



# GULF CONSORTIUM

## FAC in Washington DC



Comm. Robinson chairs Gulf Coast  
Caucus Meeting @ NACo

On February 22, members of the FAC Staff, Scott Shalley and Eric Poole, along with representatives of Gulf, Walton and Escambia Counties participated in a meeting among the offices of Senator Nelson, Representative Graham and U.S. Treasury. The discussion focused mainly on issues related to the development of individual Multi Year Implementation Plans and the implementation of Pot 1 monies under the RESTORE Act. However, on behalf of the Gulf Consortium Mr. Shalley and Poole were able to continue to discuss the issue of being able to use Pot 3 dollars for the issuance of debt. U.S. Treasury is interested in keeping the lines of communication open between Florida's counties and Treasury and between the

Gulf Consortium and Treasury.

## Executive Committee meets

The Executive Committee of the Gulf Consortium met, via conference call, on Thursday of last week. To view the committee agenda packet for full detail related to the meeting, please click [here](#). The Committee spent a fair amount of time in discussion on both the Planning Grant Application and the collaboration with the Restoration Council on achieving closure on the application's status. In addition, there was much discussion on the proposed revisions to the process of developing the State Expenditure Plan. Work is ongoing on both of those topics by the ESA Consultant Team and Consortium staff.

## Gulf Consortium meets with Restoration Council

On Friday, February 12, Consortium staff, members of the ESA Consultant Team, Chair Robinson, and members of Florida's DEP met with Justin Ehrenwerth,

Executive Director of the Restoration Council and Mary Pleffner, CFO of the Restoration Council to discuss the status and updates to the Gulf Consortium's Planning Grant Application. The meeting was productive and collaborative. The result of the meeting is a substantial revision to the Consortium's grant application that will be presented, in draft and in person to the Council staff next week. Consortium staff, members of the ESA Consultant Team, and Mary Pleffner (Restoration Council CFO) will be meeting in person to review the Consortium's revised grant application in an effort to promote efficiency and collaboration in the approval process.

## Welcome Commissioner Morroni to Consortium Board

Welcome to Commissioner John Morroni, who is the new Pinellas County appointee to the Gulf Consortium Board of Directors. Scott Shalley and Ginger Delegal will be meeting with Commissioner Morroni in mid-March to provide him a one-on-one briefing on all things Consortium so that he is ready to work at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 21. The [Gulf Consortium website](#) has been updated with this appointment information.

## Thank you to Susan Latvala

In welcoming Commissioner Morroni from Pinellas County to the Gulf Consortium Board, we must necessarily say good bye to a dedicated, effective, and founding member of the Board, Susan Latvala. Her service and efforts were instrumental in the development of the Gulf Consortium, in negotiating among the 23 Gulf Coast counties many complex issues, and in leading recovery efforts on the front lines of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. She will be missed greatly. Chair Robinson expressed his gratitude and the appreciation of the Gulf Consortium Board to her in this [letter](#). Thank you for all you've done for the Gulf Coast of Florida. We will miss you, Commissioner Latvala!!

## Continued discussion on the revised FSEP development process

Conversations between the ESA Consultant Team and the Gulf Consortium Executive Committee are on-going. At the Executive Committee meeting last Thursday, Doug Robison, Project Manager from ESA, facilitated a substantive discussion with the Committee on the most recent revisions [hyperlink to the agenda item here] to the process for developing Florida's State Expenditure Plan. The ESA Team, along with Consortium staff is continuing to reach out to RESTORE Act Coordinators and DEP staff to present, discuss, and receive feedback on these revisions to the development of Florida's plan. This work is being pursued with the goal of presenting final revisions to the full Board of Directors at its meeting on April 21 so that significant and substantive planning work can begin. Please continue to share feedback, concerns, questions and issues on these revisions with Consortium staff and/or the ESA Consultant Team.

## Update on recent Consortium activities

While the Board will not meet again until April 21, much daily work is still ongoing on behalf of the Gulf Consortium. Here is a brief summary of all that is still happening:

- Continue weekly internal Consortium staff meetings
- Continue weekly ESA Consultant Team/Consultant staff meetings
- Attended and participated in a meeting among Consortium staff, ESA Consultant Team, and DEP staff (including Mimi Drew, Phil Coram, and Gareth Leonard) on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the development of the FSEP.
- Attended and participated in a meeting among Chairman Robinson, Consortium staff, ESA Consultant Team members, Restoration Council staff and DEP staff on February 12, 2016 to discuss the Consortium's Planning Grant Application.
- Board communications plan has been developed and is being implemented by Consortium staff between now and the April 21 Board meeting.
- The first update newsletter was drafted and transmitted to all Board members on February 10, 2016.
- Continued Consortium staff guidance to the ESA Consultant Team on the development of the FSEP.
- Continued targeted county visits by Consortium staff.
- Coordinated conference call between Consortium staff and US Treasury staff on February 19.
- Participated in meeting among FAC staff (on behalf of the Consortium and counties), representatives from Gulf, Walton, and Escambia Counties, Senator Nelson, Rep. Graham and US Treasury in Washington, D.C. on February 22.
- Scheduled and publicized three Executive Committee meetings between February 1 and April 21.
- Participated in recent in person meetings with members of Florida's congressional delegation and US Treasury staff during February 20-24.
- Draft and transmit a letter, under Chairman Robinson's signature to US Treasury, outlining concerns over the question of whether RESTORE Act fines can be used to pledge against debt to finance the projects, programs and activities of the State Expenditure Plan.
- Schedule and prepare for a Consortium staff one-on-one briefing with the newly appointed Pinellas County Director of the Gulf Consortium Board, Commissioner John Morroni.
- Schedule and prepare for a RESTORE Act Coordinator's meeting in Pinellas County in March.
- Continued work with Warren Averett, the CPA firm conducting the FY 14-15 independent audit. The audit is on schedule for Board review in April.

## Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

The Executive Committee met via conference call on Wednesday, January 27 to discuss the items outlined in this newsletter. There will be additional Executive

Committee meetings between now and the next Board meeting, scheduled for April. Those Executive Committee meetings have been scheduled for:

- March 31, 2016, 4:00 pm, ET; and,
- April 13, 2016, 4:00 pm, ET.

For additional information regarding the Executive Committee Meetings, including call information, please visit [www.FACRestore.com](http://www.FACRestore.com).

## Next Gulf Consortium Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2016  
2:00 P.M. Eastern  
Hillsborough County  
Frederick Karl Center  
601 E. Kennedy Boulevard  
26th Floor, Conference Rooms A & B  
Tampa, FL

(888) 670-3525  
Passcode: 998-449-5298#

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