

# **PINELLAS COUNTY RESTORE ACT DIRECT COMPONENT PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL FORM**

Based on the Transocean settlement and until the BP trial ends, it is estimated by March 31, 2015, \$1,542,888 will be available in the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust fund for distribution to Pinellas County under the Direct Component allocation.

As a guideline, Pinellas County anticipates funding 3 to 7 projects not to exceed a total of \$1,542,888 as part of the initial multiyear implementation plan (MYIP). It's anticipated that projects selected for MYIP inclusion that receive funding would not begin until after December 2015.

Please read through all the questions before beginning.

- Submitted projects must address one or more of the five Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council goals and one or more RESTORE Act-eligible activities.
- Projects submitted by FEBRUARY 6, 2015 will be eligible for inclusion in the initial Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP)
- The "Steps" and "Criteria" numbers in the application refer to questions that address the steps and criteria for selection and ranking projects. The selection and ranking criteria can be viewed at [www.pinellascounty.org/restore/pdf/project-selection.pdf](http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore/pdf/project-selection.pdf)
- Answer each of the 29 questions as completely as possible, but keep responses focused.
- Submit one form per project.
- Once the form is successfully submitted, you will be contacted by Pinellas County.
- Send associated maps, charts, images, and budget information along with the title of your project in a Portable Document File (PDF) to [restore@pinellascounty.org](mailto:restore@pinellascounty.org).
- Direct questions to [restore@pinellascounty.org](mailto:restore@pinellascounty.org)

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**Applicant Name:** *(Include at least one Point of Contact (POC), phone number, email address, and organization name, if applicable):*

- 1. POC Name: Michael J. Connors**
- 2. POC Organization: City of St. Petersburg**
- 3. POC Title: Public Works Administrator**
- 4. POC Email: Michael.connors@stpete.org**
- 5. POC Phone: 727-893-7841**
- 6. Proposed Activity Name: The New St. Petersburg Pier Marine Science Discovery/Environmental Education Center**

**7. Restoration Council Goals Addressed:**

(Step 1 and Step 2 - Criteria 1 and 2)

*List which of the following goal(s) will be addressed and how each goal will be addressed.*

- 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

**All the council goals will be addressed via the educational and discovery curriculums to be created and made available at the New St. Petersburg Pier Marine Discovery and Environmental Education Center.**

**8. RESTORE Act Eligible Activities Addressed:**

(Step 1 and Step 2 - Criteria 3 and 4)

*List which of the following activities will be addressed and how each activity will be addressed.*

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

**1, 2 and 7 will be addressed by the Center's ability to attract and educate attendees of the activities from a variety of exhibits, literature, natural resource interactions and educational opportunities. 4 will be addressed by the creation of new jobs to staff operational and facility maintenance needs as complimented via the popularity and respective draw from a new City Pier, to be a landmark in nature, and expected over 2.0M visitors per year.**

**9. Previous Claim:**

Is the proposed activity included in any claim for compensation paid out by the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund after July 6, 2012? If yes, this activity is not eligible for Direct Component grant.

Yes: ☐

No: ☒

## **10. RESTORE Act Pinellas County priorities addressed:**

(Step 2 - Criteria 5 and 6)

*List which of the following priorities will be addressed and how each priority will be addressed.*

- 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. Create policies, programs, and/or mechanisms to 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  
Link to Plan: <http://www.postdisasterplan.org/pdrp.shtml>
- 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

**None of the County priorities are to be addressed from a project standpoint, but all of them will be benefiting from our educational program that draws from research, design and academian resources in a County considered the prominent marine science area of the Gulf Coast.**

## **11. Project Location**

(Step 1)

*As applicable, describe the location, attach a map and indicate the address, city, zip code, longitude/latitude, and watershed:*

**800 2nd Avenue NE  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701  
Lat 27.773668  
Long. 82-62293**

## **12. Region or Geographic Area Impacted by Project**

(Step 1 and Step 2 - Criterion 7)

*Provide a description of the project area or region in which environmental or economic benefits will be realized. Be as specific as possible by listing cities or geographical boundaries and why.*

**St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, State of Florida and the visitors and tourists expected from the rest of the country and foreign nations.**

## **Discussion of Specific Activity**

*Describe the project by responding to each of the following topics.*

- 13. Project Description – Discuss the essential elements of the project. Include what is proposed, clearly list major project tasks or program milestones, the project duration, and why it should be done.**

The Project involves the design and construction of "shell space" for the New St. Petersburg Pier Marine Discovery/Environmental Education Center. Tenant fit out is to be accomplished by the proposed Center's operating entity. The Center is envisioned to comprise approximately 15,000 sq.ft. of space, as part of the overall New Pier Project. The Pier Project concept is scheduled to be ranked and recommended for Mayor and Council approval on March 20, 2015. Design and construction will take place from July 2015 through July 2018. This Project should be done because of the rare opportunity an iconic venue can provide in attracting and educating the public on Council restoration goals.

- 14. Project Manager and Key Project Team Members - include credentials and experience doing similar work.**

Michael Connors, Public Works Administrator  
Raul Quintana, City Architect  
Skanska, CMAR  
St. Pete Ocean Team

- 15. Environmental and/or Economic Benefits - Describe environmental and/or economic benefits of the project.**

The environmental benefits from a public better informed, educated and enlightened on the importance of the Gulf's ecosystem. The economic benefits from the local tourist dollars expended before, during and after exposure to the Center.

- 16. Technical Feasibility - Describe technologies and relevant past experience or proven success with similar projects.**

St. Petersburg Pier Aquarium  
Sunken Gardens Hands On Museum  
Collaborative Member of Ocean Team

- 17. Public Acceptance - Describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to the project.**

Public input provided by the Pier Working Group, assigned by Mayor to develop functional requirements of the New St. Petersburg Pier. Five (5) public meetings, attended by hundreds of citizens generated a marine science center as a priority.

