

RESTORE Act Direct Component Multi-Year Implementation Plan and Projects Florida Counties Status Reports

Compiled by Jim Muller, Bay County, FL RESTORE Act Coordinator

November 21, 2016 revision

(County name highlighted in yellow indicates account has been updated)

BAY

20161115

Bay County prepared its Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) in-house. The Bay County Board of County Commissioners established a RESTORE Act Advisory Committee by resolution in January 2014. The Committee drafted a partial MYIP that included goals, objectives, project eligibility criteria and ranking considerations, and the evaluation and ranking process. The Board of County Commissioners approved the partial plan in September 2014.

The Committee then opened a pre-proposal cycle for Direct Component projects and selected 22 of the 47 pre-proposals to advance to the full proposal stage. The Committee voted to select 14 of the 22 proposals and then ranked those 14 proposals to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners.

The Board approved the draft MYIP with the 14 proposals plus an additional County-sponsored proposal in July 2016. The cost of the 15 proposals exceeded the funds available. After considering public comment, the Board approved the MYIP, including nine projects, in October 2016. The MYIP was submitted to Treasury in November.

The Direct Component cost of the nine projects is \$7 million. Almost \$6 million in matching funds will be provided. Three projects were proposed by municipalities, two by non-profits, and four by the County. Seven projects will be construction grants, two will be non-construction (planning).

Project proposers were recently requested to complete the first draft of Direct Component grant application forms in anticipation of approval of the MYIP by Treasury. Previously, Treasury informally reviewed and provided comments on the MYIP at three stages, the last a quick review after approval of the MYIP by the Board.

County staff are assembling existing county documents related to Treasury RESTORE Act Compliance and are drafting additional documents related to the grants process.

The MYIP in pdf format to be submitted to Treasury is at <http://tinyurl.com/BayRESTOREmyip20161004>

Bay County's MYIP and all related materials are posted at <http://tinyurl.com/BayRESTOREdocs>.

The pre-proposal cycle is described at <http://baycountyfl.gov/restore/preproposal.php>.

Map of pre-proposals and proposals <http://tinyurl.com/BayRESTOREpre-proposalMap>

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CHARLOTTE

20150812

Charlotte County solicited projects for the Transocean Settlement allocation in the Spring and now has the MYIP out for public review and comment. It is anticipated that the MYIP will go before the Board of County Commissioners in September 2015 for final approval to submit to Treasury. Charlotte County's RESTORE information is on our web page at <http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/boards-committees/raab/Pages/default.aspx>

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CITRUS

20161116

Citrus County is moving forward with development of a Multi-Year Implementation Plan for Direct Component funding. The County held a public meeting to establish the project ranking criteria and to receive public input in July 2015. The County ranked the projects and applying the ranking criteria. The projects and rankings were presented to the Board of County Commissioners and the projects for POT 1 and Pot 3 were selected. The County is preparing the Multi-year plan for approval to treasury.

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Collier County

20150317

Collier County is moving forward with developing our Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) for Direct Component (Pot 1) funding. Collier County's RESTORE website is at: <http://www.colliergov.net/index.aspx?page=7066>.

Integrating past activities into the required MYIP is very important to Collier County. The County's Evaluation Committee has already reviewed and ranked 35 proposed projects that were submitted in response to the County's request for project applications. This effort was aligned with RESTORE directives but U.S. Treasury Rules were not yet finalized. The proposed projects were reviewed for consistency with the RESTORE Act's definition for "Allowable Uses" and for Board-approved "Guiding Principles." However, a key provision of the final Rules requires that environmental projects must demonstrate the "best available science" was addressed in the ranking process. Staff will now review

the top-rated projects to determine whether best available science as defined by Treasury Rules can be cited and if the project costs and design are still valid given this new requirement. Additionally, “measures of success” must be developed for projects that are recommended for the MYIP.

The project proposals received in 2013 were submitted by several different entities including the City of Naples, County staff, non-profit organizations, and private individuals. In soliciting these proposals, the County was not explicit as how RESTORE funds would be disseminated to non-County entities. Although the RESTORE Program allows for the County to have grant sub-awards with sub-recipients, this framework does not work for Collier County. Staff is considering a framework where projects that have been proposed by non-County entities will be managed by a RESTORE Project-specific Delivery Team (PDT). The RESTORE PDT will be led by a County Project Manager and have an individual assigned by the non-County partner on the PDT. Therefore, the County can develop a collaborative approach to implementing projects proposed by non-County entities without setting up a system for monitoring grant sub-awards and sub-recipients.

