

AGENDA
RESTORE ACT WORKING GROUP
22211 US Hwy 19 N, ERB (Bldg #10), RM A230
JANUARY 8, 2014, 6-8 PM

Meeting Objectives: Summarize RESTORE Act background, adoption of the Working Group Charter, and approval of recommended County RESTORE Act goals and priorities.

Approval Process: Working Group input and recommendations will be provided to County Staff. Staff will in turn provide Direct Component RESTORE Act-related recommendations to the Board of County Commission (BCC) for consideration.

1. INTRODUCTIONS (15 min) - County staff and Working Group members
2. WELCOME MESSAGE (5 min) – Commissioner Susan Latvala
3. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS (5 min) – Andy Squires
4. INTRODUCTION TO RESTORE ACT AND DRAFT TREASURY RULES (15 min) – Andy Squires
5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MEETING OBJECTIVES (20 min max, up to 3 min/person)
6. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT WORKING GROUP CHARTER (15 min) – Andy Squires/Lindsay Cross

Action Recommended: Recommend adoption of charter that defines the purpose, resources and approvals needed, participant roles, meeting conduct and ground rules, periodic review of charter, and the term of Working Group members during the process to develop a Multiyear Implementation Plan.

7. SW FLORIDA REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PLAN & PROCESS TO SELECT AND RANK PROJECTS (10 min) – Lindsay Cross
8. DRAFT GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR PROJECTS (30) – Andy Squires/Lindsay Cross

Action Recommended: Recommend to County staff that the RESTORE Act goals and priorities be brought to the County Commission for consideration. The goals and priorities are for projects to be funded through the “Direct Component” RESTORE Act allocation.

9. NEXT STEPS (5 min) – Lindsay Cross/Andy Squires

PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT MEETING PARTICIPANTS

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Mayor	Bob Minning	Treasure Island
Mr.	Carlos Frey	St. Petersburg
Mr.	Elliot Shoberg	Clearwater
Mr.	David White	National Wildlife Foundation
Mr.	Peter Clark	Tampa Bay Watch
Ms.	Elizabeth Featherson	Ocean Conservancy
Ms.	Cathy Harrelson	Gulf Restoration Network
Mr.	Mark Rachal	Audubon, FL Coastal Is. Sanctuaries
Dr.	Mark Hafen	USF Dept. of Geography
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
Mr.	Tracy Harris	Fisherman

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
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**PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT WORKING GROUP CHARTER
TO DEVELOP A MULTIYEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

(Last Revision 01/01/14)

PURPOSE: The Working Group serves as an advisory body by providing input and recommendations to County staff for the RESTORE Act “Direct Component” set of projects and programs to be incorporated into the Pinellas County (County) Multiyear Implementation Plan (Plan). The projects and programs developed will meet RESTORE Act and County goals and priorities focused on the restoration of County and Gulf of Mexico ecosystems and the County’s economy.

RESOURCES AND APPROVALS: The projects implemented in the Plan will be funded through the “Direct Component” element of RESTORE Act funds to be distributed to Pinellas County according to rules and requirements established by the U.S. Department of Treasury (Treasury). The Plan developed by County staff, after consideration of Working Group input and recommendations, must receive Pinellas County Board of County Commissioner (BCC) approval prior to submittal to the Treasury.

IMPORTANCE: The RESTORE Act “Direct Component” funding source represents a unique once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to use a long-term source (≥10 years) of non-publicly derived funds to improve the County and Gulf coast environment and economy. This will allow projects without an established reoccurring funding source to be undertaken that otherwise might never occur. The thoughtful selection of the most appropriate projects and programs can significantly help sustain and improve ecosystems critical to Gulf health and help bolster and diversify the economy in the face of future environmental, climatic, and economic uncertainties. The careful and wise use of these funds may be pivotal to improving the resiliency of the region’s environmentally sensitive habitats and quality of life for Pinellas County residents and visitors for generations to come.

PARTICIPANT ROLES:

Sponsor: Pinellas County Board of County Commission (BCC) – will approve: 1) the Working Group composition, 2) the project goals and priorities, 3) the project selection and ranking process, 4) the final project selections and ranks, and 5) the final Plan for submittal to the U.S. Treasury. The BCC will also carry out other tasks and requirements as specified in the Treasury rules.

Conveners: County staff (Staff) led by Andy Squires, Environmental Services Manager – will organize and administer the collaborative Plan development process to: 1) clarify the purpose of the collaborative effort, 2) develop the composition and list of Working Group members, 3) secure County Administration and BCC support for a) project goals and priorities, b) the project selection and ranking process, c) the overall process to develop the Plan, and 4) develop the final set of ranked projects and/or programs and draft the final Plan for presentation to the BCC for their consideration and approval prior to public notice of the Plan and submittal to the Treasury.

