

GULF COUNTY



Multiyear Implementation Plan

Gulf County

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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.

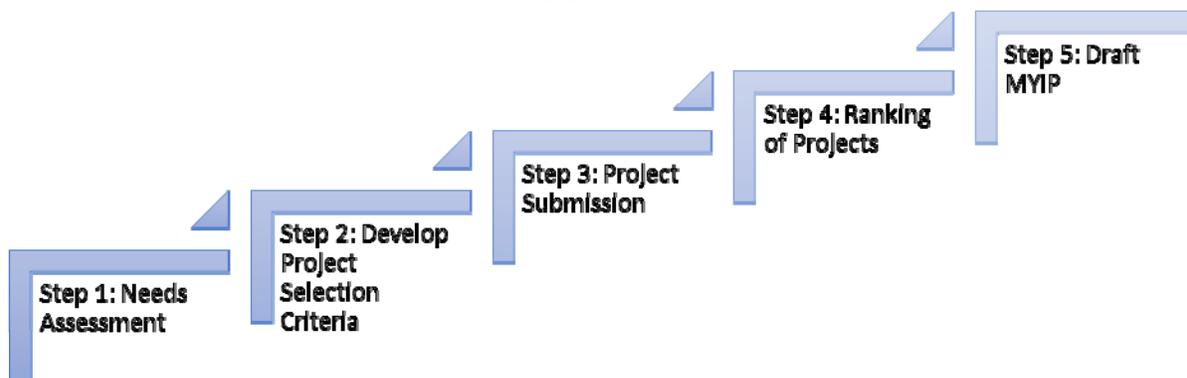


Figure 1: Gulf County MYIP Process

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.



APPENDIX A. RESTORE Act Direct Component Multiyear Plan Matrix

RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Matrix — Department of the Treasury

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Applicant Name: Gulf County, Florida

1. CUMULATIVE DIRECT COMPONENT ALLOCATION AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO APPLICANT:			\$2,778,665.00				2. TOTAL ALLOCATIONS PLUS KNOWN FUNDS NOT YET DEPOSITED IN TRUST FUND FOR DIRECT COMPONENT:			\$18,872,627.38	
3. Primary Direct Component Eligible Activity Further Described in Application (Static Field)	4. Activity Number and Activity Title (Static Field)	5. Location - Municipality(ies) (Static Field, locations also shown on attached map)	6. Total Funding Resources For Activity Budget (refer to instructions)				7. Proposed Start Date mm/yyyy	8. Actual Start Date mm/yyyy (Static Field)	9. Proposed End Date mm/yyyy	10. Actual End Date mm/yyyy (Static Field)	11. Proposed High Level Milestones Further Described in Application
			6a. Direct Component Contribution	6b. Other RESTORE Act Contribution	6c. Other Third Party Contribution	6d. Total Project Budget					
Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure	7.1 St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration	St. Joespeh Penninsula, Gulf County, Florida	\$2,800,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,200,000.00	\$12,000,000.00	Jan-17		Jan-18		Design, permitting, and construction of 5.1 miles / 2,000,000 cubic yards of beach restoration on St. Joseph Peninsula between Marker R 74.8 to 85.5 and R 89.6 to 105.5
Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing	9.1 Land Acquisition - Economic Development/Public Access	Gulf County, Florida	\$380,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$382,000.00	Aug-18		Aug-19		Strategic land acquisition of 7 sites that provide public waterfront access and promote economic development to encourage tourism, including access to the Apalachicola and Chipola River Systems.
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	6.1 City of Wewahitchka Sewer Extension, Phase 1	Wewahitchka, Florida	\$748,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$748,750.00	Aug-17		Aug-18		Survey, design, permitting, and construction of a sanitary sewer system to replace failing septic systems.
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	6.2 Cape San Blas Sewer Extension, Phase 1	Port St. Joe, Florida	\$313,915.00	\$0.00	\$250,000.00	\$563,915.00	Aug-17		Aug-18		Survey, design, permitting, and construction of a sanitary sewer system to replace failing septic systems.
Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing	9.2 Gulf County Parks and Recreation, Phase 1	Gulf County, Florida	\$138,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$138,000.00	Aug-18		Aug-19		Complete upgrades to an existing dune walk-over structure with composite materials to reduce future maintenance cost and maintain public beach access.
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	6.3 Highland View Boat Ramp	Port St. Joe, Florida	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	Aug-18		Aug-19		Repair and enhance the existing Highland View boat ramp, replace existing access and termination piers, and improve the parking at the existing boat ramp.

APPENDIX B. RESTORE Act Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Eligible Applicant Name:

Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:

POC Name:

POC Title:

POC Email:

POC Phone:

B. PROVIDE A BRIEF NARRATIVE THAT DEMONSTRATES:

1. The need, purpose, and objectives for each activity, including a detailed description of each activity.

Project 1: St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration

Need: The St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration project will mitigate shoreline erosion that has occurred since the construction of the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration Project in 2008-2009. Providing a wider beach will increase the level of storm protection to the upland structures and to State Road 30-E (located adjacent to the shoreline), which is the only ingress/egress route on the St. Joseph Peninsula and is a critical hurricane evacuation route for residents and visitors. An additional need is to protect and maintain beaches on the peninsula where sea turtle nesting occurs each year between May 1 and October 31 and provide foraging habitat for shorebirds.

Purpose: The goal of this project is to install sand along a 5.1 mile length of shoreline along St. Joseph Peninsula from Marker R 74.8 to 85.5 and 89.6 to 105.5. A wider, more stable beach will enhance and restore critical habitat, reduce storm-related damage to threatened and endangered species, protect public infrastructure and private property, and increase the time between beach restoration cycles, thereby reducing future public expenditures.

Description: This project consists of design, permitting, engineering, and construction for beach restoration along a 5.1 mile length of shoreline along St. Joseph Peninsula from Marker 74.8 to 85.5 and 89.6 to 105.5. A wider, more stable beach will enhance and restore critical habitat, reduce storm-related damage to threatened and endangered species, protect public infrastructure and private property, and increase the time between beach restoration cycles, thereby reducing future public expenditures. Project implementation is divided into four phases:

Phase I – Geotechnical (Sand Source) Investigation has been completed that identified over 6 million cubic yards of beach quality sand sufficient to supply the next 2 to 3 re-nourishment projects. The borrow areas are located just offshore of the project limits which will be a cost-effective source of sand.

Phase II – Design and permitting. The County has started on the permitting of the beach restoration (R-74.8 to R-105.5) project.

Phase III – Bidding and Construction of the 5.1 mile length between R-74.8 to 85.5 and 89.6 to R-105.5 is anticipated to commence in 2017.

Phase IV – Post-construction monitoring.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to complete the design, permitting, and construction of a 5.1 mile segment of shoreline utilizing 2,000,000 cubic yards of sand material located on St. Joseph Peninsula with the goal of mitigating shoreline erosion and providing habitat.

Project 2: Land Acquisition - Economic Development/Public Access

Need: Tourism is a major economic driver in Gulf County. Most visitors come to Gulf County to enjoy recreation in the County's many parks and beaches, and to experience the natural resources and natural beauty of St. Joseph Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. To fully accommodate visitors' needs and enhance tourism, Gulf County must create a destination where visitors can have quick and easy access to the bay, Gulf, and extensive Apalachicola and Chipola River systems. To create the optimal balance between recreation and economic development, the County seeks to purchase seven strategic parcels with proximity to both the waterfront and centers of growth and development in the county.

Purpose: This project will allow for the strategic acquisition of properties for public waterfront access and economic development to promote tourism in Gulf County.

Description: The County will seek to purchase the following parcels for the purpose of public waterfront access to promote tourism:

Site 1: Parcel ID 00012-000r –Property with access to the Brothers River and the Apalachicola River System.

Site 2: Parcel ID 00336-000r - Property with access to the Brothers River and Apalachicola River System.

Site 3: Parcel ID 01037-000r - Property with access to the Chipola River and Apalachicola River System.

Site 4: Parcel ID 06235-010r - This property includes an existing boat ramp on the St. Joe Bay.

Site 5: Parcel ID 06235-002r - An adjoining parcel to 06235-010r to provide public parking.

Site 6: Parcel ID 06271-050r - Property providing access to St. Joe Bay.

Site 7: Parcel ID 06314-003r - St. Joe Bay water front property that adjoins a county park and could provide for expansion.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to acquire key parcels of land in the County for the purposes of tourism/economic development and recreational fishing.

Project 3: City of Wewahitchka Sewer Extension, Phase 1

Need: Fecal bacteria and viruses are transmitted to surface and ground waters through many of the existing septic tanks, exposing residents and tourists to harmful pathogens. Sewage effluent and wastewater are also a source of nutrient pollutants, such as nitrogen, that contribute to eutrophication and degradation of water quality. Additionally, these water quality impairments are a direct threat to many of the Bay's species of concern (Gulf sturgeon, sea turtles, and the West Indian manatee), as well as commercially and recreationally important seafood species. Sewer system extensions have been identified in numerous Comprehensive Plans, Watershed Management Plans, and Capital Improvement Plans as a priority public infrastructure project for improving water quality and protecting the health of residents and the surrounding natural resources. The proposed project addresses the need for improved community public health and safety of residents and tourists alike, by significantly reducing the threat of bacteria and pathogens from wastewater in the Apalachicola Watershed. In addition to improving water quality for residents, the perception of good water quality can have a dramatic impact on the economy of Gulf County by attracting tourism and associated trade and commerce.

Purpose: The proposed project includes abandoning septic tanks in the City of Wewahitchka's (City) utility franchise area and connecting residences to a sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. This will reduce fecal coliform, other bacteria and viruses, and high nutrient loads that are transmitted to surface and ground waters through many of the existing septic tanks, improving public health and water quality.

Description: The City of Wewahitchka is proposing to abandon approximately 50 septic tanks and survey, design, permit, and construct an extension of their existing low pressure sewer system to service residences in northwestern Wewahitchka in the communities, adjacent to Highway 71 and Lake Drive/Mitchell Road. The project will include additional lift stations to pump the sewage to the existing treatment plant.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to complete the surveying, design, permitting, and construction of a sewer extension system for the neighborhoods adjacent to Highway 71 and Lake Drive/Mitchell Road near West arm of the Dead Lakes. Construction of the sewer extension will allow for the abandonment of failing septic tanks, thus protecting water quality, improving public safety, and enhancing aquatic habitat.

Project 4: Cape San Blas Sewer Extension, Phase 1

Need: Fecal coliform and other bacteria and viruses are transmitted to surface and ground waters through many of the existing septic tanks along St. Joe Bay and Cape San Blas, potentially exposing residents, tourists, and wildlife to harmful pathogens. High nutrient loads from septic tanks also cause or contribute to potential algal blooms, which can threaten the Bay and Gulf's species of concern (Gulf sturgeon, sea turtles, and the West Indian manatee), as well as commercially and recreationally important seafood species, particularly bay scallops. Sewer system extension has been identified as a priority in numerous plans, including the Gulf County Comprehensive Plan, Watershed Management Plan, and Capital Improvement Plan, as a BMP for improving public infrastructure and water quality for the health of residents, tourists and the surrounding natural resources. Approximately 10 years ago, the City of St. Joe constructed several pump stations and force mains necessary to pump solid waste from Cape San Blas to the City's treatment plant in downtown Port St. Joe, but the remaining infrastructure was never constructed.

Purpose: This project will ultimately provide the residents of Cape San Blas and surrounding St. Joseph Bay with access to a safe, secure, and sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. It will also reduce fecal coliform, high nutrient loads, bacteria, and viruses that are transmitted to surface and ground waters through many of the existing septic tanks, and improve water quality. The improved conditions to water quality, infrastructure, habitat, and public safety will inevitably contribute to the preservation of natural resources in Gulf County and increase revenue generated from positive business and visitor experience from tourism, trade, and commerce.

Description: In an effort to abandon septic tanks along St. Joseph Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, the City is proposing to survey, design, permit, and construct a collection system on side streets that will consist of small diameter mains and grinder stations typical of low pressure systems. Phase 1 will focus on replacing septic systems closest to the mainland and nearest to the existing Port St. Joe infrastructure, including the Villa Del Sol subdivision.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to complete the surveying, design, permitting, and construction of a sewer extension system for the eastern-most communities on Cape San Blas near the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve. Construction of the sewer extension will allow for the abandonment of failing septic tanks on the Cape, thus protecting water quality, improving public safety, and enhancing aquatic habitat.

Project 5: Gulf County Parks and Recreation, Phase 1

Need: Tourism is a major economic driver in Gulf County. The majority of Gulf County tourists are drawn to the County for its outdoor resources, access to the water, and its many boat ramps, campgrounds, and parks. In order to provide ongoing usage of these recreation sites, numerous upgrades are needed, particularly for dune walkovers and boardwalks that are currently constructed of wood. Dune walkovers provide safe access and protect natural resources that many tourists come to Gulf County to see and experience. Made of wood, existing structures have deteriorated and have become degraded from heavy use and natural wear and tear (storms, salt-water, wind-blown sand, etc.).

Purpose: The ultimate purpose of this project is to provide safe, easily accessible opportunities for tourists and residents to get outdoors and experience Gulf County's natural, scenic beauty. By updating this heavily used dune walkover with composite materials, this project will fortify the structures' long-term resiliency, reducing the time, manpower and expense for continual repairs.

Description: Phase 1 of this project will rebuild a heavily-used dune walkover with composite materials that will hold up to heavy use and natural wear and tear.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to complete upgrades to an existing dune walk-over structure with composite materials, thus maintaining public beach access in Gulf County.

Project 6: Highland View Boat Ramp

Need: Tourism is a major economic driver in Gulf County, with 30% of visitors bringing boats. The majority of Gulf County tourists are drawn to the County for its outdoor resources, access to the water, and its many boat ramps, campgrounds, and parks. Highland View Boat Ramp is a heavily used facility that was directly impacted by oil spill response efforts. The boat ramp suffered loss of use during the summer of 2010 when Vessels of Opportunity were being launched there. The Highland View Boat Ramp has been identified as a priority project for Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funding; however, the project requires additional funds for completion before its many public benefits can be achieved.

Purpose: This project will cover the funding gap between available NRDA funds and the total funding necessary for improvements to the existing Highland View Boat Ramp. Completion of the Highland View Boat Ramp will give visitors and locals improved public access to St. Joseph Bay and help to ensure a safe recreational experience.

Description: The Highland View Boat Ramp project will repair and enhance the existing boat ramp, replace existing access and termination piers, and improve the parking at the existing Highland View Boat Ramp. This project will provide additional funds to support efforts initiated through NRDA.

Objectives: The objective of the Highland View Boat Ramp Project is to complete construction renovation of the Highland View Boat Ramp. The completed boat ramp will provide public boat access to St. Joseph Bay.

Project 7: Gulf County Stormwater Management Plan, Phase 1

Need: Gulf County (the County) has recognized the need for stormwater management for many years. The County's Local Mitigation Strategy, Floodplain Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan, 5-year Capital Improvements Schedule, Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Study, and the National Flood Insurance Program's Floodplain Management Study have all identified stormwater issues in Gulf County. The County is listed as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) by the State, meaning that it is a rural area with limited financial resources with which to evaluate and fund this type of project. As City (Port St. Joe and Wewahitchka) growth rates are steadily rising annually, and there is an increased interest of expanding existing and new business, inevitable infrastructure and development pressures will be placed on the insufficient stormwater collection and treatment systems. Thus, it is critical to determine the feasibility of implementing a county-wide Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and retrofitting and modernizing the stormwater infrastructure of the county to meet higher standards and accommodate present and future needs.

Purpose: Gulf County is seeking to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate a county-wide SWMP, including Program Plan and Management system; Operations and Maintenance; Capital Improvement Program; and Regulatory Compliance.

Description: Gulf County seeks to hire a contractor to complete a feasibility study in order to determine need, areas of focus, procedures/policies, operations/maintenance, and regulatory permitting/monitoring. Phase I will be the feasibility portion of the project. Planning and implementation will be sought in future phases of the project.

Objectives: The objective of Phase I is to complete a feasibility study for a county-wide Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). Phase 1 of the Gulf County SWMP is the first step in creating a plan that will assist Gulf County in protecting and preserving habitat and natural resources by evaluating and developing Best Management Practices (BMP) for soil erosion control, flood prevention, water protection and conservation, and stormwater management. These measures will result in reduced contamination, flooding, erosion, and runoff. This will ultimately enhance fresh and salt water environments for fish and wildlife, as well as local recreational and commercial fishing

in the area. By conducting a feasibility study, Gulf County aims to ensure that the implementation of a SWMP adequately addresses the County's major issues and focus areas, and includes policies, procedures, permitting, and monitoring criteria that suit Gulf County's unique hydrology and development needs.

