

**Gulf County RESTORE Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Summary**  
**Emergency Operations Center, Port St. Joe, Florida**  
**June 23, 2015, 4:00 p.m. EDT**

**Attendees:**

Jim Anderson- City Port St. Joe\*

Warren Yeager – Commissioner District 5\*

Pat Hardman – Coastal Community Association\*

Guerry Magidson – Chamber of Commerce/ Economic Development Council\*

Don Butler – County Administrator\*

Dewey Blaylock – Environmental Issues\*

Jennifer Jenkins – Tourism Development Council\*

Lynn Lanier – Gulf County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Staff

Michelle Childs – Gulf County Economic Development Council/ Grants

Mike Dombrowski – MRD Associates

Mike Hanson– Dewberry

Stella Wilson – Dewberry

Paul Johnson – Ecology and Environment, Inc.

\* Denotes RAC Member

- Following introductions, Stella Wilson invited Commissioner Warren Yeager and consultant Paul Johnson to highlight pertinent information from the recent Gulf Consortium (GC) meeting held June 19, 2015, in Ponte Verde, Florida.
- They reported progress in the GC, establishing legal and administrative services for operations and consultant services in developing the State Expenditure Plan (SEP) for Florida, similar to the Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) for Gulf County. The GC consultant, Environmental Science Associates (ESA) out of Tampa, have already prepared and submitted a grant application through the Governor for a planning grant to develop the SEP and will hold a goal- and objective-setting workshop at their next meeting August 26, 2015, in St. Petersburg. They have already had one-on-one interviews with Commissioner Yeager and the other 22 county representatives on what is important to their counties and are scheduling other meetings with regional interests along the Gulf coast of Florida.
- S. Wilson went over the meeting agenda, new RESTORE website for Gulf County, draft Needs Assessment, and preliminary discussion of goals and objectives through a PowerPoint presentation.
- Much new information has been placed on the County's RESTORE website and all were invited to preview it and provide feedback on format and content.
- In reviewing the draft Needs Assessment document, P. Hardman noted that the topic of tourism shows up in two areas of the Economic Needs category (for increased opportunities and promotion), but was absent from the Environment, Infrastructure, and Community categories. It was suggested that this topic be blended in the various categories throughout the Needs Assessment to show how it transcends multiple categories.
- M. Dombrowski suggested that the topics in the Needs Assessment could be rearranged in a matrix format to better show the cross-purposes of certain activities in the various categories shown. All tended to agree. As an example, beach restoration could be a good activity for the categories of

Environment and Economy, as well as an Infrastructure project good for the whole community. It was agreed that port development could have similar multiple benefits for the County and for the community at large.

- Other topics/ activities of interest to the RAC members were paving of dirt roads, restoration of St. Joe Bay Peninsula habitats (beaches and sea grass beds), and septic-to-sewer projects for water quality improvements.
- As the GC will be taking up goals and objectives in August, some felt it important to see where their focus may be, so that Gulf County could pick those most beneficial and important to the County, based on the Needs Assessment. Some felt it also important to see where adjacent counties have similar project interests that could be better funded through a more regional GC effort, for example artificial reefs. This could save Gulf County RESTORE money for their MYIP-specific needs and projects by deferring certain projects and activities to the Pot 3 SEP.
- It was pointed out that the County's goals and objectives need to be focused on RESTORE Act Criteria established in the interim Treasury Rules (see PowerPoint presentation) and/or be blended with other County priority needs in the Needs Assessment.
- It was stated that the County's goals and objectives should use the Needs Assessment as a cornerstone.
- It was agreed to use the goals and objectives agreed to by the committee to steer the selection criteria and scoring of projects later in the planning process.
- S. Wilson pointed out that the goals and objectives need to be measurable and achievable, according to generally accepted planning practices and the Treasury rules.
- The Gulf of Mexico Restore Council has published goals and objectives of the RESTORE Act on the website.
- Other topics of special interest and support were fisheries (both commercial and recreational), tourism, port development, and job and habitat creation.
- The RAC briefly discussed the process going forward and the appointment or reappointment of members by the BOCC to remove County staff and Commissioners as voting members, but maintain community diversity of interest, as discussed at the BOCC meeting earlier that day. It is anticipated that this would be done at the July BOCC meeting.
- As agreed earlier in the planning schedule, the RAC will not have a meeting in July to allow a summer break, but will have two meetings in August.
- The next scheduled meeting of the RAC will be August 11, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. at the same location.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.