COMMISSION AGENDA:
6.23.15 #31

Pinellas County

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Mark S. Woodard, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast ("RESTORE") Act - Progress Update

DISTRIBUTION: Kelli Hammer Levy, Division Manager, Natural Resources, Public Works Department
Andy Squires, Section Manager, Natural Resources, Public Works Department

DATE: June 23, 2015

Since late 2013, County staff has been coordinating an effort to select projects to fund under the RESTORE Act's Direct Component. Previous updates to the Board have covered the establishment of a citizen-based Working Group, the selection and ranking process for project proposals, the requirement to submit a Multi-year Implementation Plan (MYIP) to the U.S. Treasury for approval, and the funding amount currently available to Pinellas County ($1,548,231).

Andy Squires, Section Manager, will present a brief update of the most recent RESTORE Act activities that includes a summary of the draft MYIP. Staff intends to move forward with the Working Group's recommendation to post the draft MYIP for a 45-day public review and comment period as required by the U.S. Department of Treasury prior to seeking their approval. The draft MYIP will be available for public review on the County's website. Stakeholders will be informed of the MYIP availability for review and comment through news releases to local media outlets, e-mail notices to server lists such as the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and local chapters of other non-profit organizations (Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Native Plant Society, etc.), distribution to city managers, and postings on city websites.

The Board will have the opportunity to review and provide input on the MYIP and the continuing RESTORE Act process. The draft MYIP includes an executive summary, and the entire report with appendices can be reviewed at the following location: http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore/MYIP_doc/MYIP.pdf.

PSS

Pinellas County
PUBLIC WORKS
Natural Resources Division

D R A F T

PINELLAS COUNTY

RESTORE ACT

MULTIYEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

May 2015

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.**

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APPENDICES

1.0 RESTORE ACT

The Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act) was passed by Congress on June 29, 2012 and signed into law by President Obama on July 6, 2012. The RESTORE Act allocates 80% of the Clean Water Act (CWA) penalties from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (Trust Fund).

CWA administrative and civil penalties related to the oil spill will go into the Trust Fund based on the following allocation:

- (35%) Direct Component – 35% to be split equally among the five Gulf Coast States. For Florida:
    - 75% will go to the eight disproportionately affected counties (Escambia to Wakulla).
    - 25% will go to the 15 non-disproportionately affected counties, including Pinellas. *(Note: Pinellas County will receive 2.75% of the total amount of Trust Funds coming to Florida.)*

- (30%) Council –Selected Restoration Component – 30% to the Gulf Coast Restoration Council to develop and implement the Comprehensive Plan applicable to all five states.

- (30%) Spill Impact Component – 30% to the Gulf Coast States.
    - Florida will develop a State Expenditure Plan (currently ongoing).

- (2.5%) Research, Observation, and Monitoring Component – 2.5% to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Gulf Restoration Science Program.

- (2.5%) Centers of Excellence Research Grants Component – For Florida, 0.5% to the Florida Institute of Oceanography to administer competitive grants.

Pinellas County requested and received ideas and proposals for Direct Component funded projects within the County and/or its adjacent bay, coastal and Gulf waters that will benefit the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. Funded projects will be used to restore the environment and economy of the Gulf coast above and beyond the environmental and economic impacts associated with the oil spill. The total amount of Direct Component funding available to Pinellas in March, 2015 was $1,548,321. Additional funds are expected to become available and will not be known until the amount owed by British Petroleum is determined.

The county has been accepting both project ideas since June 2014, as well as project proposals (Nov 6, 2014 – Feb 6, 2015). To date, 25 project ideas and 17 project proposals have been received. The county continues to accept project ideas (to be

considered for future funding). Project ideas and proposals can be found on the county's RESTORE Act web page: http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore).

2.0 DIRECT COMPONENT MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS

The U.S. Department of Treasury (Treasury) Interim Final Rule issuing regulations for the Trust Fund became effective October 14, 2014. The Interim Final Rule can be viewed at: http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore/pdf/Final-Rule-2014-19324.pdf. The Direct Component activity grant application, at a minimum (per 31 CFR Part 34.303, Application procedure) will:

a. Submit a Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP) describing each activity it seeks to fund.
b. For each activity, the plan must include a narrative description demonstrating:
    1) the need, purpose, and objectives;
    2) how the activity meets all funding eligibility requirements;
    3) the activity location, budget, milestones, and projected completion dates;
    4) criteria used to evaluate success criteria;
    5) how at least a 45-day public review and comment period was provided; and
    6) how each activity was adopted following public input.
c. Include supporting information in each grant application that:
    1) proposed activities meet statutory eligibility requirements, and
    2) each activity to protect or restore natural resources is based on best available science.
d. For activities carried out before July 6, 2012, the applicant must demonstrate that specific requirements of 31 CFR Part 34 have been satisfied.

3.0 COUNTY ACTIONS

3.1 RESTORE Act Working Group

On November 19, 2013, county staff presented a RESTORE Act update to the Board of County Commissioners (Board) with a summary of Direct Component related activities accomplished to date. Activities included reference to meetings beginning in summer 2012 with an in-house advisory committee of department directors and senior-level staff to develop draft county goals and priorities for RESTORE Direct Component funded projects. In late 2012, staff also met with city managers to provide an update on the RESTORE Act and the anticipated funds expected to be available to the county.

During the November 2013 meeting, the Board approved the composition of a proposed 17-member RESTORE Act Working Group to assist staff to:

1) refine county-specific goals and priorities drafted by the in-house advisory committee,

2) develop a project selection and ranking process, and
3) select and rank a set of recommended projects to county staff to include in the MYIP.

The Board-approved Working Group (Appendix A) was composed of individuals as follows:

- two (2) members from the largest two cities in the county (one member from St. Petersburg, one member from Clearwater),
- one (1) member, the Mayor of the City of Treasure Island, who is also the president of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council (BIG-C) composed of the 11 Pinellas County Gulf coast cities (http://barrierislandscouncil.com/),
- eight (8) members from non-governmental organizations (environmental, fishing-industry, and policy-oriented non-profits),
- three (3) members from academia (one from the University of South Florida (USF), Dept. of Geography, and two from the USF College of Marine Science),
- one (1) member from the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves,
- one (1) member from the Baystar Restaurant Group, and
- one (1) member from a public utility, Tampa Bay Water.