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

Need: Currently, at any given time on Cape San Blas, there are 20 to 40 individuals using the existing bike path during daylight hours, however, the bike path does not connect to the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park (the Park). The two-lane road from the park entrance to the park gate has pedestrians, cyclists, and motor vehicles all sharing the same roadway and is too narrow to safely accommodate all of these uses. Pedestrians and cyclists are forced to leave the road for two-way road traffic. This extension not only provides for greater path usage, but also alleviates safety issues and provides more access for the Park's visitors to visit retail and tourism areas along Cape San Blas roads to Port St Joe.

Purpose: Phase II of this project will complete three essential surveys that must be carried out prior to construction of the Cape San Blas bike path extension. These surveys will characterize soils and identify existing drains, structures, utilities, and trees, as well as state and federally protected wetlands within the project area that will inform the design and construction. The path extension will ultimately encourage additional visitors, sales tax revenue, bed tax revenue, and local economic development by connecting Park visitors to the Cape and Cape visitors to the Park.

Description: Phase II of the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - Bike Path Extension/Engineering project includes:

- 1.) A topographical survey to identify existing cross drains, structures, utilities, trees, etc.;
- 2.) A wetlands delineation along the proposed bike path route; and
- 3.) A geotechnical soil sampling in areas of new timber bridge and gravity wall locations.

This is the second step in the multi-phased project extending the current Cape San Blas Road bike path an additional 1.8 miles. When complete, it will create a continuous path from the Cape San Blas Road/30A intersection to Eagle Harbor in the Park.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to complete three essential surveys that must precede the design and construction of the Cape San Blas bike path extension: a topographical survey, wetlands delineation, and geotechnical soil sampling.

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan 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, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the plan was adopted after consideration of all meaningful input from the public.

"N/A" - to be provided after 45-day public comment period

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan matrix is eligible for funding and meets all requirements under the RESTORE Act.

Project 1: St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration

The activities of this project are eligible under eligible activity VII: Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure, as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(i) of the RESTORE Act, by designing, permitting, and constructing a beach restoration project to mitigate shoreline erosion and offer protection to upland structures and State Road 30-E, which is the only ingress/egress route on the St. Joseph Peninsula, as well as a critical hurricane evacuation route for residents and visitors.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: Design, permitting, and construction of the beach restoration project will occur on St. Joseph Peninsula, adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico in Gulf County, Florida.

Project 2: Land Acquisition - Economic Development/Public Access

Primary Eligible Activity: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing.

This project will address eligible activity I: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(ii) of the RESTORE Act, by allowing Gulf County to acquire seven strategic parcels for the purpose of public waterfront access to promote tourism on the Apalachicola and Chipola River Systems, St. Joseph Bay, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: All strategic parcels that will be acquired for this project are within Gulf County, Florida, which borders the Gulf of Mexico.

Project 3: City of Wewahitchka Sewer Extension, Phase 1

Primary Eligible Activity: Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure. This project will address eligible activity VI: Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(i) of the RESTORE Act, by abandoning septic tanks in the City of Wewahitchka and connecting residences to a sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. The goal of this infrastructure project is to reduce fecal coliform, other bacteria and viruses, and high nutrient loads that are transmitted to surface and ground waters through many of the existing septic tanks, thus protecting water quality, improving public safety, and enhancing aquatic habitat.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: The surveying, design, permitting, and construction of this sewer extension system will occur in the City of Wewahitchka, Gulf County, Florida, which borders the Gulf of Mexico.

Project 4: Cape San Blas Sewer Extension, Phase 1

Primary Eligible Activity: Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure. This project will address eligible activity VI: Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(i) of the RESTORE Act, by abandoning septic tanks on Cape San Blas peninsula and connecting residences to a sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. The goal of this infrastructure project is to reduce fecal coliform, other bacteria and viruses, and high nutrient loads that are transmitted to surface and ground waters through many of the existing septic tanks, thus protecting water quality, improving public safety, and enhancing aquatic habitat.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: The surveying, design, permitting, and construction of this sewer extension system will occur on Cape San Blas, Gulf County, Florida, which is a barrier peninsula that borders the Gulf of Mexico.

Project 5: Gulf County Parks and Recreation, Phase 1

Primary Eligible Activity: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing. This project will address eligible activity I: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(ii) of the RESTORE Act, by providing safe, easily accessible opportunities for tourists and residents to access the Gulf of Mexico by updating a deteriorated and heavily used dune walkover with composite materials.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: The dune walkover to be upgraded provides access to the Gulf of Mexico and is located in Gulf County, Florida, which borders the Gulf.

Project 6: Highland View Boat Ramp

Primary Eligible Activity: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing. This project will address eligible activity I: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(ii) of the RESTORE Act, by completing the Highland View Boat Ramp, which provides public boat access to St. Joseph Bay.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: The Highland View Boat Ramp is located in Gulf County, Florida, which borders the Gulf of Mexico. The Boat ramp is on St. Joseph Bay, an embayment of the Gulf.

Project 7: Gulf County Stormwater Management Plan, Phase 1

Primary Eligible Activity: Planning assistance. This project will address eligible activity VIII: Planning assistance, as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(i) of the RESTORE Act, by determining the feasibility of implementing county-wide Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) for Gulf County.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: The feasibility study will take place in Gulf County, Florida, which borders the Gulf of Mexico. The information provided by this study will be used to develop a SWMP to address stormwater issues in Gulf County.

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

Primary Eligible Activity: Planning assistance. This project will address eligible activity VIII: Planning assistance, as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(i) of the RESTORE Act, by completing three essential surveys that must be carried out prior to construction and completion of the Cape San Blas bike path extension, connecting St. Joseph State Park with nearby residences and businesses, and vice versa .

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: The three essential surveys for this project will occur on St. Joseph Peninsula, in Gulf County, Florida, which is adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico. The Cape San Blas bike path extension that will be facilitated by these

surveys is also on St. Joseph Peninsula.

4. How the applicant will evaluate success of the activities included in the matrix.

Project 1: St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration

Successful completion of the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration project will include the placement of 2,000,000 cubic yards of sand along the length of shoreline for an approximate 5.1 mile stretch.

Project 2: Land Acquisition - Economic Development/Public Access

Successful completion will include the purchase of seven parcels identified as strategic acquisitions by Gulf County.

Project 3: City of Wewahitchka Sewer Extension, Phase 1

Successful completion of the Wewahitchka Sewer expansion will result in approximately 50 septic tanks being replaced by sewer infrastructure. Milestones associated with this project will include a successful survey and design, permit approvals, and the extension construction (including additional lift stations). The target timeframe for this effort is six months for the survey, design, and permitting; and six months for construction (following permit approval).

Project 4: Cape San Blas Sewer Extension, Phase 1

Successful completion of Phase 1 of the Cape San Blas Sewer Extension project will be gauged by the total number of septic systems replaced by the sewer extension, which will require a site survey and sewer extension design, as well as the approval of all required permits and the construction of sewer extension near the Villa Del Sol subdivision.

Project 5: Gulf County Parks and Recreation, Phase 1

Successful completion of Phase 1 of the Gulf County Parks and Recreation project will include a fully-renovated park dune-walkover made of weather-resistant composite materials.

Project 6: Highland View Boat Ramp

Successful completion of the Highland View Boat Ramp project will include repairing and enhancing the existing Highland View Boat Ramp, replacing existing access and termination piers, and improving parking at the existing boat ramp.

Project 7: Gulf County Stormwater Management Plan, Phase 1

Phase 1 will be deemed successful upon completion of a Stormwater Management Plan feasibility study for Gulf County.

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

Successful completion of Phase II of the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - Bike Path Extension/Engineering project will include three tasks: 1) Topographical survey to identify existing cross-drains, structures, utilities, trees, etc.; 2) Wetlands delineation along the proposed path route; and 3) Geotechnical soil sampling in areas of new timber bridge and gravity wall locations.

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix were prioritized and the criteria used to establish the priorities.

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. 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. As part of the Needs Assessment, 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. 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 XX. 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, and 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 (BOCC) on September 22nd, 2015 is attached in the Appendix. Once the Community Needs Assessment and the Selection Criteria were in place,

the County accepted project proposals from community stakeholders. Once the Project Portal closed, 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 two. 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. The RAC's recommendations were then brought to the Gulf County BOCC meeting 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 1/3 of the funding needed for this project. The County was notified that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will provide 1/3 of the project funding; however, the remaining 1/3 of the funds must be identified and committed prior to July 2016. Therefore, on June 21, 2016, the BOCC held a regularly scheduled public meeting and discussed the funding options for Project 1 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 Project 1. 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.

6. The relationship, if any, between the activities the applicant included in the multiyear plan matrix and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act.

There is no known relationship between any of the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, RESTORE Act Program, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.

APPENDIX C. MYIP Project Locations Map

Gulf County RESTORE MYIP Project Locations



APPENDIX D. Gulf County Community Needs Assessment

Gulf County RESTORE Act Multiyear Implementation Plan

Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment

Preamble

Gulf County, Florida is identified in the RESTORE Act of 2012 as a disproportionately affected county and will receive funding directly through the Direct Component Trust Fund. Before receiving funds, the County must develop and submit a Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP) to be reviewed and approved by Treasury. The MYIP takes a holistic planning approach, cross connecting a variety of categories including economy, environment, infrastructure, and quality of life. The first step in development of an MYIP is to conduct a comprehensive community Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment is meant to identify all of the critical issues facing Gulf County, as identified through various mechanisms that are relevant to the RESTORE Act.

The Needs Assessment matrix has been divided into four main categories: Economy, Environment, Infrastructure, and Community. Needs are placed into one of the four primary categories in the left column and additional categories the needs may represent are marked with “X”s in the right columns. For example, a need may be primarily represented as an infrastructure project, but may also have economic, environmental, and/or community benefits. Information for the Needs Assessment matrix was gathered through several public meetings and review of existing documents and information (see References).

The Community Needs Assessment will set the stage for identification of information gaps and development of selection criteria by which proposed projects will be evaluated. By taking a current inventory of critical community needs, the County can focus its RESTORE efforts where they are needed most. Submitted projects must address both a community need and be an eligible activity under the RESTORE Act.

RESTORE ACT ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

RESTORE Act Citation	RESTORE Language	Equivalent Needs Assessment Topic
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(I)	Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.	Environment
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(II)	Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources.	Environment, Economy
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(III)	Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.	Environment
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(IV)	Workforce development and job creation.	Economy, Community
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(V)	Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill	Environment, Economy, Infrastructure, Community
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(VI)	Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Environment, Economy, Infrastructure
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(VII)	Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure	Environment, Economy, Infrastructure
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(ii)(I)	Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing	Environment, Economy
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(ii)(II)	Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region.	Environment, Economy

	Identified Need	Economy	Environment	Infrastructure	Community
Economy	Increase number of permanent full time residents	X			X
	Increase number of local jobs	X			X
	Port development	X		X	
	Provide economic diversification including promotion of clean industry, light manufacturing growth, marine commerce, watersports, and seafood processing	X			X
	Provide workforce development and training including industry focused training	X			X
	Increase tourism opportunities and destinations including ecotourism, cultural and historic tourism, year round tourism, and sports tourism	X			
	Update and unify branding initiatives	X			X
	Align wayfinding mediums with current initiatives	X		X	
	Improve or add coastal parks including dog parks, memorial parks, nature parks, and sports complexes	X		X	X
	Increase overnight stays	X			
	Enhance local property values	X			X
	Increase average trip spending value	X			
	Increase traffic flow in shops and restaurants	X			

	Identified Need	Economy	Environment	Infrastructure	Community
	Promote rural development incentives	X			X
	Update and market existing assets including the lighthouse, coastal parks, event venues, historic buildings, bikeways and walking trails, port, local businesses, arts and cultural venues, and recreational facilities	X		X	X
	Promote projects in the Apalachee Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	X			
Environment	Improve surface water quality		X		X
	Provide septic to sewer conversions		X	X	X
	Reduce nonpoint source pollution / stormwater runoff		X	X	
	Restore seagrasses		X		
	Provide habitat monitoring programs		X		
	Enhance marine habitats and fisheries	X	X		
	Increase scallops, oysters, estuarine and reef fish populations	X	X		X
	Install artificial reefs	X	X		
	Provide more vegetated riparian buffers and wetlands		X		
	Provide habitat protection		X		
	Provide dune walkovers		X		
	Prevent, reduce, or address shoreline erosion	X	X	X	

	Identified Need	Economy	Environment	Infrastructure	Community
	Promote the use of agricultural, Silvicultural, and rural BMP's		X		X
Infrastructure	Provide beach nourishment	X	X	X	X
	Enhance emergency services			X	X
	Protect water resources	X	X	X	X
	Provide stormwater management and flooding controls		X	X	X
	Provide WWTP / sanitary sewer expansion and upgrades	X	X	X	X
	Provide dirt road paving and stabilization	X	X	X	X
	Increase public access to waterfront through means such as additional boat ramps, fishing piers, and increased beach parking	X	X	X	X
	Ensure an adequate and efficient transportation network including bikeways and trails	X	X	X	X
	Promote the use of the AN railway from Port St. Joe to CSX trunk in Chattahoochee	X		X	
	Provide technology upgrades such as Wi-Fi and broadband infrastructure	X		X	X
Community	Expand health care services for the elderly	X		X	X
	Provide more affordable housing	X		X	X

	Identified Need	Economy	Environment	Infrastructure	Community
	Increase professional development opportunities	X			X
	Increase availability of dependable child care				X
	Enhance youth recreation opportunities				X

*Community Needs may be non-RESTORE eligible activities, but may be if properly incorporated into overall project.

REFERENCES

1. Gulf County Restore Act Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings (2012, 2013, 2015)
2. Gulf County Economic Development Council meeting (June 2015)
3. Gulf County Capital Improvement Plan (2014)
4. Gulf County Comprehensive Plan (2011)
5. Apalachee Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2013)
6. St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve Management Plan (Draft, 2012)
7. St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve Management Plan (2008)
8. St. Andrew Bay Surface Water Improvement Plan (1998)
9. St. Andrew / St. Joe Bay Community Based Watershed Management Plan, The Nature Conservancy (Draft, December 2014)
10. Apalachicola to St. Marks Community Based Watershed Management Plan, The Nature Conservancy (Draft, December 2014)
11. Port St. Joe Port Authority and Gulf County Chamber of Commerce. Strategic Opportunities for Port St. Joe's Emerging Port (2014)
12. Johnson, Jr., James H. and Catherine Wheeler McClain. Assessing the Competitiveness of Gulf County, Florida (2006)
13. www.cityofportstjoe.com
14. www.gulfcountyedc.com
15. www.portofportstjoe.com
16. www.visitgulf.com

APPENDIX E. Gulf County Selection Criteria

Gulf County Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP)

Selection Criteria

Programmatic	Total: 12
1. Project Feasibility. Proposed project is adequately described to determine feasibility, including references to best available science where appropriate, and the budget includes reasonable and justifiable costs.	2
2. Public Interest. Proposed project clearly demonstrates public benefit.	2
3. Project Timing. Proposed project can be implemented and benefits realized within a reasonable and acceptable timeframe.	2
4. Partnerships and Leveraging. Proposed project is supported by multiple partners and leverages funds by including cash or in-kind matching funds towards the project.	2
5. Monitoring Plan. Proposed project includes a comprehensive monitoring and success measurement plan, including a maintenance plan, if applicable.	2
6. Sustainability and Efficiency. Project approach utilizes efficiency measures and provides long term benefits. Proposed project builds upon existing assets, links outcomes, partners, or lands, and does not produce negative environmental impacts.	2

Environment	Total: 26
1. Habitat Conservation and Preservation. Proposed project maintains or improves the structure and function of uplands, bays, bayous, wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, or marine natural systems, benefiting native plants and wildlife.	5
2. Habitat Restoration. Proposed project improves, enhances, or restores the structure and function of uplands, bays, bayous, wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, or marine natural systems, benefiting native plants and wildlife.	5
3. Water Quality. Proposed project reduces point and/or nonpoint sources of pollutants entering local waterways, provides treatment to improve water quality, or proposes other measures which will improve water quality such as watershed BMPs.	10
4. Natural Systems Resiliency. Proposed project increases ability of natural systems to withstand disasters and adapt to changing environmental conditions due to climate change, associated sea level rise, and other factors.	6