Facilitator: Lindsay Cross, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, Environmental Science & Policy Manager – will help facilitate the process; the role includes: 1) facilitating the collaborative efforts and full potential of the Working Group, 2) providing processes, tools, techniques and structure to get work done efficiently, 3) helping design Working Group sessions, with direction from County staff, with a specific focus and intent, 4) keeping the sessions on track, 5) helping resolve conflict, and 6) drawing participation from everyone.

Working Group Members: Invited participants by the BCC that represent environmental and economic interests in Pinellas County. Members include staff from cities, non-governmental organizations, academia, regional agencies, and fishing and seafood industry. Members are expected to attend, prepare for, and actively participate in meetings, and abide by the “Sunshine” Law (Chapter 286, F.S.).

To the extent possible, Working Group recommendations to Staff will be determined by the consensus of Working Group members. Working Group members may submit projects and/or programs to the County to be considered for selection and ranking along with other proposals submitted to the County.

Members will collaboratively work, at a minimum, to provide input and recommendations to Staff on: 1) project goals and priorities, 2) the project selection and ranking process, and 3) the final set of ranked projects and/or programs to be integrated into the Plan. With prior notice and acceptance by Staff, members may send informed alternates in their place to meetings they are unable to attend.

MEETING CONDUCT:

1. Meetings will allow for public comments
2. Meetings will be facilitated
3. County staff will keep a record of meeting attendees, key issues raised, and actions **requested required**. Comments from individual members will generally not be attributed and a verbatim record of the meeting will not be prepared
4. All cell phones will be on vibrate, silenced, or turned off during meetings
5. Others...?

MEETING GROUND RULES:

1. Keep discussions focused
2. Come prepared for each meeting
3. Speak one at a time – do not interrupt others
4. Allow every member the opportunity to speak
5. Wait to be recognized before speaking
6. Listen to -- and show respect for -- all opinions expressed
7. Share all relevant information openly and respectfully
8. Remain flexible, open minded, and actively participate in meetings
9. Focus on reaching the best decisions for the overall environmental and economic health of the County and Gulf of Mexico
10. Others...?

PERIODIC REVIEW OF CHARTER: This Charter will be subject to review and revision when deemed appropriate by County staff and/or the consensus of Working Group members.

TERM OF WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP: The Working Group is expected to continue meeting periodically as requested by County staff until a set of selected and ranked projects and/or programs for the initial Plan are approved by the BCC. Upon BCC approval of the set of ranked projects for the initial Plan, periodic meetings may be suspended until a Plan revision is deemed necessary as determined by Pinellas County. Membership is voluntary and a member may resign from the Working Group through written notification to the County. The County may also remove a member from the Working Group for missing three or more consecutive meetings. A meeting attended by a member’s alternate is not considered a missed meeting.

PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT
PROJECT GUIDELINES FOR DIRECT COMPONENT
(01-01-14)

OVERARCHING PROJECT GOALS - Projects should meet one or more of the following goals.

1. Provide countywide and/or contribute to regional environmental and/or economic benefits
- ~~2. Utilize a collaborative multijurisdictional approach emphasizing environmental stewardship and sustainable practices~~
3. 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, and
 - e. Build and Revitalize the Gulf Economy
4. Support, further, or implement goals, objectives and policies as identified in the coastal management, natural resource, and/or economic element(s) of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan
http://www.pinellascounty.org/Plan/comp_plan/comp-plan.pdf
5. Provide protection and contingencies for future environmental damage
6. Represent adaptive, mitigative, or restorative strategies to address/protect against environmental or economic damage, and/or that promote resiliency and diminish future environmental and economic vulnerability.