Staff is recommending that the County prepare an MYIP as soon as practicable which selects the top-ranked projects that, as best as possible, have a cumulative cost that does not exceed Treasury estimates. The remainder of the projects will be on a list that can be used to amend the MYIP when additional funds become available.

Staff is also suggesting the use of the proposed planning grant application for acquiring a consultant to assist in development of the County’s MYIP, which is permitted according to the Treasury Rules. Reiterating, the cost of the MYIP may be fully funded with RESTORE Act funding awards. Staff recommends that the County use planning assistance dollars to procure a consultant.

Staff is also in the process of evaluating the adequacy of existing staff resources and organizational placement of the program. Additional staff may be needed depending on the number of projects that will be proposed and, if funded, must be adequately managed to bring the project through a design and construction process.

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DIXIE

20141030

In August 2013, the Dixie County Board of County Commissioners approved the recommended structure for the Local Restore Advisory Committee (LRAC) and the members were selected.

The first official meeting of the (LRAC) took place October 13, 2013 at which time an overview of objectives, possible funding and potential projects were discussed. Due to delayed Treasury Ruling and uncertainty of funding, committee meetings have been limited; however, the (LRAC) has received regular updates and the Board of County Commissioners continue to take public impute on potential projects.

On March 7, 2013 and April 21, 2013 Multi-County/Multi-agency meetings were held to discuss a Regional approach for project identification and project leveraging. Over the past few months, several meetings have been held with local stakeholders and members of the Shellfish industry, resulting in a Shellfish Advisory Committee being formed. Currently, staff has been assigned by the Board of County Commissioners to review criteria and develop a project scoring system. Discussion remains as to whether the Board of County Commissioners will hire a consultant to assist with the Multi-year Implementation.

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ESCAMBIA

20161103

Escambia County formed our RESTORE Advisory Committee in March of 2013. Their charge is to take public and professional input on a Needs Assessment for Escambia County. This process brought several dozen professional speakers and hundreds of public members to meeting over an 18 month period to conduct fact finding and significant public input on what are the real issues facing Escambia County. With \$70M in Direct Allocation funding, we have the opportunity to adopt some game changing projects for our citizens. The committee has completed the Needs Assessment Phase, Selection Criteria, Project Portal, and Ranking. The committee was sunset after the 124 ranked project list was approval of our Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in April 2016.

The BCC decided to invest Direct Component (Pot 1) funds into planning & design and to search for leveraging funds for construction and implementation projects. This method would provide foundational, shovel ready projects and better improve chances for receiving leveraging funds. Each commissioner was to provide staff with their top two RESTORE Direct Component project nominations. Staff was then directed to provide a risk analysis and perform additional project vetting before a final vote was taken. It is expected that the projects for the 2016 MYIP will be selected by December 2016 and the final MYIP will be submitted to Treasury by April 2017.

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FRANKLIN

20150311

Franklin County did form a RESTORE Council in 2013. We have not solicited for proposals as we did not want to be overwhelmed with projects that would then be out of line with the funding available from the Transocean settlement. We have modified the US Treasury application to be used to solicit proposals and that process will start shortly. The County Commission has not decided whether to hire a consultant or not to assist with the MYIP, so at this time the plan is being developed in-house.

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GULF

20161114

Gulf County formed our RESTORE Advisory Committee in July of 2012. Their charge was to take public and professional input on a Needs Assessment for Gulf County. This process brought several dozen professional speakers and hundreds of public members to meetings over a 2 year period to conduct fact finding and significant public input on what were the most important needs facing Gulf County. A total of 82 Pre-Applications were solicited and accepted by the committee for evaluation. The County has contracted with Dewberry for our MYIP application. The MYIP was submitted to Treasury on September 21, 2016 for approval. The grant expires on November 30, 2016. The objective of the County was to get the MYIP approved and in place in the term awarded in the grant agreement.

The County has requested an extension on our Non-Construction Planning Grant in order to complete the grant objectives and complete the closeout. We are awaiting approval from Treasury.

The County has also begun the process of advertising for a Grant Consultant to manage the MYIP, once approved. Proposals are due on November 18, 2016 and award should no later than the January, 2017 board meeting. Staff has started gathering information on the year one project, for submission to Treasury once approval comes in.