Economy	Total: 26
1. Tourism and Tourism Opportunities. Proposed project provides for increases in tourism activity through new or additional marketing efforts, improvements to existing attractions, or addition of new destinations or attractions.	5
2. Recreational Fishing and Local Seafood. Proposed project increases recreational fishing opportunities through increased or improved access to waterfront, marketing and promotion of local recreational fishing and seafood, removal of barriers to recreational fishing, and increases in fishing stock/habitat.	5
3. Job Creation. Proposed project provides for new full time higher wage jobs within the County.	6
4. Industry and Business Growth. Proposed project directly contributes to expansion of existing industry/business or siting of a new industry/business in marine commerce, seafood processing, commercial fishing industries, aviation & aerospace, high tech manufacturing, information technology/cyber security, telecommunications, renewable energy, or other locally targeted industry as identified in the Apalachee Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.	5
5. Workforce Development. Proposed project provides innovative higher education, job training, or other workforce training/career development which increases the total skilled workforce pool and advances opportunities for higher wage employment.	5

Infrastructure	Total: 26
1. Port Development. Proposed project enhances port usage and diversity, operability, expansion, dredging, and marketing/promotion.	9
2. Transportation Network Improvements. Proposed project improves components of existing transportation network or adds new features to transportation network such as roads, bridges, sidewalks, bike lanes, multi-modal paths or trails, streetlights, right of way landscaping, and public access to the waterfront. May also include services for the transportation disadvantaged.	6
3. Essential Services. Proposed project provides for new or improved wastewater treatment and management, solid waste management, stormwater management, technological upgrades such as Wi-Fi and broadband, and/or beach stabilization and nourishment.	7
4. Disaster Resiliency. Proposed project increases community resiliency by strategically retrofitting, upgrading, or replacing critical infrastructure, utilizing renewable energy, improving emergency services and response, or by implementing other disaster preparatory mechanisms.	4

Community Preferences	Total: 10
1. Cultural and Historic Resources. Proposed project provides for preservation, protection, restoration, and/or promotion of cultural, historical, or archaeological significant resources.	2
2. Community Health. Proposed project improves community health through increase in healthcare services, health improvement programs or health education.	2
3. Affordable Housing. Proposed project provides additional workforce and affordable housing units, beautification of neighborhoods, and/or programs which promote affordable and/or workforce housing.	2
4. Educational Opportunities. Proposed project provides for local new or improved educational and public outreach opportunities, including environmental education and awareness.	2
5. Youth Opportunities and Child Care. Proposed project provides for local new or improved youth opportunities in sports, arts, education, and music or affordable child care services to assist working families.	2

Bonus Opportunities	Total: Varies
1. Leverages Funds. Proposed project leverages overall funding by providing additional cash or in-kind funds to the project, such as additional federal, state, and/or private matching funds. An additional two (2) points will be added to the project score for every 10% of the total project funding that is leveraged.	<i>Up to 18 points</i>

Max Available Points:

Programmatic:	12
Environmental:	26
Economic:	26
Infrastructure:	26
<u>Community:</u>	<u>10</u>
Total:	100
<u>Bonus Points</u>	<u>18</u>
Grand Total	118

APPENDIX F. Final MYIP Outreach Report

Gulf County Restore MYIP

After Action Report

Phase I: County Needs Assessment & Phase II: Develop Selection Criteria

April 13, 2015 - September 22, 2015

At-a-Glance (Summary)

Outreach Type	Measure	Count
Public Meetings (RAC & BOCC)	# of public meetings	7
Public Workshops (RAC/BOCC)	# of public workshops	1
Stakeholder Meetings	# of stakeholder meetings	2
Public Notices (Newspaper Advertisements)	# of newspaper articles	2
Restore Alerts (E-mails)	# of emails	1
Restore Website	# of new content	10

Public Meetings (RAC and BOCC): 7

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Published Advertisement or Announcement	Estimated # of attendees	Speakers
April 13, 2015 10:00 a.m. ETZ	RAC – Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Gulf County Florida Government Website: Public Notice	n/a	Bryon Griffith Don Butler Sherry Herring Several other unidentified attendees
April 14, 2015 9:00 a.m. ETZ	BOCC - Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Gulf County Florida Government Website: Public Notice	n/a	Bryon Griffith
May 26, 2015 1:00 p.m. ETZ	RAC – Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Gulf County, Florida Government Website: Public Notice	14	Pat Hardman Jessica Koelsch Warren Yeager Stella Wilson Mike Nelson Don Butler

June 23, 2015 1:00 p.m. ETZ	RAC – Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Gulf County Restore Website	13	Warren Yeager Pat Hardman Mike Dombrowski	Paul Johnson Stella Wilson
August 19, 2015 3:00 p.m. ETZ	RAC – Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Gulf County Restore Website	22	Warren Yeager Pat Hardman Dewey Blaylock Christie McCleroy	Bryon Griffith Stella Wilson Paul Johnson Chris Holley
September 15, 2015 4:00 p.m. ETZ	RAC – Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Gulf County Restore Website; Notice posted on Admin Building	26	Warren Yeager Pat Hardman Dewey Blaylock Eugene Raffield Guerry Magidson Lynn Lanier an attendee	Jeremy Novak Stella Wilson Paul Johnson Tony Justice Patrick Farrell
September 22, 2015 9:00 a.m. ETZ	BOCC - Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Gulf County Restore Website, Gulf County; Florida Government Website: Public Notice	n/a		n/a

Public Workshops (RAC/BOCC): 1

Meeting Date	Published Advertisement or Announcement	Estimated # of attendees	Speakers
September 2, 2015 4:00 p.m. ETZ	Gulf County Restore Website; Gulf County, Florida Government Website: Public Notice	58	Ward McDaniel Warren Yeager Bryon Griffith Carmen L. McLemore Joanna Bryan Sandy Quinn a Port St. Joe resident

Stakeholder Meetings: 2

Meeting Date	Meeting	Estimated # of attendees	Presenter(s)
May 20, 2015 1:00 p.m. ETZ	Economic Development Council	11	Dewberry Engineers Inc.
June 27, 2015 10:00 a.m. ETZ	Coastal Community Association of South Gulf County	~ 80 – 90	Dewberry Engineers Inc., U.S Representative Gwen Graham, FL Senator Bill Montford, FL Representative Halsey Beshears, Jennifer Jenkins, Ray Loraine (Habitat Conservation Plan), Michael Dombrowski, Mitch Burke

Newspaper Articles: 2

Newspaper Advertisement Date	Subject or Headline	Media Outlet
May 26, 2015	Gulf County RESTORE Act Committee Meeting	The News Herald
September 15, 2015	RESTORE Overview: leveraging \$19 million	The Star: Port St. Joe Newspaper

RESTORE Alerts: 1

Date	Subject
September 14, 2015	E-mail Alert from Stella Wilson: Time Stamped Mon 9/14/2015 4:09 PM

RESTORE Website: 10

Content Added	Date
Gulf County Restore Website Activated	June 2015
May 26 RAC Meeting Minutes and Dewberry Presentation	June 2015
June 23 RAC Meeting Minutes and Dewberry Presentation	June 2015
Draft Gulf County Needs Assessment Document	June 2015
August 19 RAC Meeting Minutes and Dewberry Presentation	August 2015
Second Draft Gulf County Needs Assessment Document	August 2015
Draft Gulf County Project Selection Criteria	August 2015
RAC Meeting Agenda for September 15, 2015	September 2015
Final Gulf County Needs Assessment Document	September 2015
Final Gulf County Project Selection Criteria	September 2015

Newspaper Articles

Halifax Media Group

PUBLISHERS OF THE STAR
Published Weekly
Port St. Joe, Gulf County, Florida

**STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF BAY**

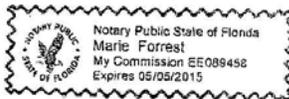
Before the undersigned authority personally appeared Angella Clagg, who on oath says that she is a Legal Advertising Representative of The Star, a weekly newspaper published in the English language, and of general circulation published in the City of Port St. Joe, Florida, in said county and state, and that the attached copy of advertisement, being a Legal Advertisement #96426S in the matter of **PUBLIC NOTICE - Gulf County Board of Commissioners** in the Gulf County Court, was published in said newspaper in the issue of **October 9, 2014.**

Deponent further says that The Star has been continuously published as a weekly newspaper issued each Thursday and has been entered as second class mail matter at the Post Office in Port St. Joe, Gulf County, Florida, for a period of more than one year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and deponent further says that she has neither paid nor promised any persons, firm, corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper.

Angella Clagg

State of Florida
County of Bay
Sworn and subscribed before me this **9th** day of **October**, A.D., 2014.
By Angella Clagg, Legal Advertising Representative of the Star, who is personally known to me or has produced NA as identification.

Marie Lount
Notary Public, State of Florida at Large



FILED FOR RECORD
REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
OCT 10 PM 12:04

SCANNED

Gulf County Board of Commissioners
Request for Qualifications (RFQ) # 1415-01

The Gulf County Board of Commissioners will receive proposals from any qualified person, company, or corporation interested in providing the following:

RESTORE ACT CONSULTANT

Gulf County BOCC is accepting proposals to provide for Restore Act professional consulting services. GCBOCC is looking for an individual or firm which will assist Gulf County with the interpretation and application of the Restore Act to Gulf County and its various funding sources; compliance with Treasury guidelines in the securing and application of funds; provide technical support for the County in its participation with the Gulf Consortium and those additional consulting services required of the professional with the Restore Act as required by the County.

RFQ with criteria requirements and anticipated scope of work will be provided upon written request by contacting directly: Deputy Grant Administrator, Karl Sumner, ksumner@gulfcoun.gov

Proposals must be sealed and marked with the name of the proposer, the RFQ number and the "RESTORE ACT CONSULTANT" SB VICES" on the side of the envelope. Each proposal shall include one original and two copies of the proposal. Proposals must be delivered to the County Clerk of Court, 1000 Cecil Cothran Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456, on or before said office on or after 4:00 p.m. EST on 23rd day of October 2014. RFQ responses will not open at this same location on 23rd day of October 2014 at 9:45 p.m. EST. Proposals received later than this date will be rejected. The Board will not be responsible for the safe delivery or proposals that are not correctly addressed, delivered in person, by mail or any other type of delivery service.

The Gulf County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals or any parts thereof and the determination of this award. If an award is made, it will be based on the final evaluation of the submitted proposals and thereafter the finalist to negotiate the professional services contract. The Board reserves the right to waive irregularities in the proposal.

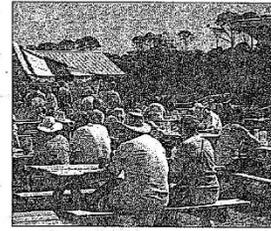
Any questions concerning this RFQ must be submitted in writing no later than 5:00 am EST on October 20, 2014 and should be directed to Lynn Lanier, Deputy Administrator at lranier@gulfcoun.gov and a copy of your correspondence to ksumner@gulfcoun.gov.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
Ward, McDaniel
Chairman
Sub. October 9, 2014

THE STAR

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1937

YEAR 77, NUMBER 48



Park Appreciation, B1

Thursday, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

For breaking news, visit www.starfl.com

50¢

RESTORE overview: Leveraging \$19 million

By TIM CROFT
227-7827 | @PSJ_Star
tcroft@starfl.com

The denominator is coming into focus.

The multiplier is the key.

That was the presentation before an overflow crowd last week from the county's Restore Act coordinator, former commissioner Warren Yeager, and the consultant hired by the Board of County Commissioners to craft a "multi-year implementation plan" for monies earmarked to the county.

That plan, a "business plan"

one expert urged, will be the final ledger the county will use to spend whatever dollars will be coming from BP's global settlement in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

"This is a project for Gulf County," said Commissioner Ward McDaniel. "We make it what it is."

If the current consent decree entered into between BP and the federal government is approved by a federal judge, the county would stand to see nearly \$19 million in direct allocation dollars.

That would be, as it has become known under Restore Act,

so-called pot one which represents direct allocations to the most-impacted counties in Florida, a unique provision in such Congressional legislation.

That money would be paid out over 15 years, Yeager said, meaning after what is already in the bank, roughly \$2.8 million, including from a global settlement with Deepwater contractor Transocean, \$1.2 million-\$1.5 million per year.

These are dollars over which the final call will be held by the BOCC.

"What is at the end" of the

multi-year plan, Yeager said, "is what the board decides with public input."

"Public input is required all along."

A BOCC-appointed committee has been examining potential projects for more than a year and public workshops and meetings are required and built into the process that Dewberry LLC will follow in drafting the multi-year plan.

"I like the work that has been done so far, I like the process," said Commissioner Joanna Bryan. "I like that we are open to

the public. I like that there are so many people involved.

"This is an incredible opportunity for this county."

That plan is due to be finalized this time next year, according to the current timeline provided by Dewberry's Bryan Griffith.

An integral ingredient of that plan, Griffith emphasized, is maximizing opportunities to leverage more dollars from other pots of the BP settlement.

There is, Yeager said, so-called pot two which is known as

See RESTORE A5

REMEMBERING SUMMER SUNSETS



TDC celebrates record summer

By WES LOCHER
229-7843 | @WesPSJStar
wlocher@starfl.com

It wasn't a summer mirage.

Gulf County Tourist Development Council executive director Jennifer Jenkins confirmed visitors and bed taxes were up for the month of July during the TDC advisory board meeting Tuesday.

"Summer was summer, and it was a good one," Jenkins said. "Tide num-



profile of a Gulf County visitor are changing

Pricing Power, Inflation Hedges and Hank Williams

"What good is gold and silver, too...
If your heart's not pure and true." — "House of Gold" written by Hank Williams



MARGARET R. McDOWELL
Adviser Outlook

Recently I watched a television commercial featuring Pat Boone. The singer-celebrity was discouraging Americans from making deposits into banks. Fascinated, I called the 1-800 number. Their marketing campaign urges viewers to purchase gold and silver. Their website says putting your money in a bank is dangerous because of issues like identity theft and cyber terrorism. The salesman, though, did not focus on banking problems; instead, he talked about the volatility of the stock market. "I recommend you put at least 20-25 percent of your assets into gold and silver," he said.

Some investors and advisors will place a small percentage of portfolio assets in gold, considering it a hedge against inflation. But many companies in which you can invest have pricing power, and their stocks are probably a better hedge against inflation. Equities and bonds can also provide income while gold is a non-producing asset.

When you purchase gold in the market, you buy it as a gold future or in a gold mutual fund or ETF. Or you can buy the actual metal and have it shipped to your door and then be responsible for its safe keeping.

Singular bank deposits are insured up to \$250,000. And while identity theft is a real issue, at least cash withdrawn from such an account is a negotiable instrument: you hand it to people and they accept it as payment. You can buy groceries and appliances and fuel or use it to pay for services rendered. It's difficult to hand the cashier at your local market a hunk of gold in exchange for butter, fruit and milk. Power and gas companies won't accept gold as payment for your monthly bill, either. Jason Zweig of the Wall Street Journal recently went so far as to call gold a "pet rock."

Will gold be worth more in 15 years than it is today? Possibly. Proponents of large commodity collections often say that if the end of the world comes, gold will then be worth, well, its weight in gold. Perhaps this is true. Not sure I want to be around for that anyway, though. Meanwhile, those who have purchased publicly traded commodities, like a proportional share of a piece of gold that is stored in a vault in Switzerland, will face the problematic issue of traveling there and retrieving their chunk of it. If it's the end of the world, that may prove a tad challenging.

Meanwhile, will the stock of companies that make products that people need repeatedly be worth even more down the road than they are today? They may not sparkle, but they'll probably have plenty of substance.

Margaret R. McDowell, ChFC®, AIF®, a syndicated economic columnist, is the founder of Arbor Wealth Management, LLC, (850-608-6121—www.arborwealth.net), a Fee-Only Registered Investment Advisory Firm located near Destin, FL. This column should not be considered personalized investment advice and provides no assurance that any specific strategy or investment will be suitable or profitable for an investor.

POLL

Whether on the ballot as a Republican or independent, would you vote for Donald Trump for President of the United States.

Unsure: 7%

United Way to kickoff 2015 Community Campaign

Special to The Star

PANAMA CITY—United Way of Northwest Florida will kickoff off its 2015 Community Campaign Thursday, Sept. 10. The breakfast will be held at 7:45 a.m. CT at FSU Panama City in the Holley Lecture Hall, located at 4750 Collegiate Drive, Panama City. Board Chairman Victoria Williams will share the

exciting news of a very substantial gift, Captain United will deliver the State of the United Address, and Campaign Chairman Dr. Carrie Baker will announce the 2015 goal.

The Community Campaign Kickoff Breakfast will start the beginning of the 2015 United Way Campaign which runs until December. Funds collected during this time will remain in Gulf, Bay,

Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson and Washington counties and are overseen by local volunteers. The 47 United Way agencies offer a gamut of services ranging from assistance for expectant mothers who need prenatal care to people with a terminal disease and everyone in between. United Way of Northwest Florida raises money for local programs benefiting local people.

Thank YOU

The family's acknowledgements

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray;
If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,

As any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all
And just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so very much,
Whatever the part.
The family of Ann L. Key

PSJHS volleyball team says thanks

Dear Editor,
Thank you to the community from the Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School volleyball team for the support of our recent car wash and bake sale.

