

**AGENDA**  
**RESTORE ACT WORKING GROUP**  
**22211 US Hwy 19 N, ERB (Bldg #1), RM A230**  
**MARCH 5, 2014, 2-4:30 PM**

**Meeting Objectives:** Provide brief overview of County's economic development priorities, review and approve County RESTORE Act goals and project categories, and begin discussion of project selection and ranking options.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS (10 min) – Andy Squires
2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 5, 2014 MEETING SUMMARY (5 min) – Lindsay Cross
3. COUNTY ECONOMIC PROGRAMS (20 min) Mike Meidel, Director, Pinellas County Economic Development
4. PUBLIC COMMENT (15 min) – Lindsay Cross
5. REVIEW OF COUNTY RESTORE GOALS & PROJECT CATEGORIES (60+ min) - Lindsay Cross  
Action Recommended: Recommend to County staff that the RESTORE Act goals and project categories be brought to the County Commission for consideration. The goals and project categories are for projects to be funded through the “Direct Component” RESTORE Act allocation.
6. DISCUSSION OF PROJECT SELECTION AND RANKING OPTIONS (15+ min) – Andy Squires (time permitting)
7. NEXT STEPS (5 min) – Andy Squires



**The Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived  
Economies of the Gulf Coast Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act)  
WORKING GROUP MEETING SUMMARY**

Team members from the RESTORE Act Working Group met on **February 05, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.** in the second of a series of meetings designed to bring together community members to provide input and recommendations for use of Direct Component RESTORE Act dollars by Pinellas County.

**Meeting Attendees**

<b>Working Group Members Present:</b>	
David White	Gulf of Mexico Restoration Network and National Wildlife Foundation
Elliot Shoberg	Stormwater Utility Manager, Clearwater
Ernst Peebles	USF College of Marine Science
Dennis O'Hern	Fishing Rights Alliance
Bob Minning	Treasure Island Mayor and Barrier Islands BIG C representative
Bob McConnell	Tampa Bay Water
Cathy Harrelson	Gulf Restoration Network
Mark Hafen	USF School of Geosciences
Carlos Frey	City of St. Petersburg, Engineering & Capital Improvements
Elizabeth "Libby" Fetherston	Ocean Conservancy
Frank Chivas	Baystar Restaurants
Peter Clark	Tampa Bay Watch
Randy Runnels	FDEP, Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves
Tracy Harris	Fisherman
<b>Working Group Members Absent:</b>	
Mike Colby	Clearwater Marine Association & Gulf Charter Fisherman's Association
Mark Rachal	Audubon Society and FL Coastal Island Sanctuaries
Mark Luther	USF College of Marine Science
<b>Alternates Present:</b>	
Eric Spaulding	(for Mike Colby) Clearwater Marine Association
<b>Staff members present:</b>	
David Scott	Director, Pinellas County Department of Environment and Infrastructure
Richard Coates	Director, Pinellas County Transportation and Stormwater Division
Debbie Chayet	Pinellas County Office of Management and Budget
Kelly Levy	Pinellas County Natural Resources Section Manager

Andy Squires	Coastal & Freshwater Resources Manager: Lead RESTORE Planning Manager
Gordon Beardslee	Pinellas County Sustainable Planning and Development
Libby Carnahan	UF/IFAS Extension Marine Agent
Cynthia Johnson	Economic Development
Mary Russell	Stormwater Section, Administrative Support
<b>Facilitator:</b>	
Lindsay Cross	Tampa Bay Estuary Program

### Discussion of Agenda Items

1. Andy Squires welcomed the committee to the second meeting. Short introductions were made.
2. It was moved by Mark Haven and seconded by Peter Clark to approve the January 8, 2014 meeting summary. The motion passed unanimously.
3. The Working Group accepted the proposed meeting calendar with the addition of June 25<sup>th</sup>.
4. Jewel White, Assistant County Attorney, reviewed the Sunshine Law requirements. She said that when two or more members meet or discuss a topic that could come before the Working Group in the foreseeable future, such discussions should be avoided. Ms. White noted that discussions could occur between group members when the location and time of such meetings are properly noticed in an ADA compliant facility open to the public where minutes are taken. Four other considerations were noted by Ms. White:
  - a. the public, if invited to speak, should have an opportunity to speak before a decision is made;
  - b. a message to the group by another member is permitted, but it must be one-way. Other group members should not comment back to any member on such one-way communications;
  - c. Working Group and/or subcommittee meetings are okay as long as meetings are noticed and open to the public; and
  - d. if group members are asked to submit input to County staff, one repository is advised.

