

GULF COUNTY



Multiyear Implementation Plan

Gulf County

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SUBMITTED BY:

Dewberry

25 West Cedar Street, Suite 110
Pensacola, FL 32502
850.760.0331

SUBMITTED TO:

Gulf County

1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 302
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456
850.229.6106

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Executive Summary

The Gulf County Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP) has been developed in accordance with the requirements of CFR 31 Part 34, also known as the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Act in order to describe proposed activities eligible for funding under the Direct Component of the RESTORE Act. The MYIP includes proposed eligible activities to be undertaken with funds currently deposited in the Trust Fund, which includes \$3,310,614.74 from the Transocean settlement and the Anadarko judgement plus future funds resulting from the British Petroleum (BP) final consent decree. Gulf County established a Local RESTORE Advisory Committee (RAC) to help facilitate public involvement in the process and followed a five-step framework for developing project priorities to be included in the MYIP: 1) Community Needs Assessment, 2) Development of Selection Criteria, 3) Project Submittal, 4) Project Scoring and Ranking, and 5) Drafting of the MYIP.

On March 22, 2016, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) recommended a set of project priorities to be included in the MYIP, as follows:

Project 1. St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration

Project 2. Land Acquisition – Economic Development/Public Access

Project 3. City of Wewahitchka Sewer Extension, Phase I

Project 4. Cape San Blas Sewer Extension, Phase I

Project 5. Gulf County Parks and Recreation, Phase I

Project 6. Highland View Boat Ramp

Project 7. Gulf County Stormwater Management Plan, Phase I

Project 8. St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - Bike Path Extension/Engineering - Phase II

The MYIP was made available for public comment from April 11, 2016 to May 27, 2016. On May 3, 2016, the RAC held a public meeting to discuss the MYIP and recommended additional funds be allocated to Project 1, St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration. On June 21, 2016, the BOCC held a public meeting and approved a funding schema for Project 1 including a RESTORE Direct Component allocation of \$2,800,000.00. The MYIP was revised to reflect the discussed changes and an additional public comment period was held July 21, 2016 through September 6, 2016. **The Gulf County BOCC approved the MYIP on _____.**

A summary of all public comments received as well as copies of public notices are provided in Appendix L of this document.

INTRODUCTION

The Gulf County Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP) has been developed in accordance with the requirements of CFR 31 Part 34, also known as the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Act. The purpose of the MYIP is to describe proposed activities eligible for funding under the Direct Component of the RESTORE Act. The MYIP includes proposed eligible activities to be undertaken with funds currently deposited in the Trust Fund plus future funds resulting from the BP consent decree. The amount currently available to Gulf County is \$3,310,614.74, which includes the Transocean settlement and Anadarko judgement. Gulf County is expected to receive an additional \$15,562,012.65 over a period of fifteen years as a result of the April 4, 2016 BP consent decree. Payments into the Trust Fund from the BP consent decree are expected to be annual and begin in the second quarter of 2017 at approximately \$1,037,467.51 per annum.

The MYIP may be revised from time to time. Subsequent revisions of this document will include eligible activities to be undertaken with funds deposited into the Trust fund in future years. The MYIP presented herein is organized into several sections in order to provide historical background perspective, describe Gulf County's MYIP development and public involvement process, and to provide information on proposed activities.

OVERVIEW OF GULF COUNTY

Geographic Scope

Gulf County is located in the central Florida Panhandle on the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Gulf County is bordered by Bay County to the west, Liberty and Franklin Counties to the east, Calhoun County to the north, and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. The County seat is held by Port St. Joe, the largest city in Gulf County. The city of Wewahitchka is the only other incorporated municipality. Gulf County consists of 756 square miles, of which 564 square miles is land and 192 square miles is water (USCB). The primary watersheds located in Gulf County are the St. Andrew Bay, Chipola River and Apalachicola River watersheds. The St. Andrew Bay watershed is the only major northwest Florida estuarine drainage basin located entirely within the state of Florida. Gulf County's 43 miles of coastline boasts extensive white sandy beaches, pristine bays and estuaries, extensive barrier islands and scenic peninsulas that draw tourists and support a thriving seafood industry. Gulf County's uplands consist of inland, relic marine terrace deposits, dunes, ridges, and river delta deposits, populated by poorly drained pine flatwoods and swamps which offer a haven for biological diversity and support Gulf County's legacy in logging and timber production (Rupert 1993).

Ecology and Natural Resources

Nestled in the central Florida Panhandle, Gulf County is part of a regional biological hot spot that encompasses the Apalachicola River Basin. The County's diverse ecosystems include white sand beaches with towering dunes, coastal bays, estuaries and salt marshes, inland freshwater lakes, cypress swamps, and more. Over 300 species of birds have been documented at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park alone. The County's beaches are also nesting grounds for several endangered and threatened sea turtles

(FDEP 2015). Gulf County's coastal waters are home to grouper, mahi, red snapper, Spanish mackerel, amberjack, and other important commercial and recreational fish and shellfish species, particularly bay scallops (Visit Gulf County 2015).

St. Joseph Bay, a small embayment that lies just seaward of Port St. Joe, is among Gulf County's most important natural areas. The bay owes its existence to the Cape San Blas shoals and the historical migration of the Apalachicola River (FDEP 2009). These shoals are part of a dynamic barrier island system. St. Joseph Bay is the only estuarine body of water in the eastern Gulf of Mexico without a major freshwater influence. Because of this, the bay's waters tend to be clearer with higher salinities than adjacent estuaries, making them an ideal habitat for the growth of 9,669 acres of seagrass communities and 762 acres of nearshore saltmarshes (FDEP 2009). St. Joseph Bay is designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as a Gulf of Mexico Ecological Management Site (GEMS). GEMS are geographic areas that have special ecological significance to the continued protection of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources or otherwise represent unique habitat. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory has identified eight unique natural communities within the St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve, including algal beds, composite substrate, mollusk reefs, octocoral beds, seagrass beds, sponge beds, tidal marsh, and unconsolidated substrate (FDEP 2009). These natural communities serve as nursery and foraging grounds for a variety of commercial and recreational fish and invertebrate species, sea turtles, and birds (FDEP 2009). Additionally, Gulf County hosts 21 terrestrial habitats adjacent to the bay, including shrub and brushland, coastal scrub, upland coniferous forests, mixed coniferous/hardwood, coniferous plantations, forest regeneration areas, streams and waterways, lakes, reservoirs, smaller embayments, wetland hardwood forests, wetland coniferous forests, cypress, wetland mixed forest, freshwater marshes, saltwater marshes, emergent aquatic vegetation, tidal flats, wetland scrub-shrub, and beaches (FDEP 2009).

