

AGENDA
RESTORE ACT WORKING GROUP
22211 US Hwy 19 N, ERB (Bldg #1), RM A230
APRIL 23, 2014, 2-4:30 PM

Meeting Objectives: Review and approve the County RESTORE Act goals and project priorities and the project selection and ranking process developed by the Working Group subcommittee.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Andy Squires
2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 5, 2014 MEETING SUMMARY – Lindsay Cross
3. PUBLIC COMMENT – Lindsay Cross
4. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF COUNTY RESTORE GOALS & PRIORITIES - Lindsay Cross, Andy Squires
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.
5. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PROJECT SELECTION AND RANKING PROCESS – Lindsay Cross, Andy Squires
Action Recommended: Recommend to County staff that the process of project section and ranking of RESTORE Act projects be brought to the County Commission for consideration.
6. NEXT STEPS – Andy Squires

The Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast Act of 2012
(RESTORE Act) Working Group Meeting Minutes

RESTORE Act Working Group (WG) team members met on **March 5th, 2014** at 2:00 p.m. at 22211 US Hwy 19, N in Bldg. #1 in the third of a series of meetings facilitated by **Lindsay Cross** of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program designed to bring together community members to provide input and recommendations for the use of Direct Component RESTORE Act dollars by Pinellas County.

RESTORE Act Working Group Members:

present:	Frank Chivas	Baystar Restaurants
absent:	Peter Clark	Tampa Bay Watch
present:	Mike Colby	Clearwater Marine Association & Gulf Charter Fisherman's Assoc.
absent:	Libby Fetherston	Ocean Conservancy
present:	Carlos Frey	City of St. Petersburg, Engineering & Capital Improvements
present:	Cathy Harrelson	Gulf Restoration Network & Saint Petersburg Sustainability Council
withdrew:	Tracy Harris	
absent:	Mark Hafen	USF School of Geosciences
absent:	Mark Luther	USF College of Marine Science
present:	Bob McConnell	Tampa Bay Water
present:	Bob Minning	Mayor of Treasure Island & Barrier Islands BIG C representative
present:	Dennis O'Hern	Fishing Rights Alliance & FL Skin Divers Association
present:	Ernst Peebles	USF College of Marine Science
absent:	Mark Rachal	Audubon Society and FL Coastal Island Sanctuaries
present:	Randy Runnels	FDEP, Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves under FL Coastal Office
present:	Elliot Shoberg	Stormwater Utility Manager, City of Clearwater
absent:	David White	National Wildlife Federation

Facilitator:

present:	Lindsay Cross	Tampa Bay Estuary Program
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Staff Members Present:

Andy Squires	Coastal & Freshwater Resources Manager: Lead RESTORE Planning Mgr.
Mary Russell	Pinellas County Natural Resources, Stormwater Management Administration
Debbie Chayet	Pinellas County Office of Management and Budget
Liz Freeman	Pinellas County Sustainable Planning and Development
Libby Carnahan	UF/IFAS Extension Marine Agent
Mike Meidel	Economic Development

Public Present:

Danny Taylor	Indian Rocks Beach
Curtis Franklin	Pasco County

Discussion of Agenda Items:

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Andy Squires

Andy Squires welcomed newcomers and Mike Meidel, Director, Pinellas County Economic Development and informed working group members of his participation in the Regional Planning Council's work to identify state-wide and/or regional projects that will qualify for "Pot 3" money.

2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 5, 2014 MEETING SUMMARY – Lindsay Cross

It was moved by **Bob Minning** and seconded by **Ernst Peebles** to approve the meeting minutes from February 5, 2014 with one correction: David White is not with the Gulf of Mexico Restoration Network and he represents the National Wildlife Federation, not Foundation. The motion passed unanimously.

3. COUNTY ECONOMIC PROGRAM - Mike Meidel, Director, Pinellas County Economic Development

Mike Meidel briefed WG members on the priorities of Pinellas County's Economic Development Department and how they relate to the projects and/or businesses that may qualify for RESTORE funds. Key points included: 1) hardening the future economy by diversifying the local economy to ensure we are not so dependent on tourism and natural resources 2) continuing to further develop small businesses 3) establishing stormwater system infrastructure to better support redevelopment of properties in support of large businesses and/or large industrial developments and 4) assist community businesses in getting off septic systems.

With regard to small business development, the Economic Development Department proposes using \$300,000-\$400,000 of RESTORE Act funds to establish a revolving loan fund to supply local small businesses with operating capital fund loans not readily available to them through traditional bank loans due to lack of collateral. Mike estimates the \$300,000 to \$400,000 in seed money from RESTORE Act funds could be leveraged to provide between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000 in operating capital funding for local small businesses. Four of the 22 banks currently working with Economic Development on 504 loans have committed to using their Community Reinvestment money to match County funding for small businesses through this revolving fund loan. Moving forward, the Economic Development Department will be watching to see if such an idea is possible under RESTORE Act funding rules.

Team members asked a number of follow up questions regarding the logistics and details of the loan program, selection of loan recipients, the scoring of such a project among others, and what type of diversification the Economic Development Department is looking to encourage.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – Lindsay Cross

Curtis Franklin, Pasco County RESTORE Chairperson commented on the trend around the Gulf to come up with a regional plan. The governor will choose six panel members to act as advisors for Governor Scott.

5. REVIEW OF COUNTY RESTORE GOALS & PROJECT CATEGORIES - Lindsay Cross

Lindsay Cross reviewed the draft of the County RESTORE goals and project categories with the recommended action of bringing them to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration and adoption as the goals and project categories eligible to be considered for RESTORE Act funds. Final drafts will be shared with the working group team members before being presented to the Board of County Commissioners

6. DISCUSSION OF PROJECT SELECTION AND RANKING OPTIONS – Andy Squires

Andy Squires led a discussion of project selection and ranking options. The results of this discussion will be shared in writing through future meeting packets.

7. NEXT STEPS – Andy

Andy Squires solicited a group of volunteers to form a subcommittee to help draft a final set of priorities and selection and ranking criteria for presentation to the group. A subcommittee meeting was scheduled for March 19th, 2-4 p.m. WG subcommittee volunteers included: Dennis O'Hern, Elliot Shoberg, Cathy Harrelson, Randy Runnels, Bob McConnell, and tentatively if time allows - Ernest Peebles. Curtis Franklin also agreed to attend. The March 26th full WG meeting was cancelled.

The WG asked to see scoring and criteria information from Polk County. Andy agreed to e-mail the Polk County information to the WG.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT GOALS & PRIORITIES (revised 04-01-14)

OVERARCHING 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, and
 - 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
3. ~~Projects may also 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.~~ **COVERED BY PRIORITIES 4 & 5**

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.
5. Protect against future environmental and/or economic vulnerability.
6. Provide flood and storm protection to infrastructure and other publically owned assets that consider resilience and changing sea levels.
7. Diversify and improve the economy including tourism.
8. Implement or further actions in the Pinellas County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan.
9. Protect and restore native habitats.

PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT SELECTION & RANKING PROCESS

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.

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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, & 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

COUNTY RESTORE ACT 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.
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6. Provide flood and storm protection to infrastructure and other publically owned assets that consider resilience and changing sea levels.
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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 a RESTORE Act eligible activity.
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 that 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 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 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. 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.