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HERNANDO

20141023

Hernando County Assistant County Administrator, Brian Malmberg presented an update to our BOCC, staff and public at the October 14, 2014 meeting. This included advice that the RESTORE website for Hernando County is up and running. It has the ability to accept project applications from outside entities and the ability to accept public comments via website or email. At the BOCC meeting on October 28, 2014, Mr. Malmberg will be making a presentation to present the RESTORE Act ranking criteria for BOCC and citizen comments. We anticipate securing BOCC approval of said ranking criteria.

We are scheduling the December 9, 2014 BOCC meeting as the time to introduce Hernando County's Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) for public discussion with our citizens and BOCC. During previous town hall style meetings and BOCC meetings, our staff and citizens have discussed potential, eligible RESTORE Act projects. Later in that month at the BOCC meeting of December 16, 2014, staff will introduce the MYIP to the BOCC and public for further discussion and comments. It is anticipated that BOCC approval could be given at such time. If this happens, it will be the commencement of the 45 day public comment period.

After the end of the 45 day public comment period, Hernando County plans to submit its approved MYIP to the US treasury for review and approval. This should happen on or about February 2, 2015. Once our MYIP is approved by the US Treasury, Hernando County will be able to start submitting project grant applications to the Treasury for their consideration and funding.

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HILLSBOROUGH

20150810

No major updates at this time. County staff is monitoring the settlement process and has distributed Direct Component estimates to internal stakeholders. Regarding the local claims portion, Hillsborough County will receive approximately \$22.8 million (after fees). This amount is almost double what the county will receive via the Direct Component, with no restrictions, so our commissioners have been focused on this portion of funding since the BP settlement was announced.

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Jefferson

20150331

Jefferson County has approved setting up the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee and the make-up of the committee. The positions have not been filled to date but the system is on ready to be completed. Currently Jefferson County is reviewing steps taken by other governments to develop a best practice method for our government. Discussion has taken place to bring on board assistance that will assist developing our multi-year Implementation Plan along with setting up the guidelines for the local advisory committee to review submitted projects. We have multiple projects submitted that will be utilized once the BOCC approval sets into action the committee and assistance taking our program forward.

Outside many opinions and impressions, this county has been watching patiently from the sidelines to see what appropriate steps need to be taken. We feel several mistakes and unnecessary expenditures have been avoided but the time to act has come. We expect to have action from the BOCC over the next several meetings that will catch us up to the needed position and our community will be poised to take advantage of opportunities in the coming years.

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LEE

20161115

There are no major updates at this time. County staff is seeking clarification from U.S. Treasury on compliance rules concerning advance self-funding. Regarding the Direct Component/Pot 1 portion, Lee County will receive approximately \$8 million over 15 years. Lee County is in the process of developing a federal grant compliance manual.

On April 9, 2013 Lee County passed a resolution creating the Lee County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee which also established the guiding principles for eligible projects seeking the direct component funding. The Lee County RESTORE Advisory Committee has approved a detailed criteria and ranking form for the Direct Component funds, but selection of projects is being deferred for now as our Commissioners and staff work to prioritize the County's water quality projects.

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LEVY

20161108

Levy County created the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee to oversee the Pot 1 funds in January 2013. This committee is made up of members described in Resolution 2013-25, and as follows: 1 member from the County Commission, 1 member from the School Board, 1 member from a higher education institution, 1 member from the aquaculture industry, 1 member from the workforce/job creation industry, 1 member with experience in economic development efforts, 1 member from the tourism industry, and 2 members at large (who must possess an interest in one of the areas of allowed uses for the RESTORE Act funds) to be appointed by the Board.

The Committee continues to meet regularly; the next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2016. The Committee's meeting agendas, notice of meetings, minutes, and other RESTORE Act related information can be located on the County's website under the RESTORE Act tab. The Committee has successfully taken the 27 submitted RESTORE Act Pot 1 projects, and reviewed, scored, ranked, and eliminated projects. Levy County has established a list of 10 remaining projects. The Committee has determined that it is possible to fund all 10 of the Pot 1 projects over the 15-year award.

Levy County has received the Notice of Award for the Planning Assistance Application. However, the County has not started the MYIP, as County Staff are currently working to complete the TRAC documents required by Treasury. These documents will allow Levy County to have all of the necessary policies in place for the receiving Federal Awards. Once the BOCC has adopted the updated Procurement Policy, county staff will begin working with Tetra Tech to draft the MYIP.

Levy County has also drafted a proposed resolution amending the powers and duties of the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee to include Pot 3 funds and projects. This item will go before the BOCC on November 22, 2016. Once this resolution is amended, the Committee, will begin to work with County Staff and ESA to draft a list of projects for the Pot 3 funds.