Inland, near the city of Wewahitchka, the remote freshwater Lake Wimico drains eastward into the Apalachicola River via the Jackson River. The Dead Lakes Recreation Area of north-central Gulf County, a unique cypress swamp habitat, supports some of the best bass fishing in the United States (U.S.) (Visit Gulf County 2015). In addition, this region is the home of Florida's famous Tupelo Honey, hosting Florida's largest beekeeping operations (Visit Gulf County 2015).

Demographic and Economic Profile

Of the 15,769 citizens that call Gulf County home, 5,482 are over the age of 16 and employed. More than 34% of Gulf County residents earn less than \$25,000 annually and approximately 24.8% of the population do not have high school diplomas. Though Florida's median household income is \$45,663, Gulf County's median is only \$35,764 and Wewahitchka's does not pass the \$30,000 threshold (Haas Center 2015). Only 1,701 people both live and work inside Gulf County. Gulf County's population is projected to increase by nearly 2% over the next five years. These statistics indicate a strong need for economic development in Gulf County to both support current residents and accommodate projected population increase.

Approximately 50% of the total population of Gulf County lives along the coast, and of Gulf County's 620 business establishments, 510 are found within the Coastal southern region. Gulf County's top five industries include government (1,226 jobs), health care and social assistance (519 jobs), retail trade (504 jobs), accommodation and food services (350 jobs), and construction (263 jobs). The roughly

1,200 government jobs in Gulf County include local government, elementary and secondary education, and state government. Although logging is still heavily concentrated in Gulf County, the industry now accounts for only 37 jobs and \$28,998 in average annual wages, salaries and proprietor earnings, despite its former role as a large economic driver. Among Gulf County's top 25 industries, the nursing assistance, vocation, retail, and construction are all projected to grow, while the industries of personal care aides, tellers and telecommunications equipment installers and repairers are projected to decline. Other industries within the County are projected to stay the same. Currently Gulf County's top exports include lumber or wood products; chemicals or allied products; forest products; clay, concrete, glass or stone; and machinery (Haas Center 2015).

Table 1: Overview of Gulf County Economy

Population (2014)	15,652
Jobs (2014)	3,603
Average Earnings (2014)	\$42,828
Unemployed (2/2015)	324
Completions (2011)	0
Gross Regional Product (2013)	\$403,446,743
Exports (2013)	\$658,197,047
Imports (2013)	\$734,183,609

Source: Haas Center Gulf County Market Analysis, Economic Modeling Inc.

Although the majority of residents are currently leaving Gulf County for work, there are many opportunities within the County for growth and development to support new jobs. The port of Port St. Joe is a deepwater seaport suitable for bulk and cargo shipments. The port offers access to rail, the U.S. Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and state and U.S. highways. The port of Port St. Joe includes approximately 213 acres of combined ready-to-be-leased lands adjacent to the port bulkheads and thousands of acres of land in the port vicinity available for immediate development. Goods can be transported inland via the A&N Railroad, a shortline railroad connecting the port to CSX, as well as Highway 71, which provides north/south connections to Interstate 10 (Haas Center 2015).

Tourism in Gulf County is also a promising source of revenue for the County and its residents. The locally collected Tourist Development Tax (TDT) totals for July 2014 increased by 172% since 2008 and TDT collection totals after the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill did not decline (Haas Center 2015). TDT is a tax collected on any unit rented or leased for six months or less, as well as on licenses granted to rent or lease a unit for six months or less. Consequently, this metric offers insights to the vacation rental market, but does not accurately reflect the number of tourists visiting Gulf County or the amount that tourists spend on retail goods, seafood, or other commodities in a given year. Although the TDT indicates that short-term rental tax dollars flowing into Gulf County were not impacted by the oil spill, the TDT should not be considered a metric of total impact to the tourism industry.

Historical Perspective

A 1701 Spanish outpost on St. Joseph Bay marks the first European occupation of Gulf County (FDEP 2009, USDA 2001). The earliest recorded exploration by the U.S. was an 1818 expedition lead by Andrew Jackson, just one year prior to the Louisiana Purchase. The city of St. Joseph was established by re-located Apalachicola residents, and by 1830, it was the largest city in the territory of Florida. The town hosted Florida's Constitutional Convention in 1838 and 1839 prior to Florida becoming a state in 1845 (FDEP 2009, USDA 2001). By the mid-1840's, yellow fever, hurricane damage, fires, and economic depression destroyed most of the town. In 1909 the modern city of Port St. Joe was founded, coinciding with the construction of the Apalachicola Northern Railroad (FDEP 2009, USDA 2001). The town was sustained by local trade including lumber, tobacco, sugar cane, fish oil, rosin, pitch, and turpentine. Even in these early days, the train would bring tourists to enjoy recreation along the shoreline. However, the region struggled with the poverty, disease, and limited educational opportunities due to its isolation and slow economy (FDEP 2009).

In 1925, Gulf County was created with Port St. Joe as the county seat. After completion of a paper mill in 1938, the town of Port St. Joe experienced significant industrial expansion. The Intercostal Waterway provided access to the Apalachicola River, the Gulf of Mexico by way of the Gulf County Canal, and ports to the west through East Bay, allowing Port St. Joe to participate in regional commerce (USDA 2001).

The St. Joe Paper Company grew and harvested pines in the panhandle for pulp production at its mill in Port St. Joe for approximately 60 years. Up until 2003, the St. Joe Company owned nearly 900,000 acres in the Florida panhandle, mostly in Gulf and Bay Counties (FDEP 2009). Until the early 1990s when several mills experienced shut downs, Gulf County's economy was dominated by the paper industry. The Port St. Joe mill was closed in 1998 and soon after, Governor Jeb Bush designated Gulf County a "rural area of economic concern." Although the mills are no longer an economic driver, much of Gulf County is still used for the commercial pine production. Additionally, areas to the north of Wewahitchka are extensively used for agriculture (FDEP 2009).

