

# GULF COUNTY



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## 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 judgment 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. A total of 55 comments were received – 52 in support of the MYIP and 3 not in support. The Gulf County BOCC approved the MYIP on September 6, 2016. The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners approved the revised MYIP based on Treasury's comments on January 24, 2017.

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 judgment. 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

Sherriff'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.

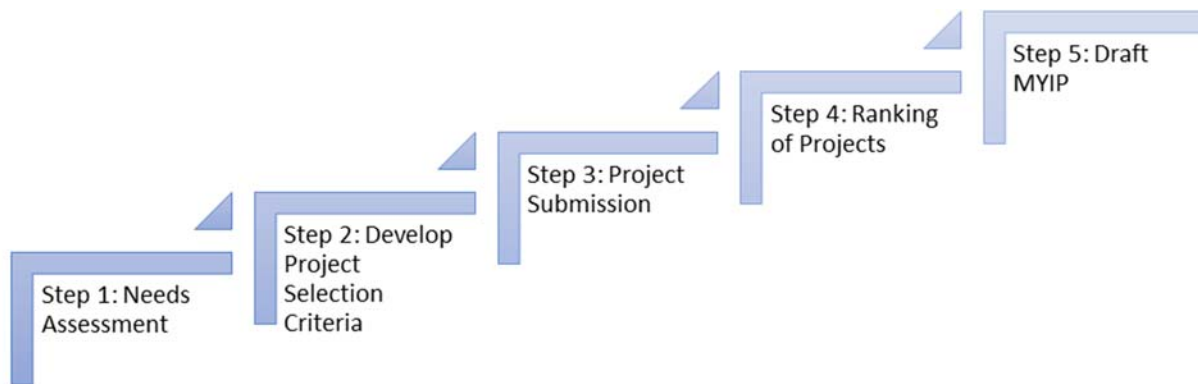


Figure 1: Gulf County MYIP Process

## 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<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to September 6<sup>th</sup>, 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)	3,757
MYIP PUBLIC COMMENTS	# comments received	55

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. Five (5) public comments were received (attached in Appendix L). 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 regularly 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. Fifty-five (55) public comments were received. 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 September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners approved the revised MYIP based on Treasury's comments on January 24, 2017.

## 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
<b>TOTAL \$ REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$23,184,928</b>

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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 21, 2016 to September 6, 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$12,000,000</b>



## 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 6 below and will be 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) as funds become available and the MYIP is revised.

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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,578,665.00</b>

Upon approval of the MYIP, Gulf County expects to apply for a RESTORE Act Direct Component Application for Financial Assistance in the amount of \$2,780,970.88 for Project 1, the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration Project, which will allocate the remainder of Year 1 funds to this project. The County will increase the Direct Component Contribution for Project 1 to \$2,800,000.00 once sufficient funds become available.

## 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 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 \$2,780,970.88, which will encumber all Year 1 MYIP funds resulting from the Transocean and Anadarko settlement agreements. The remaining \$19,029.12 for Project 1 as well as the other seven projects 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 once funds from the BP consent decree are deposited into the Trust Fund and available.

### **Outlook - Future MYIP Updates**

Gulf County expects to submit MYIP Phase II 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 \$2,780,970.88 is allocated in this MYIP. The County may choose to utilize some or all the process and associated results from the MYIP Phase 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:			\$2,780,970.88		2. TOTAL ALLOCATIONS PLUS KNOWN FUNDS NOT YET DEPOSITED IN TRUST FUND FOR DIRECT COMPONENT:				\$18,813,287.93		
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	\$2,780,970.88	\$0.00	\$9,219,029.12	\$12,000,000.00	Jul-17		Jun-18		1. Design - Completed; 2. Permitting - Completed; 3. Construction (Direct Component funds and third party funds); 4. Monitoring (third party funds)
12. TOTAL FUNDING FOR BUDGET (refer to instructions)			\$2,780,970.88	\$0.00	\$9,219,029.12	\$12,000,000.00					

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 B. RESTORE Act Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative**

# RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Eligible Applicant Name: Gulf County, Florida

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

POC Name: Warren J. Yeager

POC Title: Restore Coordinator

POC Email: wyeager@gulfcounty-fl.gov

POC Phone: +1 (850) 227-2396

## B. PROVIDE A BRIEF NARRATIVE THAT DEMONSTRATES:

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

Note: The following project is being submitted as Phase I MYP. The County intends to submit a Phase 2 MYP, which will include Projects 2-8 as described in the detailed MYP, at a future date following Treasury's acceptance of the first MYP.

