. I will attend the US Treasury training on the MYIP, application, etc., which is being held November 15th in the Big Bend area.

The County Commission has not decided whether or not to hire a consultant to assist with the MYIP, until that decision is made, everything is being handled in-house, i.e., making sure our draft application is consistent with the US Treasury app/guidelines, establishing milestones and timelines, drafting MYIP plan, etc. We do anticipate that our RESTORE Committee will review and vet projects and make recommendations to the Board.

We have also been participating in the TNC watershed/estuary workgroups to develop regional type projects for the RESTORE federal funding (bucket #2) and anticipate we will do the same for the State funding (budget #3).

As of March 2015, staff met with each commissioner individually. Staff anticipate presenting an agenda item to the Board at its March 23rd meeting requesting a workshop to discuss the possibility of hiring a consultant to assist with developing the MYIP and discuss priorities.

Update 8/2015

Wakulla County is developing an RFQ for consulting services for assistance in developing a planning grant and the MYP. It is anticipated that the RFQ will be advertised in August and a consultant contract executed by late September 2015.

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WALTON

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The Walton County Board of County Commissions (BCC) established the Local RESTORE Committee (Committee) by Resolution 2013-25 on May 28, 2013 and appointed eleven members representing key constituencies. As proclaimed in Resolution 2013-25, the Committee is responsible for developing a process for accepting and evaluating projects, establish a ranked project list, and provide assistance in developing a multi-year implementation plan associated with the Direct Component funds (Pot 1). Support is provided by a county staff member working under the County Administrator. The BCC tentatively approved a RESTORE Act Comprehensive Plan in June 2013. The Plan is modeled after the Gulf Coast Environmental Recovery Council Plan. The Committee reviewed and offered suggested modifications to the Plan. On February 25, 2014, the BCC approved the recommendations of the Committee and adopted the Comprehensive Plan to Restore Walton County's Ecosystems and Economy. The Committee has developed an application format and an evaluation scheme that is currently in beta testing. Evaluations will consist of three variables: Application Score, Project Category Score, and Allowable Uses Score. The project category and allowable use variables were adopted by the BCC on May 14, 2013. Additionally, the Committee is investigating the possibility of offering community mini-grants to encourage community participation in the RESTORE Act process. In September 2014 the BCC voted to convert a vacant position/funding to support RESTORE Act functions via either a staff

position, consultant, or hybrid of both. February 2015, the County filled the vacant RESTORE Act Coordinator position with Billy Williams.

On February 23, 2015, the Walton County BCC approved the Walton County Local RESTORE Act Application and Evaluation Matrix. Additionally, the BCC approved to start accepting applications starting April 1, 2015. The application submittal period will be open from April 1, 2015 to July 31, 2015. Once the County starts receiving and evaluating applications, the County will create a multi-year plan. It has not been determined if the multi-year plan will be developed by County staff or utilizing a consultant at this time. It is expected that this process to take at least six (6) months, including the required public notice timeframe.

Walton County RESTORE Act Information may be found at:

<http://www.co.walton.fl.us/Index.aspx?NID=964>.

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