

**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 **October 22nd, 2014** at 2:00 p.m. at 22211 US Hwy 19, N in Bldg. #1 in the sixth 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:

absent:	Frank Chivas	Baystar Restaurants
present:	Serro Herndon	for Peter Clark, Tampa Bay Watch
present:	Eric Spaulding	for Mike Colby, Clearwater Marine Assoc.
present:	Libby Fetherston	Ocean Conservancy
absent:	Carlos Frey	City of St. Petersburg, Engineering & Capital Improvements
present:	Cathy Harrelson	Gulf Restoration Network & Saint Petersburg Sustainability Council
present:	Mark Hafen	USF School of Geosciences
present:	Bob McConnell	Tampa Bay Water
present:	Bob Minning	Mayor of Treasure Island & Barrier Islands BIG C representative
absent:	Dennis O'Hern	Fishing Rights Alliance & FL Skin Divers Association
absent:	Ernst Peebles	USF College of Marine Science
present:	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	formerly associated with National Wildlife Federation

Note: Tracy Harris Fisherman, withdrew after the February 5, 2014 meeting
Mark Luther USF College of Marine Science, withdrew after the April 23, 2014 meeting.
May rejoin later

Facilitator:

present: Lindsay Cross Tampa Bay Estuary Program

Pinellas County Staff Members Present:

Andy Squires	Natural Resources, Coastal & Freshwater Resources Section Manager
Kelli Levy	Natural Resources Division Manager
Richard Coates	Director, Public Works
Rodney Chatman	Planning
Debbie Chayet	Office of Management and Budget
Charles Mangio	Solid Waste
Mike Meidel	Director, Economic Development
Mary James	Natural Resources
Mary Russell	Natural Resources
Mary Scott Hardwick	Intergovernmental Liaison
Brendan Mackesey	Assistant County Attorney

Public Present:

Bruce Hasbrouck Faller Davis Associates

Discussion and Summary of Agenda Items

Meeting Objectives: Provide update on RESTORE Act activities, potential Direct Component project submittals by the County, and brief discussion of RESTORE project ideas submitted and upcoming project submittal process.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Andy Squires

Andy welcomed the attendees and each attendee introduced themselves and their affiliation.

2. APPROVAL OF MAY 28, 2014 MEETING SUMMARY – Lindsay Cross

Mark Rachal noted he was present at the May 28, 2014 meeting. The summary, with the noted comment by Mark Rachal, was moved for approval and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. RESTORE ACT UPDATE – Andy Squires, Brendan Mackesey

Andy Squires provided an update to the RESTORE Act with reference to a handout. Andy covered the three main funding pots in which the County can submit project proposals. He also noted that the Direct Component (Pot 1) represents funds coming directly to each of the 23 eligible Florida counties. Brendan Mackesey covered a series of key points about the recently released Interim Final Treasury Rules with reference to a handout.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – Lindsay Cross

No public comments were heard.

5. PROJECT SUBMITTAL FORMS – Lindsay Cross/Andy Squires

Lindsay introduced the topic of project selection and ranking and then Andy walked through the draft project submittal form with reference to a handout. Andy noted that the main revisions since May 2014 were made to better match the Treasury Guidance Manual that was released in August 2014. The group briefly discussed a few items including a need for submitters to indicate future project costs to maintain constructed projects.

6. COUNTY PROJECT SUBMITTALS UNDER CONSIDERATION – County Staff (Planning, Parks, Natural Resources, Solid Waste)

County staff summarized County projects under consideration for submittal under the Direct Component funding option. Debbie Chayet summarized three Parks and Conservation Resources projects: a Ft. De Soto Dune Walkover project, Ft. De Soto Pier replacement project, and a Conservation Land Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resiliency Management Plan

development project. Charles Mangio summarized a potential Solid Waste submittal to install two artificial reefs; one near shore and one in deeper water. Rodney Chatman mentioned two possible proposals: Phase II of the County's pre and post disaster redevelopment plan on resiliency primary related to oil spills, and a sea level rise vulnerability assessment and adaptations strategies plan. Finally, Andy Squires touched upon watershed project and septic tank removal needs and noted that the cost to move one of these projects forward would easily clean out the funds currently available. He concluded that such water quality-related projects will be something to consider later as more RESTORE funds become available.

7. PROJECT IDEAS RECEIVED (July-Oct 2014) – Andy Squires

The group was provided a handout containing a summary of all the project ideas submitted to date. The group discussed a few of the submitted project ideas that may be considered by County staff and others as full project proposals during the upcoming 90-day period.

8. NEXT STEPS – Andy Squires

Lindsay summarized a few items from the meeting discussion. Then the working group recommended that the last bullet under item 24 (Matching/Other Funding) about future costs be moved to a bullet under item 18. The group also recommended that the County issue a statement in the project proposal submittal guidelines that the County's intent is to fund from 3-7 projects with an anticipated \$1.54 million available as of March 31, 2015.

Andy said there would be no meeting next month. The next meeting is not likely to be needed until sometime next year after the first set of project proposals are received. It's anticipated that the multiyear implementation plan could be submitted to the U.S. Treasury during the summer of 2015.

The meeting adjourned at about 4:20 p.m.