Seven public meetings between county staff and the Working Group were held from January through May 2014 to establish project goals and priorities and a project selection and ranking process. Meeting agendas, handouts, and summaries are available on the county's RESTORE Act web page. Accomplishments by meeting are summarized below:

- January 8, 2014 (full Working Group):
  - A draft Working Group Charter developed by staff was reviewed and discussed.
  - Selection and ranking process for the Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan was reviewed and discussed.
  - The Direct Component project goals and priorities were discussed.
- February 5, 2014 (full Working Group):
  - Working Group Charter was approved (see Appendix A).
  - County Attorney's Office staff summarized Sunshine Law.
  - County Planning Department summarized Comprehensive Plan Elements related to RESTORE Act goals.
  - Overarching Direct Component Project Goals were approved.
- March 5, 2014 (full Working Group):
  - County Economic Development Department Director briefed the Working Group on economic development priorities believed to be consistent with RESTORE Act goals, including a proposed small business revolving loan fund concept using RESTORE Act funds.
  - An initial lengthy discussion of project categories and priorities as well as the project selection and ranking process began.

- A Working Group Subcommittee was established to develop draft project priorities and a draft project selection and ranking process for later consideration by the full Working Group.

- March 19, 2014 (Working Group Subcommittee):
  - A set of preliminary project priorities was developed for further refinement by staff to be presented at the next subcommittee meeting.
  - A conceptual selection and ranking process was approved for further refinement by staff to be presented at the next subcommittee meeting.
- April 2, 2014 (Working Group Subcommittee):
  - The subcommittee reviewed, discussed, and approved a set of project priorities as well as a project selection and ranking process for consideration by the full Working Group.
- April 23, 2014 (full Working Group):
  - Working Group approved the RESTORE Act goals and priorities to be recommended to the Board on May 20, 2014.
  - Working Group approved the project selection and ranking process for Board consideration on May 20, 2014.
    - The Board approved the recommended project selection and ranking process at their May 20, 2014 meeting.
- May 28, 2014 (full Working Group):
  - County Attorney's Office provided an overview of the RESTORE Act and the draft U.S. Treasury rules.
  - Discussion and clarification of upcoming Pinellas County RESTORE Act Direct Component proposal submittals and general Working Group concurrence with staff that a 3-month proposal submittal period is appropriate and recommended.

3.2 Project Goals, Eligible Activities, and Priorities

The county goals for Direct Component projects include the five goals of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Restoration Plan (Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy, August 2013). The required county eligible activities are the same as those required for Direct Component funds per 31 CFR Part 34.201 of the RESTORE Act Interim final rule. The final set of county goals and priorities developed by an in-house county staff advisory committee during 2012 were finalized during a series of staff and Working Group meetings in 2014 as summarized in Section 3.1. The final set of county goals and priorities approved by the Board on May 20, 2014 along with eligible activities for Pinellas County Direct Component funding are shown below.

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.
10. Planning assistance.

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.

3.3 Project Selection and Ranking Criteria

The project selection and ranking criteria (Appendix B) were drafted by a Working Group subcommittee during two meetings held on March 19, 2014, and April 2, 2014. The county Direct Component project goals and priorities were incorporated into the selection and ranking criteria. Eleven criteria were selected with a point range assigned to each for a total number of possible points of 6-27.

The criteria are listed below.

1. Value of project in meeting Restoration Council goal(s).
2. Number of Restoration Council goals clearly addressed.
3. Value of project in meeting RESTORE Act eligible activity(ies).
4. Number of RESTORE Act eligible activities clearly addressed.
5. Value of project in meeting RESTORE Act Pinellas County priority(ies).
6. Number of RESTORE Act county priorities clearly addressed.
7. Provide countywide and/or regional benefits?
8. Utilizes a collaborative approach incorporating partnerships.
9. Will strongly support and further County Comprehensive Plan Element goal attainment as identified in the overarching project goals.
10. Long-term project benefits.
11. Matching Funds.

3.4 Solicitation of Project Ideas

Beginning in July 2014, the county solicited input on the RESTORE website for any person to submit one or more project ideas to county staff. The following link directs individuals to submit a project idea: http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore/intro.htm. As of February 6, 2015, 25 project ideas have been submitted to the county. County staff did not develop any of the ideas into project proposal submittals. The main reasons were the lack of detail in the idea description, lack of available funds, and that staff could not support funding the project. The project idea web portal remains active and staff periodically checks for new submittals.

3.5 Project Proposal Submittals and Ranking Process

3.5.1 Proposals Received

The county received 17 project proposals during a three-month submittal window from November 6, 2014 through February 6, 2015. The invitation to submit proposals was

posted on the county's RESTORE Act web page, sent to local media outlets through a "News Release" from the county's Communications department, and sent to every city manager. Those submitting projects responded to 29 questions (see Appendix C). Twelve projects were from cities, two from Pinellas County, two from the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science, and one from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. The funding requested from all projects totaled $9,289,082 compared to $1,548,321 available for projects. Project proposals can be viewed at: http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore/proposals.htm.

3.5.2 Ranking Process

A ranking subcommittee consisting of five Working Group members and three county staff members met twice (March 16 and 23, 2015) to rank the projects based on the 11 criteria listed in Section 3.3. Prior to ranking projects on March 16, 2015, the subcommittee was given a set of guidelines (Appendix D). One guideline stipulated that projects not achieving at least a mean score of 12.0 may not be recommended for funding. The final mean score for each of the 17 project proposals can be viewed in Appendix E.

3.5.3 Projects Recommended for Funding

The subcommittee recommended five projects for funding with the two highest ranked projects to be fully funded, and the third through fifth ranked projects for partial funding as shown in the Table 1 (Project Rankings and Proposed Funding Levels).

The number one ranked project by the subcommittee was a proposal by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) to fund $100,000 of a future Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund (TBERF) project. The U.S. Treasury informed county staff that they would not accept a MYIP unless the project is identified and details are clearly described, such as specific milestones, costs, and success criteria. Consequently, staff could not recommend funding this project since the specific project would not be known until 2016 after the TBERF project selection approval process is complete. Given this information, it became clear this proposed project could not be included in the MYIP.

The subcommittee recommended funding amount of $476,493 for the fourth ranked project was adjusted slightly. Staff recalculated a revised funding level of $479,493 to align with the ranking subcommittee's recommendation to fund the first two phases (years 1-3) and to adjust the "administrative" percentage from 10% to 3% per the RESTORE Act.

The subcommittee's funding level recommended for all projects, excluding the top ranked TBEP project, still exceeded the available funding amount of $1,548,321. Consequently, staff lowered the fifth ranked project's funding recommendation from $617,402 to $534,894 such that the total funding available for the Direct Component allocation was not exceeded. Full proposals of these five projects can be viewed in Appendices F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4, and F-5.