Finally, the group discussed the difference between having an alternate represent them and whether or not alternates should be voting members. It was determined that alternates will have voting rights.
5. Gordon Beardslee provided a summary of the County's Comprehensive Plan elements as they relate to the group's area of interest.
6. No public comments were heard.
7. It was moved by Mark Hafen and seconded by Dennis O'Hern to approve the Overarching Project Goals with the following revisions: Delete the words "objectives and policies" as well as goal 3. The Working Group then decided to develop Project Categories to be revised from the RESTORE Act Eligible Activities. The Project Categories then will be used instead of "Project Priorities" developed by County staff. Following a lengthy discussion resulting in numerous wording revisions to the proposed Project Categories working draft, the Working Group asked Andy Squires to incorporate Project Priority elements into the working draft not yet addressed in the Project Categories working draft. Andy agreed and said he would send out a revised draft for review prior to the next meeting.
8. Andy reviewed the next steps and solicited comments on the goals and priorities.

## **Action Items**

1. Following the discussion of the Sunshine Law with Ms. White, David White inquired about the County's role in ensuring NEPA standards as they may be put in the role of the federal government as County dispenses funds. Jewel White and Andy Squires will discuss the issue and report back to the group.
2. Andy Squires will provide group members with a link to the Planning Department's Comprehensive Plan for review.

**The RESTORE Act Working Group meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.**

## PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT GOALS (revised 03-03-14)

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*Black font – from County staff goals and accepted by Working Group 2-5-14*

***Bold black font strikeouts – deletions recommended by Working Group 2-5-14***

*Red font – from County priorities for consideration by Working Group*

*Green font – suggested WG revisions since Feb 5<sup>th</sup> meeting*

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### OVERARCHING PROJECT GOALS

~~County staff and the Board of County Commission agreed that projects that meet the goals listed below.~~ The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners 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 countywide and/or contribute to regional environmental and/or economic benefits; **and 2) utilize a collaborative multijurisdictional approach emphasizing environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.**

1. 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
2. Support, further, or implement goals ~~objectives and policies~~ 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](http://www.pinellascounty.org/Plan/comp_plan/comp-plan.pdf)
- ~~3. Provide protection and contingencies for future environmental damage~~
3. 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.

## PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT CATEGORIES

**Working Group (WG) Draft Developed 2/5/14 and reworked by County staff**

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*Black font – from items listed as RESTORE Act eligible activity*

*Blue font – from County priority items*

*Red font – new items recommended by WG 2/5/14*

*Black font double strikethrough ~~example~~ – deletions by WG 2/5/14*

*Green Font – suggested WG revisions/comments since Feb 5<sup>th</sup> meeting*

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### PROJECT CATEGORIES FOR FUNDING

1. Restoration, protection, and **enhancement** of: natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, **surface water quality, freshwater flows, and groundwater**

**Alternative: Restoration, protection, and enhancement of: coastal wetlands, freshwater wetlands and groundwater resources**

2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, & natural resources
3. Implementation of ~~federally~~ approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plans, including fisheries monitoring
4. Workforce development & job creation
5. Improvements to or on ~~State parks~~ coastal conservation and recreation areas
6. Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy and ecological resources ~~including port infrastructure~~
7. **Flood and storm protection to infrastructure and other publically owned assets that consider resilience and changing sea levels**
8. Promotion of **sustainable** ~~Gulf Coast Region~~ tourism, **including nature-based tourism**, recreational fishing, consumption of Gulf seafood, **and working waterfronts**

**Question: what does sustainable tourism mean?**

9. **Improvements to stormwater quality and quantity delivered to receiving waters**

