



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DATE: May 20, 2014
AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

Consent Agenda ☐

Regular Agenda ☒

Public Hearing ☐

County Administrator's Signature:

Subject:

Development of the Pinellas County Multiyear Implementation Plan for the use of Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE) Direct Component Funds from civil penalties resulting from the 2010 BP Oil Spill.

Department:

Department of Environment and Infrastructure

Staff Member Responsible:

Richard Coates, P. E., Director
Transportation & Stormwater

Recommended Action:

I RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOARD) APPROVE THE PROPOSED PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT GOALS AND PRIORITIES AND THE RESTORE ACT PROJECT SELECTION AND RANKING PROCESS AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF AND THE RESTORE ACT WORKING GROUP.

Summary Explanation/Background:

County staff, in collaboration with the RESTORE Act Working Group, has recently completed two milestones in the process to develop a Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP) for submittal to the U.S. Treasury. Since January 2014, there have been four Working Group meetings and two subcommittee meetings. The Working Group has been tasked with making recommendations to County staff. The Working Group has approved their Charter, a set of recommended County RESTORE Act project goals and priorities, and a project selection and ranking process. The project selection and ranking process is a critical step to determine which submitted projects will receive priority for funding in the MYIP. Eleven ranking criteria have been recommended and they include points for how well projects meet Gulf Coast Restoration Council goals, select County Comprehensive Plan Element goals, RESTORE Act eligible activities and County priorities. Other criteria address regional benefits, partnerships, project benefit longevity and matching funds.

Approval of the goals, priorities and project selection and ranking will allow the planning process to continue with the next steps to include:

- Development and activation of a web-based project idea and project submittal page
- 3 - 4 month open period to receive project ideas and project proposals
- Selection and ranking of projects for inclusion in MYIP
- Development of a MYIP for approval by the Board and U.S. Treasury

Fiscal Impact/Cost/Revenue Summary:

N/A

Exhibits/Attachments Attached:

RESTORE Act Working Group Members
Pinellas County RESTORE Act Project Selection & Ranking Process
Pinellas County RESTORE Act Direct Component (POT #1) Multiyear Implementation Plan Development

PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT MEETING PARTICIPANTS

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Mayor	Bob Minning	BIG-C / Treasure Island
Mr.	Carlos Frey	St. Petersburg
Mr.	Elliot Shoberg	Clearwater
Mr.	David White	National Wildlife Federation
Mr.	Peter Clark	Tampa Bay Watch
Ms.	Elizabeth Fetherston	Ocean Conservancy
Ms.	Cathy Harrelson	Gulf Restoration Network
Mr.	Mark Rachal	Audubon, FL Coastal Is. Sanctuaries
Dr.	Mark Hafen	USF School of Geosciences
Dr.	Ernst Peebles	USF College of Marine Science
Dr.	Mark Luther	USF College of Marine Science
Mr.	Bob McConnell	Tampa Bay Water
Dr.	Randy Runnels	FDEP Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves
Mr.	Mike Colby	Clearwater Marine Association
Mr.	Frank Chivas	Baystar Restaurant Group
Mr.	Dennis O'Hern	Fishing Rights Alliance

COUNTY STAFF

Mr.	Andy Squires	Environmental & Infrastructure
Ms.	Liz Freeman	Strategic Planning & Initiatives
Mr.	Mike Meidel	Economic Development
Ms.	Libby Carnahan	UF/IFAS Extension Marine Agent

FACILITATOR

Ms.	Lindsay Cross	Tampa Bay Estuary Program
-----	---------------	---------------------------

PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT SELECTION & RANKING PROCESS

COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT GOALS

The Pinellas County Board of County Commission has adopted the following goals for use of RESTORE Act Direct Component funds. Projects and programs to implement these goals, to the extent feasible, should (1) provide and/or contribute to countywide and/or regional environmental and/or economic benefits, and (2) utilize a collaborative approach emphasizing environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.