PROJECT PRIORITIES

1. Provide stormwater quality improvements
2. Provide climate change/sea-level rise planning, adaptation and/or related community engagement
3. Promote recreational fishing and consumption of seafood dependent on Gulf ecosystem, and/or protect or promote working waterfronts.
4. Create policies, programs, and/or mechanisms to remediate environmental and/or economic damages or protect against future vulnerability
5. Provide flood and storm protection to infrastructure and other publically owned assets that consider resilience and changing sea levels.
6. Diversify and improve the economy including tourism
7. Implement or further actions in the Pinellas County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan.
8. **Utilize a collaborative multijurisdictional approach emphasizing environmental stewardship and sustainable practices** (*moved from a "goal" to a "priority"*)

**ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES PER RESTORE ACT
NOT SUBJECT TO REVISION BY WORKING GROUP**

1. Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine wildlife habitats, beaches, & coastal wetlands
2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, & natural resources
3. Implementation of Federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring
4. Workforce development & 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 & 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 costs for data gathering, studies, analysis, and preparation of plans and actions for eligible activities
11. Administrative costs



**PINELLAS COUNTY
RESTORE ACT WORKING GROUP
JANUARY 8, 2014**

INTRODUCTIONS



SCHEDULE FOR MEETINGS

- SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH?
- 2-4:30 pm?
- TENTATIVE MEETING DATES
 - FEB 12
 - MAR 12
 - APR 9
 - MAY 14
 - JUNE 11
 - JULY 9
 - AUG 13
 - SEP 10

MEETING TOPICS

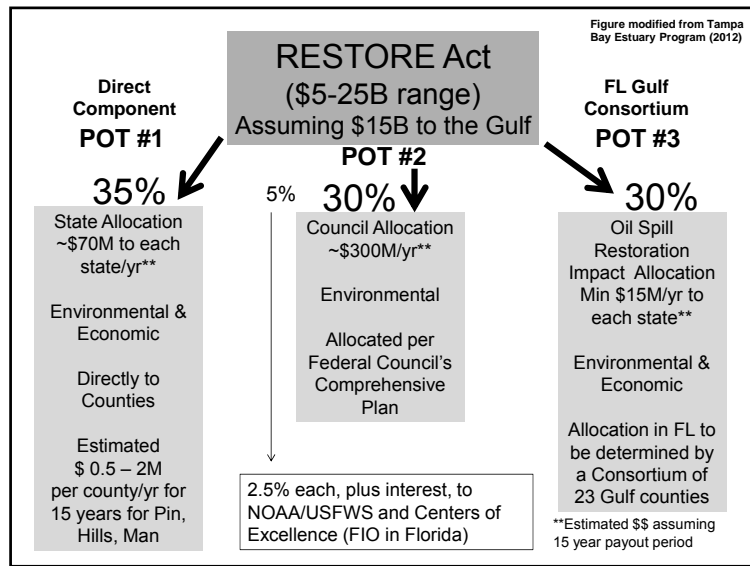
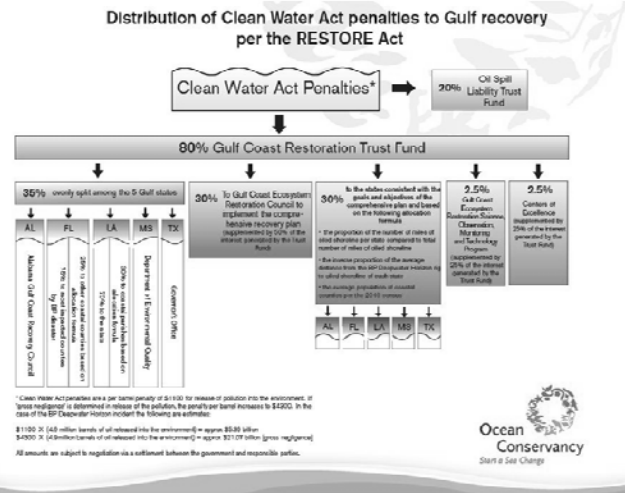


- RESTORE Act
- Treasury Rules
- Working Group Charter
- SW Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan
- County Draft Goals & Priorities
- Next Steps

RESTORE ACT BASICS

Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities,
and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act

- Signed into law July 6, 2012
- Act established the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund
- 80% of CWA administrative & civil penalties to Trust Fund
- Funds for programs, projects, & activities to restore & protect the environment & economy of Gulf Coast region
- Five Gulf Coast States (TX, MS, LA, AL, FL)
- Act has five components



DRAFT U.S. TREASURY RULES FOR DIRECT COMPONENT

- 35% of funds divided among 5 states
- Pinellas to receive ~11% of funds dispersed to the 15 non-panhandle Florida counties
- **MYIP (Plan) submittal to Treasury required**
 - project/program descriptions, budget, milestones, & success criteria
- Publicly noticed comment period required before Plan submittal to Treasury
- After Plan adoption, project specific grant agreements will be developed for approval
- Treasury review to focus on compliance with environmental laws and federal grant policies

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITES FOR DIRECT COMPONENT

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ELIGIBLE ACTIVITES DIRECT COMPONENT (cont.)