Since the 1990 mill shutdowns, the County's economy has shifted from paper production to tourism. In the mid-1990s, the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park increased its number of annual visitors by 50% and in 2002, the park was named Top American Beach in Dr. Beach's annual report (FDEP 2009, Dr. Beach 2015). Increased tourism has expanded the demand for costal development, primarily in the form of second homes and vacation rentals. Promotional marketing in the Gulf Coast region has brought about memorable slogans for Gulf County and other Panhandle beaches such as Florida's Forgotten Coast, Florida's Great Northwest, and Pearl of the Panhandle, helping to continue to attract tourists and the promise of economic growth and security (FDEP 2009).

Impacts of Oil Spill

On April 20, 2010, the offshore oil drilling platform, Deepwater Horizon, exploded in the Gulf of Mexico near Louisiana releasing approximately 134 million gallons of crude oil and four million pounds of natural and methane gas into Gulf waters before it was capped on July 15, 2010 (Schwartz 2015, National Wildlife Federation [NWF] 2015). Tar balls and other petroleum products originating from Deepwater Horizon made landfall at both Cape San Blas and St. Joseph Peninsula (Byrne 2011, Yeager 2016). Petroleum products also entered St. Joseph's Bay and washed up on Gulf County shorelines for over six months following the spill (Byrne 2011).

In June of 2010, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Services, began relocating sea turtle nests in Gulf County to the Atlantic Coast to protect hatchlings from potential impacts of the DWH oil spill (Benhke 2010, The Star 2010d). One hundred and forty-eight nests from Franklin and Gulf Counties were transported to the Kennedy Space Center on Florida's east coast and monitored by biologists until the hatchlings emerged. On August 13, 2010, following habitat assessments, the FWC announced that nest relocations in Gulf County would cease (Benhke 2010).

Economic impacts to Gulf County included decreased tourism as a result of perceived dangers of the oil spill as well as the loss of use of beaches and waterfront access points during disaster response preparations. Declines in tourism and visitation impacted Gulf County hotels, restaurateurs, retailers, property rentals, property maintenance incomes, and real estate values (Byrne 2011). Three weeks after the spill, Tim Croft, editor of *The Star* (a local Port St. Joe newspaper), remarked that, "The ripple effect is already being felt locally: cancelations on rentals; a fishing tournament well behind in its registration targets; fewer tourists; fewer folks at the grocery store, at local restaurants, at shops..." (The Star 2010a).

The Star also reported that although summer bookings remained relatively stable in the early weeks of the spill, hotels and rental agencies from Mexico Beach to St. George Island had experienced 81 cancelations by May 20, 2010 (The Star 2010b). Later in July, Tim Kerigan, executive director of the Gulf County Tourism Development Council remarked that "People see it [the oil spill] on the news and automatically assume that we have oil on our beaches" (The Star 2010c). Although some businesses experienced an increase in patrons due to the presence of spill response personnel in the community, local hotel operations manager Jason Bogan explained that 12 weeks of summer accounts for roughly 65% of yearly incomes for tourism and hospitality workers in the Panhandle (The Star 2010c).

Additionally, public perceptions about the quality and safety of seafood harvested in Gulf waters harmed the County's commercial and recreational fishing industry (Byrne 2011). A 2014 report by The Legal Examiner attorneys estimated that one-fourth to one-third of all Gulf County businesses suffered a measurable economic loss as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Disaster (Young 2014). Although Gulf County did not close its beaches to the public, former County Commissioner, Warren Yeager, described the state of Gulf County beaches as one that discouraged public use; "When I walked our beaches in June, what I saw was white Tyvek® suits [for protection from hazardous materials]. We had up to 25

people at a time walking the beach and monitoring the oil...many of the boat ramps were used so heavily for staging efforts that public access was restricted” (Yeager 2016).

In addition to environmental and economic impacts of the oil spill, decreased income, job loss, and the fear of these impacts resulted in a considerable psychological distress for the residents of Gulf County and other areas across the Florida panhandle. Jay Reeve, CEO of the Apalachee Center, Inc., which provides services to the Big Bend Region, reported that requests for walk-in appointments for counseling increased sharply between April and June of 2010, particularly in the neighboring Franklin County (Deepwater Horizon Response 2010). In a Time Magazine article, Florida environmental official Phil Wiczynski described his visit with some 400 residents in Port St. Joe in June of 2010. He told Time that "These people are scared, they're worried, they're frustrated...they see what's going on, and we need to do whatever we can to assure them that steps are going to be taken to address issues and protect their way of life." Time also reported that across the Florida Panhandle, food stamp allocations increased by 20% in June and July following the spill. State social services officials spoke about an increase in unemployment, domestic abuse, child neglect, and other issues frequently associated with economic turmoil (Peltier 2010).

RESPONSE EFFORTS

Summary of Response Efforts

On April 30, 2010, Florida Governor Charlie Crist issued an Executive Order proclaiming a state of emergency for Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay and Gulf Counties. In the same order, Crist designated the Director of the Division of Emergency Management as the State Coordinating Officer and called for the activation of the state’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (State of Florida 2010). The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners also declared a Local State of Emergency which was re-adopted multiple times throughout out the crisis (Gulf County, Florida Government 2010, BOCC 2010h). Gulf County remained at a Level 2 emergency status until August 27, 2010, when the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) transitioned to a Level 3 monitoring status for the Deepwater Horizon event (Deepwater Horizon Response 2010b).

Oil Spill response efforts in Gulf County were overseen by the Mobile Sector of the U.S. Coast Guard (Gulf County Board of County Commissioners [BOCC] 2010c). As early as May 3rd, the Coast Guard began boom deployment in Gulf County, and county officials began planning for the “worst case scenario” (The Star 2010a, Gulf County BOCC 2010a). Early efforts to plan and mobilize were met with frustrations. A special BOCC meeting was held to re-adopt the Local State of Emergency, at which time, the debris removal contractor for the County (AshBritt) addressed the need to clear beaches prior to boom deployment. The contractor reported that they had over 75 miles of soft and hard boom available, but admitted that no one on their staff had ever responded to a disaster of this nature (Gulf County BOCC 2010a).