Need: The St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Re-nourishment and Environmental Enhancement 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 reduce coastal flooding and 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 ancillary 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 place sand along a 5.1 mile length of shoreline along St. Joseph Peninsula from DEP Monument R 74.8 to R-85.5 and R-89.6 to R-105.5. A wider, more stable beach will reduce storm-related damages, protect public infrastructure and private property, and increase the time between beach restoration cycles, thereby reducing future public expenditures.

EXISTING PROJECT DESCRIPTION: (amended project description follows this original project description)

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.

UPDATED PROJECT DESCRIPTION (the project description below provides additional, updated, more detailed information about the project):

Description: This project consists of construction for beach restoration along a 5.1 mile length of shoreline of St. Joseph Peninsula from DEP Monument R- 74.8 to R-85.5 and R-89.6 to R-105.5. A wider, more stable beach will reduce storm-related damages, protect public infrastructure and private property, and increase the time between beach restoration cycles, thereby reducing future public expenditures. The project is divided into three phases:

Phase I – Geotechnical (Sand Source) Investigation - COMPLETED. Approximately 6 million cubic yards of beach quality sand has been identified, which is sufficient to supply this nourishment project as well as future nourishment events. The borrow areas are located close to the project, helping to reduce costs in Phase III. Phase I activities were paid for by the County and are not included in the total project budget of \$12,000,000.00.

Phase II – Engineering, design, permitting - 99% COMPLETE. All design plans have been completed and the County is currently awaiting approval of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Permit (expected January 2017) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit (expected March 2017). These services were cost-shared between the County and the State of Florida. The costs for Phase II are

not part of the total \$12,000,000.00 project budget.

Phase III – Construction - NOT STARTED. 5.1 miles of beach between R-74.8 to 85.5 and 89.6 to R-105.5 will be nourished with approximately 2,000,000 cubic yards of sand identified in Phase I. Phase III will be funded by multiple sources and will consist of 3 contracts.

**\*\*Direct Component funds will only be used for Contract 3.\*\***

#### SUMMARY OF FUNDING SOURCES FOR PHASE III (Construction):

Contract 1 - Services will be procured under an existing coastal services contract to provide construction administration and monitoring services, including: contractor bid review, daily construction administration including turbidity monitoring, turtle monitoring, bird monitoring, and all required intermittent and final inspections. This contract is estimated to cost approximately \$800,000.00 and will be cost-shared between the County and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Status of funds: The County funds will come from an approved MSTU, which has been bonded. These funds are currently available. The State of Florida funds will come from the Beach Management Funding Assistance (BMFA) Program. The BMFA funds have been applied for and the project is highly ranked; however, final approvals must go through the Florida legislature and Governor. BMFA funds are expected to be available in the third quarter of 2017. Direct Component funds will not be used for these services.

Contract 2 – Services will be procured under an existing engineering services contract to provide surveying services for pre-construction and post construction surveys of the project area and post construction monitoring. This contract is estimated to cost approximately \$150,000.00 and will be cost-shared between the County and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Status of funds: The County funds will come from an approved MSTU, which has been bonded. These funds are currently available. The State of Florida funds will come from the Beach Management Funding Assistance (BMFA) Program. The BMFA funds have been applied for and the project is highly ranked; however, final approvals must go through the Florida legislature and Governor. BMFA funds are expected to be available in the third quarter of 2017. Direct Component funds will not be used for these services.

Contract 3 - An ITB will be issued for a construction contractor to dredge the source borrow sand and place it along the stretch of specified beach according to the approved permits and plans. The contractor will provide all mobilization, demobilization, equipment, and labor to accomplish this task. Contract 3 is estimated to cost \$12,000,000.00 and will be paid for with multiple funding sources.