7. Coastal flood protection & 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
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PUBLIC COMMENT

DRAFT CHARTER

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Sponsor Pinellas County Board of County Commission (BCC)
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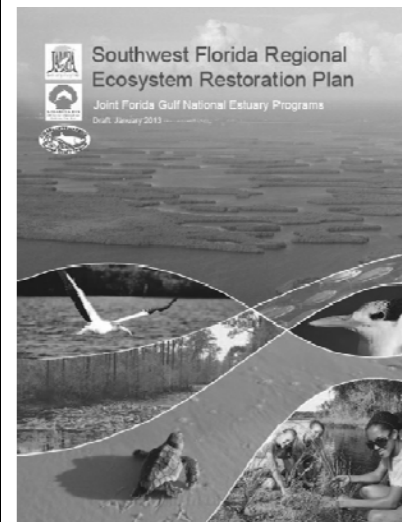
SUNSHINE LAW

WORKING IN THE “SUNSHINE”

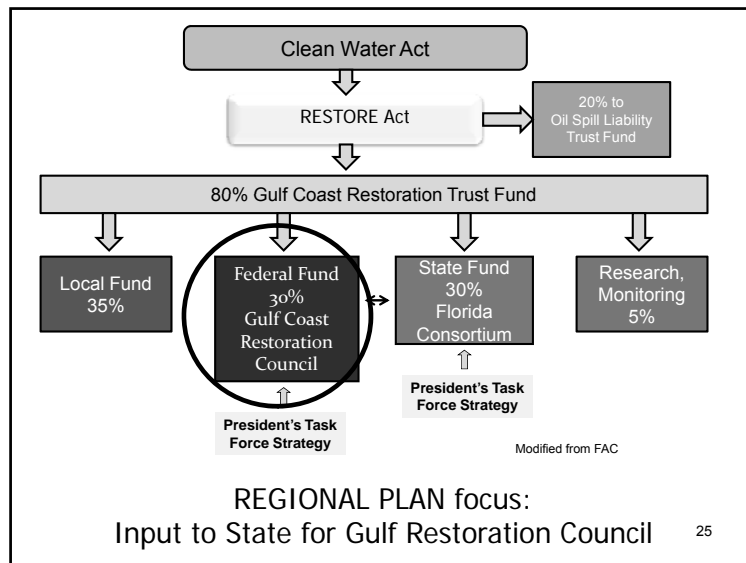
- Publicly noticed meetings
- Public comment
- Meeting Notes
- Discussion of agenda topics by Working Group members only at publicly noticed meetings

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend adoption of charter that defines the purpose, resources and approvals needed, participant roles, meeting conduct and ground rules, periodic review of charter, and the term of Working Group members during the process to develop a Multiyear Implementation Plan.



**SW Florida
Regional
Ecosystem
Restoration
Plan
(Levy to Collier
County)**



Regional Plan Development

- Eligible entities: local governments, agencies, NGOs which address RESTORE environmental priorities
- NEPs convened a Work Group to develop recommended ranking strategy

280 projects from 40+ entities were submitted
\$3 Billion requested

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- Step 1. Projects sorted into Goals and Categories
- Step 2. Identify projects recommended for other sources of funding, based on adopted criteria
- Step 3. Define selection criteria and scoring
- Step 4. Each project scored using selection criteria
- Step 5. Initial H,M, L rank assigned
- Step 6. Regional projects 'bundled'
- Step 7. 3Yr and 10Yr projects for each category
- Step 8. Maximize distribution of projects

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Projects Recommended for Other Sources of Funding

Projects which did not directly address approved criteria for this Plan, including

- Recreational amenities, boat ramps
- Navigational canal dredging
- Public safety initiatives
- Research
- Flooding relief, drainage
- Operating/maintenance costs
- Submitted by private firm or private citizen
- Project fully funded
- Fine-based funds

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3-year plan summary (\$10 M per project cap)