Special thanks to Duren's Figgy Wiggly and Advance Auto Parts.
The PSJHS volleyball team will be selling Boston Butt dinners on Sept. 25 for \$8 to raise additional funds for the season.
The PSJHS volleyball team

RESTORE from page A1

the "council" pot, overseen by a board comprised of representatives from various federal departments, that is primarily earmarked toward environmental projects.

The council has already released an initial list of proposed projects and is currently conducting public hearings. Among those projects, would be one to address runoff issues around Money Bayou to help protect St. Joseph Bay and an estuary program intended for projects across the Panhandle, Yeager said.

There is also a pot three, \$260 million, which is being overseen by the Gulf Coast Consortium, representatives from the 23 impacted counties in Florida.

Yeager, who is an officer on the consortium board, said a proposal drafted but not yet formally voted on by members would divide that money 50-50; 50 percent going to the eight most-impacted Northwest Florida counties and the other 50 percent to the remaining 15 counties.

That, Yeager said, has the potential to mean another \$18 million to Gulf County.

In addition, he added, there remains more Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) fines, and therefore more projects could be

funded in the county.

Roughly \$3 million in NRDA funds are already earmarked for four local boat ramp/park/pier projects.

Then there is Triumph Gulf Coast, established by state legislation and which will receive \$2 billion in funds coming to Florida.

The eight most-impacted Florida counties are to receive 75 percent of those funds over an 18 year period, Yeager said.

Chaired by former Speaker of the House Allen Bense, Triumph is focused on projects with regional impacts as well as projects that leverage both public and private dollars to bring economic development.

"If you are the Port Authority, that is the pot you zero in on," Yeager said.

The Port Authority has a private sector partner, the St. Joe Company, and had the potential to provide regional impacts if operational.

"The most important thing we need to do is protect that legislation" that created Triumph Gulf Coast, Yeager added.

With all the moveable parts and silos of money, the multi-year plan for the county's direct allocation, Griffith said, has a potential well beyond \$19 million dollars.

"It is going to be a slog getting

through it," he said about crafting the plan to meet U.S. Treasury approval. "But it has to be your plan."

"It has the potential to be (life-changing)."

And, he added, it is not so much about the projects, but about what those projects attempt to accomplish.

"What is it about?" Griffith said. "You have to figure out what you want to accomplish and your projects should fall in under that."

"You are chasing money ... the focus is on a business plan."

Dewberry and the county Restore Act committee, he said, would soon launch an online application process for proposed projects.

He said some final issues were being worked out, but the process would soon launch and the launch announced.

Projects would be catalogued and formatted into a spreadsheet-type template or committee review as well as public and BOCC input.

Yeager encouraged those agencies, governmental and non-governmental, considering project proposals to think big picture and partner.

"The more partners, the better," he said. "This [plan] is the key to get these things right. We can't afford to miss."

TDC from page A1

the cover for the 2016 installment the Visitor's Guide, which will showcase a child running on the beach. The consensus was that the image not only shows Gulf County as a family-friendly vacation destination, but captures a sense of wholesome innocence and adventure. Jenkins' goal for the guide was to utilize a cover that set it apart from the beach-heavy imagery used by Fort Walton, Panama City and St. George Island.

tourism back to August and September and give the scallops more time to mature and prevent overfishing.

Jenkins recently met with members of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Tallahassee which will conduct a series of studies in coastal towns throughout the next year. St. Joseph Bay will receive special attention to see if moving the opening date of scallop season makes sense.

"They like the idea of moving (the

til the summer of 2017.

Sports complex committee

The sports complex committee will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 6 to review the existing plans for the facility to be constructed on land donated to the city of Port St. Joe that is located near the Gulf/Franklin Center on U.S. Highway 98. The complex will allow the area to play host to various sports tournaments, exposing even

Outreach Activities: September 11th, 2012 – October 9th, 2013)

Outreach Type	Measure	Count
Public Meetings (RAC & BOCC)	# of public meetings	23
Public Workshops (RAC/BOCC)	# of public workshops	3
Stakeholder Presentations	# of stakeholder presentations	33

After Action Report

Phase III: Project Submission

September 23, 2015 – December 5, 2015

At A Glance (Summary)

Outreach Type	Measure	Count
Public Meetings (RAC & BOCC)	# of public meetings	2
Public Workshops (RAC/BOCC)	# of public workshops	2
Stakeholder Meetings	# of stakeholder meetings	0
Public Notices (Newspaper Articles)	# of newspaper articles	2
Restore Alerts (E-mails)	# of emails	4
Restore Website	# of new content	13
Restore Website	# of Visitors	1496

Public Meetings (RAC and BOCC): 2

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Published Advertisement/ Announcement	Estimated # of Attendees	Speakers	Public Comment
October 13, 2015 4:00 p.m. EST	RAC – Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Gulf County Restore Website	37	Warren Yeager Stella Wilson Rick Harter Pat Hardman	Mark Knapke David Warriner Walter Counts An additional attendee
October 27, 2015 9:00 a.m. EST	BOCC – Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Gulf County: Florida Government Website Public Notices	n/a	City Manager and RAC member Jim Anderson announced opening of the RESTORE Application Portal.	

Public Workshops (RAC/BOCC): 2

Meeting Date	Published Advertisement/ Announcement	Estimated # of Attendees	Speakers	Public Comment
October 13, 2015 4:30p.m. EST	Gulf County Restore Website	37	Warren Yeager Stella Wilson Rick Harter Pat Hardman	Mark Knapke David Warriner Walter Counts An additional attendee
November 4, 2015 4:30p.m. EST	Gulf County Restore Website; Gulf County: Florida Government Website Public Notices	30	Warren Yeager Stella Wilson Rick Harter Pat Hardman Jim Anderson	Mike Barrett Towan Kopinsky Ron Hardy Mike Dombrowski David Warriner An additional attendee

Newspaper Articles: 2

Date	Subject or Headline	Media Outlet
October 15, 2015	RESTORE project submittal period opens Monday	The Star: Port St. Joe Newspaper
November 5, 2015	Commissioners address accessory structures, RESTORE projects	The Star: Port St. Joe Newspaper

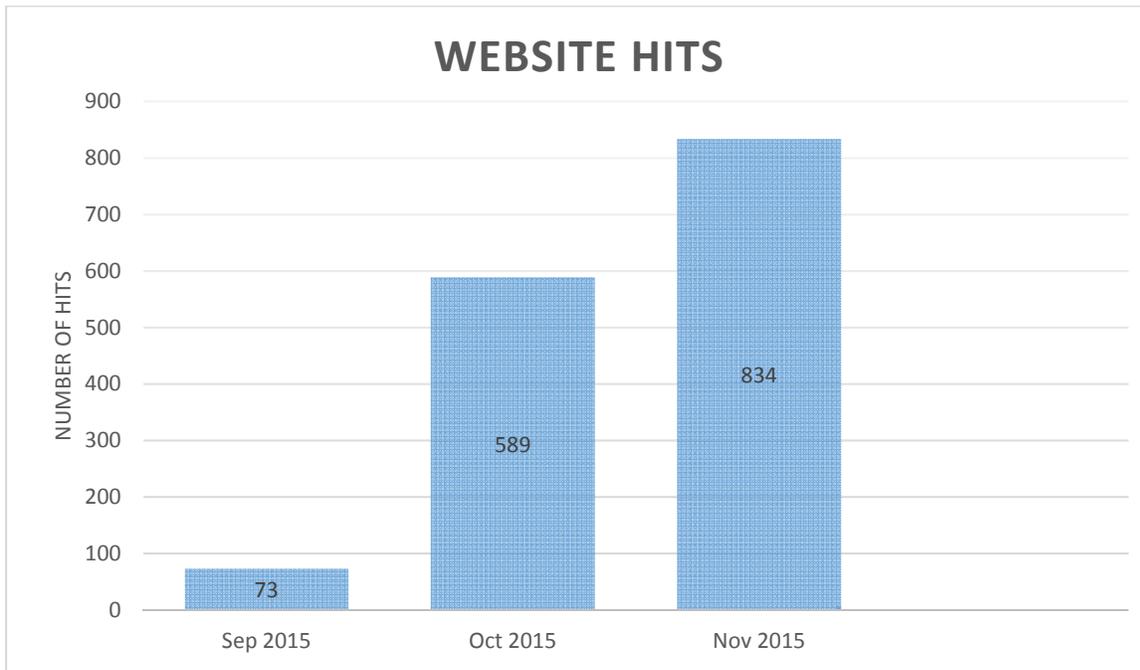
RESTORE Alerts: 4

Date	Subject	Type
October 12, 2015	Gulf County Restore Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting–October 13, 2015	E-mail Alert from Stella Wilson: Time Stamped Mon. 10/12/2015 8:38 a.m. EST
October 12, 2015	Gulf County RESTORE Project Submission Process	E-mail to Pre-proposal Contact List from Stella Wilson: Time Stamped Mon. 10/12/2015 8:33 p.m. EST
October 27, 2015	Notice of Gulf County RESTORE Public Workshop–November 4, 2015	E-mail Alert from Stella Wilson: Time stamped Tues. 10/27/15 4:55 p.m. EST
November 24, 2015	RESTORE–Less Than One Week Remains to Submit RESTORE Projects	E-mail Alert from Stella Wilson: Time stamped Tues. 11/24/2015 12:53 p.m. EST

RESTORE Website: 13

Content Added	Date
RAC Meeting Agenda for October 13, 2015	October 7, 2015
Project Submission Guidance Document	October 7, 2015
Adopted Selection Criteria with Scoring	October 7, 2015
Submit a Project Tab Introduction to the Process	October 7, 2015
Project Submission Guidance Document	October 7, 2015
Project Submission Form (MS Word Version)	October 7, 2015
Blank Budget Worksheet	October 7, 2015
Example: Completed Application	October 7, 2015
Example: Budget Worksheet	October 7, 2015
Project Submission Portal Opens	October 19, 2015
RAC Meeting Minutes and Presentation for October 13, 2015	October 2015
RAC Workshop Agenda for November 4, 2015	November 2015
Notice of Project Application Closure (one week)	November 24, 2015
Project Submission Portal Closes	November 30, 2015
Notice Project Submission Portal Closed	December 2, 2015
Projects List	December 4, 2015
Preliminary Budget Report	December 4, 2015

RESTORE Website Hits: 1496



Newspaper Articles

10/21/2015 RESTORE project submittal period opens Monday - News - The Star, PC

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THE STAR
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NEWS NOW

RESTORE project submittal period opens Monday

The period to submit projects for the first year of the county's multi-year plan to spend RESTORE Act fine dollars begins Monday.

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By Tim Croft

Posted Oct. 15, 2015 at 9:40 AM
Updated Oct 15, 2015 at 9:49 AM

The period to submit projects for the first year of the county's multi-year plan to spend RESTORE Act fine dollars begins Monday.

The project submittal portal will open Oct. 19 and close Nov. 30.

This is for projects to be funded in the first year, likely 2017, said Stella Wilson with Dewberry, LLC, the county's contractor in crafting its multi-year plan.

Projects submitted must also spend all requested funds within five years.

The county currently has \$2.8 million in the bank stemming from the federal settlement with Transocean, the contractor on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig that blew in 2010 sending millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

After expenses, such as Dewberry's contract and other costs, the county is looking at roughly \$2.5 million, said Warren Yeager, the county's recently-hired RESTORE Act coordinator.

The county's direct allocation out of the RESTORE Act, so called pot one, is \$15.56 million, Wilson said.

That will mean an annual payout, beginning in 2016, of roughly \$1.5 million per year going out 15 years, save year two when the sum will be less, Yeager said.

The county would expect to receive additional direct dollars from the pot of money controlled by the Gulf Coast Consortium, which represents the 23 Florida counties along the gulf.

Yeager, an officer on the board of the Consortium, said a formal vote will be held next month on a proposal tentatively agreed to that would split the Consortium's pot, \$130 million, into half with 50 percent going to the eight most-impacted counties, including Gulf, and 50 percent to the other 15 counties.

"That would be another pot of money from which we could benefit," Yeager said.

The submittal of projects to be considered is the third step in Dewberry's five-step timeline for crafting the multi-year plan.

A needs assessment and criteria for selecting projects have been determined, with a point system for assessing projects in place.

The goal is to have projects assessed and ranked by Dewberry beginning in December with a

<http://www.star1.com/article/20151015/NEWS/15101960416303/NEWS?Star1-1>

goal of turning over a preliminary ranking to the county's RESTORE Act committee in February for a series of meetings to continue into March.

"We have a team of subject matter experts who will go through the projects and evaluate the various aspects within their area of expertise," Wilson said.

The projects would be ranked top to bottom based on points, with a line demarking where the county funding for the first year would run out.

A draft plan would hopefully be in front of the Board of County Commissioners for consideration sometime in early summer with submission to the U.S. Treasury for final approval in August.

[» Comment or view comments](#)

[Prev](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [Next](#)



NEWS NOW

RESTORE project submittal period opens Monday

The period to submit projects for the first year of the county's multi-year plan to spend RESTORE Act fine dollars begins Monday.



Page 2 of 3 "The big thing for the pot one money is the final decision goes before the Board of County Commissioners, so you have (local) control over that," Yeager said.

"I am shooting for sometime during the summer (for the plan transmittal to Treasury), I am moving on a faster track."

Yeager added that the project submittal process will likely be repeated, with some possible tweaking, on an annual basis as the BP fine monies are disbursed each year.

"It's going to be a long, arduous process ... this is going to be a 15-year process," Yeager said. "Don't be discouraged if your project can't be funded in the first year because this will be an annual process."

"We have to go with the funding we have and see how far we can go with it."

The link to the portal will be found at www.gulfcountryrestore.com, the county's website for RESTORE Act committee meetings and information.

On the left side of the home page will be a link for project submittal.

The submittal form is eight pages in length and Wilson emphasized that all questions must be answered, even with an N/A if the question does not apply, for the project to be considered submitted.

Detailed questions, requiring short-essay type answers, are based on criteria and eligibility language that comes directly from the RESTORE Act law.

Projects must be in the public interest, can not enhance private property and fine monies can not be used to service debt.

Government, schools or school systems and non profits are the only entities that may submit projects.

Those wishing to submit projects can also find a "Project Submission Guidance Document" at the website which can be printed out and provides an overview of criteria and the point structure by which projects will be ranked.

Those visiting the site can also find a sample project submission.

"You want to promote projects that are comprehensive in nature," Wilson said.

High points, in particular, will be given to projects that leverage other funds.

"This is a good opportunity to multiply what money Gulf County gets," Wilson said.

<http://www.star1.com/article/20151015/NEWS/15101980416303/NEWS?Start=2>

10/21/2015

RESTORE project submittal period opens Monday - News - The Star - Port St. Joe - Port St. Joe, FL

And, it was emphasized, this process is only about the county's direct allocation.

Beyond the Gulf Coast Consortium, there is also \$2 billion earmarked to Triumph Gulf Coast for economic development.

"There are a lot of pots," said Dr. Pat Hardman of the RESTORE Act committee. "This is just the pot for Gulf County. There are other pots that are available to go after."

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10/21/2015

RESTORE project submittal period opens Monday - News - The Star, P



Port St. Joe



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RESTORE project submittal period opens Monday

The period to submit projects for the first year of the county's multi-year plan to spend RESTORE Act fine dollars begins Monday.



Page 3 of 3 - The RESTORE Act committee will hold a workshop at 4 p.m. ET Nov. 4 at the Emergency Operations Center to provide the public additional education and assistance on submitting a project.



Commissioners address accessory structures, RESTORE projects

During Tuesday's regular bi-monthly meeting of the Port St. Joe City Commissioners, held at the old Ward Ridge City Hall on Garrison Ave. the council discussed an ordinance that would forbid accessory structures from being in a resident's front yard within the city limits.



By Was Locher

Posted Nov. 5, 2015 at 7:59 AM
Updated Nov 5, 2015 at 8:02 AM

During Tuesday's regular bi-monthly meeting of the Port St. Joe City Commissioners, held at the old Ward Ridge City Hall on Garrison Ave. the council discussed an ordinance that would forbid accessory structures from being in a resident's front yard within the city limits.

The updated ordinance, which came from the city's Planning, Development and Review Board (PDRB) addressed accessory structures such as detached garages, carports, storage sheds, pole barns and hay sheds, but added above-ground swimming pools to the list, limiting the structures to side yards, and only if covered by a privacy fence.

Commissioner William Thursbay said one member of the PDRB took it upon themselves to add the above-ground pools to the list, citing a personal problem within their neighborhood.

"It should not have been on here," Thursbay said. "What we're doing is letting the PDRB board dictate the laws of our city."