#### SUMMARY OF FUNDING SOURCES FOR PHASE III, CONTRACT 3:

RESTORE Act Direct Component - \$2,780,970.88. Status of funds: The County expects approval of the MYP in the first quarter of 2017. The County will submit a Construction Grant Application to Treasury in the first quarter of 2017 with expected approval in the third quarter of 2017. The County intends to increase the Direct Component contribution to \$2,800,000.00 once sufficient funds become available.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) - \$4,219,029.12. Status of funds: Gulf County has applied for funding to the FDEP Beach Management Funding Assistance Program (BMFA) for \$4,290,000. The project is highly ranked. Final approvals must go through the Florida legislature and Governor. Funds are expected to be available in the third quarter of 2017. The County expects to lower the award amount from \$4,019,029.12 to \$4,000,000.00 once sufficient funds become available from the RESTORE Act Direct Component contribution. The remaining \$290,000 in BMFA funds will be utilized for other elements of the project not related to this portion of the project and/or contingencies for elements related to this portion or other portions of the project, such as, but not limited to, additional permit conditions.

County funds (MSTU) - \$4,000,000.00. Status of funds: 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 the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration. The resulting allocation from the MSTU for this project is approximately \$4,000,000.00. The County has been issued a bond, therefore the funds are currently available. The bond will be paid back with funds collected from the MSTU, as dictated by the terms of the bond agreement.

County funds (TDC) - \$1,000,000.00 Status of funds: The Gulf County Tourist Development Council collects a 1% year-round Tourist Development Tax dedicated to the beach restoration program. This equates to approximately \$265,000 annually. The County has been issued a bond, therefore the funds are currently available. The bond will be paid back with funds collected from the TDC tax, as dictated by the terms of the bond agreement.

#### FUNDING SOURCES TOTAL (Phase III, Contract 3):

RESTORE Act Direct Component - \$2,780,970.88

FDEP BMFA - \$4,219,029.12

County MSTU - \$4,000,000.00

County TDC - \$1,000,000.00

TOTAL - \$12,000,000.00

All costs described above are estimates. Exact construction costs will be adjusted as construction bids are received.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to complete the construction of a 5.1 mile segment of shoreline by placing approximately 2,000,000 cubic yards of sand material on St. Joseph Peninsula with the goal of increasing storm protection (Coastal Flood Protection), thereby mitigating shoreline erosion. A passive ancillary benefit of this project will include environmental enhancement as the wider beach will provide habitat for imperiled species.

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.

Gulf County implemented a comprehensive public outreach and engagement plan which utilized a variety of different outreach mechanisms designed to reach the broadest audience. Gulf County held 43 public meetings, established a citizen-led Local RESTORE Advisory Committee (RAC), established an email distribution list for all parties interested in the RESTORE MYIP, and established and advertised a RESTORE website where all documents, meeting notices, meeting agendas, and minutes are posted regarding the MYIP. Additional documentation of public outreach metrics is located in the appendices. Gulf County solicited project proposals from the community at large and the RAC used those proposals to develop the final project list included in this MYIP. Gulf County advertised the MYIP in the local newspaper and made it available on the County's main website, RESTORE website, and in hard copy for 45 days from April 11, 2016 through May 27, 2016 (newspaper proof of publication attached in Appendix L). During the public comment period, the County received five (5) public comments on the MYIP (attached in Appendix L). At subsequent public meetings of the RAC and Gulf County BOCC, changes were made to the MYIP, therefore the MYIP was re-advertised for an additional 45-day public comment period from July 21, 2016 to September 6, 2016 (newspaper proof of publication attached in Appendix L). During the second public comment period, Gulf County received fifty-five (55) public comments on the MYIP (attached in Appendix L). Fifty-two (52) comments were in support of the funding allocation in the MYIP (specifically, all 52 comments were supportive of the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration Project.) The other three comments were un-supportive of the project priorities. The Gulf County BOCC held a public meeting on September 6th, 2016. After careful consideration of all public comments, the BOCC adopted the MYIP on September 6th, 2016. \*A statement will be added here regarding the adoption of the revised MYIP based on Treasury comments.\*

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.

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

Successful completion of this project will include the placement of sand, which will increase the width of the dry beach by an average of 150 feet (200 feet total) and a 12-foot high dune. The construction of the dune feature will increase the level of storm protection from a 15-year event to a 30-year event (1 in 30 probability). This increased level of storm protection and decreased flooding risk is estimated to remain in place for a minimum of 6 years. The southern 5,000 feet of the project (between DEP Monument R-100.5 and R105.5) experiences the highest rate of erosion along the developed shoreline. Currently, upland structures and infrastructure are vulnerable to storms and coastal flooding. The dry beach along this shoreline segment is currently less than 50 feet in width and upland structures are vulnerable to damage from frequent low intensity storms. The magnitude of these storms are estimated at a 15-year storm event (or less) which has a 1 in 15 probability of occurrence in any given year. Pre-construction surveying and post-construction surveying and monitoring will be conducted to evaluate the success of the project.