**18. Project Activity Budget Justification:**

*Provide the total project cost and costs by identified tasks for the following items. Provide specific justification for all that apply.*

- Personnel and fringe:
- Travel including the number of trips and estimated cost per trip:
- All equipment greater than \$1,000:
- Supplies including a list of major types of supplies:
- Contractual costs:
- Administrative costs not to exceed 3% of the total award:
- Future costs related to maintaining the project, the funding source, and responsible entity:

**Construction Cost - 15,000 sq.ft. x \$100/sq.ft. = \$1,500,000**

**Design, permitting and administrative expenses estimated at 20% of construction or \$300,000 already incorporated and a part of the New Pier Project budget of \$46,000,000.**

**Maintenance of the building shell and respective utilities by City. Interior maintenance by operating entity.**

**19. Describe how the project will utilize a collaborative approach that incorporates partnerships, if applicable.**

(Step 2 - Criterion 8)

*List any project partners and briefly describe their involvement and contribution to the project.*

**USF, SPC, Eckerd College, EMRI, TBEP, SRI, NOAA, Pinellas County and School Board will all have a role in either developing, conducting and/or patronizing curriculums.**

**20. Describe how the project will support, further, or help implement one or more Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan Element goal(s) as identified in the overarching project goals, if applicable. Clearly list each Comprehensive Plan Element goal addressed.**

(Step 2 - Criterion 9)

*Link to Applicable Comprehensive Plan Element Goals:*

[www.pinellascounty.org/restore/pdf/comp-plan-goals.pdf](http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore/pdf/comp-plan-goals.pdf)

**Future Land Use and Quality Communities - Walking, jogging and biking will be an intrinsic element of the New Pier, providing a unique experience with structure over water.**

**The Marine Science Center will provide a balance of environmental education with development. The Project will pay regard to the environment with less stormwater roll-off and greenhouse gas emissions. It will include the challenging balance of recreation, open space and culture.**

**21. Describe the benefits the project will provide, for how long, and why:**

(Step 2 - Criterion 10)

*Benefits may be economic, social, and/or environmental. Explain how the benefits will or could be identified, assessed, and/or measured. Describe and quantify environmental and/or economic benefits as applicable [e.g., area restored (acres, linear feet), improved ecosystem services, jobs created/preserved, pollutants and/or nutrients removed (e.g., kg, pounds, tons)].*

**The benefit to society, in terms of advancing interests and education of the Gulf ecosystem, will be measured by attendance and assessed by institutions of higher education.**

**22. Possible material risks to implement and maintain the proposed activity:**

*List possible material risks, e.g., operational, legal, regulatory, budgetary or ecological. Include brief description of mitigation strategy to address each identified risk.*

**The risk is associated with operating costs exceeding revenues, thereby necessitating subsidies that may not be sustainable.**

**Mitigating risk can be accomplished via diverse and routinely modified curriculum and interactive devices to maintain interest and visitor trips.**

**23. Best Available Science:**

*Only answer if proposed activity will serve to protect or restore natural resources, otherwise, indicate "Not Applicable." Briefly describe how the project will use best available science with respect to peer reviewed literature, objective(s), and methodologically sound literature sources that support the scope of work, when available.*

**Since the project operations is borne from science, and intends to educate with same, it inherently serves to protect and restore natural resources.**

**24. Matching/Other funding**

(Step 2 - Criterion 11)

*Indicate:*

- The amount and percent of the total project cost secured and the source of each matching fund secured. Restore Act funds can be matched with other federal sources of funding.

- If matching funds are not secured, specify the amount of matching funds requested or expected.
- The date the amount of secured funds will be known.

**Total project cost of \$46M secured via the Tax Increment Finance District.**

### **Readiness for Implementation**

*(Step 3)*

*Complete the following:*

**25. Will the project be completed within 5 years from date funding is confirmed?**

Yes:   X  

No:       

**26. Identify each project milestones and proposed duration (no. of months) to complete each step and the total number of months or years to complete the project.**

**Design Development & Permitting - Aug. 2015 to Aug. 2016**

**Construction - Dec. 2016 to May 2018**

**27. How long before the project can start after funds are available (months)?**

**Immediately**

**28. Describe project design work, permit requirements and hurdles (federal, state, or local), and/or permitting that is in progress (*attach applicable permits or design work*).**

**Design to be advanced via the selected Pier concept A/E team in collaboration with the Center's selected operating entity. Permits are many to include issuance from Federal, State, County, local and regulatory agencies**

**29. Describe any issues or reasons that may delay project start or completion.**

**None known**

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**END OF QUESTIONS**

**Email 2015-02-10**

**From:** Michael Connors [mailto:Michael.Connors@stpete.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2015 7:21 AM  
**To:** Squires, Andrew P  
**Subject:** RE: RESTORE Proposal

The amount is correct. The expectations are considerably less in light of the competition for limited dollars. Please advise if there needs to be a downward adjustment in keeping with grant app conditions.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Squires, Andrew P"  
Date: 02/10/2015 4:16 AM (GMT-05:00)  
To: Michael Connors  
Subject: RESTORE Proposal

>>> "Squires, Andrew P" 2015-02-10T04:16:23.262792 >>>

Hi Mike:

Thank for the proposal for the New Pier Ed Center. Please confirm that the requested Direct Component funding for this project is \$1,500,000 to cover estimated construction costs. Since this is almost the entire amount available for Direct Component funding, would the City consider partial funding for this request?

Andy Squires, MS, CPM  
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Pinellas County Natural Resources Division  
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