The Area Contingency Plan, which outlined tier one boom placing, was paid directly by British Petroleum (BP), with contractors being approved through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) (Gulf County BOCC 2010d). Although the County made numerous efforts to work cooperatively with BP, on May 10th, former County Commissioner Nathan Peters told the BOCC and the public that the County had been restricted by BP because the previous Area Contingency Plan (developed through

the Coast Guard and the state of Florida) had not been BP-approved. In response, the County formed a Contingency Planning Committee and submitted a revised plan to BP for approval within days (Gulf County BOCC 2010a, 2010b).

In the week that followed, BP reserved the Honeyville Community Center for training volunteers (Gulf County BOCC 2010d). The Workforce Center began accepting applications for oil spill clean-up jobs from unemployed County residents (The Star 2010d). Boom was staged in the Indian Pass area of St. Vincent Sound and both inside and outside of St. Joseph Peninsula (Gulf County BOCC 2010e). As Emergency Management Services (EMS) Director Marshall Nelson explained, tier one booming would be completed by the O'Brian Group contracted through BP based on the Area Contingency Plan and tier two booming would be based on the boom planning strategy put in place by the County (Gulf County BOCC 2010e). However, by the end of May, the County's plan had not been approved by BP and concerns arose about the area's collective capacity to respond in a timely and appropriate manner when oil arrived (Gulf County BOCC 2010f).

BP also set up a staging area to serve Gulf and Franklin Counties at Raffield Fisheries located in Port St. Joe off of Highway 98 near the Gulf County Canal. The staging area included boom, personnel, an ambulance, and a paramedic to attend offshore vessels (The Star 2010b, Gulf County BOCC 2010g, 2010m). On May 25th, Eric Sereun, BP Local Support Coordinator, appeared before the BOCC and gave an update on the oil spill and the staging area at Raffield Fisheries, reporting the availability of approximately 4,500 local unskilled workers to clean the parks and beaches within the County. Mr. Sereun also reported the opening of a claims office at 106 Trade Circle on the Industrial Road (Gulf County BOCC 2010g). Somewhat later, in mid-July, EMS amended their contract with Raffield Fisheries, and increased EMS operations from 12 to 24 hours per day (Gulf County BOCC 2010m). Former Gulf County Commissioner, Warren Yeager, described his experience working with BP and the Coast Guard at Raffield Fisheries; "I went to the local command center because I wanted to see the oil for myself. The Coast Guard said that I would have to get clearance from BP, but I was never able to get on a boat. It was clear that BP was running the operation" (Yeager 2016).

In late May, a BP spokesperson reported that 57,000 feet of boom was staged along St. Joe Beach to be deployed in the event that oil made landfall (The Star 2010c). Vessels of Opportunity were being launched from Highland view and White City boat ramps (Gulf County BOCC 2010j). Boom was slated to be placed off the entire area of St. Joseph Bay around the vulnerable seagrass beds, and the U.S. Coast Guard placed heavy-duty skimmers offshore (The Star 2010e, Gulf County BOCC 2010k). The county's plans for protecting the bay would include a series of three boom lines and a skimmer around the mouth of the bay. A fourth boom line would run across the middle of the bay, and a fifth would be placed at the southern end to protect the most productive seagrass beds (The Star 2010e). Despite objections from local residents, the County made a waiver for BP to use air boats in St. Joe Bay and provided decals for vehicles and four wheelers on the beaches. Areas of operation were concentrated at St. Joseph Bay and Indian Pass, and boom deployment began during the second week of June (Gulf County BOCC 2010j, 2010k, 2010l).

At the same time, concerns arose about how 24-hour work on the beaches would affect sea turtles nesting and hatching in the late summer months. On June 22, 2010, the BOCC recommended that the Sheriff's Department refrain from closing the gates at night on public beaches to allow response efforts

to continue around the clock (Gulf County BOCC 2010l). To prevent impacts on sea turtles from both oil and response activities, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) began working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Services began relocating sea turtle nests in Gulf County to the Atlantic Coast. This effort continued until mid-August (Benhke 2010).

In early June of 2010, the Gulf County Tourist Development Council submitted a 45-90 day plan to FDEP to purchase, contract, manage, oversee and/or arrange for a Florida tourism and advertising campaign to offset negative publicity surrounding the DWH oil spill (BOCC 2010i). In fear of losing seafood resources and associated revenue, Governor Crist extended commercial fishing licenses set to expire on July 1, 2010, and opened Scallop season early across the state of Florida; an announcement that was heavily advertised in Gulf County to encourage fishing and tourism to continue (Gulf County, Florida Government 2010).

In mid-June, Deepwater Horizon debris had washed up on shorelines in neighboring Bay and Walton Counties. In response, Gulf County deployed 90% of its boom in the water (The Star 2010g). Unfortunately, boom lines were tossed about by currents, and within a few days of deployment, it became obvious that the boom lines were not working. Closing the bay would be “nearly impossible given tides and currents” (The Star 2010f). A new plan was devised using 2,500-foot boom lines placed near Eagle Harbor and WindMark Beach to direct the oil toward select beaches where cleanup crews and skimming operations would be concentrated (The Star 2010f). However, by mid-July, this plan was again changed in favor of a U.S. Navy installation of heavy offshore boom (The Star 2010i). The County's plan had been approved by the FDEP and U.S. Coast Guard (the Unified Command overseeing spill recovery efforts), but not by BP, whose approval was necessary to secure funding. As former Gulf County Commissioner Warren Yeager explained, approval from BP was particularly important for Gulf County because as a small county it did not have the resources or ability to borrow money to fund the plan on its own (The Star 2010i).

According to former Gulf County Commissioner Nathan Peters, the heart of the issue lay in the fact that the County was asked to formulate and re-formulate plans with no feedback (The Star 2010h). “We came up with a plan, and BP rejected it,” Peters told a local newspaper, “so we came up with another plan, and BP rejected that one too (The Star 2010h).” “We knew what was out there was not working, but we had no guidance,” Emergency Management Coordinator Marshall Nelson reported (The Star 2010f). Commissioner Peters explained Nelson's predicament, “We had people that knew the waters...what we needed was people that knew how to work with booms” (The Star 2010h).