Code	Action Title	Number of Projects	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Prototype RESTORE 3-year costs
1a	Land Acquisition	7	30,450,000	15,465,000	946,450	46,861,450
1b	Coastal Habitat Restoration	30	4,625,000	17,468,000	14,069,555	36,162,555
2a	Nutrients/DO	13	20,850,000	21,196,904	38,838,100	80,885,004
2b	Stormwater	16	5,231,918	6,788,306	8,656,180	20,676,404
2c	Freshwater Flows	13	14,198,000	11,073,000	7,170,000	36,471,000
2d	Water Quality Monitoring	12	12,964,397	3,233,003	2,877,229	19,074,629
3a	Replenish Animal Population	2	5,860,277	211,350	216,801	6,288,428
3c	Reefs and Other Coastal Environments	13	5,830,376	15,377,400	5,010,263	26,218,039
3d	Monitoring & Assessment of Sentinel Species	11	784,860	1,686,806	1,082,208	3,553,874
4a	Comprehensive Coastal Programs	1	100,000	200,000	200,000	500,000
4b	Analytical Tools for Planning	1	200,000	200,000	100,000	500,000
4c	Environmental Education	9	1,242,876	1,419,912	2,072,010	4,734,798
*Number of projects are not bundled		128	102,337,704	94,319,681	85,268,796	281,926,181

PINELLAS PROJECTS SW Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan

CAT	DEPT	PROJECT TYPE / TITLE	SCORE	\$ NEEDED
COMPREHENSIVE COASTAL PROGRAMS				
10yr	PCR	Comprehensive Mgmt & Resiliency Plans	10	500,000
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION				
3yr	DEI	Adopt-A-Pond	8	900,000
MONITORING & ASSESSMENT OF SENTINAL SPECIES				
3yr	DEI	Random Stratified Seagrass Sampling, BCB & Feather Sound	8	166,000
3yr	DEI	Clearwater Harbor & St. Joseph Sound Seagrass Monitoring	8	166,000
3yr	TBEP	Tampa Bay Interagency Seagrass Monitoring	8	345,624
10yr	DEI	Northern Pinellas County Baseline Benthic Survey	9	264,000
REPLENISH ANIMAL POPULATIONS				
10yr	DEI	Pinellas County Near Shore Artificial Reef Construction Project	10	450,000

PINELLAS PROJECTS SW Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan

CAT	DEPT	PROJECT TYPE / TITLE	SCORE	\$ NEEDED
STORMWATER				
10yr	DEI	Cross Bayou Watershed Flood Control, WQ, Habitat Project	10	5,000,000
10yr	DEI	Roosevelt Creek Watershed BMP Alternatives	10	8,794,000
WATER QUALITY MONITORING				
3yr	DEI	Surface WQ Monitoring in Tampa Bay Estuary Program Area	7	2,345,510
3yr	DEI	Surface WQ Monitoring in Clearwater Harbor & St Joseph Sd	7	623,490
3yr	DEI	Installation, Data Collection & Maintenance of Flow Stations	8	348,130
3yr	DEI	Biological Monitoring	8	843,000

PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT GUIDELINES

DRAFT OVERARCHING PROJECT GOALS:

- 1) Provide countywide (and/or contribute to regional) environmental and/or economic benefits
- ~~2) Utilize a collaborative multijurisdictional approach emphasizing environmental stewardship and sustainable practices~~
- 3) Benefit the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem through one or more of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's five goals:
 - a. Restore & Conserve Habitat,
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PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT GUIDELINES

DRAFT OVERARCHING PROJECT GOALS:

- 4) Support, further, or implement goals, objectives and policies as identified in the coastal management, natural resource, and/or economic element(s) of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan http://www.pinellascounty.org/Plan/comp_plan/comp-plan.pdf
- 5) Provide protection and contingencies for future environmental damage
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PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT GUIDELINES

DRAFT PROJECT PRIORITIES:

- 1) Provide stormwater quality improvements
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- 8) Utilize a collaborative multijurisdictional approach emphasizing environmental stewardship and sustainable practices

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend to County staff that the RESTORE Act goals and priorities be brought to the County Commission for consideration. The goals and priorities are for projects to be funded through the “Direct Component” RESTORE Act allocation.

2014 MILESTONES

- Jan: - Hold Working Group kickoff meeting
- Feb: - Finalize charter & County goals & priorities
* Obtain BCC approval of County goals & priorities
- Mar: - Approve process to select & rank projects
* Obtain BCC approval of process to select & rank projects
- Apr: - Begin 2-month period to solicit project proposals
- Jun: - Select and rank projects for MYIP
- Jul: * Obtain BCC approval of selected projects and ranks
- Aug: * Develop draft MYIP, obtain BCC approval
- Publicly Notice draft MYIP (30-60 days?)
- Oct: - Revise MYIP as needed
* Obtain BCC approval of final MYIP
- Submit MYIP to Treasury

NEXT MEETING

- Revisit (if needed)
 - Working Group Charter
 - County Goals & Priorities
- Review of Potential County Projects
- Review of County Comprehensive Plan Elements (Coastal Mgmt, Natural Resource, Economic)
- Discuss Draft Project Selection & Ranking Process