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MANATEE

20150807

Manatee County is working to develop its multi-year plan as an in-house product at this time. We are weighing the option to solicit consultant services and assistance as we receive more information on the amount and timing of the direct component funds available to the County. Manatee County established a website portal in October 2012 to receive abstracts proposals meeting RESTORE Act criteria. This application process and procedure remains open for public participation. We will formulate an

Executive Summary to be distributed in a series of public forums and meetings leading to a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners. It is anticipated that the initial projects considered for funding under the proceeds available from the Transocean settlement will be directed to environmental restoration and management needs in our coastal areas. We anticipate our MYIP process to be completed for Treasury review in calendar year 2016. We will advise the Commission to leave open the possibility for a far more detailed and updated MYIP.

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MONROE

20150812

December 2014, after an in-depth project application and solicitation process, the County's Local Advisory Committee evaluated, scored and ranked project submissions during a 2-day meeting.

February 2015, the Committee's project ranking recommendation was forwarded the Board of County Commissioners for review and approval. The BOCC approved the Committee's top three projects, and assigned funding amounts to each project. With the Board-approved projects and funding amounts, we entered the MYIP drafting phase.

In June 2015, we completed our draft MYIP. We did it in-house with a small amount of outside technical assistance. (Our TA assistance is valuable to us in terms of ensuring that our Plan and RESTORE Act-related work is compliant with Treasury rules and expectations, and to deal with things like "Best Available Science" and other interpretation needs.)

In July 2015, The County's MYIP was posted for public review, and is currently in the 45-day public posting period (July 8-August 31, 2015). We have posted in it on the Monroe County website, and noticed the posting widely in various media outlets.

In September 2015, after public review and comment period, the final MYIP will go before the Board of County Commissioners for approval to submit to the Treasury. Upon the Board's approval, the MYIP shall then be submitted to the Treasury.

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OKALOOSA

20161117

Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners posted online on the County's website December 15, 2015, the draft MYIP for 45 day public comment.

After public review, comment and BCC approval, the final MYIP was transmitted to Treasury in April 2016. Treasury questions were addressed and responses submitted in August 2016. The County anticipates approval of the final MYIP in December 2016/January 2017.

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PASCO

20150805

Pasco County Board of County Commissioners approved the projects for the MYIP on January 13, 2015. The MYIP was published on February 19, 2015. Comments were received and addressed by the committee in May. The updated MYIP was then approved by the BCC and published in late May. The MYIP was submitted to Treasury and approved by them on July 19, 2015. We have provided documents related to the Treasury request and are awaiting their review. In addition, we are beginning work on the grant application forms starting 8/10/15 and will be submitting them in late August. Working in tandem with John stutts at Treasury has been extremely beneficial in getting the process completed. Our Committee is currently inactive and we are awaiting funding news from the Treasury before proceeding with the projects. Currently we are working on an inter-local agreement between the City of New Port Richey and Port Richey and the County on the conditions under which grant funding will be issued. The MYIP was written in house.

The MYIP can be viewed at the link below.

<http://www.pascocountyfl.net/DocumentCenter/View/17492>

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PINELLAS
20161110

Our RESTORE website is at: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore/default.htm> Draft MYIP Executive Summary is shown below.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act) allocates 80% of the Clean Water Act penalties from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is allocated to five funding components including the Direct Component allocation that provides funds directly to each of 23 Gulf coast Florida counties. As of March 2015, Pinellas County had received a Direct Component allocation of \$1,548,321 available to fund projects.

Each of the 23 eligible Florida counties, including Pinellas, must submit a Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP) with proposed projects to the U.S. Treasury for approval prior to receiving project-specific Direct Component grant funding. This document includes the requirements for Pinellas County's MYIP as published in the RESTORE Act Direct Component Guidance and Application to Receive Federal Financial Assistance, which can be found at http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore/pdf/Treasury-Direct-Component-Guidance_August-2014.pdf. Upon approval of the MYIP by the Treasury, county staff working with the project applicants will submit Direct Component Financial Assistance (grant) Applications to the Treasury for each project proposed in an MYIP.

Pinellas County's MYIP was developed by county staff with assistance from a citizen-based Working Group over several months and meetings since January 2014. The planning effort involved establishing the Working Group; developing county-specific project goals, priorities, and project selection and ranking criteria; and ranking of 17 submitted project proposals by a subcommittee of county staff and Working Group members. Periodic updates were provided to the County Commission throughout MYIP development.