A tropical depression during July 24-25 pushed oil from Deepwater Horizon westward towards Gulf County (Gulf County BOCC 2010n), and the first tar balls made landfall that week (The Star 2010f). During the second week of August, Sight Contamination Assessment Teams found tar balls and debris across a nearly 2,000-yard span of beach along St. Joseph Peninsula. There were also reports of small tar balls at Money Bayou, St. Joe Beach, and Salinas Park (The Star 2010j). Being one of the three western-most disproportionately affected counties, petroleum products did not appear on Gulf County beaches until much later in the summer, after BP had already begun to downsize their clean-up operation (The Star 2010k, Gulf County BOCC 2010o).

In mid-August, Chief Administrator Don Butler recommended the continued presence of BP in Gulf County and suggested that the County submit a letter to BP requesting adequate cleaning of the beaches. By this time, BP had begun removing support from the area, proposing to leave only a small skeleton crew. The County voiced concerns that this crew would not be adequate; stating that there were previously over 800 people daily, with 350 per day walking the beaches watching for tar balls (Gulf County BOCC 2010o). At this time, the materials found at Cape San Blas and the Salinas Park towards Indian Pass had already been confirmed as originating from Deepwater Horizon (Gulf County BOCC 2010o).

When BP awarded the Florida Department of Children and Families \$3 million to support agencies maintaining behavioral health and substance abuse services across coastal Florida, Gulf County identified the Life Management Center as a potential recipient of support. The Apalachee Center, Inc., which offers services in the Big Bend region, reported that demand for crisis stabilization services by residents of neighboring Franklin County between April and June 2010 had doubled from the same time period during the previous year (Deepwater Horizon Response 2010c). The Tourist Development Council (TDC) worked closely with the Gulf County Economic Development Council (EDC) and the Chamber of Commerce and took on duties educating local businesses and the public on economic impact reporting from the spill (Gulf County BOCC 2010d).

In autumn of 2010, county staff began shifting their focus towards quantifying and assessing Deepwater Horizon impacts, pursuing legal counsel, attending Natural Resource Damage Assessment meetings, and participating in conference calls with the Department of Environmental Protection concerning damages (Gulf County BOCC 2010p, 2010q, 2010r). As former Commissioner Nathan Peters stated during the second week of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, “we have to protect the fishermen in this County” (Gulf County BOCC 2010b). County officials continue to prioritize residents’ needs as they move forward in the RESTORE process and look toward Gulf County’s future.

GULF COUNTY RESTORATION EFFORTS SINCE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL

Establishment of RESTORE Advisory Committee

On July 24, 2012, Gulf County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) established a local RESTORE Advisory Committee (RAC). Nine members were appointed to the RAC representing a set of diverse interests including environmental advocacy, economic development, transportation, government, and finance. The first committee meeting was held on September 11, 2012. Since its formation, the RAC has held 32 public meetings and has been integral to engaging the community and getting buy-in from key stakeholders to support recovery planning efforts.

NRDA

The Oil Pollution Act authorizes certain state and federal agencies to evaluate the impacts of the DWH oil spill. This legal process, known as Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), determines the type and amount of restoration needed to compensate the public for damages caused by the oil spill. In April 2011, BP committed to \$1 billion in early restoration projects in an agreement with the NRDA trustees. To date there are five phases of early restoration planning.

Phase I NRDA Early Restoration funding was announced on April 18, 2012; no projects were located in Gulf County.

In late 2012, FDEP announced the availability of Phase II NRDA Early Restoration funding for turtle and bird nesting habitats totaling \$6.3 million to be located across Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties. These regional cooperative projects are expected to take a total of five years to complete.

Phase III NRDA Early Restoration funding was announced in December 2013 and four projects were funded in Gulf County, as follows:

- Highland View Boat Ramp (\$176,550) - repair and enhance the existing boat ramp, replace existing access and termination piers, and improve the parking
- Beacon Hill Veterans' Memorial Park Improvements (\$588,500) – construct pavilions, restrooms, nature trail, parking area, and small amphitheater
- Windmark Beach Fishing Pier Improvements (\$1,353,550) - construct a new fishing pier
- City of Port St. Joe, Frank Pate Boat Ramp Improvements (\$806,972) - construct an additional boarding dock, boat trailer parking, access drive, staging area, and fish cleaning station

Phase IV NRDA Early Restoration funding was announced on September 23, 2015. Phase IV includes two regional cooperative projects benefitting Gulf County:

- Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction (\$20,000,000) - restore pelagic (open-ocean) fish by reductions in bycatch
- Sea Turtle Early Restoration (45, 000,000) - enhancement of the sea turtle stranding and salvage network and development of an Emergency Response Program

The Trustees and BP have proposed approximately \$34.4 million for Phase V Early Restoration; no projects are proposed in Gulf County.

On July 2, 2015 an agreement in principle was announced in which BP Exploration & Production Inc. (BP) will pay \$8.1 billion in natural resource damages, including the \$1 billion BP previously committed to pay for early restoration projects. These monies were allocated among several Restoration Areas, including \$680,152,643 to fund projects in the state of Florida.

NFWF GEBF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) was established in early 2013 as a result of two plea agreements resolving the criminal cases against BP and Transocean after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The agreements direct a total of \$2.544 billion to NFWF over a five-year period. The funds are to be used to support projects that remedy harm to natural resources where there has been injury to, or destruction of, loss of, or loss of use of those resources resulting from the oil spill. Projects are expected to occur within reasonable proximity to where the impacts occurred, as appropriate. Under the allocation formula and other provisions contained in the plea agreements, \$356 million of the total amount to be deposited into the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund will be for project expenditures in the state of Florida (funded over a five-year period).