Thursbay said the recommendation should come from the board, but not in the form of an ordinance ready for reading.

City attorney Tom Gibson told commissioners that the role of the PDRB is to discuss anything pertaining to the city's Land Development Regulations and to make recommendations if desired.

Thursbay said he hadn't received any complaints regarding structures in front yards.

"When we start micro-managing what people can do on their own personal property, we have a problem," Thursbay said.

He added that the pool in question was only up for three months before being taken down.

Gibson told commissioners they could take out the need for privacy fencing as long as the structures meet the city's setback requirements.

Commissioner Rex Buzzett made a motion to bring the ordinance to vote, allowing for no structures or above-ground pools to be placed in front yards, but removing the privacy fence provision.

The vote passed 3-2 with Thursbay and Mayor Bo Patterson dissenting.

<http://www.star1.com/article/20151105/NEWS/151109677>

"That will never happen again," Gibson told the council. "There will not be an issue that comes from the PDRB in the form of an ordinance."

RESTORE applications

City manager Jim Anderson told commissioners that while original applications for the RESTORE Act were submitted in 2013, projects also needed to be submitted through a new digital platform, with a looming deadline of Nov. 30.

The RESTORE Act was created in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 aiming to fund improvement projects along the Gulf Coast with significant environmental and economic impact.

"If we can show they have both, we have a higher chance of success," Anderson said.

After discussion commissioners settled on filing applications for funds that would allow the city to complete work on building improvements for the Centennial Building and Washington Improvement Group center, a wastewater lagoon study, replacing sewer and stormwater systems in downtown Port St. Joe, repairs to sewer lines in North Port St. Joe and replacing the Cape San Blas Sewer system.

[» Comment or view comments](#)

Prev **1** 2 3 Next



Commissioners address accessory structures, RESTORE projects

During Tuesday's regular bi-monthly meeting of the Port St. Joe City Commissioners, held at the old Ward Ridge City Hall on Garrison Ave. the council discussed an ordinance that would forbid accessory structures from being in a resident's front yard within the city limits.



COMMENT

Recommend 1

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Page 2 of 3 - Commissioner David Ashbrook also suggested applying for funds that would allow the city to finish the Beacon Hill sewer system project.

"If we could get it paid for we'd expand our customer base," Ashbrook said.

Currently, 310 homes are hooked up to the dry-lined system.

Anderson said that after submissions closed the applications would be reviewed and the city would receive word on which projects, if any, made the first cut.

Frank Pate Park electronic sign

In October the Gulf County Tourist Development Council approached the city wanting to purchase a digital sign for approximately \$20,000 that would sit roadside in Port St. Joe's Frank Pate Park.

The sign would announce local events to residents and visitors as well as the TDC's various paid partner programs. According to an email from TDC employees the new sign would need to be in compliance with Florida statutes and thus no religious events, political campaigning or charitable events could be advertised on the marquee.

Patterson said he didn't agree with not posting certain local events, such as fish fries, car washes and spaghetti dinners that benefit local organizations and suggested the city purchase its own sign.

"I don't like it at all," Patterson said. "I can't vote for it."

Ashbrook also disagreed with the purchase saying he was upset that local bed tax collectors would be advertised but not local support issues.

Buzzett suggested allowing the TDC to purchase the sign and then working with executive director Jennifer Jenkins on what information could be shown.

While the existing sign is owned by the city, the information needs to be changed manually, which has been under TDC care.

Thursbay suggested taking back control of the city's current sign, though no vote was held.

Stop work order

<http://www.starfl.com/article/20151105NEWS/151109677/0/SEARCH/?Start=2>

After Action Report

Phase IV: Project Rankings

December 6, 2015 – March 22, 2016

At A Glance (Summary)

Outreach Type	Measure	Count
Public Meetings (RAC & BOCC)	# of public meetings	2
Public Workshops (RAC/BOCC)	# of public workshops	0
Stakeholder Meetings	# of stakeholder meetings	0
Public Notices (Newspaper Articles)	# of newspaper articles	2
Restore Alerts (E-mails)	# of emails	1
Restore Website	# of new content	4
Restore Website	# of Visitors	917

Public Meetings (RAC and BOCC): 2

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Published Advertisement/ Announcement	Estimated # of Attendees
March 15, 2016 3:00 p.m. EST	RAC – Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Gulf County Restore Website; Port St. Joe Star	17
March 22, 2016 9:00 a.m. EST	BOCC – Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Gulf County: Florida Government Website Public Notices	22

Newspaper Articles: 2

Date	Subject or Headline	Media Outlet
February 18, 2016	RESTORE Planning Nearing Finish Line	The Star: Port St. Joe Newspaper
March 17, 2016	Committee Gets First Look at RESTORE Projects	The Star: Port St. Joe Newspaper

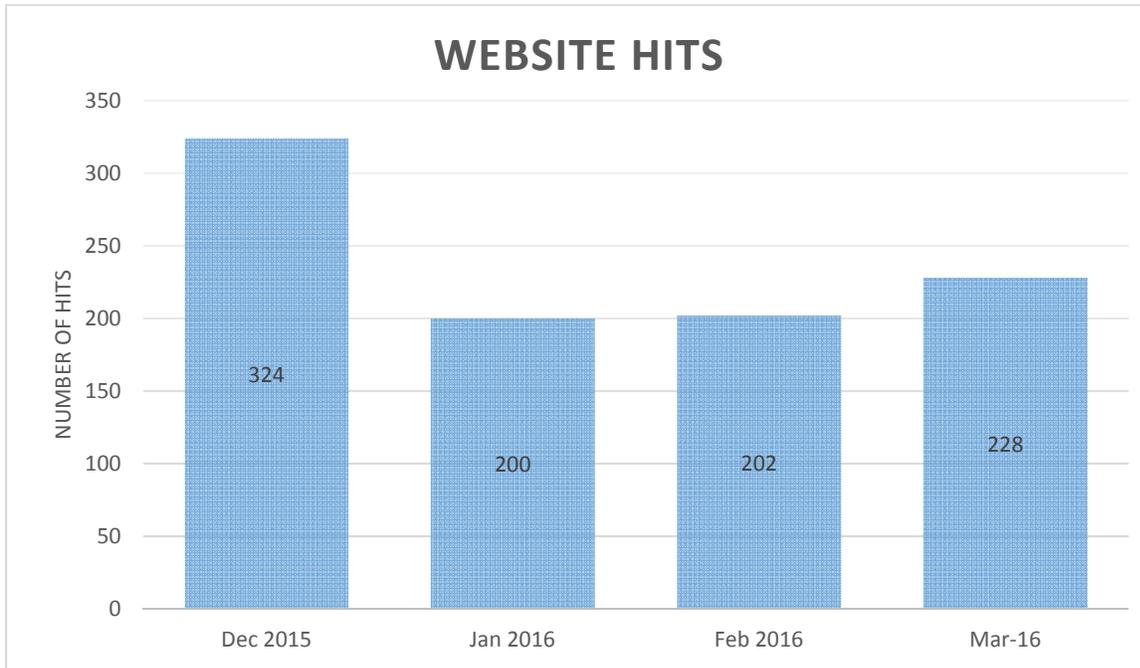
RESTORE Alerts: 1

Date	Subject	Type
March 16, 2016	Gulf County Restore MYIP Update	E-mail Alert from Stella Wilson: Time Stamped Wed. March 16 th , 2016 11:48 p.m. EST

RESTORE Website: 4

Content Added	Date
Notice of Gulf County BOCC Meeting to Discuss RESTORE Act MYIP Priorities – March 22nd	March 16, 2016
March 15 RAC Meeting Packet Final – Project Priorities	March 11, 2016
March 22 BOCC Meeting – 3.22.16 Project Priorities	March 18, 2016
The MYIP Process – Step 4 Ranking Projects “We Are Here”	January 11, 2016

RESTORE Website Hits: 917



Newspaper Articles

By Tim Croft

February 18, 2016 12:01AM

RESTORE plan nearing finish line

If county RESTORE Act consultant Warren Yeager has his way the implementation plan for spending at least \$2.8 million in fine dollars would have a public review next month.

If county RESTORE Act consultant Warren Yeager has his way the implementation plan for spending at least \$2.8 million in fine dollars would have a public review next month.

Of course, as Yeager noted last week, the complexly lengthy process has done anything but run on time.

"I am probably hurrying the timeline," Yeager said during a Port Authority meeting. "Gulf County is ahead of most every other county."

As the Board of County Commissioners last week approved language amendments to its contract with Dewberry, LLC, the contractor crafting the county's implementation plan to spend BP fines monies coming through the RESTORE Act, Yeager said initial scoring of projects submitted late last year is underway.

In total, 32 projects were submitted online during the six-week application window which ended in December, Yeager said.

Those projects run a gamut, from dollars for addressing beach erosion to money to address infrastructure in the city of Port St. Joe to dollars to sustain the Port Authority during its efforts to open up the Port of Port St. Joe.

Yeager said Dewberry has completed some preliminary technical scoring as the ranking of projects takes shape, but added that the work of ranking has been delayed as rules clarifications from the U.S. Treasury are sought.

The Treasury is the final say over approval of all projects.

The language changes approved by county commissioners last week, which centered around breach-of-contract and opt-out-clause provisions, were requested by Treasury.

The county currently has \$2.8 million in fine dollars to distribute in the first year of the implementation plan.

Following the initial year, payments of \$1.1 million to \$1.5 million will come to the county over the next 15 years.

The Board of County Commissioners will have final approval for spending all direct allocation dollars.

The county will also realize nearly \$13 million in fine dollars from the Gulf Coast Consortium.

The Consortium, comprised of representatives of the 23 Florida counties most impacted by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, voted late last year to divide a pot of some \$280 million equally among all counties, Yeager said.

Those numbers, Yeager added, are dependent on a federal judge's approval of a consent decree outlining between the federal government and BP regarding fine parameters.

"Hopefully that will be signed next month," Yeager said.

The goal, Yeager said, is to have the county's implementation plan in front of the county RESTORE Act Committee no later than March.

After input from the committee and public review, the plan would go before the BOCC for approval in April, Yeager said.

None of the dollars to be spent in the first year of the plan are likely to be available before next year, according to a representative from Dewberry.

Yeager said the first formal meeting of the Triumph Gulf Coast board, created by legislation last year and earmarked to receive and distribute nearly \$2 billion in fine monies coming to Florida, should occur this spring.

Triumph Gulf Coast, which is charged with supporting regional economic development projects, is believed by local officials to be the most likely source for whatever funding is needed to open up the Port of Port St. Joe, particularly for dredging.

By Tim Croft

March 17, 2016 12:01AM

Print Page

Committee gets first look at RESTORE projects

The county's RESTORE Act committee got its first look this week at the ranked projects for the multi-year implementation plan being crafted by consultant Dewberry, LLC. The county's RESTORE Act committee got its first look this week at the ranked projects for the multi-year implementation plan being crafted by consultant Dewberry, LLC.

For the most part there was agreement, but several items sparked debate.

First-year priority projects include expansion of sewer from the city of Port St. Joe to Cape San Blas and extension of sewer in Wewahitchka.

Beach restoration on St. Joseph Peninsula made the list as did funding for the first phase of a county-wide stormwater plan and engineering for extension of the Loggerhead Bike Path on the peninsula to the state park.

The most contentious was dollars set aside for county parks and recreation and land acquisition, which were combined on the tentative plan.

In breakdown, that represents \$340,000 to the Gulf County Tourist Development Council for parks and recreation.

The other \$500,000 is for land acquisition, whether for economic development via the county Economic Development Council, or to improve public beach access to leverage more state funds for beach restoration.

But committee members argued that the TDC collected bed taxes for parks and recreation and the money was better used for land acquisition.

The committee settled on separating the projects with \$240,000 for parks and \$600,000 for land acquisition.

"We are trying to find strategic places for the benefit of the people of Gulf County," said county RESTORE Act consultant Warren Yeager. "Whether for beach access or the EDC.

"But we don't want to put too much in there because it also depends on a willing seller and a price that you can afford."

The priority projects would spend, in total, just under the \$2.8 million during the first year.

"We didn't put any projects in that would not be completed in year one," Yeager said. "Every project in year one, under RESTORE, that is a priority.

"So I think, I hope, we will have an easier time getting this year one through Treasury."

The tentative plan will be put before the Board of County Commissioners for approval Tuesday.

Their approval of the project priorities will begin Dewberry's finalizing of a draft MYIP which will be open for public comment for 45 days, April 11 through May 27.

Folding in public comments, the final plan will be before the RAC committee in May and the BOCC in June.

The goal is to submit the MYIP to the U.S. Treasury by the end of June.

That will not end the process for the first-year projects, as individual grant applications must be submitted, hopefully the first of 2017, with funding, optimistically, by April 2017.

"Let's just say 2017," said Mike Hansen with Dewberry.

The multi-year implementation plan, or MYIP, provides a blueprint on how the county will spend its first-year allocation of fines stemming from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010.

The plan aims to spend the \$2.8 million already in the bank from fines levied against Transocean, operator of the Deepwater Horizon.

Another contractor will pay the county \$400,000 in a lump sum, as opposed to the 15-year payout for BP fine monies.

Those dollars will all but pay for Dewberry's contract.

In all, during the advertising period, 32 projects were submitted and after undergoing technical scoring by Dewberry, scoring based on criteria established by the RAC committee and feedback from county staff the projects were ranked.

Some projects were deemed disqualified under the rules established by the U.S. Treasury or the language of the RESTORE Act which establishes that projects must fit within environmental health and economic development.

"Treasury will be going through these with a fine-toothed comb," Hansen said. "A learning process will be undertaken in year one."

Other projects Dewberry were deemed in need of further evaluation and others listed as projects to consider in years 2-5 or 6-10.

Notable to committee members, some of whom with vested interest in the projects, was an effort to establish a public pool at the St. Joseph Bay Golf Club was deemed ineligible and funding for the Port of Port St. Joe was pushed to at least year two.

"Such a large and complex project we thought is best to stay out of year one," said Stella Watson with Dewberry.

Yeager, said committee members, the public and the Board of County Commissioners which will ultimately approve the MYIP should concentrate on year one.

Rule-making by Treasury is ongoing in what he described as an "arduous" process.

"After we get through year one we will have a better idea of what can be funded and how this will work," Yeager said. "We went through a process that was unbelievable."

The MYIP also deals solely with the county's direct allocation under RESTORE, which for the next 15 years will range from \$1 million to \$1.5 million per year.

The county should also see some \$14 million or so out of the dollars being divided by the Gulf Coast Consortium of 23 Gulf Coast counties in Florida.

Yeager indicated the Consortium is well behind in crafting its plan for Treasury.