1. All projects must benefit the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem through one or more of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's five goals:
 - A. Restore and Conserve Habitat,
 - B. Restore Water Quality,
 - C. Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources,
 - D. Enhance Community Resilience,
 - E. Build and Revitalize the Gulf Economy.
2. Projects may also support, further, or implement goals as identified in the Future Land Use and Quality Communities; Natural Resource Conservation and Management; Coastal Management; Recreation, Open Space and Culture; and Economic Elements of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan
http://www.pinellascounty.org/Plan/comp_plan/comp-plan.pdf

RESTORE ACT ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

1. Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands
2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
3. Implementation of Federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring
4. Workforce development and job creation
5. Improvements to or on State parks in coastal areas affected by Deepwater Horizon oil spill
6. Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure
7. Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure
8. Promotion of Gulf Coast Region tourism, including recreational fishing
9. Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvesting from the Gulf Coast Region

COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT PRIORITIES (not in order of priority)

- a. Protect and restore native habitats
- b. Provide stormwater quality improvements
- c. Create policies, programs, and/or mechanisms to remediate environmental and/or economic damages
- d. Protect against future environmental and/or economic vulnerability
- e. Provide climate change/sea-level rise planning, adaptation and/or related community engagement
- f. Provide flood and storm protection to infrastructure and other publically owned assets that consider resilience and changing sea levels
- g. Implement or further actions in the Pinellas County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan
- h. Diversify and improve the economy including tourism
- i. Promote sustainable recreational fishing and consumption of seafood dependent on Gulf ecosystem, and/or protect or promote working waterfronts

PROJECT SELECTION & RANKING PROCESS

The following process is proposed to select and rank submitted projects. The process may need to be revised to comply with the final Treasury rules that have not yet been released.

Step 1. Determine which projects are eligible for RESTORE Act funding under the Direct Component.

Projects eligible include those that meet all four of the following criteria:

1. Within Pinellas County or adjacent surface and Gulf waters, or projects with an identified and strong benefit to the County.
2. Addressing one or more of the five Restoration Council Goals.
3. Addressing one or more RESTORE Act eligible activities.
4. Projects that are not fully funded.

Step 2. Assign scores for each project using criteria and suggested guidelines.

	CRITERIA	SCORE	SUGGESTED GUIDELINES
1	Value of project in meeting Restoration Council goal(s)	1 – 3	The degree or how well the project meets one or more of the Council's five goals. Consider cost to benefit as part of value level score. 1 pt: Low value anticipated 2 pts: Medium value anticipated 3 pts: High value anticipated
2	Number of Restoration Council goals clearly addressed	1 – 2	A project that addresses multiple Council goals will receive a higher score. 1 pt: no (Addresses 1 Restoration Council goal) 2 pts: yes (Addresses 2 or more Restoration Council goals)
3	Value of project in meeting RESTORE Act eligible activity(ies)	1 – 3	The degree to which or how well the project meets one or more of the RESTORE Act eligible activities. Consider cost to benefit as part of value level score. 1 pt: Low value anticipated 2 pts: Medium value anticipated 3 pts: High value anticipated
4	Number of RESTORE Act eligible activities clearly addressed	1 - 2	A project that addresses multiple RESTORE Act eligible activities will receive a higher score for this criterion. 1 pt: Addresses 1 eligible activity 2 pts: Addresses 2 or more eligible activities
5	Value of project in meeting RESTORE Act Pinellas County priority(ies)	0 – 3	The degree to which or how well the project meets one or more of the Pinellas County's priorities. Consider cost to benefit as part of value level score. 0 pt: Does not address any County priorities 1 pt: Low value anticipated 2 pts: Medium value anticipated 3 pts: High value anticipated
6	Number of RESTORE Act County priorities clearly addressed	0 – 3	A project that addresses multiple County priorities will receive a higher score for this criterion. 0 pt: Does not address any County priorities 1 pt: Addresses 1 County priority 2 pts: Addresses 2 or more County priorities 3 pts: Addresses 3 or more County priorities
7	Provide countywide and/or regional benefits?	1 – 3	The geographical scope of the project. 1 pts: Benefits 1 jurisdiction, or no portions of unincorporated County 2 pts: Benefits 2-4 jurisdictions 3 pts: Benefits ≥5 jurisdictions or all of unincorporated County; and/or highly supports regional efforts