Currently, no NFWF projects are located in Gulf County. The following are NFWF regional cooperative projects that benefit Gulf County:

- Comprehensive Panhandle Coastal Bird Conservation - \$3,205,300
- Florida Shorebird Conservation Initiative - \$1,489,800
- Benthic Habitat Mapping, Characterization and Assessment - \$4,477,900
- Eliminating Light Pollution on Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches - Phase I - \$1,500,000
- Eliminating Light Pollution on Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches - Phase II - \$2,115,100
- Enhanced Assessment for Recovery of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries - Phase I - \$3,000,000
- Enhanced Assessment for Recovery of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries - Phase II - \$3,000,000
- Enhanced Assessment for Recovery of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries - Phase III - \$5,814,200
- Increased Capacity for Marine Mammal Response - \$4,400,000
- Florida Restoration Strategy - \$4,514,048 (The Florida Restoration Strategy will provide a five year plan for the \$356 million allocated to projects in Florida, with a specific focus on the six key watersheds in the Panhandle and Big Bend regions)

GCERC

In July 2012, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act) established the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (GCERC). The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, through its Funded Priorities List will use funds from the settlement with Transocean Deepwater Inc. to provide near-term, on-the-ground ecosystem benefits, while also conducting planning activities designed to build a foundation for future success as additional funds become available from other parties. The Council will

focus on 10 key watersheds across the Gulf in order to concentrate and leverage funds to address critical ecosystem needs in high priority locations.

On December 9, 2015, the GCERC announced the approval of the Funded Priorities List (FPL). One project was funded in Gulf County, as follows:

- Money Bayou Wetlands Restoration (\$387,726) - planning and design to restore natural hydrology to approximately 1,000 acres of wetlands on the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve

The Council also approved a suite of Gulf-wide investments designed to support holistic ecosystem restoration that may benefit Gulf County:

- Baseline Flow, Gage Analysis & On-Line Tool to Support Restoration - \$5,800,000
- Council Monitoring & Assessment Program Development – Planning - \$2,500,000
- GOMA Coordination - Planning - \$375,000
- Gulf Coast Conservation Reserve Program - \$6,000,000
- Gulf of Mexico Conservation Enhancement Grant Program – Planning - \$375,000
- Gulf of Mexico Conservation Enhancement Grant Program – Implementation - \$2,125,000
- Gulf of Mexico Estuary Program – Planning - \$2,200,000
- Gulf of Mexico Habitat Restoration via Conservation Corps Partnership – Implementation - \$8,000,000
- Strategic Conservation Assessment Framework – Planning - \$1,879,380

GULF COUNTY MULTIYEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (MYIP) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Gulf County utilized a five step process for the development of the multiyear implementation plan. This process included conducting a community needs assessment to determine issues most critical to the County, development of the project selection criteria and its supporting structure, acceptance of project submissions from stakeholders and local governments, ranking of projects which guided development of project priorities and drafting of the MYIP. Gulf County solicited and received meaningful public input from a variety of stakeholders throughout the MYIP development process, through the implementation of their public outreach and engagement plan.

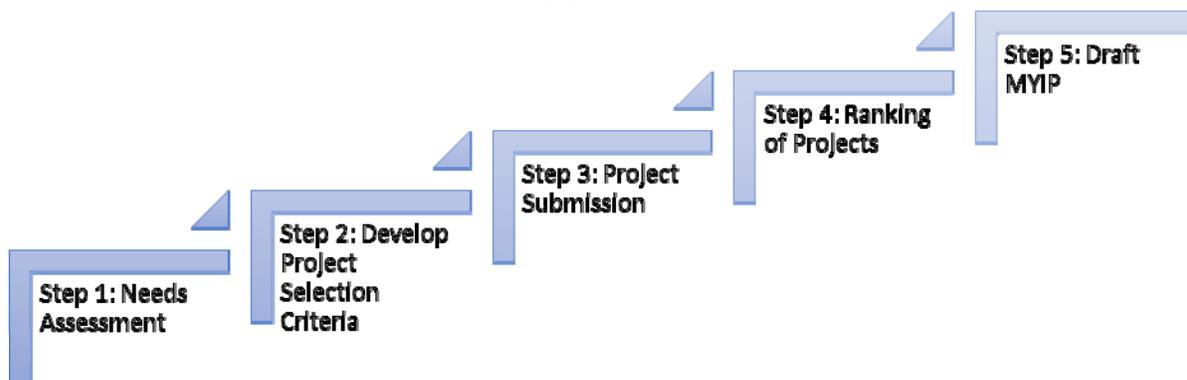


Figure 1: Gulf County MYIP Process

Public Outreach

Gulf County established a public outreach and engagement plan in order to receive meaningful public input throughout the process. Gulf County developed and maintained a stakeholder email list, published notices in the local newspaper, developed and maintained a website dedicated to the MYIP process with daily updates, and held dozens of public meetings on the MYIP. A variety of metrics were tracked and documented throughout the process to ensure broad based public participation. Table 2 summarizes the public outreach efforts Gulf County utilized from September 2012 until MYIP submittal in September 2016. A fully detailed Final Outreach Report is attached in the appendices.

Table 2: Public Outreach Summary Metrics, September 11, 2012 to September 1, 2016

OUTREACH TYPE	Measure	Count
PUBLIC MEETINGS (RAC & BOCC)	# of public meetings	37
PUBLIC WORKSHOPS (RAC/BOCC)	# of public workshops	6
STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS	# of stakeholder meetings	2
STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATIONS	# of stakeholder presentations	33
PUBLIC NOTICES (NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS)	# of newspaper notices	9
RESTORE ALERTS (E-MAILS)	# of emails	9
RESTORE WEBSITE	# of new content	20
RESTORE WEBSITE	# of visitors (total hits)	2,413

The multiyear plan was made available for 45 days for public review and comment in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations. A public comment period was held on April 11, 2016 through May 27, 2016. A public RAC meeting was held on May 3, 2016 to discuss the MYIP. During that meeting, discussion ensued and ultimately the RAC recommended scope changes and a budget increase for Project 1, St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration. On June 21, 2016, the BOCC held a regular scheduled public meeting and discussed the funding options for this project at length. Ultimately, the BOCC voted 3-2 to utilize \$2,800,000.00 in RESTORE Direct Component funds to help close the funding gap for this project. The BOCC set a specific budget for Project 1 at \$12,000,000 with \$2,800,000 allocated to the project from RESTORE Direct Component funds. The remaining funds will come from matching sources. The MYIP was revised to reflect the changes and was made available for public comment for an additional 45 days from July 21, 2016 to September 6, 2016. Copies of the public notices documenting these efforts are contained in Appendix L. A copy of all comments received from the public review and comment periods are also included in Appendix L. **The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners approved the final MYIP on _____.**

Community Needs Assessment

Gulf County determined that a comprehensive Needs Assessment conducted with the community should be the first step in order to determine the most significant issues affecting Gulf County. The Needs Assessment had already informally begun in July 2012 with the establishment of the RAC. The RAC elicited and received a variety of presentations from academics, professionals, industry and community leaders and citizen groups on the critical issues and needs to be addressed in the community. A total of 33 presentations were made to the RAC from a variety stakeholder groups in early 2013. Upon release of the RESTORE Act Interim Final Rules in September 2014, Gulf County determined they would benefit from the additional support of a Restore Act Consultant. In April 2015 Dewberry Engineers was hired by Gulf County to develop the County's MYIP.