APPENDIX G. RESTORE Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - March 15, 2016

Gulf County RESTORE Advisory Committee (RAC)
Meeting Minutes
Gulf County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Port St. Joe, Florida
March 15, 2016, 3:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Warren Yeager – Gulf County RESTORE Coordinator
Chris Holley – Gulf County Economic Development Council, Director
Donald Butler – Gulf County Administrator
Tim Croff – The Star (Port St. Joe Newspaper)
Lynn Lanier – Gulf County Deputy Administrator
*Pat Hardman – Coastal Community Association (CCA), President
Jim White – Friends of St. Joseph Peninsula State Park
Bill McGee – Friends of St. Joseph Peninsula State Park
Steve Whealton – Friends of St. Joseph Peninsula State Park
Mike Lister - Citizen
Loretta Costin – Gulf Coast State College
Christie McCleroy – Gulf County Economic Development Council (EDC) member
Sherry Herring - Gulf County Clerk of the Court Office
*Johanna White – Career Sources Gulf Coast
*Guerry Magidson – Gulf County Chamber of Commerce
Stella Wilson – Dewberry
Mike Hanson - Dewberry
Rick Harter – Ecology & Environment, Inc.
Jade Marks – Ecology & Environment, Inc.
* Denotes official RAC Member

Minutes:

- W. Yeager opened the meeting at 3:01 p.m. by announcing another settlement in the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill that would result in an additional \$450,000 for Gulf County in a one-time deposit to their Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP) RESTORE account. Anadarko was recently identified as a responsible party in the oil spill, and from the Anadarko settlement, extra funds would become available for the first year projects. Yeager also thanked attendees for their continued involvement with the MYIP process over the many months of workshops and meetings.
- W. Yeager then turned the floor to S. Wilson of Dewberry Engineers, Inc.
- Dewberry provided a PowerPoint presentation (see www.gulfcountyrestore.com website) covering the following items:
 - Review of the MYIP Projects scoring criteria;
 - Summary of the MYIP Project Application Portal metrics;

- A list of the projects submitted to the County’s project portal, raw technical scores, and final rankings; and
 - Breakdown of proposed Year 1 Priority Projects, Years 2-5 Recommended Projects, and projects for future consideration (Years 6-10).
- S. Wilson highlighted the fact that all 32 applications received in the County’s Project portal by the closure date (November 30, 2015) were complete and able to be considered for further review and eligibility for potential funding.
- S. Wilson briefly reviewed the eligible activities, as established by treasury, and explained that most projects submitted for Gulf County fell into the “tourism” and “infrastructure” categories. She went on to review the scoring criteria and the process by which projects were evaluated by a technical team of subject matter experts.
- M. Hanson of Dewberry elaborated on this topic, reminding attendees that the Dewberry team applied scoring criteria that had been approved by the RAC as a “first cut.” In some cases, the Dewberry team tried to assess if a project could be phased in order to fit it into the first year project list.
- The submitted projects would result in a combined leveraging ratio of 3:1. M. Hanson explained that most counties have achieved a ratio of 1.5:1 or 2:1.
- After the raw scores were compiled, the project list was turned over to County staff who further evaluated each project on its timing, eligibility, project complexity, and how the timeline for required permitting tied into the overall timing of project completion.
- M. Hanson explained that it was wise not to pursue exceedingly complex projects in year one, before the County had fully flushed out the project implementation process.
- Additionally, Hanson explained that there were several ineligible projects, which would be difficult to get through the system. These included projects that funded positions or provided deferred maintenance. Several projects were also placed on a list for further consideration, meaning that they involved an overly-complex funding schedule or included some elements that were ineligible. These projects may still be considered as the process evolves, if it is possible to make the project fully eligible.
- The breakdown of projects assigned to Year 1, Years 2-5, and Years 6-10 were then presented. Year 1 projects are high priority, Year 2-5 projects are prioritized, but yet to be decided upon, and Year 6-10 projects are lower-priority projects that may still be funded. The majority of projects selected for Year 1 funding fell under the categories of Environmental and Public Health and Tourism and Economic Development.
- Some projects were combined if they had similar goals, implementation, or proximity.
- Additionally, the Anadarko settlement of \$450,000 will nearly cover the cost of the MYIP Planning Grant, leaving the majority of Year 1 Transocean funding for projects.
- Following this introductory information, discussion ensued concerning individual projects.
- P. Hardman inquired about the large amount of money being allocated for Parks and Recreation land acquisitions. She pointed out that 50% of the total first-year budget would be going to land acquisition under the presented budget. She also suggested that acquired lands come with acquired costs for maintenance, and that the RAC should consider the impact of multiple land acquisitions on future budgets.

- W. Yeager responded to Hardman’s comment by explaining that the ample budget would allow the County to act on an acquisition when a willing seller and property at appraisal price became available, rather than having to go through an additional 45-day public comment period. The larger budget also allowed the County to pursue purchases across different river systems as well as projects on the bay.
- P. Hardman reminded Yeager of previous missed opportunities for land acquisition, and voiced her approval of setting aside funds for strategic purchases. However, she also pointed out that the land acquisition project on the list for Years 2-5 specifically called out Howard Creek as the target property. No sites were specifically mentioned in the Year 1 project.
- J. White inquired if this meant there was a willing seller and right price?
- P. Hardman expressed that she would rather see a landing on the creek, rather than purchasing the entire property. The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) is interested in this property because it hosts extensive wetlands. Harman suggested it may be in the County’s best interest to not pursue the purchase, let the NFWFMD purchase the property, and maintain an access point to avoid the associated maintenance costs.
- W. Yeager pointed out that many other projects will come with associated maintenance costs, including the widely agreed upon sewer upgrades for Port St. Joe and Wewahitchka. He also explained that the original request for land acquisition was \$540,000.
- C. McElroy pointed out that the RAC had encouraged “shovel ready” projects, but if the land for acquisition has not already been identified, it is technically not shovel ready. McElroy asked if the land acquisition could be for the EDC projects. She was also concerned that the Port project was not on the Year 1 list, despite the fact that it was more “shovel ready” and that tourism had been identified as a County priority.
- W. Yeager brought up the fact that \$753,000 had been released from the Department of Transportation (DOT) for Port development, thus the priorities shifted to projects that did not have an immediate funding source.
- S. Wilson also commented that part of the Port application involved funding a position, which is an ineligible activity.
- C. McElroy explained that DOT money could be used for monitoring and preparation, but additional financial backing would be necessary for dredging.
- A discussion ensued on the Port project, including its complexity, the need for finite projects in the MYIP rather than nebulous goals (like land acquisition), and the role of DOT funds.
- A compromise was reached when the RAC decided to expand land acquisition not just for Parks and Recreation, but for economic development as well, allowing for strategic purchases that would attract businesses.
- W. Yeager did point out that sites for economic development would need to be evaluated, which could lengthen the acquisition process.
- P. Hardman pointed out that \$300,000 won’t go very far, given the cost of coastal properties.
- W. Yeager suggested that it is prudent to limit the funds going to land acquisition, in case the County can’t identify a property and a willing seller.
- P. Hardman did not anticipate this being a problem.

- C. McElroy inquired whether Parks and Recreation could offset some of their costs by charging a small access fee at boat ramps and landings.
- W. Yeager said that he didn't see the County charging for boat ramps, but it wouldn't be too late to use P. Hardman's suggestion and allot more money to land acquisition for both parks and economic development, while reducing the amount of funding allotted to Parks and Recreation for improving dune walk-overs and other park structures.
- Once this issue was resolved, Jim White, who was involved with the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park Bike Path Extension project, said that he had been contacted by someone at Dewberry asking about their funding requests for additional years. He said that the application only focused on the engineering phase, but more funding would be necessary for the completion of the project.
- W. Yeager told Mr. White that there will be opportunities for amendments to the MYIP.
- M. Hanson reminded attendees that although amendments are possible, anything that didn't go through the public vetting process of the MYIP development would need to go through a 45-day public notice process. He also reminded attendees that there are many decisions yet to be made about funding, particularly in future years.
- B. McGee asked if the 45-day public notice period was necessary for projects on state lands.
- M. Hanson confirmed that every project has to go through the vetting process.
- S. Wilson reminded attendees that during the first year of the MYIP, the County will be able to "nail down the nuances of the process." She suggested that it will be easier to get direct answers from the U.S. Treasury once they get something on paper.
- M. Hanson expanded on that idea by pointing out that the Treasury is an auditing entity. They are attempting to prevent things that they have seen go wrong under different circumstances in the past. He used bonding as an example.
- P. Hardman returned the conversation to the Howard Creek Landing project, reiterating that it might be wiser to pursue "a landing on the river" rather than a large, more expensive land acquisition.
- The suggestion was made to change the wording in the project title to "a landing on the Apalachicola/Chipola River System."
- Johanna White asked about the Gulf County Wayfinding project (currently listed for Years 2-5), and what that project would entail.
- W. Yeager explained that the Wayfinding project involved signage for the County's roads and highways.
- Several attendees did not think the Wayfinding was an efficient use of the County's RESTORE funds.
- W. Yeager reassured the attendees that it is an eligible project, but suggested it could be moved to the Years 6-10 list instead.
- C. McElroy pointed out that the Wayfinding project has a lower score than other projects on the Years 2-5 list, such as the two artificial reef construction projects on the Years 6 -10 list.
- W. Yeager pointed out that those reef construction projects were practically in Bay County, but were receiving no support from Bay County, despite the fact that they would benefit from the

project. Yeager also reminded attendees that the main goal of the meeting was to agree on Year 1 Priority Projects, which they had accomplished. He stressed the fact that putting local government projects in the Year 1 list would likely expedite the treasury approval process.

- M. Hanson and S. Wilson announced that the Dewberry team would move forward with making the changes suggested by the RAC and draft a package to send to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for approval. Once the BOCC approves the project list, the Dewberry team will begin drafting the MYIP document.
- The tentative timeframe for the MYIP process is as follows:
 - March 22, 2016 – BOCC will be presented with the list of priority project for approval.
 - April 11, 2016 – Pending BOCC approval, the MYIP document will be drafted, and the public comment period will begin on April 11th. Comments can be made in-person during public meetings or in writing. Treasury requires a transcript of every public comment.
 - May 27, 2016 – Public comment period closes.
 - June 14, 2016 – The BOCC will be presented with the MYIP for approval.
 - Pending BOCC approval, the estimated timeframe for treasury review and approval of the MYIP is three months.
 - Following Treasury approval, the County must prepare project-specific grant applications.
 - Dewberry estimates that funds will actually become available in April of 2017 for project implementation.
- B. McGee inquired about the process for changing the Bike Path project application to reflect the need for multiple years of funding.
- W. Yeager explained that the County would be accepting applications in the future, and would be reconsidering further projects throughout the process. He also stated that, although it is unclear if the format for the application will change, the scoring criteria and eligible activities would not change.
- M. Hanson reminded attendees that Treasury is interpreting the RESTORE legislation, and the first year will resolve many unanswered questions related to the process.
- W. Yeager thanked attendees again for their involvement and commitment to the MYIP process.
- P. Hardman asked if the RAC would be able to see the amended project list before it was presented to the BOCC.
- M. Hanson assured RAC members that they would be able to view the amended list before the BOCC meeting, and inquired what the RAC would like to see in the package that would be presented to the board.
- W. Yeager suggested that the presentation Dewberry had just given would be appropriate, and that it was unnecessary to provide further detail on the various projects as that information was publically available on the Gulf County RESTORE website (www.gulfcountyrestore.com) in the All-Projects-w-Attachments document (<http://www.gulfcountyrestore.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/All-Projects-w-Attachments.pdf>).
- M. Hanson confirmed that Dewberry would tweak and finalize the list of recommended MYIP projects and their presentation based on the RAC's recommendation.

RAC Meeting Minutes
EOC, Port St. Joe, Florida
Mach 15, 2016, 3:00 p.m.

- W. Yeager announced that he would hand-deliver the project list to the BOCC prior to the March 22, 2016 meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

APPENDIX H. Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes - March 22, 2016

MARCH 22, 2016

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

REGULAR MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in regular session with the following members present: Chairman Ward McDaniel, Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, and Commissioners Joanna Bryan, Sandy Quinn, Jr., and Jerry W. Barnes.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Director of Finance & Management Rhonda Woodward, Clerk Budget & Finance Officer Sherry Herring, Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Kari Summers, Building Official George Knight, Central Services Director Lynn Lanier, Gulf County E.D.C. Director Chris Holley, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, E9-1-1 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, County Planner Brett Lowry, Public Works & Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Assistant Public Works Director Lee Collinsworth, Gulf County RESTORE Act Coordinator Warren Yeager, Jr., Sheriff Mike Harrison, T.D.C. Executive Director Jennifer Jenkins, T.D.C. Deputy Director Towan Kopinsky, and Veterans' Service Officer & S.H.I.P. Administrator Joe Paul.

Sheriff Harrison called the meeting at 9:00 a.m., E.T.

Chairman McDaniel opened the meeting with prayer, and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman McDaniel called for public comment regarding the Consent Agenda. There was no public comment. Commissioner Bryan discussed Page 18 (Item #1 * March 10, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes) of the Consent Agenda. After discussion, Commissioner Barnes motioned to accept the Consent Agenda with the pulling of Page 18. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for the public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously, as follows:

1. Minutes – February 29, 2016 – Regular Meeting
– March 10, 2016 – Special Meeting (***Page 18 pulled for further discussion during Board Business**)
2. Approval of Checks and Warrants for February, 2016 which are incorporated herein by reference, pursuant to Chapter 136.06 F.S.
3. Agreement – Career Source Gulf Coast (CEO/Interlocal Agreement)
– MRD Associates, Inc. (Sea Turtle & Escarpment Monitoring 2016-8.1 *
May 1, 2016 thru October 31, 2016 * \$41,600.00)

– MRD Associates, Inc. (Post-Construction Shorebird Monitoring Services
2016-8.2 * February, 2016 thru February, 2017 * \$5,800.00)

4. Appointment – Economic Development Coalition (James “Bo” Patterson *
Replacing Phil McCroan)
5. Bid – #1516-09A * Sale of a 2000 Gold Chevrolet K1500 from T.D.C. * Asset
#230-39 * VIN #2GCEK19T9Y1212205 (Thomas M. Bush Withdrew
Bid * Request to Dispose this Vehicle)
6. Easement – James & Mary Ann Turner (Fence Encroaching on Right-of-way of
Duval Street, Oak Grove)
7. Grant – Small County (Chairman to Sign the Grant Application)
8. Inventory – Gulf Co Health Dept. (Asset Transfer to Gulf Co BOCC * #130-536 *
2007 White Chevrolet Impala * VIN #2G1WB58K379400473 *
#130-488 * 2006 White Dodge Caravan * VIN #
1D4GP24E46B698432)
9. Plan - Career Source Gulf Coast (Region IV Gulf Coast Workforce Board Local
Workforce Services Plan 2016-2020)

(End)

GRANT APPLICATIONS – FL DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Upon recommendation by Chief Administrator Butler, Commissioner McLemore motioned to accept his recommendation to apply to Florida D.O.T. for the following: (A) Small County Outreach Program (S.C.O.P.) Grant: 1. Lake Grove Road Bridge Repairs, 2. Remainder of Iola Road; (B) Small County Rural Assistance Program (S.C.R.A.P.) Grant: 1. Doc Whitfield Road, 2. Canal Street; (C) County Incentive Grant Program (C.I.G.P.) Grant: 1. (County) Road 20; (D) Transportation Regional Incentive Program (T.R.I.P.) Grant: 1. 13 Mile Road, 2. Stumphole Revetment; and (E) Transportation Alternatives Program (T.A.P.) Grant: 1. Americus Ditch Outfall Improvements. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for the public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

MEMORY GARDEN – BEACON HILL VETERANS’ MEMORIAL PARK

Chief Administrator Butler recommended the Board agree to the coordinates submitted <copy provided to the Clerk for the record> and enter them into the record for the memory garden at Beacon Hill Veterans’ Memorial Park. Commissioner Bryan motioned to enter these four (4) corners into the record but wait until the N.R.D.A. (Natural Resource Damage Assessment) improvements are completed to come back and finalize. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan stated that her motion is that the Board memorialize the location of those (four) flags that have been monitored out and bring it back before the Board when the N.R.D.A. (Natural Resource Damage Assessment) improvements are completed for

finalization, working with the Veterans' through the entire process. After further discussion by members of the Board, Chairman McDaniel called for the public comment. There was no public comment. Upon inquiry by Chief Administrator Butler, Commissioner Bryan clarified her motion that the Board memorialize the four (4) corners that were designed (for the memory garden), no work will be done until the N.R.D.A. (Natural Resource Damage Assessment) Project is completed (at Beacon Hill Veterans' Memorial Park), and at that time the Board will review and work with the Veterans' to see if these corners need to be adjusted. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for the public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

MEETING – HEALTH TRUST

County Attorney Novak reported that the Health Trust Board Executive Committee will hold a reorganizational meeting tomorrow morning (March 23, 2016) in the E.O.C. Building at 9:00 a.m., E.T.; stating that after this meeting Staff will provide a report to the Board regarding the pledge to Sacred Heart Hospital.

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING – AMENDING LNT & RV ORDINANCES

County Attorney Novak reported that the second public hearing to consider an amendment to the Leave No Trace (LNT) Ordinance and the Recreational Vehicle (RV) Ordinance will be held tomorrow night (March 23, 2016) in the Board Room at 5:01 p.m., E.T.; stating that the notice has been posted and advertised in the newspaper.

POLICY – RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT

After discussion and recommendation by County Attorney Novak, Commissioner Barnes motioned to adopt the Risk Assessment and Management Policy <copy provided to the Clerk for the record>. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for the public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Bryan voting no.

FISH TOURNAMENT – BEACON HILL VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK

After discussion by County Attorney Novak, Commissioner Bryan motioned to allow the Chairman to sign a Florida Division of Alcoholic, Beverage and Tobacco Application <copy not provided to the Clerk for the record> for a one (1) day permit to enable the Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association to hold a special alcohol sales license at the Kingfish Tournament at Beacon Hill Veterans' Memorial Park in August, 2016. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for the public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

RULING IN JEFFERSON COUNTY – INMATE POPULATION / REDISTRICTING

County Attorney Novak reported that he obtained the decision from the U.S. District Court regarding the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners and School Board; stating Judge Walker found and cited several Counties throughout Florida for prison gerry mandering. He reported that the Order on the Summary Judgment Motion found that State inmates in Jefferson County are not to be counted as part of the redistricting process. County Attorney Novak stated Gulf County did not include their inmates, as well as eight (8) other small rural Counties in Florida. He reported that the Order of the Court to Jefferson County

was to redistrict immediately. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan requested that County Attorney Novak email her a copy of the ruling.