8	Utilizes a collaborative approach incorporating partnerships	0 – 1	The degree to which the project involves multiple city, county, or regional partners. 0 pt: No partners or 1 partner included 1 pt: 2 or more partners included
9	Will strongly support and further County Comprehensive Plan Element goal attainment as identified in the overarching project goals	0 – 2	0 pt: No or low level of support of County Comp Plan goal(s) 1 pt: Moderate support of County Comp Plan goal(s) 2 pts: High/very strong support of County Comp Plan goal(s)
10	Long-term project benefits	1 – 3	1 pt: Short term benefits anticipated (<5 years) 2 pt: Medium term benefits anticipated (5-10 years) 3 pt: Long term benefits anticipated (>10 years)
11	Matching Funding	0 – 2	0 pt: no matching funds secure 1 pt: at least 25% matching funds secured 2 pts: at least 50% matching funds secured
	TOTAL POINTS PER PROJECT	6 – 27	

Step 3. Identify early action projects that can be completed within 5 years

Step 4. Identify a per project funding cap if needed.

The need to institute a project funding cap will depend upon the amount of funding available, the total funding amount requested, and Board of County Commissioner preference.



**PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT
DIRECT COMPONENT (POT #1)
MULTIYEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
DEVELOPMENT**

MAY 20, 2014

ITEMS TO COVER

- 
- A photograph of a pink roseate spoonbill in flight over a wetland. The bird is captured mid-stride with its wings fully extended, showing the intricate structure of its feathers. Its long, straight bill is pointed downwards. The background consists of a vast, flat wetland with patches of green vegetation and shallow water reflecting the sky. The overall scene is serene and naturalistic.
- **Milestones for Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP)**
 - **County Project Goals and Priorities**
 - **Project Selection and Ranking Process**
 - **Next Steps**

COMPLETED AND PROPOSED RESTORE ACT MILESTONES

(Schedule Subject to Change)

- Nov:12 ✓ Develop draft set of goals and priorities
- Nov:13 ✓ Establish Working Group (under “Sunshine”) to advise staff
- Jan:14 ✓ Hold Working Group kickoff meeting
- Apr:14 ✓ Develop recommended County goals & priorities and process to select and rank projects
- May:14 * Obtain BCC approval of County goals & priorities, and project selection & ranking process
- July:14 - Begin 3-month period to solicit project ideas & proposals
- Oct:14 - Select and rank projects for MYIP
- Nov:14 * Obtain BCC approval of selected projects and ranks
- Jan:15 * Obtain BCC approval of draft MYIP
 - Seek public comments on draft MYIP (30-60 days?)
- Mar:15 * Obtain BCC approval of final MYIP
 - Submit MYIP to U.S. Treasury



COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT GOALS

Projects/programs should:

- 1) provide or contribute to countywide and/or regional benefits, and
- 2) use a collaborative approach emphasizing environmental stewardship and sustainable practices

All projects must meet one or more of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Goals:

- A. Restore and Conserve Habitat
- B. Restore Water Quality
- C. Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- D. Enhance Community Resilience
- E. Build and Revitalize the Gulf Ecosystem



COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT GOALS

Projects may also support, further, or implement goals as identified in the following Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan Elements

- Future Land Use and Quality Communities;
- Natural Resource Conservation and Management;
- Coastal Management; Recreation,
- Open Space and Culture;
- Economic



COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT PRIORITIES

- a. Protect and restore native habitats
- b. Provide stormwater quality improvements
- c. Create policies, programs, and/or mechanisms to remediate environmental and/or economic damages
- d. Create policies, programs, and/or mechanisms to protect against future environmental and/or economic vulnerability
- e. Provide climate change/sea-level rise planning, adaptation and/or related community engagement
- f. Provide flood and storm protection to infrastructure and other publically owned assets that consider resilience and changing sea levels
- g. Implement or further actions in the Pinellas County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan
- h. Diversify and improve the economy including tourism
- i. Promote sustainable recreational fishing and consumption of seafood dependent on Gulf ecosystem, and/or protect or promote working waterfronts



PROJECT SELECTION & RANKING PROCESS

Step 1. Determine which projects are eligible for RESTORE Act funding under the Direct Component

Projects eligible include those that meet all four of the following criteria:

1. Within Pinellas County or adjacent surface and Gulf waters, or projects with an identified and strong benefit to the County
2. Addressing one or more of the five Restoration Council Goals
3. Addressing one or more RESTORE Act eligible activities
4. Projects that are not fully funded.