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.

# Gulf County RESTORE MYIP Project Locations



# APPENDIX C. MYIP Project Locations Map

# **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](http://www.cityofportstjoe.com)
14. [www.gulfcountyedc.com](http://www.gulfcountyedc.com)
15. [www.portofportstjoe.com](http://www.portofportstjoe.com)
16. [www.visitgulf.com](http://www.visitgulf.com)

# APPENDIX E. Gulf County Selection Criteria

# Gulf County Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP)

## Selection Criteria

Programmatic	Total: 12
<b>1. Project Feasibility.</b> 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
<b>2. Public Interest.</b> Proposed project clearly demonstrates public benefit.	2
<b>3. Project Timing.</b> Proposed project can be implemented and benefits realized within a reasonable and acceptable timeframe.	2
<b>4. Partnerships and Leveraging.</b> Proposed project is supported by multiple partners and leverages funds by including cash or in-kind matching funds towards the project.	2
<b>5. Monitoring Plan.</b> Proposed project includes a comprehensive monitoring and success measurement plan, including a maintenance plan, if applicable.	2
<b>6. Sustainability and Efficiency.</b> 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
<b>1. Habitat Conservation and Preservation.</b> 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
<b>2. Habitat Restoration.</b> 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
<b>3. Water Quality.</b> 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
<b>4. Natural Systems Resiliency.</b> 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
<b>1. Tourism and Tourism Opportunities.</b> 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
<b>2. Recreational Fishing and Local Seafood.</b> 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
<b>3. Job Creation.</b> Proposed project provides for new full time higher wage jobs within the County.	6
<b>4. Industry and Business Growth.</b> 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
<b>5. Workforce Development.</b> 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
<b>1. Port Development.</b> Proposed project enhances port usage and diversity, operability, expansion, dredging, and marketing/promotion.	9
<b>2. Transportation Network Improvements.</b> 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
<b>3. Essential Services.</b> 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
<b>4. Disaster Resiliency.</b> 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
<b>1. Cultural and Historic Resources.</b> Proposed project provides for preservation, protection, restoration, and/or promotion of cultural, historical, or archaeological significant resources.	2
<b>2. Community Health.</b> Proposed project improves community health through increase in healthcare services, health improvement programs or health education.	2
<b>3. Affordable Housing.</b> Proposed project provides additional workforce and affordable housing units, beautification of neighborhoods, and/or programs which promote affordable and/or workforce housing.	2
<b>4. Educational Opportunities.</b> Proposed project provides for local new or improved educational and public outreach opportunities, including environmental education and awareness.	2
<b>5. Youth Opportunities and Child Care.</b> 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
<b>1. Leverages Funds.</b> 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>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100</b>
<u>Bonus Points</u>	<u>18</u>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>118</b>

# APPENDIX F. Final MYIP Outreach Report



**Gulf County**  
**RESTORE MYIP**  
**Final Outreach Report**

Table 1: Public Outreach Phase I & II

**COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT & DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION CRITERIA**  
**(SEPTEMBER 11, 2012 – SEPTEMBER 22, 2015)**

OUTREACH TYPE	Measure	Count
PUBLIC MEETINGS (RAC & BOCC)	# of public meetings	30
PUBLIC WORKSHOPS (RAC/BOCC)	# of public workshops	4
STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS	# of stakeholder meetings	2
STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATIONS	# of stakeholder presentations	33
PUBLIC NOTICES (NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS)	# of newspaper articles	2
RESTORE ALERTS (E-MAILS)	# of emails	1
RESTORE WEBSITE	# of new content	10

Table 2: Public Outreach Phase III

**PROJECT SUBMISSION (SEPTEMBER 23, 2015 – DECEMBER 5, 2015)**

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 ADVERTISEMENTS)	# of newspaper articles	2
RESTORE ALERTS (E-MAILS)	# of emails	4
RESTORE WEBSITE	# of new content	13
RESTORE WEBSITE	# of Visitors	1496

