

PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT SELECTION & RANKING PROCESS
(Approved by Pinellas County Commission May 20, 2014)

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

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 the 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.