Table 1. Project Rankings and Proposed Funding Levels

RANK	PROJECT NAME *Submitting Organization*	MEAN SCORE	FUNDING REQUEST $	SUBCOMMITEE FUNDING RECOMMENDATION $	STAFF REVISED FUNDING RECOMENDATION $
1	**2016 TAMPA BAY ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION FUND** *Tampa Bay Estuary Program*	25.57	100,000	100,000	Does not meet MYIP Treasury requirements
2	**PINELLAS COUNTY ASSESSMENT OF VULNERABILITY TO THE IMPACTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE & INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY PLAN** *Pinellas County Planning Dept.*	22.00	300,000	300,000	300,000
3	**COASTAL OCEAN MONITORING & PREDICTION SYSTEM (COMPS)** *USF College of Marine Science*	21.86	415,910	233,934	233,934
4	**A VERY HIGH RESOLUTION ESTUARY CIRCULATION NOWCAST/FORECAST MODEL FOR TAMPA BAY & VICINITY** *USF College of Marine Science*	21.14	942,646	476,493	479,493
5	**FT. DE SOTO PARK DUNE WALKOVERS** *Pinellas County Office of Management & Budget*	20.80	1,117,043	617,042	534,894
	TOTAL	**--**	**2,875,599**	**1,730,469**	**1,548,321**

With the exclusion of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program submittal, county staff is recommending 4 projects for funding as listed below.

PROJECT 1. **PINELLAS COUNTY ASSESSMENT OF VULNERABILITY TO THE IMPACTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE & INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY PLAN**
Pinellas County Planning Dept
$300,000

PROJECT 2. **COASTAL OCEAN MONITORING & PREDICTION SYSTEM (COMPS)**
USF College of Marine Science
$233,934

PROJECT 3. **A VERY HIGH RESOLUTION ESTUARY CIRCULATION NOWCAST/FORECAST MODEL FOR TAMPA BAY & VICINITY**
USF College of Marine Science
$479,493

PROJECT 4. **FT. DE SOTO PARK DUNE WALKOVERS**
Pinellas County Office of Management & Budget
$534,894

4.0 RESTORE ACT DIRECT COMPONENT MULTIYEAR PLAN MATRIX

The RESTORE Act Direct Component Guidance and Application to Receive Federal Financial Assistance (August 2014) developed by the U.S. Treasury requires the submission of MYIP matrix. The MYIP matrix can be found in Appendix G and is a required deliverable as part of the MYIP submittal to the U.S. Treasury.

5.0 RESTORE ACT DIRECT COMPONENT MULTIYEAR PLAN NARRATIVE

As with the MYIP Matrix, this Section covering the "RESTORE Act Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative" for the four proposed projects follows the U.S. Treasury's Direct Component Guidance Application to Receive Federal Assistance. The RESTORE Act Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative form is in Appendix H and is a required deliverable as part of the MYIP submittal to the U.S. Treasury.

A. General Information

Eligible Applicant Name: Pinellas County Government

POC Name: Andrew P. Squires
POC Title: Environmental Services Manager
POC Email: ASquires@pinellascounty.org
POC Phone: (727) 464-4633

B. Provide Brief Narrative That Demonstrates:

5.1 The need, purpose, and objectives for each activity, including a detailed description of each activity.

Project 1: Pinellas County Assessment of Vulnerability to the Impacts of Sea Level Rise and Infrastructure Resiliency Plan (funds requested: $300,000)

The ranking subcommittee ranked this project second highest with a mean score of 22.00 and recommended it for full funding at $300,000 as proposed. The first ranked project did not meet MYIP guidelines as discussed in Section 3.5.3.

General Project Description:

Essential elements of the project include building upon previous resiliency planning work performed in the region, eventually facilitating the systematic incorporation of climate risk and resiliency information into local and countywide infrastructure planning and investment processes. Specifically, this project will involve, among several tasks, the creation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) that utilizes an agreed-upon sea level rise projection methodology for various time scales and scenarios, the latest topographic data (DEM/LiDAR) and the location of existing and planned transportation, utilities and public safety infrastructure in Pinellas County [i.e., for the unincorporated county, municipal data and relevant infrastructure data from other stakeholders (e.g., FDOT)]. This GIS-based decision support tool will be used to generate scenarios related to timelines and change, and facilitate assessment of realistic adaptation and mitigation strategies. Additionally, the planned economic analysis will facilitate long-term/sustainability and cost-benefit-driven decision-making and prioritization by local governments, including the opportunity to identify key projects that may be eligible for infrastructure sales tax funding.

POC Name: Liz Freeman
POC Organization: Pinellas County Planning Department
POC Title: Planning Division Manager
POC Email: efreeman@pinellascounty.org
POC Phone: 727-464-8200

Project Need: To fill an information gap in the ability to assess the vulnerability of significant county existing and planned infrastructure assets to climate change and sea level rise and to formulate adaptation/mitigation strategies to better protect those assets.

Project Purpose: To develop a comprehensive geographic information system-based decision support tool to generate scenarios related to timelines and change, and to help assess realistic adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Project Objectives:

- To generate collaborative and ongoing momentum for countywide resiliency planning, including arriving at a common understanding and agreement on critical infrastructure vulnerabilities.
- To build on the post-disaster redevelopment planning work done to date and begin to link sea level and climate planning to other planning work (e.g., the Local Mitigation Strategy).
- To broadly assess the economic impact of certain infrastructure losses and scenarios in order to better plan and prioritize resiliency, mitigation and adaptation investments.
- To create a robust countywide GIS network(s) and database supporting resiliency and infrastructure planning.

- To better facilitate the allocation of finite capital over time to the key infrastructure needed to sustain (both economically and environmentally) the Pinellas community, using a systems method of planning and analysis.
- To facilitate the identification of adaptation strategies for incorporation into the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.
- To support better understanding of the connection between infrastructure resiliency and economic development, helping to facilitate policy development and the prioritization of certain public investments, including the identification of key resiliency projects that could be funded by a Penny for Pinellas extension.

For detailed project description see Appendix F-2 (Full Proposal). The project location is the Pinellas County Peninsula comprised of 24 cities as shown in Appendix G.

Project 2: Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMPS) (funds requested: $233,934)

The ranking subcommittee ranked this project third highest with a mean score of 21.86 and recommended it for partial funding at $233,934 for the first two years of the proposed 5-year project. The applicant has agreed to proceed with the recommended funding level that will result in a fully tested and functioning COMPS. A revised budget proposed for this project is shown on the last two pages of Appendix F-3.