Table 3: Public Outreach Phase IV

**PROJECT RANKING (DECEMBER 6, 2015 – MARCH 22, 2016)**

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
STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATIONS	# of stakeholder presentations	0
PUBLIC NOTICES (NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS)	# of newspaper articles	2
RESTORE ALERTS (E-MAILS)	# of emails	1
RESTORE WEBSITE	# of new content	4
RESTORE WEBSITE	# of visitors	917

Table 4: Public Outreach Phase V

**DEVELOPING THE MYIP (MARCH 23, 2016 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2016)**

OUTREACH TYPE	Measure	Count
PUBLIC MEETINGS (RAC & BOCC)	# of public meetings	4
PUBLIC WORKSHOPS (RAC/BOCC)	# of public workshops	0
STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS	# of stakeholder meetings	0
STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATIONS	# of stakeholder presentations	0
PUBLIC NOTICES (NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS)	# of newspaper articles	3
RESTORE ALERTS (E-MAILS)	# of emails	3
RESTORE WEBSITE	# of new content	3
RESTORE WEBSITE	# of visitors	1,334
MYIP PUBLIC COMMENTS (1 <sup>ST</sup> COMMENT PERIOD)	# of comments received	5
MYIP PUBLIC COMMENTS (RE-ADVERTISED REVISED MYIP – 2 <sup>ND</sup> COMMENT PERIOD)	# of comment received	52

# **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](http://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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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  
March 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 gerrymandering. 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>TH</sup>**

Commissioner Bryan discussed her concerns regarding the special meeting held on March 10<sup>th</sup>; 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 22<sup>nd</sup>) 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 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Anticipated funding available right now is as follows:
    - \$2.89M TransOcean; and
    - \$450K Anadarko.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Public comments will be incorporated in the MYIP, including changes discussed today.
  - BOCC to review/approve final MYIP on June 21<sup>st</sup> (moved up from June 28<sup>th</sup>, per L. Lanier).
  - Submit MYIP to the U.S. Treasury on June 22<sup>nd</sup> (if approved by the BOCC on June 21<sup>st</sup>).
  - Treasury to review/approve MYIP by around October 1<sup>st</sup> (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 25<sup>th</sup> 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**

**JUNE 21, 2016**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**

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 Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Director of Finance & Management Rhonda Woodward, Clerk Budget & Finance Officer Sherry Herring, Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael L. Hammond, Deputy Administrator Kari Summers, Building Official George Knight, Central Services Director Lynn Lanier, Gulf County E.D.C. Director Chris Holley, Gulf County E.D.C. Staff Assistant Lianna Marsman, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, Gulf County Extension Service Agent Roy Bodrey, Assistant Mosquito Control Director Austin Horton, 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, Tax Collector Shirley Jenkins, T.D.C. Deputy Director Towan Kopinsky, and Veterans' Service Officer & S.H.I.P. Administrator Joe Paul.

Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., E.T.

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

**WATER RESCUE – CAPE SAN BLAS**

Chairman McDaniel discuss the weather on the Gulfside last Friday; reporting there were five (5) water rescues at the Cape. He stated that the Fire Chief (Nicholas Vacco) of the South Gulf Fire Department got in trouble during one (1) of the water rescues and had to be hospitalized.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman McDaniel called for public comment regarding the Consent Agenda. There was no public comment. Clerk Norris requested a correction to the Consent Agenda index page be made under Item #3, the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) line down, should be “high” bidder; not low bidder. The Board having no objection, acknowledged the correction. Commissioner McLemore requested that pages 47-54 be pulled. Commissioner Bryan stated that these pages are not in the Consent Agenda (Item #7 on the Agenda) and requested that pages 24-25 (under Item #3 \* Reject Bid #1516-19 & Re-advertise \* Grading Roads in Gulf County) and page 37 (Item #7 \* Amendment to the County Administration Purchasing Authority) be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Commissioner McLemore motioned to



approve the Consent Agenda, with the exclusions previously discussed. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously, as follows:

1. Approval of Checks and Warrants for May, 2016 which are incorporated herein by reference, pursuant to Chapter 136.06 F.S.
2. Agreement – Cleckley Enterprises, LLC \* Parcel ID #02250-002R \* Richard & Bonnie Harrison \* Parcel ID #02250-003R \* Capital City Bank \* Parcel ID #02249-000R \* Jake & Ruth Ann Hysmith \* Parcel ID #02249-000R & #01970-000R \* Billy Corbett \* Parcel ID #02251-000R \* Douglas & Rita Piercy \* Parcel ID #02452-015R \* William & Brenda Humphrey \* Parcel ID #02452-021R \* Grover Crutchfield \* Parcel ID #02452-000R (Limited Maintenance Agreement \* Halls Bottom Ditch)
  - MRD Associates, Inc. (Supplemental Agreement \* 2015-10.8 \* Historic Cultural Resources Investigation for the Permitting of Offshore Borrow Areas \* St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration Project \* \$87,572.50)
3. Bid – Award Bid #1516-18 \* Grass Cutting on County Right-of-Way (Goodwill Industries-Big Bend, Inc. \* in the amount of \$81,250.00 - (5) five cycles \* low bidder)
  - Award Bid #1516-20 \* Sale Various Vehicles & Equipment – Public Works (1994 Ford F-150 2WD Truck \* VIN #2FTEF15Y3RCA78335 \* to Ricky Davis \* in the amount of \$560.00 \* high bidder \* 1999 Dodge Ram 4WD Truck \* VIN #1B7HF16Y6XS228166 \* to John Jacobs \* in the amount of \$510.00 \* high bidder \* 2003 Ford E350 Van \* VIN #1FBSS31L73HA25341 \* to John Jacobs \* in the amount of \$510.00 \* sole bidder \* 1997 Chevy K1500 4WD Truck \* VIN #1GCEK14-MXVZ209266 \* to Teddy Kemp \* in the amount of \$1,001.00 \* high bidder \* 2001 Dodge 3500 Van \* VIN #2B5WB35Z71K522484 \* to John Jacobs \* in the amount of \$575.00 \* sole bidder \* 1984 Ford Patch Truck \* VIN #1FTDNF70H1EVA53489 \* to John Jacobs \* in the amount of \$475.00 \* sole bidder \* 1999 Dodge Truck 2WD \* VIN #1B7HC16X2XS103648 \* to Rohemey Davis \* in the amount of \$500.00 \* sole bidder \* 1995 Ford Van \* VIN #1FMEE11H0SHA6-7151 to Hobert Brammer \* in the amount of \$500.00 \* sole bidder \* 1996 Ford New Holland Tractor \* Serial #353437M \* to Crystal Durham \* in the amount of \$1,877.00 \* high bidder \* 1997 Ford New Holland Tractor \* Serial #355497M \* to Crystal Durham \* in the amount of \$1,877.00 \* high bidder \* Yellow Cement Mixer \* No Serial # Given \* to John Jacobs \* in the amount of \$105.00 \* sole bidder)

**\*\*DELETE\*\*** – Reject Bid #1516-19 & Re-advertise \* Grading Roads in Gulf County (Modify Bid Specs)

4. Budget Amendment #10 – General Fund (Amend the FY 2015-16 Budget for line item adjustments to the Extension Service Budget), as follows:

### **BUDGET AMENDMENT #10**

Amend the FY2015-16 Budget for General Fund for line item adjustments to the Extension Services Budget. This amendment is being requested to reallocate operational expenditures to meet current needs, but does not change the overall budget.

#### **General Fund**

	<b><u>Original Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Increase/ (Decrease)</u></b>	<b><u>Amended Budget</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>			
<b><i>Extension Services</i></b>			
00153700-540000 Travel & Per Diem	4,000	(2,000)	2,000
00153700-546002 Repair & Maint-Equip	0	500	500
00153700-548000 Promotional Activities	976	(976)	0
00153700-522000 Operating Supplies	400	1,500	1,900
00153700-522001 Oper Supp-Gas, Oil, & Lub	4,500	(3,500)	1,000
00153700-522002 Oper Supp-Tools & Small Equip	0	2,976	2,976
00153700-564000 Machinery & Equip	0	1,500	1,500

This Budget Amendment duly approved and adopted by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners at their regular meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2016.