Step 2. Assign scores for each project using criteria and suggested guidelines



PROJECT SELECTION & RANKING PROCESS

	CRITERIA	SCORE	SUGGESTED GUIDELINES
1	Value of project in meeting Restoration Council goal(s)	1 – 3	1 pt: Low value anticipated 2 pts: Medium value anticipated 3 pts: High value anticipated
2	Number of Restoration Council goals clearly addressed	1 – 2	1 pt: no (Addresses 1 Restoration Council goal) 2 pts: yes (Addresses 2 or more Restoration Council goals)
3	Value of project in meeting RESTORE Act eligible activity(ies)	1 – 3	1 pt: Low value anticipated 2 pts: Medium value anticipated 3 pts: High value anticipated
4	Number of RESTORE Act eligible activities clearly addressed	1 – 2	1 pt: Addresses 1 eligible activity 2 pts: Addresses 2 or more eligible activities
5	Value of project in meeting RESTORE Act Pinellas County priority(ies)	0 – 3	0 pt: Does not address any County priorities 1 pt: Low value anticipated 2 pts: Medium value anticipated 3 pts: High value anticipated
6	Number of RESTORE Act County priorities clearly addressed	0 – 3	0 pt: Does not address any County priorities 1 pt: Addresses 1 County priority 2 pts: Addresses 2 or more County priorities 3 pts: Addresses 3 or more County priorities



PROJECT SELECTION & RANKING PROCESS

	CRITERIA	SCORE	SUGGESTED GUIDELINES
7	Provide countywide and/or regional benefits?	1 – 3	1 pts: Benefits 1 jurisdiction, or no portions of unincorporated County 2 pts: Benefits 2-4 jurisdictions 3 pts: Benefits ≥5 jurisdictions or all of unincorporated County; and/or highly supports regional efforts
8	Utilizes a collaborative approach incorporating partnerships	0 – 1	0 pt: No partners or 1 partner included 1 pt: 2 or more partners included
9	Will strongly support and further County Comprehensive Plan Element goal attainment as identified in the overarching project goals	0 – 2	0 pt: No or low level of support of County Comp Plan goal(s) 1 pt: Moderate support of County Comp Plan goal(s) 2 pts: High/very strong support of County Comp Plan goal(s)
10	Long-term project benefits	1 – 3	1 pt: Short term benefits anticipated (<5 years) 2 pt: Medium term benefits anticipated (5-10 years) 3 pt: Long term benefits anticipated (>10 years)
11	Matching Funding	0 – 2	0 pt: no matching funds secure 1 pt: at least 25% matching funds secured 2 pts: at least 50% matching funds secure
	TOTAL POINTS PER PROJECT	6 – 27	



PROJECT SELECTION & RANKING PROCESS

Step 3. Identify early action projects that can be completed within 5 years.

Step 4. Identify a per project funding cap if needed.

The need to institute a project funding cap will depend upon the amount of funding available, the total funding amount requested, and Board of County Commissioner preference.



REQUEST THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION:

Approve the proposed Pinellas County RESTORE Act goals and priorities and the RESTORE Act project selection and ranking process as recommended by staff and the RESTORE Act Working Group

NEXT STEPS

- Develop and activate a web-based project submittal page
 - ✓ project ideas
 - ✓ project proposals
 - ✓ Submittal acceptance period (3-4 months)
- Select and rank projects
 - ✓ by County staff with assistance from Working Group subcommittee
- Develop MYIP for BCC and U.S. Treasury approvals that incorporates a set of ranked projects