General Project Description:

The College of Marine Science (CMS), University of South Florida (USF) initiated a Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMPS) in 1998 to observe and predict coastal ocean phenomena of societal importance. COMPS observations are of surface meteorology, ocean currents, waves, temperature and salinity using moored buoys, HF-radar and robotic gliders, all supporting predictive models. COMPS utilizes a systems science approach to describing and understanding coastal ocean phenomena through the coordination of observations with models. Models are necessary as the coastal ocean is both vast and three dimensional, and observations alone are impractical to fully describe it. Similarly, models without observations for data assimilation, initialization, boundary conditions and veracity testing are insufficient. Thus, to describe the coastal ocean one must employ science based physical models coordinated with real, sustained observations. This is the essence of COMPS.

The presently proposed project will solidify funding and return to functioning status one observing station that is part of the COMPS system. This station is located 1 mile offshore of Pass-a-Grille Beach at the entrance to Pass-a-Grille channel. Measured will be winds, waves, currents, temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, sea surface temperature and salinity, and these data will be reported to the general public,

NOAA and other agencies in near real-time via the internet and GTS. The funding request will cover years 1 and 2 of what was originally a request for 5 years of funding. New equipment will be purchased, installed, and tested in year 1, and the system will be in full operational mode throughout year 2. The intention is to sustain these measurements long-term. Given this initial proof of concept and the public utilization of data at such a very active point of access to the Gulf of Mexico, sustaining funds will be sought through other related programs.

This Pass-a-Grille Channel site, as part of the larger COMPS, coordinated observing and modeling system, will provide information necessary to address a variety of societally important matters. Examples of previous accomplishments and ongoing work include coastal inundation by hurricane storm surge and waves, harmful algal bloom tracking and prediction, explanations of gag grouper recruitment, transport of spilled oil, search and rescue, explaining water quality variations, informing fishermen regarding ocean conditions conducive to successful outings and informing the general public on ocean and atmosphere conditions. The waves and currents data will also be germane to any future sediment transport and beach erosion studies.

POC Name: Dr. Robert Weisberg
POC Organization: University of South Florida, College of Marine Science
POC Title: Distinguished University Professor
POC Email: weisberg@usf.edu
POC Phone: 727-553-1568

Project Need: Provide real time observations of ocean currents, waves, tides, temperature, salinity and atmospheric conditions needed by tourists, beachgoers, recreational and commercial boaters, county planners, emergency managers, weather forecasters and fishermen.

Project Purpose: These observations serve a variety of needs ranging from informing pleasant outings, providing for safe and efficient navigation, informing emergency managers in the event of severe weather events, facilitating inundation, beach erosion and beach water quality studies; providing information for weather broadcasters and commercial marine weather product providers. In addition to serving the aforementioned stakeholder's needs, this best science approach will enable researchers at USF to continue to address ecosystem related issues and provide improved environmental stewardship.

Project Objectives:

- Establish and sustain a Pass-a-Grille Channel ocean-atmosphere observing site.
- Provide data in real time to the general public, NOAA and other agencies and the private sector.

- Utilize the data as part of the COMPS system, a coordinated ocean observing and modeling enterprise aimed at understanding the workings of the west Florida coastal ocean and the ecosystems services that it provides.
- Leverage this important data set to secure additional funding aimed at maintaining the station into the future.

For detailed project description see Appendix F-3 (Full Proposal). The project location map of buoy site C21 is shown in Appendix G.

Project 3: Very High Resolution Estuary Circulation Nowcast/Forecast Model for Tampa Bay and Vicinity (funds requested: $479,493)

The ranking subcommittee ranked this project fourth highest with a mean score of 21.14 and recommended it for partial funding at $479,493 for the first three years of a proposed 5-year project. The applicant has agreed to proceed with the recommended funding level for the first three years of the project that will allow the Nowcast/Forecast Model to become fully operational. A revised budget proposed for this project is shown on the last three pages of Appendix F-4.

General Project Description:

This project will implement and utilize a very high resolution and accurate numerical circulation model for the Tampa Bay estuary and vicinity [including the Intra-Coastal Waterway (ICWW), Boca Ciega Bay, Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay and all of the major inlets and waterways connecting these with the Gulf of Mexico]. The model (developed by the applicant) exists and is vetted through publications in refereed professional journals. The next step is to set it up as an automated, daily nowcast/forecast publicly available on the internet. Applications include safe and efficient navigation, water quality, larval fish recruitment, harmful algal blooms and other ecological phenomena. What makes this model unique is its fine resolution (20m), enabling the inclusion of all relevant conveyances of mass. For instance, no other estuary model includes the ICWW and all of the relevant inlets that are necessary to properly address the flushing of water, the three dimensional distribution of water properties and the transport that are important for pollution and water quality studies. As an example, consider the 1993 fuel oil spill in lower Tampa Bay. No tools existed then to predict how that oil would move once it left the bay and how and when it would be transported into Blind Pass and Johns Pass. This model has that capability. Another example is a recent spill from a pipe break that sent raw sewage into Boca Ciega Bay. An automated nowcast/forecast model with daily updates would provide pertinent information to emergency response personnel specifically tailored to these types of emergencies.

Other models exist, for instance the NOAA TBOFS. However, the approach here is demonstrated to be more accurate and more complete, in part because of higher

resolution and hence inclusion of the various inlets and waterways linking the adjacent Gulf of Mexico with Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay and the ICWW. This model is also supported by the larger scale COMPS system that includes a larger scale West Florida Coastal Ocean Model, into which this Tampa Bay regional model will be nested. By virtue of this approach the Tampa Bay regional model will include more realistic forcing of Tampa Bay by the adjacent Gulf of Mexico, which greatly impacts Tampa Bay water quality.

Our applications go beyond the estuarine circulation driven by tides, winds and rivers, or water quality considerations. Estuary and coastal ocean ecology begins with the uniting of nutrients with light, fueling primary productivity and thence all subsequent trophic level interactions. The coastal ocean circulation determines the evolution of the water properties in which organisms live, including nutrients and pollutants. The deep ocean connects with the continental shelf, the continental shelf connects with the estuaries, and it is through these connections that ecosystem services derive. If we are to manage our coastal ocean resources and predict the consequences of either human-induced or natural occurrences then we must know how the overarching system works. This requires a comprehensive, multidisciplinary set of observations, coordinated with science-based models for integration, hypotheses testing and prediction. Proposed herein is that modeling framework which properly links the estuaries with the adjacent ocean.

Finally, this project will bear directly upon the objectives of Project 2: **"Pinellas County Assessment of Vulnerability to the Impacts of Sea Level Rise and Infrastructure Resiliency Plan."** Our high resolution models (currents and waves) will be germane to any future studies of inundation and damage by hurricane storm surge and waves, thereby providing effective regional planning tools.