(End)

5. Grant – FL Division of Emergency Management (State-Funded \* Emergency Preparedness Grant Agreement \* Contract #17-BG-83-02-33-01-029 \* \$105,806.00 \* FY 2016-17)
- FL Division of Emergency Management (Federally-Funded Subaward \* Emergency Preparedness Grant Agreement \* Contract #17-FG- - 02-33-01-096 \* \$54,766.00 \* FY 2016-17)
  - FL Division of Library (State Aid to Libraries \* Amendment #1 \* Increase in the amount of \$8.00)
6. Inventory – Gulf County E.D.C. (Asset Transfer to Gulf County T.D.C. \* #230-28 \* Macbook Pro Laptop \* Serial #C1ML5CTEDTY4)
- Gulf County Extension Service (Asset Transfer to Surplus \* #50-44 \* 2003 Ford E-Series Van \* VIN #1FBSS31SX3HA79790)

- GIS Department (Asset Disposal \* #90-242 \* Dell Optiplex \* Serial #3H2GLM1)
- Overstreet Fire Department (Asset Transfer to Wetappo Creek Fire Department \* #190-411 \* Amkus Jaws Tool \* No Serial # Given)
- Gulf County Property Appraiser (Asset Disposal \* #80-105 \* HP Design Jet 5500PS \* No Serial # Given \* #80-112 \* HP Media Center PC M7167C \* No Serial # Given)
- Wewahitchka Search & Rescue (Asset Purchase \* #125-33 \* 14' 2015 G3 Boat \* VIN #GEN16108C515)

- \*\*DELETE\*\*** 7. Policy – Amendment to the County Administration Purchasing Authority (Budgeted Expenditures for State Contracts & Purchasing)
8. Request – Public Works (Purchase a Lowboy \* on State Contract \* to be paid from Budgeted Funds in the Capital Improvements Fund)
- Gulf County Tax Collector (Refund \* Parcel ID #03801-055R \* in the amount of \$1,421.26)
9. Request for Funds – Gulf County Sheriff's Office (Beach Patrol Funds \* April, 2016 \* \$4,426.34)
10. Resolution – Submittal of the FY 2017-18 Local Government Funding Request Application to the FL D.E.P. Beach Management Funding Assistance (B.M.F.A.) Program, as follows:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2016-12**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO PROCEED WITH THIS SUBMITTAL OF THE "FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING REQUEST APPLICATION" UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 161.091, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, BEACH MANAGEMENT FUNDING ASSISTANCE (BMFA) PROGRAM, TO BE USED FOR THE RESTORED AND SUBSEQUENT RE-NOURISHMENT OF THE ST. JOSEPH PENINSULA BEACHES.**

\* Complete Resolution on file with Clerk \*

(End)

- Supporting the Commencement of the 2016 St. Joseph Bay Recreational Scallop Season for August 1, 2016, as follows:

## RESOLUTION NO. 2016-13

### A RESOLUTION OF THE GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION, STATE OF FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE 2016 ST. JOSEPH BAY RECREATIONAL SCALLOP SEASON FOR AUGUST 1, 2016.

\* Complete Resolution on file with Clerk \*

(End)

#### **PROPOSED PLAN – BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT**

Chief Administrator Butler provided a handout to the Board regarding a proposed plan for the Beach Restoration Project <copy provided to the Clerk for the record>. He discussed the proposed timing of the project, financial plan, and timing of RESTORE funding. Commissioner McLemore discussed his concerns regarding the County's portion of the funding for this project; stating that this project is an ongoing issue. Chairman McDaniel discussed working on this project for four (4) years and the matching funds that will be provided from D.E.P. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan discussed her concerns regarding this project and the second \$4 million bond issue; stating the County is not looking at a long term plan to stop the erosion, such as, looking at the option of building a bridge. After discussion by Commissioner McLemore and Chairman McDaniel, County Attorney Novak provided an update regarding the Board's action and direction regarding the Beach Restoration Project to date. After further discussion, Assistant Administrator Hammond stated the determination will be up to the Board as to how much money will be bonded (non-valorem bond); reporting the Board will have to come up with \$4 million in some way. He discussed the option of using the \$2.8 million from the BP settlement and only bonding \$1.2 million. County Attorney Novak stated the County passed two (2) resolutions, one (1) being for the \$4 million of the M.S.T.U. and the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) was the \$4 million (non-ad valorem revenue bond); reporting that the County has a timeline to get their contributions worked out and approved by the Board. He stated, as presented by Administration and the RESTORE Coordinator, there is an ability by the County to find an alternate path to use the BP settlement funds towards the \$4 million so the bond is not as high and will alleviate the taxpayers of some of the interest over the next ten (10) years of the bond. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Bryan, Chief Administrator Butler stated that the plan is to bond these two (2) bonds, MSTU and \$4 million; reporting that if the money is received in a timely matter, the County will not need to bond the full \$4 million. He reported there is no penalty in paying the bond off early. After discussion, Commissioner Barnes motioned to follow the Beach Restoration Project Plan. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. Sharon Winchester, of St. Joe Beach appeared before the Board to discuss her concerns regarding conflict of interest from Bill Williams and Warren Yeager, Jr. regarding this project. Richard Robinson, of Port St. Joe appeared before the Board to discuss his concerns regarding this project; stating that the bridge sounds like a good idea. Christy McElroy, of Port St. Joe appeared before the Board to discuss the process for RESTORE; reporting that it was never said that 100% of the RESTORE funds, through