Dewberry gathered and reviewed a variety of documents, information previously presented to the RAC, public input and stakeholder input. Presentations on the MYIP were made to the Gulf County Economic Development Council and the Coastal Community Association of South Gulf County and information received from these stakeholders was gathered. Finally, information was gathered from the discussions held during the five RAC meetings from April 2015 to September 2015, focused on the most significant issues affecting Gulf County. The consolidation of this information resulted in the creation of the Needs Assessment Matrix.

The Needs Assessment matrix was divided into four main categories: Economy, Environment, Infrastructure, and Community. The fourth category 'community' was added to highlight a group of issues that is especially important to the citizens of Gulf County. The County recognizes that this category represents issues that may not be directly eligible for RESTORE funding, but may be related activities when taken as a component of a comprehensive activity. There is some overlap for each category which is to be expected. Information for the Needs Assessment matrix was gathered through public meetings, review of existing documents and information such as:

- Gulf County Restore Act Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings (2012, 2013, 2015)
- Gulf County Economic Development Council meeting (June 2015)
- Gulf County Capital Improvement Plan (2014)
- Gulf County Comprehensive Plan (2011)
- Apalachee Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2013)
- St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve Management Plan (Draft, 2012)
- St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve Management Plan (2008)
- Apalachicola to St. Marks Community Based Watershed Management Plan, The Nature Conservancy (Draft, December 2014)
- Port St. Joe Port Authority and Gulf County Chamber of Commerce. Strategic Opportunities for Port St. Joe's Emerging Port (2014)
- Gulf County Market Analysis (2015), Haas Center

The Community Needs Assessment set the stage for identification of information gaps and development of the selection criteria by which proposed projects were evaluated. By taking a current inventory of critical community needs, the County focused its RESTORE efforts where they were needed most. The Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment document was ultimately used as a basis to evaluate the overall impact of proposed projects and align benefits with identified needs in the community.

The final version of this document "Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment" adopted by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners on September 22nd, 2015 is attached in Appendix D.

Project Selection Criteria

Step two in Gulf County's five step process was to develop project selection criteria upon which selection of projects in the MYIP were based. The project selection criteria were derived specifically to align with the Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment for Gulf County. The RAC held two meetings and the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners held a public workshop to discuss the project selection criteria. A comprehensive list of selection criteria was developed using the information gathered in the public meetings, review of selection criteria developed by other counties and the Comprehensive Needs Assessment. The criteria were divided into six major categories:

- Programmatic Criteria
- Environmental Criteria
- Economic Criteria
- Infrastructure Criteria
- Community Criteria
- Bonus Criteria

Within each category, four to five individual criteria were developed by the County. Once a comprehensive list of selection criteria were developed, the RAC assigned point values to each criteria corresponding to its importance. Selection criteria such as water quality and port development that were emphasized throughout these discussions were assigned the highest point values.

The final version of this document "Selection Criteria" adopted by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners on September 22nd, 2015 is attached in Appendix E.

Project Submittal Process

Once the Community Needs Assessment and the Selection Criteria were in place the next step, step three, was to accept projects from community stakeholders. As determined by the county, entities eligible to submit projects included government agencies, quasi governments such as utility authorities, non-profit organizations, and institutions of higher education.

Gulf County established an interactive online Project Portal submittal process whereby eligible entities could submit project applications to the County for consideration of funding. The online Project Portal, located at <http://gulfcountyrestore.com>, opened on October 19th, 2015 and closed on November 30th, 2015. The Project Portal was opened for a period of 43 days and a total of 32 project submissions were received. As documented in the Public Outreach and Response section above, Gulf County held several informational public workshops throughout the duration of the Project Submission process. Prospective submitters were provided information on eligible activities, County priorities, and how to use the online Portal. Applicants were encouraged to provide a thorough explanation of the project, expected outcomes and include supporting documentation to assist the County in its evaluation. The criteria in each category contained brief descriptions to serve as guidance examples to the project applicants. This guidance was meant to assist applicants in obtaining the maximum number of available points for each criteria. Submitted projects were required to address both a community need and be an eligible activity

under the RESTORE Act. Summary information on the project submittal process is provided in Table 6 and Table 7 below.

Table 3: Final Portal Metrics

# OF REGISTRANTS	20
# OF APPLICATIONS	32
# OF COMPLETED SUBMITTALS	32
TOTAL \$ REQUESTED	\$23,184,928

Table 4: Project Submittal Summary by Eligible Activity

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY	# OF PROJECTS
PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN THE GULF COAST REGION, INCLUDING RECREATIONAL FISHING	12
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS BENEFITTING THE ECONOMY OR ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING PORT INFRASTRUCTURE	8
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION	5
COASTAL FLOOD PROTECTION AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE	3
RESTORATION AND PROTECTION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES, ECOSYSTEMS, FISHERIES, MARINE AND WILDLIFE HABITATS, BEACHES, AND COASTAL WETLANDS OF THE GULF COAST REGION	3
IMPROVEMENTS TO OR ON STATE PARKS LOCATED IN COASTAL AREAS AFFECTED BY THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL	1

Ranking and Project Recommendations

Once the Project Portal closed, step four, the scoring and ranking of projects began. Gulf County followed an established objective process for prioritizing projects utilizing the selection criteria developed in step two. Technical numeric scores were provided for all 32 projects by a team of subject matter experts in their respective fields using the assigned criteria values developed in Step 2. Each project was evaluated for its eligibility for RESTORE funding and the degree to which it addressed the previously defined needs of Gulf County. Therefore, each project was scored against all criteria in each category. Projects received an overall score that was the accumulation of the points awarded. The numeric scores were then provided to County staff to determine the full range of benefits provided by the project and the feasibility to achieve the described results. Additional factors were applied to the prioritization of submitted projects including timing and complexity of the project. The raw technical scores and the project rankings were then provided to the RESTORE Advisory Committee at their March 15th, 2016 public meeting. There was considerable discussion at the RAC meeting, which ultimately led to consensus on suggested revisions to the project rankings and which projects to include in the MYIP Year 1. The RAC decided the following:

- clarification that the specific parcels for the public access land acquisition project are yet to be identified;

- separate land acquisition project from the Gulf County parks and recreation project and allocate \$600,000 to land acquisition and \$240,000 to Gulf County Parks and Recreation;
- include “economic development” as a purpose for land acquisition in addition to public access.