ROAD CLOSURE – COUNTY ROAD 30

Public Works Director Cothran appeared before the Board to report that the road closure on CR-30 will be next week; stating that contractors will be working on the road Monday through Friday from the (Indian Pass) Raw Bar to the Franklin County line. He stated that road signs are posted.

WAIVER REQUEST – HONEYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

E.M.S. Director Whitfield appeared before the Board to report that Bay Medical Center is requesting that Gulf County host a two (2) day P.H.T.L.S. (Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support) Class; requesting approval to hold this class at the Honeyville Community Center on June 8th and 9th and waive the rental fee for the use of the facility. He stated that there will be no cost to the County. Commissioner McLemore motioned to waive the rental fees for the use of the Honeyville Community Center for this event. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for the public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

POLICY – RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT

Clerk Director of Finance & Management Woodward thanked the Board for passing the Risk Assessment and Management Policy.

PAGE 18 – MARCH 10, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Bryan discussed the minutes on page 18 (pulled from the Consent Agenda) regarding the Solid Waste/Waste Pro discussion; stating that the minutes reflect the Chairman called for public comment and she doesn't recall there being any public comment called for. She requested this section be verified so the minutes are correct. Commissioner Bryan discussed the second issue in the minutes (on page 18); noting that it was not mentioned that the Chairman had the Sheriff remove the Commander of the VFW from the meeting, Mr. Dan McDonough; stating that the minutes need to reflect that. After discussion by Commissioner Bryan, Commissioner McLemore discussed his concerns regarding the meeting; stating that the Chairman has a duty to keep the meeting in order. Chairman McDaniel stated for the record that Gulf County goes by the honor system; reporting that the public didn't have to walk through a metal detector before entering the Board Room this morning. He stated that he has a responsibility to run these meetings and that there is a Speaking Policy in place. After discussion by Chairman McDaniel, Commissioner Bryan discussed her concerns regarding this issue. Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order. Commissioner McLemore motioned to move on. The Chair then called for a brief recess.

The meeting recessed at 9:50 a.m., E.T.

The meeting reconvened at 9:59 a.m., E.T.

County Attorney Novak reported that during the recess the Chairman requested that he recite to the Board and public to the Gulf County Board Rules of Procedure and Policy. He read sections of this policy for the Board and Public. After discussion by Chairman McDaniel, Commissioner Bryan discussed her concerns regarding the section of the minutes that state the Chair called for public comment; stating that she doesn't think the Chairman called for public comment and the minutes needs to be corrected. She also discussed the need to add that Mr. McDonough was removed by the Chairman's order to the Sheriff. Commissioner Bryan motioned to correct the minutes as the meeting took place. Upon inquiry by Chairman McDaniel, Deputy Clerk Roberts reported that she would review the tape to verify whether the Chairman did call for public comment at the end of the discussion of the title "Garbage – Solid Waste / Waste Pro". After discussion, Clerk Director of Finance & Management Woodward inquired if Commissioner Bryan's motion could be altered to give the Clerk's Office an opportunity to review the meeting tape and revise the topic regarding public comment and then approve the removal of Mr. McDonough. Commissioner Bryan revised her motion accordingly. Sheriff Harrison appeared before the Board to state that he wants the record to be correct; reporting that the Chair did give the order to remove him, he (Sheriff Harrison) stood up and at that time the gentleman removed himself. Commissioner Bryan agreed that is a correct reflection. Upon inquiry by Clerk Director of Finance & Management Woodward, Chairman McDaniel stated that the Clerk's Office go back and look at the tape and research if they need to be edited (regarding the calling of public comment). Commissioner Quinn inquired how it can be included in the minutes when they were never recognized. County Attorney Novak recommended to the Board to allow the Clerk's Office go back to watch and listen to the tape, as done in the past, place (his name) in parenthesis, and present the revised meeting minutes of page 18 to the Board for consideration. Chairman McDaniel called for a second. The motion died for a lack of a second. Commissioner McLemore motioned for page 18 to go back into the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for the public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Bryan voting no.

FISH FRY – AMERICAN LEGION

Commissioner Bryan reported that the American Legion is holding their annual fish fry this Friday at the Beacon Hill Veterans' Memorial Park beginning at 11:00 a.m. She encouraged the public to come out and support the American Legion.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – ALABAMA AVENUE

Commissioner Bryan discussed a burnt trailer on Alabama (Avenue); stating the County needs to move forward. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Bryan, County Attorney Novak stated that other than the nine (9) contacts and dialog, he has no further updates at this time. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan motioned for County Staff to tear down the trailer to make it safe and no longer a nuisance. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. After discussion, Public Works Director Cothran discussed the work regarding the landfill (Five Points) closure. After further discussion, Commissioner McLemore discussed Public Works tearing down the structure, piling it up and then come back at a later time to haul the debris off. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL MEETING – MARCH 10TH

Commissioner Bryan discussed her concerns regarding the special meeting held on March 10th; stating the meeting was an ambush on her regarding the Waste Pro contract and men's night, also known as, Norton night. She stated that after her review of previous meetings, she wished to address two (2) areas of concern: 1. Analysis and Reports; stating these are typically in writing with a basis for the position taken. She reported she has asked for reports in writing but still nothing in writing, and 2. Illegalities; stating she has been accused of attacking County Attorney Novak and his family; for which she stated she has done neither. Commissioner Bryan noted that illegalities means a criminal act and asked what criminal act she was being accused of. Commissioner McLemore motioned to move forward with the next issue. Upon inquiry by Chairman McDaniel, Commissioner McLemore stated he was calling for a point. With that, Chairman McDaniel advised that all discussion must stop for a point of order; asking Commissioner McLemore to state his point. Commissioner McLemore stated that this is beating a dead horse down further; the name calling, the attacks; noting there is no need to hear it further. He stated we need to move on and take of business. Upon inquiry by Chairman McDaniel, Commissioner McLemore clarified his motion is to kill this debate and move on to the next issue. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion by members of the Board, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Bryan noting no.

CLEAN-UP – AUBURN STUDENTS

Commissioner Quinn reported that every spring break summer students from Auburn (University) come to Port St. Joe; thanking them for the work that they do. He also thanked County Staff for the use of equipment and City Staff and Officials.

LETTER OF SUPPORT – NPSJ PROJECT

Commissioner Quinn discussed a letter of support that he submitted regarding the North Port St. Joe Project Area Committee; providing a copy to the Board for review <copy provided to the Clerk for the record>.

GRANT – HONEYVILLE PARK

Commissioner McLemore voiced his concerns regarding the grant for Honeyville Park; reporting that the grant was written to build a new ball field. He stated there is no additional room to build another ball field at Honeyville Park. Commissioner McLemore inquired whether Staff could contact D.E.P. to modify this grant. Chief Administrator Butler stated the County can request a modification to this grant. Commissioner McLemore motioned to reach back out to D.E.P. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

RE-ELECTION – COMMISSIONER MCLEMORE

Commissioner McLemore reported that he will not seek re-election.

CAMPGROUND – DEAD LAKES PARK

Chairman McDaniel reported that campers are being turned away at Dead Lakes Park due to the lack of space. He stated the County is looking at opening nine (9) more camp sites at this park to accommodate campers.

PUBLIC HEARING – FIVE YEAR CIS ORDINANCE

Chairman McDaniel recognized the public hearing to consider the proposed five year capital improvement schedule ordinance

MEETING – U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN GRAHAM

Chairman McDaniel acknowledged that Representative Alex Quintana, Aide to Congresswomen Gwen Graham will be at the St. Joe Fire Station today from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; encouraging anyone with concerns to stop by.

PUBLIC HEARING – FIVE YEAR CIS ORDINANCE

Chairman McDaniel called for public comment regarding the proposed five year capital improvement schedule ordinance. There was no public comment. Planner Lowry stated that this is an annual review required by Florida Statute to be updated yearly. He reported that the second public hearing will be held next month and the proposed schedule is available in the Clerk's Office for review.

COUNTY – HELD TAX CERTIFICATES

Upon inquiry by members of the Board, County Attorney Novak stated that his understanding is that the tax certificates are going to expire if the County does not pursue them. After discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned to table this issue until Clerk Norris can address it. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING – REVIEW & CONSIDERATION OF P.D.R.B. RECOMMENDATIONS

VARIANCE REQUEST – TAMELA L. MOORE / HIGHLAND VIEW

Planner Lowry introduced a variance request from Tamela L. Moore (Parcel ID #04361-000R) requesting a 9 ft. variance into the 20 ft. roadside setback located in Highland View. He reported that the P.D.R.B. recommended to the Board by a 4-0 to approve the request. Commissioner McLemore motioned to move forward with this request. Planner Lowry stated that the Board will need to go through the Quasi-Judicial Hearing process. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There was no public comment. Chairman McDaniel inquired if anyone has any objections to waiving the Quasi-Judicial Hearing. There were no objections. Commissioner Bryan motioned to waive the Quasi-Judicial Hearing. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve the P.D.R.B. recommendation. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

QUARTERLY UPDATE – WEWAHITCHKA MEDICAL CENTER

Katrina Saunders, of Wewahitchka Medical Center appeared before the Board to provide their quarterly report. She stated that the Center is accepting new patients and provides a slide-fee program.

PRESENTATION – RESTORE MYIP

Stella Wilson, of Dewberry appeared before the Board to provide an update presentation of the Multi-Year Implantation Plan. She reported that next step will be to draft the MYIP (Multi-Year Implantation Plan) and provide it to the public prior to submitting it to U.S. Treasury. After discussion by Gulf County RESTORE Act Coordinator Yeager, Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve and move forward with the draft MYIP. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. Noel Guardi, of Beacon Hill appeared before the Board to inquire about the property to be acquired. Chairman McDaniel directed the Clerk to stop Mr. Guardi's time. Gulf County RESTORE Act Coordinator Yeager discussed the land acquisition. Mr. Guardi inquired if the land acquisition will be from private land owners and what is in place to insure the price is fair. Gulf County RESTORE Act Coordinator Yeager stated that there will be an appraisal process. Mr. Guardi inquired whether the Board will approve the land acquisitions. Gulf County RESTORE Act Coordinator Yeager stated that the Board would approve the land acquisitions. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

EASTER BUNNY – GULF COUNTY SHERIFF

President of the Coastal Community Association, Pat Hardman appeared before the Board to report there were enough Easter baskets donated; ensuring every child within the County that needs one will receive one. She thanked Sheriff Harrison for participating and being the Easter Bunny this year.

MEETING – REPRESENTATIVE BESHEARS

President of the Coastal Community Association, Pat Hardman appeared before the Board to discuss the meeting in Tallahassee with Representative Halsey Beshears regarding saving the Bay.

SOS SAVE THE CAPE PARTY – HAUGHTY HERON

Coastal Community Association President Pat Hardman reported that there will be a SOS Save the Cape Party tonight (March 22nd) at the Haughty Heron from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and encouraged the Board and the public to attend.

CONTRACT – WASTE PRO

Jill Paton, of Beacon Hill appeared before the Board to discuss her concerns regarding the services of Waste Pro; requesting the Board reconsider taking action regarding the contract with Waste Pro.

MEETING – BOARD SCHEDULE

Jill Paton, of Beacon Hill discussed the meeting schedule; requesting the Board consider meeting twice a month.

LEADERSHIP – GULF COUNTY

Jill Paton, of Beacon Hill expressed her concerns regarding the leadership and vendors in Gulf County.

UPGRADE TURN-AROUND – SELMA STREET

Edgar Tidd, of St. Joe Beach appeared before the Board to discuss his concerns regarding there being no turn-around at the end of the street (Selma); reporting that someone turned around and broke his septic cover and water meter. He requested the County consider an upgrade and create a turn-around at the end of the street (Selma). Chairman McDaniel requested that Public Works Director Cothran review this to see if it is County property. Mr. Tidd reported that the road ends right in front of his property.

FIRE – BEACON HILL

Noel Guardi, of Beacon Hill appeared to discuss his concerns regarding a fire that was in Beacon Hill due to a resident burning trash in a bin.

BEACH RENOURISHMENT – CAPE SAN BLAS

Thomas Bush, of Port St. Joe appeared before the Board to report that he supports Pat Hardman in saving the Cape; stating that the beach needs to be re-nourished.

There being no further business, and motion by Commissioner Barnes, second by Commissioner Quinn, and unanimous vote, the meeting did then adjourn at 11:23 a.m., E.T.

**WARD MCDANIEL
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK OF COURT**

APPENDIX I. RESTORE Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – May 3, 2016

**Gulf County RESTORE Advisory Committee (RAC)
Meeting Minutes
Gulf County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Port St. Joe, Florida
May 3, 2016, 3:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Warren Yeager – Gulf County RESTORE Coordinator
Joanna Bryan – Gulf County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) – District 3
Sherry Herring - Gulf County Clerk of the Court Office
*Guerry Magidson – Gulf County Chamber of Commerce
*Pat Hardman – Coastal Community Association (CCA)
Lynn Lanier – Gulf County Deputy Administrator
*Dewey Blaylock - Gulf County Businessman/Environmental Issue Interest
Gerald Thompson – North Florida Child Development
Wes Locher – The Star (newspaper)
Stella Wilson – Dewberry
Rick Harter – Ecology & Environment, Inc.
* Denotes official RAC Member

Minutes:

- Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Gulf County RESTORE Coordinator W. Yeager.
- S. Wilson gave a brief presentation about the status of the Draft Multi Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) process for Gulf County (the County), and highlighted the following points:
 - Draft MYIP is open for public comments until May 27th.
 - Anticipated funding available right now is as follows:
 - \$2.89M TransOcean; and
 - \$450K Anadarko.
 - The 1st BP payment of approximately \$1M will occur in April 2017.
 - Annual payments will continue for 15 years.
 - Gulf County is now on step 5 of 5 to complete the MYIP.
- S. Wilson then reviewed the required components of the MYIP.
- There have been two proposed changes to the draft MYIP since the RAC last met:
 1. SJP Feeder Beach project was renamed (for ease of understanding) and the amount was changed from \$660K to \$1M; and
 2. The Land Acquisition Project cost was reduced from \$720K to \$380K.
- W. Yeager and P. Hardman explained the rationale for these changes: the budget amounts were changed to take advantage of available cost-share funds from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the beach nourishment project.
- The County is searching for available parcels for public beach access to increase the state cost-share percentage, but none of the available parcels have deeded beach access.

RAC Meeting Minutes
EOC, Port St. Joe, Florida
May 3, 2016, 3 p.m.

- W. Yeager explained the challenging time constraints for the beach nourishment project, including sea turtle nesting season, as well as the 90-day processing period for the U.S. Treasury to approve the MYIP.
- D. Blaylock stated that the bike path project initially came up as a proposed project four years ago and indicated that the State Park is making this their top priority.
- S. Wilson explained the next steps in the process, including the following:
 - Public Comment period ends on May 27th.
 - Public comments will be incorporated in the MYIP, including changes discussed today.
 - BOCC to review/approve final MYIP on June 21st (moved up from June 28th, per L. Lanier).
 - Submit MYIP to the U.S. Treasury on June 22nd (if approved by the BOCC on June 21st).
 - Treasury to review/approve MYIP by around October 1st (up to three months).
 - Draft/submit individual grant applications (up to six months).
 - Projects begin in April 2017.
- W. Yeager suggested that the time during the final approval of the MYIP can be used to secure the stated match funds for the various projects.
- P. Hardman inquired about the relative status of Gulf County in the MYIP process compared to other counties.
- W. Yeager said that Gulf County is ahead of most other counties in Florida.
- W. Yeager asked everyone to submit public comments to him or S. Wilson.
- P. Hardman said that her group (CCA) would likely be submitting positive comments.
- S. Wilson said that Treasury is interested in public comments as a major part of their review.
- W. Yeager expressed his appreciation for everyone's participation in the process and serving on the RAC.
- S. Herring inquired about the timing of the grant agreements and wondered if they could be staggered so that they all didn't start at exactly the same time.
- S. Wilson said that there would probably be enough flexibility, since the grant applicants will define the project schedules. The only time constraint that she knew of was the maximum of 5 years.
- W. Yeager and L. Lanier said that the County has already been audited, so that should not slow things down.
- W. Yeager stated that the County will likely not want to do grant sub-recipients, due to the large workload associated with grant administration and oversight.
- P. Hardman said that the CCA will be having its annual meeting on June 25th at 10 a.m. and would like W. Yeager to provide an update at that event on the MYIP. She expects 100-150 attendees.
- The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

APPENDIX J. Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes - June 21, 2016

APPENDIX K. Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes - September 20th, 2016

APPENDIX L. Public Notices and Comments During 45-Day Public Comment Periods

The Star

135 Highway 98
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
Published Thursday
Port St. Joe, Gulf County, Florida

State of Florida County of Bay

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared Angella Clagg, who on oath says that she is a Legal Advertising Representative of The Star, a newspaper published at Port St. Joe in Gulf County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement, being a Legal Advertisement #49349S in the matter of **PUBLIC NOTICE - Gulf County Board of Commissioners** in the Gulf County Court, was published in said newspaper in the issue of **April 14, 21, 2016**.