Pinellas County's MYIP includes proposed funding of four projects:

- **Pinellas County Assessment of Vulnerability to the Impacts of Sea Level Rise & Infrastructure Resiliency Plan**, by *Pinellas County Planning Dept*, **\$300,000**,
- **Coastal Ocean Monitoring & Prediction System (COMPS)**, by *USF College of Marine Science*, **\$233,934**,
- **A Very High Resolution Estuary Circulation Nowcast/Forecast Model for Tampa Bay & Vicinity**, by *USF College of Marine Science*, **\$479,493**,
- **Ft. De Soto Park Dune Walkovers**, by *Pinellas County Office of Management & Budget*, **\$534,894**.

The MYIP Status - Accepted by Dec 2015.

Financial Assistance Applications – All 4 applications for financial assistance were submitted by March 2016.

Treasury Awards – As November 4, 2016, Treasury has awarded all 4 projects. County formally accepted 3 awards with one more to accept for the Dune Walkovers project that is currently (11/4/16) in internal contract review.

Subrecipient Agreements – USF COMPS subrecipient agreement submitted Oct 2016 and under review by Treasury.

Special Conditions – Special conditions responses submitted via GrantSolutions Grants Notes for USF COMPS project by Oct 2016 deadline.

Reporting – Federal Financial Reports and Project Performance Reports submitted via GrantSolutions Grants online Report forms for 2 USF projects by Oct 30, 2016 deadline.

Schedule moving forward

- Winter 2016-17
 - Accept 4th Treasury Award for Dune Walkovers at Ft. De Soto Park November 2016
 - Begin work on all 4 projects

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SANTA ROSA

2015805

On September 13, 2012 Santa Rosa County Commissioners passed a [resolution](#) which established the frame work for the county's local RESTORE council (LRC). The council first met in December 2012. Following an open request for proposals process in March/April 2013, Santa Rosa County hired Atkins Consulting in June 2013 to assist with matters concerning the RESTORE Act. Since that time, the council has received regular updates on the RESTORE Act process, treasury rules, received public input from various entities and has worked to develop goals, objectives, project categories, review criteria, grant application, and scoring mechanisms.

The SRC LRC formally approved its Direct Component grant application in 2015. Proposals were accepted beginning January 12, 2015 and the proposal deadline was April 3, 2015. 56 proposals were received. The proposals were scored by Technical Scoring Teams and then ranked and prioritized by the LRC for recommendation to the Santa Rosa County BOCC. At the July 13, 2015 Local Restore Council meeting, the Local Restore Council selected 15 projects for inclusion in the initial Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP). The initial MYIP will be based only on the Transocean settlement funds available to Santa Rosa County at this time. A timeline for funding proposals with the additional settlement has not been determined at this time.

The LRC directed staff to develop a draft MYIP for consideration at the September 14, 2015 meeting. Once the draft MYIP has been reviewed by the LRC and Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners, it will be available for public review and comments for a minimum of 45 days. The draft MYIP will be made available on this web page and the public will be notified via press release and published advertisements. We are planning to send a draft MYIP to Treasury for initial comments prior to advertising for public comment.

We expect that the MYIP will be completed in December 2015 or January 2016 and submitted to the Treasury for review and approval.

A Direct Component non-construction application for planning assistance to develop the MYIP was submitted in 2015. As of August, 2015 we are still working with Treasury to resolve questions on the application for planning assistance. Santa Rosa County's LRC documents are posted at:

<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/bocc/restore.cfm>

Sheila Fitzgerald

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SARASOTA

20161109

Sarasota County has undertaken an initial in-house effort to produce a preliminary MYIP, that is geared to the first funds that were placed in the system from the sub-contractor settlements. We selected and convened key County staff and reached out to community stakeholders to compile initial project selection ideas for three major categories: a) natural resource/habitat restoration; b) promotion of tourism; and c) workforce development and job creation. However, once the submittal/approval process was finalized by US Treasury, the County decided to focus on one initial project (utilizing the subcontractor settlement funds), and then follow at a later date with a second/revised MYIP that will incorporate the final total funds from the BP settlement. The project that was settled on was the South Lido Park restoration project. We are currently finalizing the initial MYIP, and preparing to advertise the project to commence the 45-day public comment period (prior to submittal to US Treasury).