The RAC’s recommendations were then brought to the Gulf County BOCC. On March 22, 2016, the BOCC reviewed, considered, and approved the recommendations of the RAC. On April 12, 2016, residents of Cape San Blas in Gulf County voted by county referendum for a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) to collect ad valorem taxes for the specific purpose of funding a significant portion of Project 1, St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration. The resulting allocation from the MSTU for this project is approximately \$4,000,000.00, which covers about one third (1/3) of the funding needed for this project. The County was notified that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will provide up to one third (1/3) of the project funding; however, the remaining one third (1/3) of the funds must be identified and committed prior to July 2016. On May 3, 2016, the RAC voted to increase the budget for Project 1 and on June 21, 2016, the BOCC voted to set the RESTORE Direct Component budget for Project 1 at \$2,800,000.00. Due to the changes in scope and budget for Project 1, the MYIP was revised and made available for an additional public comment period from July 18, 2016 to September 1, 2016. The minutes of the March 15th, 2016 RAC meeting, the March 22nd, 2016 BOCC meeting, the May 3rd, 2016 RAC meeting, and the June 21st, 2016 BOCC meeting are attached in the appendices.

Table 5: Proposed Funding Structure for Project 1, St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration

SOURCE	% OF TOTAL PROJECT COST	AMOUNT
GULF COUNTY MSTU	33.3%	\$4,000,000
GULF COUNTY TDC	8.3%	\$1,000,000
FDOT	1.7%	\$200,000
FDEP	33.3%	\$4,000,000
RESTORE	23.3%	\$2,800,000
TOTAL	100%	\$12,000,000

BOCC Project Approvals

On March 22, 2016, the Gulf County BOCC approved a set of projects to be included in the MYIP. At the June 21, 2016 Gulf County BOCC meeting, changes to the project priorities were approved by the BOCC. The BOCC voted 3-2 to allocate \$2,800,000.00 of RESTORE Direct Component funds to Project 1, the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration project, from Year 1 (Transocean and Anadarko) funds. The budgets for the other seven approved projects remain unchanged; however, these projects will be funded utilizing future funds to be deposited into the Trust Fund from the BP settlement. The final project list and associated budgets are represented in Table 8 below and more specifically described in the attached RESTORE Act Direct Component Multi-year Plan Matrix and RESTORE Act Direct Component Multi-year Plan Narrative (located in appendices A and B, respectively).

Table 6: Proposed Activities

PROPOSED ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
ST. JOSEPH PENINSULA BEACH RESTORATION	\$2,800,000.00
CAPE SEWER EXTENSION PHASE I	\$313,915.00
CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA SEWER EXTENSION PHASE I	\$748,750.00
GULF COUNTY STORMWATER MASTER PLAN PHASE I	\$30,000.00
ST. JOSEPH BAY PENINSULA STATE PARK – BIKE PATH EXTENSION/ENGINEERING PHASE II	\$18,000.00
GULF COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION PHASE I	\$138,000.00
HIGHLAND VIEW BOAT RAMP	\$150,000.00
LAND ACQUISITION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / PUBLIC ACCESS	\$380,000.00
TOTAL	\$4,578,665.00

Upon approval of the MYIP, Gulf County expects to apply for a RESTORE Act Direct Component Application for Financial Assistance in the amount of \$2,800,000.00 for Project 1, the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration Project, which will allocate the remainder of Year 1 funds to this project. On December 1, 2015, Gulf County was awarded a Planning Assistance grant in the amount of \$560,400.66 to develop their MYIP. Gulf County expects to expend approximately \$510,614.74 of its budget for the Planning Assistance grant. These funds are allocated directly from the Year 1 trust fund amount, leaving \$2,800,000 remaining to be allocated in Year 1 to other projects (\$3,310,614.74 - \$510,614.74). Upon completion of work related to the Planning Assistance Grant, Gulf County will submit an amendment to the Planning Assistance Grant reflecting the final budget for the Planning Assistance Grant prior to submitting an Application for the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration Project.

Outlook - Post MYIP Activities

The MYIP submittal and review process with Treasury is anticipated to take up to 60 days to complete. Once final approval of the MYIP is received from Treasury, the MYIP will be posted on the County's RESTORE website. Then the County must then submit individual grant applications for each project, as

described in in the RESTORE Act Direct Component Guidance and Application to Receive Federal Financial Assistance. Upon approval of the MYIP, Gulf County intends to submit a RESTORE Act Direct Component Application to Receive Federal Financial Assistance for the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration Project in the amount of \$2,800,000.00, which will encumber all Year 1 MYIP funds resulting from the Transocean and Anadarko settlement agreements. The other seven projects included in the MYIP will utilize future funds deposited into the Trust Fund from the April 4, 2016 BP consent decree. Gulf County expects to submit RESTORE Act Direct Component Applications to Receive Federal Financial Assistance for the other seven projects in April 2017 (\$1,067,437) and April 2018 (\$711,228), once funds from the BP consent decree are deposited into the Trust Fund and available.

Outlook - Future MYIP Updates

Gulf County expects to submit future MYIP updates to allocate funding from the BP consent decree beyond what is not allocated in this MYIP. The County expects to receive a total of \$18,872,627.38 in RESTORE Direct Component funding, of which \$4,578,665 is allocated in this MYIP. The County may choose to utilize some or all the process and associated results from the MYIP Version 1 development or the County may choose to develop alternative processes and/or projects to update the MYIP in the future. All MYIP revisions that contain material change will be made available to the public utilizing the same public engagement process required for initial MYIPs.