**Alternative: Improvements to the quality and quantity of stormwater**

10. Provide climate change/sea-level rise planning, adaptation and/or related community engagement
11. Create policies, programs, and/or mechanisms to remediate environmental and/or economic damages or to protect against future vulnerability
12. Implement or further actions in the Pinellas County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan
13. Diversify and improve the economy including tourism



**PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT**  
**PROJECT GUIDELINES FOR DIRECT COMPONENT**  
(revised 02-04-14)

**PROJECT PRIORITIES**

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

## **RESTORE ACT ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR PROJECTS**

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

**PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT  
PROJECT SELECTION & RANKING PROCESS  
OPTION 1**

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 should be recommended for other funding sources.**

Projects recommended for other funding sources include, but are not limited to, those:

1. Not within Pinellas County or adjacent surface and Gulf waters, or projects without an identified and strong benefit to the County.
2. Not addressing one or more of the Restoration Council Goals
3. Not meeting a RESTORE Act eligible activity.

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

	CRITERION	SCORE	SUGGESTED GUIDELINES
1	<b>Will the project provide countywide and/or regional benefit or utilize a collaborative multijurisdictional approach emphasizing environmental stewardship and sustainable practices?</b> (1 highest, 3 lowest)	1 - 3	1 pts: benefits ≥5 jurisdictions or all of unincorporated County; or strongly incorporates env. stewardship (ES) and sustainability (S) 2 pts: benefits 2-4 jurisdictions; or some emphasis on ES and S 3 pts: benefits 1 jurisdiction; or no incorporation, or emphasis of ES and S
2	<b>Value added to County goal attainment</b> (1 highest, 3 lowest)	1 - 3	The degree or how well the project meets one or more County overarching project goals 1-4.
3	<b>County project categories addressed</b> (1 highest, 3 lowest)	1 - 3	1 pt: ≥4 2 pts: 2-3 3 pts: <2
4	<b>Existing Funding</b> (1 highest, 2 lowest)	1 – 2	1 pt: no 2 pts: yes
5	<b>Proposal completeness</b> (1 highest, 2 lowest)	1 – 2	1 pt: complete 2 pts: not complete
6	<b>Benefit to cost</b> <b>(1 highest, 3 lowest)</b>	1-3	Economic or environmental benefit: cost (consider services gained, project cost, & long-term O&M cost): 1 pt: high, 2pt: medium, 3 pt: low
	<b>TOTAL POINTS PER PROJECT</b>	6 - 16	

**Step 3. Divide projects into two groups**

1. Highest ranked projects that can be completed within 3 years
2. The remainder of projects to be completed within a 10-year horizon

**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.

## PROJECT SELECTION OPTION 2 -- DRAFT ALTERNATIVE

PROJECT NAME:

Develop and Implement Action Plan to protect St. Joseph Sd Seagrass Resource **PROJECT SCORE = 20**

Raw Scoring: 0=n/a, 1 = low, 2 = medium, 3 = high

CAT #	CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT 1-3	RAW SCORE 0-3	CAT SCORE
1	Restoration, protection, and enhancement of: natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, surface water quality, freshwater flows, and groundwater	2	3	6
2	Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, & natural resources	1	0	0
3	Implementation of approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plans, including fisheries monitoring	2	2	4
4	Workforce development & job creation	1	0	0
5	Improvements to or on coastal conservation and recreation areas	1	0	0
6	Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy and ecological resources	1	0	0
7	Flood and storm protection to infrastructure and other publically owned assets that consider resilience and changing sea levels	2	0	0
8	Promotion of sustainable Gulf Coast Region tourism, including nature-based Tourism, recreational fishing, consumption of Gulf seafood, and working waterfronts	2	0	0
9	Improvements to stormwater quality and quantity delivered to receiving waters	3	0	0
10	Provide climate change/sea-level rise planning, adaptation and/or related community engagement	3	0	0
11	Create policies, programs, and/or mechanisms to remediate environmental and/or economic damages or to protect against future vulnerability	3	2	6
12	Implement or further actions in the Pinellas County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan	2	0	0
13	Diversify and improve the economy including tourism	2	0	0
	Benefit to Cost	2	2	4