POC Name: Dr. Robert Weisberg
POC Organization: University of South Florida, College of Marine Science
POC Title: Distinguished University Professor
POC Email: weisberg@usf.edu
POC Phone: 727-553-1568

Project Need: A high resolution numerical circulation model of Tampa Bay and vicinity that accurately includes all of the inlets, channels and waterways that connect Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Boca Ciega Bay and the ICWW with the adjacent Gulf of Mexico and with each other.

Project Purpose: Accurately determine the circulation of water and water properties for Tampa Bay and vicinity by implementing a newly developed, professionally vetted, state-of-the-art numerical circulation model along with a coupled wave model.

Project Objectives:

- Implement the existing model (already run and published in hindcast mode for the period September to December 2001) and perform hindcast tests through the present time.
- Nest the Tampa Bay vicinity model into the COMPS West Florida Coastal Ocean Model (that already provides daily nowcast/forecasts).
- Implement the nested model as a nowcast/forecast model for Tampa Bay and vicinity.
- Add a nowcast/forecast wave model.
- Make all of these model products available to the general public and the agencies via the internet and engage in public outreach and education activities.
- Develop societally relevant, ecosystems services and sustainability applications.
- Use as an educational tool for the training of graduate students.
- Provide information necessary for engineering studies. Some possible examples could include channel modifications, protective structures, dredge spoil islands, inlet modifications and beach renourishments

For detailed project description see Appendix F-4 (Full Proposal). The geographic area impacted by the model is shown in Appendix G.

Project 4: Ft. De Soto Park Dune Walkovers (funds requested: $534,894)

The ranking subcommittee ranked this project fifth highest with a mean score of 20.80 and recommended it for partial funding at $617,042 to construct two walkovers that were considered the highest priority to construct by the applicant and possibly a third walkover depending upon the bid amounts received. County staff lowered the recommended funding level to $534,894 so as not to exceed the total Direct Component funding available. The applicant has agreed to the reduced funding level and has shortened the dune walkover lengths to reduce the cost as recommended by the ranking subcommittee. The requested funds may allow for a third walkover to be constructed depending on the bid prices. A revised budget and responses to the ranking subcommittee recommendations are shown on the last two pages of Appendix F-5.

General Project Description:

This three-year project proposes the design, permitting, and construction of a series of dune walkovers along a stretch of up to 1.5 miles of beach at Ft. De Soto Park, from the Gulf Pier parking lot northward to North Beach parking lots. The number and length of dune walkovers to be installed can be adapted to the available funding and cost of the project. In an unrealistic scenario of unlimited funding a total of at least 12 walkovers would be constructed. Due to the long distances a dune walkover must be constructed to carry pedestrian traffic at the project site, it is more likely that 5 may be constructed

as funding becomes available. The current funding at $534,894 is expected to allow construction of at least 2 walkovers.

Project milestones and approximate duration for each:

- Prepare scope of services: 3 months
- Design: 6 months
- Permitting: 12 months
- Prepare bid package: 3 months
- Construction: 12 months
- Project wrap-up/as-built 1 month

POC Name: Debbie Chayet
POC Organization: Pinellas County Office of Management & Budget
POC Title: Sr. Grants Specialist
POC Email: dchayet@pinellascounty.org
POC Phone: 727-582-2521

Project Need:

- Construction of dune walkovers at Ft. De Soto Park to protect fragile dune system while allowing pedestrian access to beach.

Project Purpose:

- Restore and conserve habitat
- Replenish and protect living coastal and marine resources
- Enhance community resilience

Project Objectives:

- Direct pedestrian traffic to dune walkovers
  - Prevent damaging pedestrian traffic on delicate dune system
- Decrease dune erosion
  - Reduce tidal overwash
  - Reduce floodwater access
  - Improve infrastructure sustainability
    - Protection via strong dune system
- Allow dunes to rebuild over time
  - Improved shorebird nesting areas
  - Improved sea turtle nesting areas
- Reduce pedestrian impact to wildlife in area

For detailed project description see Appendix F-5 (Full Proposal). The project location maps are shown in Appendix G.

5.2 How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the plan was adopted after consideration of all meaningful input from the public.

Section 5.2 to be completed after 45-day public review period and prior to MYIP submittal to the Treasury.

Pinellas County intends to place the Draft Multiyear Implementation Plan on the county's RESTORE Act web page (http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore/), and send out notices to the public to e-mail addresses on list servers such as the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, local chapters of non-profit organizations (Audubon, Sierra Club, Native Plant Society, etc.), and postings on city web sites. News releases will also be sent out to local media outlets.

5.3 How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan matrix is eligible for funding and meets all the requirements under the RESTORE Act.

Project 1: Pinellas County Assessment of Vulnerability to the Impacts of Sea Level Rise and Infrastructure Resiliency Plan ($300,000)

Eligible activities addressed:

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.
4 - Workforce development and job creation.
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.

Eligible Activities include:

- **Eligible Activity 1.** Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands.

Response: This is anticipated to be a side benefit of enhancing community resilience. The restoration and protection of natural resources can provide important buffers to help protect coastal infrastructure.

- **Eligible Activity 2.** Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.

Response: See above. The mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources would be a side benefit of adaptive or mitigative strategies that relied on enhancement of natural resources to help protect coastal infrastructure.

- **Eligible Activity 4**. Workforce development and job creation.

Response: A more resilient community leads to less financial risk for companies to invest in the area and do business here. This will support investment in workforce development and job creation. In addition, some of the mitigation activities themselves will provide job creation.

- **Eligible Activity 6.** Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.

Response: More resilient infrastructure will better protect ecological resources (e.g. stormwater management systems), lead to a more sustainable economy and directly create jobs (e.g. those projects to make infrastructure more resilient will require investment and jobs – some high paying although temporary).

- **Eligible Activity 7**. Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.

Response: This is the primary eligible activity. The project will identify at-risk and critical infrastructure subject to sea level rise and inundation threats, as well as potential adaptive and mitigative strategies.

- **Eligible Activity 8.** Promotion of Gulf Coast Region tourism, including recreational fishing.

Response: A more resilient community, and in particular strategies for a more resilient transportation system, will lead to a more sustainable tourist economy.

Project 2: Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMPS) ($233,934)

Eligible activities addressed:

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.
4 - Workforce development and job creation.
7 - Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
8 - Promotion of Gulf Coast Region tourism, including recreational fishing.

The proposed projects addresses eligible activities 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8 as listed in Section 3.