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TAYLOR

20150303

Taylor County's RESTORE Act Committee solicited, vetted, and ranked 36 projects submitted by residents. These rankings were presented to the Board of County Commissioners during a workshop. The Board has determined to reserve its final decision on the projects until it has a better understanding of the funds available to it. At that time county staff will prepare its MYIP in-house.

20150805

Taylor County still plans to do our MYIP in house. We are currently focused on complying with Treasury's documentation needs. Our RESTORE Committee is currently not active as we have not had another round of project solicitations and the committee has already vetted and ranked the projects we have already received.

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WAKULLA

20141031

Wakulla County formed a RESTORE Committee in late 2012. In early 2013, we gave presentations in 5 locations around the county to educate citizens on the RESTORE Act, answer citizens' concerns and questions and to get their feedback.

We also held monthly meetings in 2013 and developed a draft project proposal form and heard presentations from individuals and organizations for various project ideas. Due to not having US Treasury Rules, guidance or funding we delayed further meetings, setting priorities, acceptance of proposals, etc. Being a small county with very limited resources, we did not want to establish a process, priorities, set unrealistic expectations, or be over whelmed with projects that would be out of line with the US Treasury rules, guidance or funding available from any settlement.

I made a presentation to our Board shortly after we received notice of the final "interim" US Treasury rule was issued to outline the requirements to access and spent RESTORE act funds. I will attend the US Treasury training on the MYIP, application, etc., which is being held November 15th in the Big Bend area.

The County Commission has not decided whether or not to hire a consultant to assist with the MYIP, until that decision is made, everything is being handled in-house, i.e., making sure our draft application is consistent with the US Treasury app/guidelines, establishing milestones and timelines, drafting MYIP plan, etc. We do anticipate that our RESTORE Committee will review and vet projects and make recommendations to the Board.

We have also been participating in the TNC watershed/estuary workgroups to develop regional type projects for the RESTORE federal funding (bucket #2) and anticipate we will do the same for the State funding (budget #3).

As of March 2015, staff met with each commissioner individually. Staff anticipate presenting an agenda item to the Board at its March 23rd meeting requesting a workshop to discuss the possibility of hiring a consultant to assist with developing the MYIP and discuss priorities.

Update 8/2015

Wakulla County is developing an RFQ for consulting services for assistance in developing a planning grant and the MYP. It is anticipated that the RFQ will be advertised in August and a consultant contract executed by late September 2015.

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WALTON

20161110

The Walton County Board of County Commissions (BCC) established the Local RESTORE Committee (Committee) by Resolution 2013-25 on May 28, 2013 and appointed eleven members representing key constituencies. As proclaimed in Resolution 2013-25, the Committee is responsible for developing a process for accepting and evaluating projects, establish a ranked project list, and provide assistant in developing a multi-year implementation plan associated with the Direct Component funds (Pot 1). Support is provided by a county staff member working under the County Administrator. The BCC tentatively approved a RESTORE Act Comprehensive Plan in June 2013. The Plan is modeled after the Gulf Coast Environmental Recovery Council Plan. The Committee reviewed and offered suggested modifications to the Plan. On February 25, 2014, the BCC approved the recommendations of the Committee and adopted the Comprehensive Plan to Restore Walton County's Ecosystems and Economy. The Committee has developed an application format and an evaluation scheme. Evaluations consisted of three variables: Application Score, Project Category Score, and Allowable Uses Score. The project category and allowable use variables were adopted by the BCC on May 14, 2013. Additionally, the Committee worked with the BCC to develop community mini-grants to encourage community participation in the RESTORE Act process. In September 2014 the BCC voted to convert a vacant position/funding to support RESTORE Act functions via either a staff position, consultant, or hybrid of both. February 2015, the County filled the vacant RESTORE Act Coordinator position with Billy Williams.

On February 23, 2015, the Walton County BCC approved the Walton County Local RESTORE Act Application and Evaluation Matrix. Additionally, the BCC approved to start accepting applications starting April 1, 2015. The application submittal period will be open from April 1, 2015 to July 31, 2015. The County received 42 applications. The Local RESTORE Committee scored and ranked the projects. January 2016, a consolidated list of the top 17 projects were taken the BCC for approval with the initial funds. Walton County's consultant, Dewberry, completed the Walton County MYIP. The MYIP was noticed for 45 days and submitted to the Department of Treasury on October 5, 2016. Department of Treasury approval is pending.

Walton County RESTORE Act Information may be found at:

<http://www.co.walton.fl.us/Index.aspx?NID=964>.

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