Affiant further says that the said The Star is a newspaper published at Port St. Joe, in said Gulf County, Florida, and that the said newspaper, has heretofore been continuously published in said Gulf County, Florida, each Thursday and has been entered as periodicals matter at the post office in Port St. Joe, in said Gulf County, Florida, for a period of one year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement, and affiant further says that (s)he has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in said newspaper.

Angella Clagg

State of Florida

County of Bay

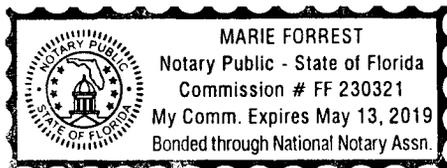
Sworn to and subscribed before me this **21st** day of **April**, A.D., **2016**.

By Angella Clagg, Legal Advertising Representative of The Star, who is personally known to me or has produced N/A as identification.

Marie Forrest

Notary Public, State of Florida at Large

49349S
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of 45-Day Public Comment Period for Gulf County RESTORE Multi-year Implementation Plan (MYIP)
This is a notice that Gulf County has drafted a Multi-year Implementation Plan (MYIP) in accordance with the RESTORE Act to be submitted to the U.S. Treasury. The Plan will be made available to the public on April 11, 2016 for a period of 45 days. The Plan will be available on www.gulfcountrystore.com or to view in person, visit 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd, Room 310, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456. The public comment period will close on May 27, 2016. To submit a comment, email swilson@dewberry.com and [wyager@gulfcounrtyfl.gov](mailto:wyager@gulfcountyfl.gov) or mail your letter to the above address. The MYIP outlines the funding allocation plan for monies coming from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in accordance with eligible activities as set forth in the RESTORE Act. For more information, visit www.gulfcountrystore.com or call (850) 227-2396.
Pub: April 14, 21, 2016



16 APR 25 PM 3:31
FILED FOR RECORD
REBECCA L MORRIS
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA



Florida
Wildlife
Federation



The Nature
Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.



Ocean Conservancy

May 20, 2016

Mr. Warren Yeager, Restore Coordinator
1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd, Room 310,
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
Via: wyeager@gulfcountry-fl.gov

Re: Comments on Gulf County's Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan

Dear Mr. Yeager,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on Gulf County's Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan

Our collective organizations (Audubon Florida, Defenders of Wildlife, Florida Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Federation, Ocean Conservancy, and The Nature Conservancy) represent nearly 100,000 members and supporters along Florida's Gulf Coast, several of whom are Gulf County residents. Working together as a coalition as well as within our individual organizations and chapters, we have been advocating for Gulf restoration that is comprehensive, and targets watersheds for protection of coastal and marine resources. Our collaboration began with the crafting and passage of the RESTORE Act and is now focused on ensuring the best allocation of restoration funds.

In anticipation of the diverse perspectives on how to spend restoration funds, our groups collaborated to develop a framework, including comprehensive restoration principles and outcomes, designed to inform project selection and Multi-Year Implementation Plans (MYIP). We encourage Gulf County to consider these themes throughout the planning and implementation of both current and future restoration activities.

A successful MYIP should have four key project outcomes: environmental impact, fisheries management, wildlife resource enhancement and community resiliency.

The cornerstone of a strong MYIP should be careful consideration of **environmental impact**. We are pleased to see that the Gulf County MYIP has focused on this element. A MYIP should include projects that protect water quality and wildlife habitat, and provide the

public with environmentally sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities. The Plan should promote restoration, health and sustainability of coastal habitats, fisheries, marine resources and vulnerable species. Projects included in the MYIP should work together to maximize environmental benefits. Most importantly, the plan should not include projects that would result in further damage to the Gulf ecosystems. MYIPs should include regional projects that advance priorities toward achieving identified restoration goals that enhance watersheds and estuaries along the Gulf Coast. Examples of projects in the Gulf County Draft MYIP that may address these priorities include the septic to sewer conversion projects and development of a Stormwater Master Plan.

The MYIP should also consider the sustainability and health of its **commercial and recreational fisheries**, building in projects that protect and restore habitats and estuaries, and remove threats to fisheries such as marine debris and invasive species. In addition, the MYIP should prioritize **wildlife resource enhancement** as a means to ensure healthier communities and a thriving nature-based economy. Although the draft Gulf County MYIP does not include any such projects, we hope to see those in future restoration projects.

Another key project outcome is enhanced **community resiliency**. Investments in projects that will enhance resiliency may reduce the impact of hurricanes and other disasters. Restoring and protecting marshes, wetlands, reefs and other coastal habitats also mitigate storm surge, erosion and coastal flooding, further reducing the costs of insurance and disaster relief.

In order to efficiently and effectively achieve these outcomes, we encourage several guiding principles for project selection: science-based metrics and evaluation, phased approach to implementation, clear outcomes, local input/participation, leverage opportunities, and mutual project compatibility. We appreciate that Gulf County MYIP appears to have considered some of these principles.

Employing the guiding principle of **science-based evaluation** is instrumental to proper project selection and plan development. Every project should be evaluated across a broad metrics of science-based criteria. In addition, project implementation should be monitored and subject to an ongoing review process to ensure short and long-term goals are being met, allocated funds are being spent responsibly and projects are performing and managed adaptively.

Furthermore, project descriptions should state clear, measurable and achievable ecological and community **outcomes**. Making these outcomes understood by the public and stakeholder groups, and providing opportunities for meaningful input into project selection and evaluation increases public confidence in the success of these projects and will elicit more public support.

Counties should consider ways to **leverage** resources across RESTORE funding allocations and as a match for other local, state and federal funding sources. We were pleased to see

Gulf County identify matching funds for some of its selected projects (such as St. Joseph Peninsula Feeder Beach Project/Artificial Reef Submerged Breakwaters project, which had a significant match), and encourage Gulf County to similarly leverage and identify matches for the majority of its projects (as most of its projects lack a substantial match).

Gulf County should also seek to achieve **mutual project compatibility** to ensure that discrete projects are not inadvertently working at odds with one another. Accordingly, it would be beneficial for a panel of resource and economic managers to provide oversight and ensure project designs avoid unintended impacts to key resources that are also restoration targets.

The ultimate success of the RESTORE Act rests on selecting and implementing integrated ecological restoration projects, consistent with state-wide plans, and rigorous application of criteria to ensure that only the best and most appropriate projects are funded. We feel these themes have been well considered in projects proposed in the published MYIP and encourage Gulf County to continue to keep these themes in mind in planning and implementing future restoration activities.

We applaud Gulf County for selecting projects and preparing a Draft MYIP. We respectfully urge Gulf County to consider our comments and incorporate them as appropriate into both the current Draft MYIP, as well as in future MYIPs (which may be prepared as additional RESTORE Act funds become available).

Thank you very much for considering our comments.

Sincerely,



Kent L. Wimmer, AICP

On behalf of:

Audubon Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
Florida Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Ocean Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy

Wilson, Estelle

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Karen Spragg <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 7:48 AM
To: Wilson, Estelle
Subject: Please select projects that help wildlife and the ecosystem.

May 25, 2016

E Wilson

Dear Wilson,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Gulf County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

Some of the highest priorities for our community are clean water, abundant fish and wildlife, and improving natural habitats. I urge you use your oil spill restoration dollars to fund projects that will directly and indirectly help the environment, improve quality of life for locals, attract visitors and in turn boost our economy.

I support those projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding that will help improve water quality of our coastal waters, and especially the famed Apalachicola River, such as the Gulf County Stormwater Management Plan, the City of Wewahitchka Sewer Extension, and the Cape San Blas Sewer Extension but ask you to also prioritize projects that directly benefit fish and wildlife, if not now, then as additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen Spragg
1009 Monument Ave
Port St Joe, FL 32456-2121
tkspragg@yahoo.com

Wilson, Estelle

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Lin Brightly <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 11:22 AM
To: Wilson, Estelle
Subject: Please select projects that help wildlife and the ecosystem.

May 25, 2016

E Wilson

Dear Wilson,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Gulf County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Lin Brightly
PO Box 1025
Port St Joe, FL 32457-1025
lin.brightly@gmail.com

Wilson, Estelle

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Ben Spector <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 4:42 AM
To: Wilson, Estelle
Subject: Please select projects that help wildlife and the ecosystem.

May 25, 2016

E Wilson

Dear Wilson,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Gulf County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Ben Spector
6987 FL-71
Wewahitchka, FL 32465
web@nwf.org



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER
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Local Office: 5295 Powrie Dr, Pensacola, FL 32504

850.332.0266
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May 20, 2016

Warren Yeager
1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd, Room 310
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

Re: National Wildlife Federation's Comments on Gulf County's Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP)

Dear Mr. Yeager,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on Gulf County's draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP).

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is the nation's largest conservation organization. We have four million members and supporters nationally, hundreds of whom reside in Gulf County. Working with our state partner Florida Wildlife Federation, we have been on the ground, lobbying for **comprehensive Gulf restoration** in the wake of the 2010 BP oil spill. Our work has been focused on long-lasting efforts, such as **coastal and watershed protection**. The work that began with the passage of the RESTORE Act is now directed towards **supporting ecological restoration**. We have been closely following as Florida's 23 Gulf Coast Counties consider projects to fund with their Direct Component funds available through the RESTORE Act, as they develop Multi-Year Implementation Plans (MYIP).

Working with a coalition of organizations in Florida, NWF and its partners crafted a restoration framework with project outcomes and guiding principles (outlined in a separate comment letter). We encourage Gulf County to keep these themes in mind while planning and implementing restoration activities.

In addition to these themes and principles, NWF has also reviewed Gulf County's MYIP, and wishes to present comments on the two main components of the MYIP: **Process** and **Projects**.

Process:

In 2014, the U.S. Treasury Department issued their "Direct Component Guidance and Application to Receive Federal Financial Assistance". This Guidance provides critical context for ensuring an effective process and describes the following:

As a prerequisite under the RESTORE Act for requesting and receiving Direct Component funding for eligible activities, each applicant must submit a multiyear plan to cover a period of time during which projects could be undertaken with funds available from the Trust Fund...An applicant must use the form shown at Section 4.0 for its multiyear plans... The multiyear plan must include the Multiyear Implementation Matrix, a map showing the locations where the

work will be performed, and the narrative description. An applicant must provide detail on planned activities in the multiyear plan, including the information required in the multiyear plan matrix and narrative in Section 4.0. The multiyear plan must be 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. If the applicant has developed a more detailed multiyear plan document in addition to the forms in Section 4.0, the document should be included as an attachment to the multiyear plan submission to Treasury.

Our analysis indicates that Gulf County has met and in many cases exceeded the requirements outlined in the Treasury Guidance. We applaud Gulf County's MYIP process. Elements such as the Needs Assessment, Scoring Criteria, Project Submission Portal, and use of Local Citizen Committee are all elements that strengthened the process. We also appreciate the inclusion of the minutes from the March 15, 2016 RESTORE Committee meeting in the MYIP, as well as a link to the materials from meetings (<http://www.gulfcountyrestore.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/3.15.16-Meeting-Packet-Final-Project-Priorities.pdf>) in the Draft MYIP, as it provided additional insight into the project ranking and selection process. In addition, although not necessary for compliance with Treasury requirements, the extensive Overview of Gulf County, Response Efforts, and Restoration Efforts to date provide an excellent framing of the past and present status of Gulf County, and could serve as a "stand-alone document" for other Gulf County purposes. Thank you for considering the comments I submitted via email on those sections.

Website:

We are pleased Gulf County established a website with process-related information clearly posted, including overview of process, Advisory Committee members, and agendas and minutes from Committee meetings. Although it may not be necessary for Treasury requirement, I would have liked to see a more prominent link to the projects submitted (and links to completed Project Applications), evaluation forms and score sheets, and project scores and ranking. Although I was able to locate much of this information in the links to presentations, "stand alone" links would have been helpful. It is important to the transparency and integrity of the process to clearly indicate methods used for soliciting and evaluating project proposals, and for the most part Gulf County has done an excellent job at this.

Public Engagement:

The MYIP recognizes that projects must be selected based on "meaningful input from the public, including broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations..." Gulf County appears to have successfully engaged this broad-based participation in the selection of its Advisory Committee with members representing the relevant and appropriate sectors of the community. In addition, Gulf County made their MYIP available for public comment for 45 days and availability of plan was announced in local media.

Best Available Science:

According the Treasure Guidance, projects related to Natural Resources are required to be based on "Best Available Science" (BAS). Although Gulf County unfortunately does not have any Natural Resource restoration projects in its initial MYIP, the MYIP does provide scientific rationale for septic to sewer conversion projects. Additional information on the scientific rationale for the two specific projects selected (Cape Sewer and Wewahitchka Sewer) would have been useful, but may not be required.

Projects:

Florida's Gulf Coast economy and way of life are deeply entwined with the land and the water; this is especially true for Gulf County. The fines and penalties from the Deepwater Horizon disaster have great potential to restore and protect the Gulf of Mexico's lands, waters, wildlife, communities, and economy. However, there is a risk that some of these funds could be spent unwisely—even squandered on projects that would harm the very places the money was intended to benefit. The public can and should insist that all recovery monies are spent in a science-driven, transparent process that ensures a healthy Gulf of Mexico for wildlife as well as for future generations. National Wildlife Federation fully supports projects that **restore Gulf County's natural resources** for the benefit of fish and wildlife (and their habitat), and the people who live, work, and visit Gulf County.

We support several of the projects that Gulf County has selected for its initial MYIP, specifically, the three projects that address water quality:

- Gulf County Stormwater Management Plan - Phase I
- Cape Sewer Extension - Phase I
- City of Wewahitchka Sewer Extension - Phase I

Projects that were submitted but were not selected (either because they require further evaluation or were recommended for future consideration in Years 2-5 or 6-10) that NWF supports include,

- Land Acquisition Adjacent to St Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve for Restoration and Recreation
- Money Bayou Land Acquisition for Wetlands Preservation and Recreation
- Beacon Hill Sewer
- Initiating a long-term monitoring program for sea turtles in Gulf County waters

NWF supports land acquisition projects for natural resource protection. However, the land acquisition projects in the Draft MYIP are identified for economic development. NWF encourages Gulf County to consider land acquisition projects for natural resource benefit, especially those that preserve riparian areas along waterways, thus providing “natural” water quality improvement benefits and well as protecting fish and wildlife habitat (such as Money Bayou and St Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve land acquisition projects).

In addition, as indicated above, we appreciate the inclusion of the minutes from the March 15, 2016 RESTORE Committee meeting in the MYIP, as well as a link to the powerpoint presentation from project selection meetings (<http://www.gulfcountyrestore.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/3.15.16-Meeting-Packet-Final-Project-Priorities.pdf> and <http://www.gulfcountyrestore.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/3.22.16-Project-Priorities.pdf>) in the Draft MYIP. However, explanation for some of the project selection decisions that deviated from the raw scores and ranking were not always apparent from reviewing the available materials. Specifically, Money Bayou Land Acquisition for Wetlands Preservation and Recreation scored 54 points and St Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve Land Acquisition scored 41 points (neither of which were included in the MYIP), both of which scored well above the raw scores for the Bike Path and Land Acquisition - Economic Development/Public Access projects (both of which were included in the MYIP). We recommend the MYIP or its appendices include an explanation as to why lower scoring projects were selected over higher scoring projects.

Finally, two of the projects included in the Draft MYIP (one of which NWF supports) have a relatively small funding request:

- Gulf County Stormwater Management Plan, Phase 1

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

Given the apparent administrative burden that other Florida Counties have experienced in completing the Direct Component funding applications and associated processes, Gulf County may wish to consider using other funding (besides Direct Component funds) for these two projects, OR pursue combining them with other projects in the Draft MYIP OR incorporating into the Treasury-approved MYIP Planning Grant (since they are both Planning Assistance projects), in order to streamline efficiencies.

Conclusion:

We appreciate Gulf County's efforts to select projects and prepare a Draft MYIP. We optimistically anticipate Gulf County taking the same thorough and comprehensive approach with future installments of Direct Component funding. While we would prefer to see Gulf County fund natural resource restoration projects through their MYIP, we are encouraged by the inclusion of three water quality improvement projects. We hope to see additional water quality and natural resource restoration projects in future MYIPs, given the importance of the beaches, bays, rivers, and watershed to the economy and ecology of Gulf County. We welcome the opportunity to support future ecologically-focused restoration projects.

Thank you very much for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me to further discuss these comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Jessica Koelsch
Florida Policy Specialist
National Wildlife Federation

APPENDIX M. References

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