- **Eligible Activities 1 & 2.** (1) Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands; and (2) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources

Response: The coastal ocean circulation provides the underpinning for ecosystem functionality. Ecology is not simply biology. It is multidisciplinary, combining all of the processes that promote organism success. This begins with the circulation physics, which connects the deep ocean to the continental shelf and the shelf with the estuaries. Nutrients that fuel primary productivity are transported by the circulation. The circulation and waves are also responsible for beach morphology, flushing of the coastal wetlands and estuaries and determining beach water quality. All of the RESTORE Act environmental goals are critically tied to the coastal ocean circulation.

- **Eligible Activity 4**. Workforce development and job creation

Response: COMPS employs trained technical and computer science staff; trains graduate students and post-doctoral associates and provides undergraduate intern opportunities. Thus it contributes directly to the present workforce and provides STEM training for the future workforce. Indirectly it also adds significantly to the safety and enjoyment of recreational and tourism activities, thereby positively affecting workforce enhancements throughout Pinellas County.

- **Eligible Activity 7**. Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.

Response: This is the primary eligible activity. The buoy site at Pass-a-Grille is in place but not functioning due to a lack of funding. Bringing the waves and meteorological sensors back on line will contribute to the continuation of storm surge and wave studies that have been central to COMPS research activities for the past decade. These works are published in

peer reviewed journals (see list of relevant publications) and have been the subject of numerous briefings to emergency management and private citizen groups on the risks from hurricane storm surge and waves. This work is vital to identifying regions vulnerable to inundation during severe weather events and as such is critical information for emergency managers and city planners.

- **Eligible Activity 8**. Promotion of Gulf Coast Region tourism, including recreational fishing

Response: As a real-time station reporting oceanographic and meteorological variables, particularly wave height and wind velocity, the station will be a useful online information tool. Beach tourism, recreational and commercial fishing and sailing will benefit from beach wave conditions and sea state for safe marine outings. Securing the requested funding will also allow the COMPS program to pursue the development of a real-time app that will greatly increase the accessibility and profile of the COMPS coastal ocean observations.

Project 3: Very High Resolution Estuary Circulation Nowcast/Forecast Model for Tampa Bay and Vicinity ($479,493)

Eligible activities addressed:

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.
7 - Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
8 - Promotion of Gulf Coast Region tourism, including recreational fishing.

- **Eligible Activities 1 & 2**. (1) Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands; and (2) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources

Response: Eligible Activity "1" as listed above is the primary eligible activity. As in addressing Question 7, goals A, B and C (see Appendix F-4) we reiterate that coastal circulation is the underpinning for ecosystem functionality. Ecology is multidisciplinary, it is biology and it is chemistry and it is most certainly the physics of circulation which connects the deep ocean to the continental shelf and the shelf with the estuaries. Circulation plays a foundational role in ecosystem dynamics, habitat accessibility, beach morphology and the flushing of coastal wetlands. Larvae, nutrients and pollutants are advected with currents making the ability to understand and

predict circulation dynamics necessary to any complete discussion of these RESTORE Act activities.

- **Eligible Activity 7**: Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure

Response: The proposed model has been shown to be effective at determining the potential for damage and destruction of hurricane storm surge and waves in hindcast mode. An automated nowcast/forecast model with daily updates as proposed would provide pertinent information to emergency management personnel.

- **Eligible Activity 8**: Promotion of Gulf Coast Region tourism, including recreational fishing

Response: Recreational fishing for shallow water gamefish within Tampa Bay is extremely popular and constitutes not only a large percentage of charter and personal fishing outings but also numerous tournaments throughout the year. A high resolution, publically accessible circulation model is not only informative to the experienced fisherman but also encourages safe boating through knowledge of local currents and present conditions.

Project 4: Ft. De Soto Park Dune Walkovers ($534,894)

Eligible activities addressed:

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.
4 - Workforce development and job creation.
6 - Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
8 - Promotion of Gulf Coast Region tourism, including recreational fishing.

- **Eligible Activity 1**: Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands.

Response: This is the primary eligible activity. The installation of dune walkovers directly protects dune ecosystems and their diversity. This allows for the continuing entrapment of sand and development of dunes which continues to protect the natural resources in the project site. As a result, federally protected sea turtles and state protected shorebirds can continue to nest in their chosen habitats; thus positively impacting marine wildlife.

- **Eligible Activity 2**: Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.

Response: The installation of dune walkovers prevents the continuing damage by pedestrians to the dune habitat. By preventing further damage, this ecosystem is provided the opportunity to naturally recover and mitigate the damage caused by pedestrians. Allowing dunes to restore and further develop into a healthy well-stabilized system also provides a measure of mitigation reducing potential future storm damage.

- **Eligible Activity 4:** Workforce development and job creation.

Response: The construction of the dune walkovers will create up to 4 jobs in the short term. The length of time is dependent upon the number of walkovers able to be constructed for the requested funding (how competitively priced the construction bids end up). Job retention will be enhanced as the walkovers will require some measure of maintenance for public safety.

- **Eligible Activity 6**: Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure of Gulf Coast Region tourism, including recreational fishing.

Response: This project is an infrastructure project as walkovers must be constructed. A competitive bid process will be undertaken to acquire the best contractor at the best price for the work. This benefits the economy by placing work into the region, thus offering construction jobs that may not have previously existed. The infrastructure project provides ecological benefits because it protects the dune habitat, wildlife nesting areas and indirectly helps protect upland infrastructure.

- **Eligible Activity 8**: Promotion of Gulf Coast Region tourism, including recreational fishing.

Response: Promotion of Gulf Coast Region tourism may not initially sound like it is a benefit of this project, but it is. The installation of dune walkovers helps with disabled access to the beach and can be used in promoting beach access for this target audience. Ft. De Soto Park also provides beach wheelchairs for use and the walkovers will provide much needed access to the beach itself.

5.4 How the applicant will evaluate success of the activities included in the matrix.

Project 1: Pinellas County Assessment of Vulnerability to the Impacts of Sea Level Rise and Infrastructure Resiliency Plan ($300,000)

Success for each phase will be measured as listed below.

Phase 1 – Project Kickoff
- Retention of a technical services consultant and identification of lead project team and their associated roles.

Phase 2 – Data Collection and Database Development
- Selection of climate and sea level rise data/methodology to be used, assembly of an inventory of infrastructure assets and creation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) network(s) and database supporting resiliency and infrastructure planning.

Phase 3 – Data Analysis
- Completion of GIS-based scenario planning/vulnerability assessments/economic analyses on at-risk infrastructure assets.

Phase 4 – Strategy Development
- Development of final report, including summary of economic analysis, key infrastructure vulnerabilities and opportunities, as well as recommendations and a recommended action plan.

Project 2: Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMPS) ($233,934)

Success will be a fully operational Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMPS) station at the entrance to Pass-a-Grill channel, with a complete array of equipment and instrumentation as proposed. Success will occur after the completion of the milestones described below.

