



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DATE: February 24, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

Consent Agenda ☐

Regular Agenda ☒

Public Hearing ☐

 County Administrator's Signature:

**Subject:**

Adoption of a Resolution Delegating Authority to Pinellas County Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast (RESTORE) Act Program Director Andrew Squires to Execute the Certification Required by the Federal Financial Assistance Application for Direct Component Funds.

**Department:**

Public Works

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Richard Coates, P.E., Director

**Recommended Action:**

I RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPT THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE RESTORE ACT; DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO PINELLAS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER AND RESTORE ACT PROGRAM DIRECTOR ANDREW SQUIRES TO EXECUTE THE CERTIFICATION REQUIRED WITH RESTORE ACT DIRECT COMPONENT FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS, AND AUTHORIZE THE CLERK TO RECORD THE RESOLUTION IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF PINELLAS COUNTY.

**Summary Explanation/Background:**

The proposed resolution is required to designate Andrew Squires the "Senior Authorized Official" and delegate authority to execute the certification required to apply for RESTORE Act Direct Component funding.

In order to acquire RESTORE Act Direct Component funds, the County is required to submit a grant application to the Treasury for each proposed project. The application package includes a series of certifications that must be executed by a "senior authorized official" designated by the County's "highest official." The senior authorized official must certify, among other things, that the County is eligible to receive federal assistance, that it provides a drug-free workplace, that it will disclose lobbying funds directed to the proposed project, and, most significantly, that the proposed project comports with the RESTORE Act (e.g., project is based on best available science).

The RESTORE Act was signed into law on July 6, 2012. The Act establishes the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund, into which 80% of the civil penalties paid under the Federal Clean Water Act, in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, are being deposited. Varying amounts in the Trust Fund are available to Gulf Coast stakeholders, particularly states and counties, from three distinct components: the Direct Component, the Comprehensive Plan Component and the Spill Impact Component. The Direct Component, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury (Treasury), provides funding directly to Florida counties for ecosystem restoration, economic development, and tourism promotion. As of March 31, 2015, approximately \$1.5 million in Direct Component funds will be available to Pinellas County, though significantly more funds will become available over time. The County is currently fielding Direct Component funding proposals from local stakeholders.

Andrew Squires is best suited to receive the senior authorized official designation for several reasons; most notably, Mr. Squires already serves and/or has been designated as the County's: (1) Environmental Services Manager for Coastal and Freshwater Resources Management (eighteen years of service); (2) RESTORE Act Program Director/Principal Investigator; and (3) "Authorizing Official" to submit Direct Component funding applications on GrantSolutions.gov. Mr. Squires will work with the County Attorney's Office to ensure the County complies with all certifications. Each individual grant application will comply with the County's contract review process and will be reported on the monthly non-procurement delegated items receipt and file report.

PS

**Fiscal Impact/Cost/Revenue Summary:**

There is no fiscal impact to the County.

**Exhibits/Attachments Attached:**

Proposed Resolution

## **RESOLUTION NO. 15-\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS SUSTAINABILITY, TOURIST OPPORTUNITIES AND REVIVED ECONOMIES OF THE GULF COAST STATES (“RESTORE”) ACT; DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO PINELLAS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER AND RESTORE ACT PROGRAM DIRECTOR ANDREW SQUIRES TO EXECUTE THE CERTIFICATION REQUIRED WITH RESTORE ACT DIRECT COMPONENT FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the RESTORE Act’s Direct Component permits Florida counties to apply directly to the U.S. Department of Treasury (“Treasury”) for Federal Financial Assistance for eligible activities, such as natural resource restoration, job creation, and infrastructure projects; and

**WHEREAS**, Direct Component funding applications include a series of certifications to be executed by a “senior authorized official” certifying that activities proposed for funding are consistent with the RESTORE Act, Treasury regulations, and other federal law; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Squires has eighteen years of service with the County and is currently the Environmental Services Manager overseeing Coastal and Freshwater Resources Management; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Squires has already been designated as the County’s RESTORE Act “Program Director/Principal Investigator” and “Authorizing Official,” which authorizes Mr. Squires to submit Direct Component funding applications on GrantSolutions.gov; and

**WHEREAS**, Direct Component funding applications also require a letter from the County’s “highest official” designating a senior authorized official who can legally bind the entity to execute the certifications required in the application.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by The Board of County Commissioners of

Pinellas County that:

SECTION 1. Andrew Squires is hereby designated as the senior authorized official who can legally bind the County to execute the certifications in RESTORE Act Direct Component funding applications.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

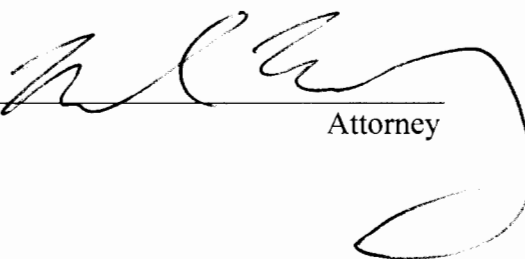
In a regular meeting duly assembled on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon roll call the vote was:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING:

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
OFFICE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

By  Attorney