Year 1:
- Acquire all instruments and supplies.
- Fabricate mounting hardware for field deployment.
- Integrate and test system for field deployment readiness.
- Deploy the full system.

Year 2:
- Sustain the system.
- Provide fully operational real-time waves, currents, winds, air and sea temperature, barometric pressure, relative humidity and salinity data via the internet and incorporate into the overall COMPS data stream.
- Engage in public outreach.

Project 3: Very High Resolution Estuary Circulation Nowcast/Forecast Model for Tampa Bay and Vicinity ($479,493)

Success will be daily, automated nowcast/forecasts of Tampa Bay vicinity circulation (Phase 1) and waves (Phase 2) publically available via the internet. Success will be gauged with the completion of the milestones described below.

Phase 1 (Year 1):

- Implement the existing Tampa Bay vicinity model (already run and published in hindcast mode for September to December 2001) and perform hindcast tests through the present time.
- Nest the Tampa Bay vicinity model into the COMPS West Florida Coastal Ocean Model (that already provides daily nowcast/forecasts).
- Implement the resulting, tested Tampa Bay vicinity circulation model for daily, automated nowcast/forecasts.

Phase 2 (Years 2-3):

- Continue operation of the daily automated nowcast/forecast internet-based system and add a coupled wave model.
- Quantitatively gauge the nowcast/forecasts against all available observations and other model simulations.
- Make all of these model products available to the general public and the agencies via the internet and engage in public outreach and education activities.
- Develop societally relevant, ecosystems services applications.
- Use as an educational tool for the STEM training of graduate students.

Project 4: Ft. De Soto Park Dune Walkovers ($534,894)

Project success will be measured as listed below.

- Completion of two dune walkovers at Ft. De Soto Park.
- Public use of the new dune walkovers that is expected to draw use away from footpaths and help the recovery of nearby scarred areas. Although difficult to measure, dune walkover usage will also result in reduced disturbances to nesting shorebirds and sea turtles.

5.5 How the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix were prioritized and the criteria used to establish the priorities.

The public process used to select and rank (prioritize) projects including criteria to establish priorities is described in Section 3. The Board approved the project selection and ranking recommendations of county staff that were developed with assistance from a citizen-based Working Group.

5.6 The relationship, if any, between the activities the applicant included in the multiyear plan matrix and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act.

There are no known relationships between the projects submitted herein and other RESTORE Act funded activities.

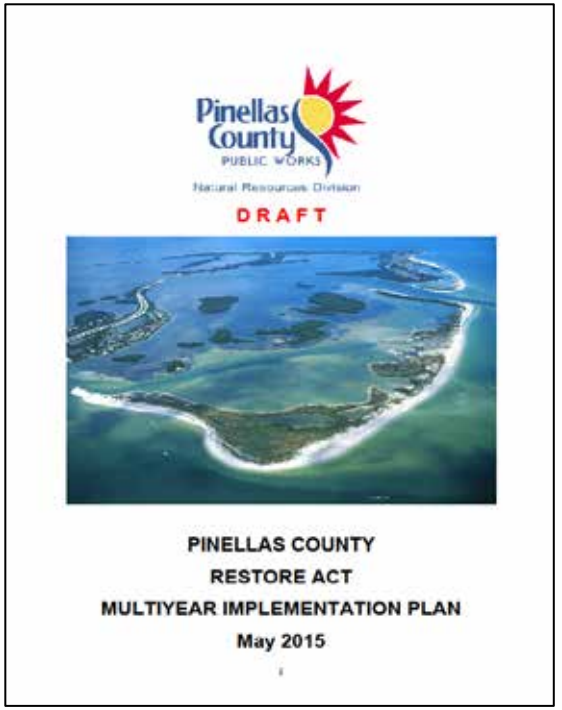
RESTORE ACT UPDATE
DRAFT MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Andy Squires
Department of Public Works
Natural Resources Division

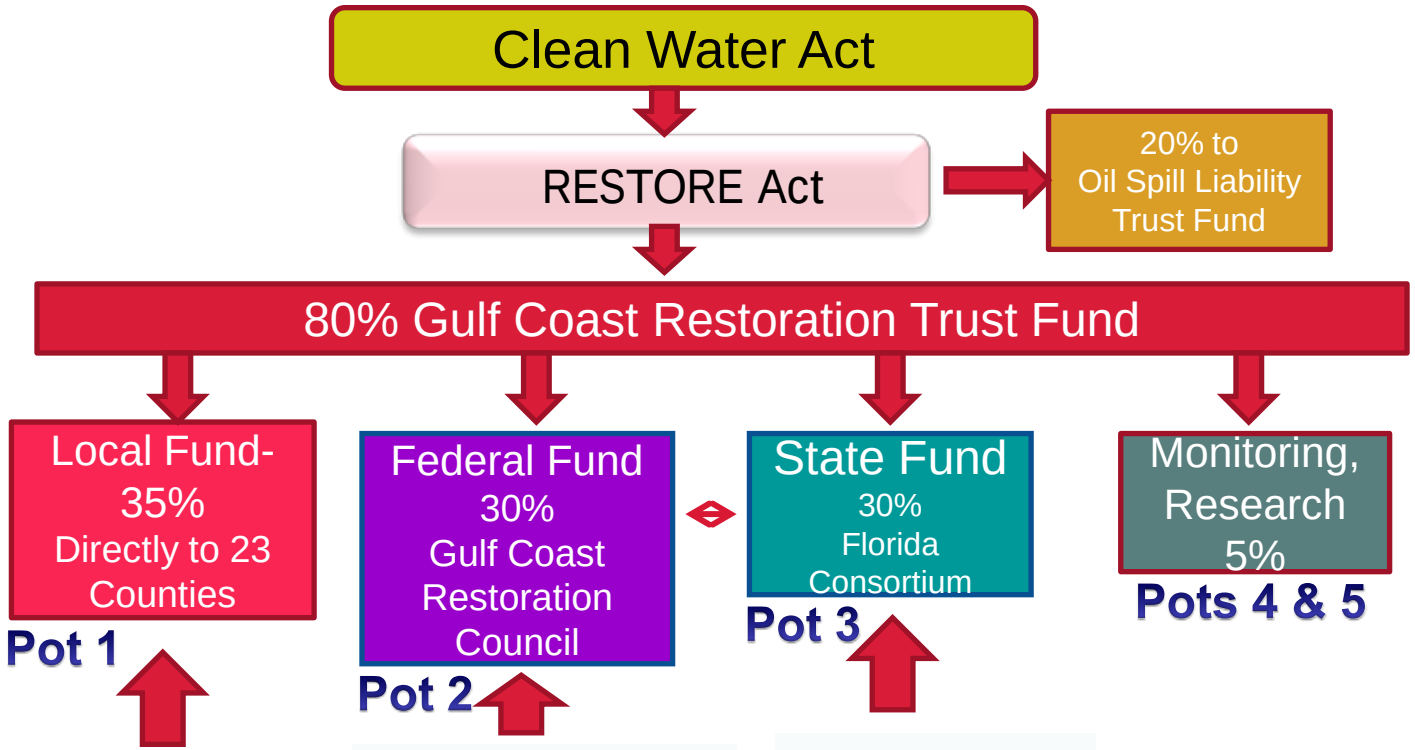
Pinellas County

TOPICS

- Review of Funding
- Components of Plan
- Recommended Projects
- Next Steps



REVIEW OF FUNDING



Treasury issued Interim Final Rule: August 2014

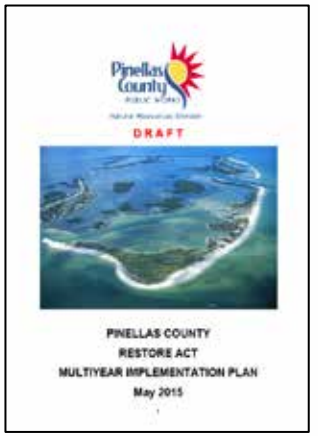
Council members submitted projects for available Transocean $200M; Draft Funded Priorities List later in 2015

Consortium developing Implementation Plan

Modified from FAC

PLAN COMPONENTS

- Section 1: RESTORE Act Background Information
- Section 2: Multi-year Implementation Plan Requirements
- Section 3: County Actions and Process
- Section 4: Direct Component Multi-year Plan Matrix (Appendix G)
- Section 5: Direct Component Multi-year Plan Narrative
- Appendices



PLAN COMPONENTS

Section 3: County Actions and Process

3.1 - Establishment of County RESTORE Act Working Group

- Working Group composition
- Accomplishments of eleven public meetings

3.2 - Project Goals, Eligible Activities, and Priorities

- Lists goals, eligible activities, and priorities used for project selection and ranking process

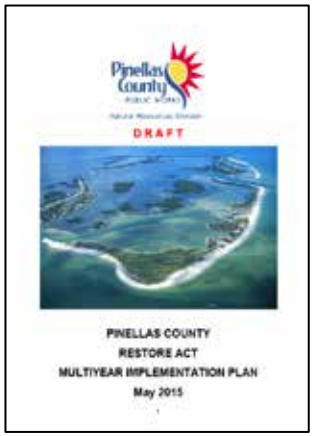
3.3 - Project Selection and Ranking Criteria

- Lists 11 criteria developed and used to select and ranking projects

3.4 - Solicitation of Project Ideas (July 2014 – present)

3.5 – Project Proposal Submittals and Ranking Process

- Proposals accepted Nov 6, 2014 to Feb 6, 2015 (3 months)
- Ranking Process by County staff appointed subcommittee
- Four projects recommended for Plan



PLAN COMPONENTS

Section 4: Direct Component Plan Matrix

Required form by Treasury (Appendix G)

- For each project, includes table showing project title, primary eligible activity, cost, and milestones

Section 5: Direct Component Plan Narrative

Required form by Treasury (Appendix H)

- References Section 5 of Multi-year Implementation Plan

Appendices (260+ pages of supportive information)

RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

Total Cost for all Projects = $1,548,321

1: PINELLAS COUNTY ASSESSMENT OF VULNERABILITY TO THE IMPACTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE & INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY PLAN

Pinellas County Planning Dept $300,000

Project duration – 3 years

- Create a Geographical Information System-based support tool incorporating the latest sea level rise scenarios, topography, and locations of existing/planned infrastructure (transportation, utilities, public safety) within Pinellas County.
- Develop adaptation and mitigation strategies based on scenarios related to timelines and predicted changes.
- Perform an economic analysis to facilitate long-term sustainability and cost-benefit driven decision making.
- Identify and prioritize key projects eligible for infrastructure sales tax funding.

RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

2: COASTAL OCEAN MONITORING & PREDICTION SYSTEM (COMPS)

USF College of Marine Science $233,934

Project duration – 2 years

- Reestablishes a moored buoy observing station off Pass-a-Grille Beach.
- Measurements include winds, waves, currents, temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, sea surface temperature, and salinity.
- Real-time data publicly available.
- Data use:
  - predict coastal inundation by hurricane storm surge and waves
  - harmful algal bloom tracking & prediction
  - help explain gag grouper recruitment
  - Create database of wave and current information for ongoing/future modeling needs
  - Provide coastal marine weather and atmospheric conditions to user groups

RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

3: A VERY HIGH RESOLUTION ESTUARY CIRCULATION NOWCAST/FORECAST MODEL FOR TAMPA BAY & VICINITY

USF College of Marine Science $479,493

Project duration – 3 years

- Develop and implement an automated, internet-based, daily nowcast/forecast system of high resolution water circulation in Tampa Bay and vicinity (Boca Ciega Bay, Intracoastal Waterway, inlets, Sarasota Bay, adjacent Gulf of Mexico).
- Model previously developed and vetted through peer-reviewed literature.
- State-of-the-art, three-dimensional circulation model
- Applications will aid:
  - Safe and efficient navigation
  - Water quality assessments and predictions
  - Pollutant and harmful algae tracking and prediction
  - Understanding coastal /ocean ecosystem drivers and interrelated processes

RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

4: FT. DE SOTO PARK DUNE WALKOVERS

Pinellas County Office of Management & Budget $534,894

Project duration – 3 years

- Design, permitting, and construction of 2-3 dune walkovers at Ft. De Soto Park.
- About 540 linear feet of walkovers to be built between the Gulf Pier parking lot northward to the North Beach parking lots.
- Walkovers to funnel beachgoers to selected entry points.
- Benefits:
  - Preserve and protect sensitive dune habitats, sea turtle and shorebird nests
  - Provide disabled access to beach
  - Enhance natural sand accretion
  - Defend against storm and tidal influx

DIRECT COMPONENT (POT 1) NEXT STEPS

- **Completed Spring 2015**
  - Working Group assisted County staff to select four projects to include in MYIP
  - County staff drafted MYIP
- **Summer 2015**
  - 45-day public review of MYIP
  - BCC approval of final MYIP (summer 2015)
- **Summer-Fall 2015 – Treasury Approvals**
  - MYIP
  - Submit project-specific grant applications
- **Winter 2015-16 – Grants Awarded**

QUESTIONS