year ten (10), would go to replenishment and renourishment of the beach (Cape). She stated that \$22 million was the price tag for this project eight (8) years ago. Commissioner Bryan motioned to extend time. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel directed the Clerk to give an additional three (3) minutes. Ms. McElroy discussed using 25% of the annual bed tax for restoration, renourishment, and replenishment. She reported that Panama City T.D.C. puts 25% of their dollars toward renourishment. Ms. McElroy requested that the Board honor the process that was voted on, put in place, and paid people for. She presented the Board a hand out that consisted of documents from Dewberry, the newspaper, the Coastal Community Association, with an executive summary <copy provided to the Clerk for the record>, requesting the Board review these documents before voting on this matter. Dr. Patricia Hardman, Coastal Community Association President appeared before the Board to report that no money has been taken off the table for the bridge, per a conservation that she had with the D.O.T. Chairman. She stated that the sand is infrastructure and an economic driver for the County. Dr. Hardman also stated that the County needs a commitment to move forward; discussing her concerns regarding the time sensitive matching funds for this project. John Grantland, of Gulf Aire appeared before the Board to discuss his concerns regarding the project and the \$4 million bond; stating that he hopes the Board will review this issue before making a decision. Chairman McDaniel called for any further public comment. There being no further public comment, Chairman McDaniel then called for the reading of the motion. Clerk Norris stated that the motion was to accept the plan (Beach Restoration Project Plan) that was presented by Staff. The motion passed 3 to 2, with Commissioners McLemore and Bryan voting no.

#### **RESTORE PROJECT – MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Chief Administrator Butler requested the Board allow RESTORE Act Coordinator Yeager to appear before the Board to discuss the Multi-Year Implementation Plan. RESTORE Act Coordinator Yeager appeared before the Board to discuss the M.Y.I.P.; stating the proposed plan addresses the first year <Commissioner McLemore left the meeting at 10:13 a.m., E.T.>. He requested that the Board proceed with the final M.Y.I.P. (Multi-Year Implementation Plan) as approved with the first year of restoration. Dewberry Vice President Brian Griffith appeared before the Board to discuss the M.Y.I.P. <Commissioner McLemore returned to the meeting at 10:16 a.m., E.T.>; stating that Treasury does not allow you to obligate any more than what you have in your bank account. He stated that due the changes to the allocation of front funds, this is enough to warrant another 45 day review. Mr. Griffith stated that the plan does not change, just the allocation of time. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Bryan, Mr. Griffith stated that Dewberry does have coastal engineers and that the County has received coastal engineering services from Michael Dombrowski (MRD Associates) for the restoration project. After discussion, Michael Dombrowski, of MRD Associates appeared before the Board to discuss the beach erosion; stating that we do have a long term plan for this segment of beach. He also stated that structure will reduce the erosion rate. After discussion by Commissioner Bryan, Commissioner McLemore stated, for the record, that fifty (50) years from now people will be able to walk across the Bay from St. Joe Point to WindMark Beach if you keep dumping the sand on the beach. Commissioner Quinn expressed that he hopes a bridge will come. RESTORE Act Coordinator Yeager reported that being that

there is a substantial change in the actual dollars that will be going to the first project, another 45 day public comment period will be established to provide the public an opportunity to voice their opinions. He reporting that he and Stella (Wilson), with Dewberry will receive all the public comments and this will delay the process for an additional 45 days. After discussion, Commissioner Barnes motioned to approve the 45 day public comment period. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed 3 to 2, with Commissioners McLemore and Bryan voting no.

#### **HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

Chief Administrator Butler reported that the County is doing renourishment and restoration; stating that the restoration portion under the beach nourishment project will help provide mitigation for the County's H.C.P. (Habitat Conservation Plan).

#### **PROPOSED BRIDGE – STUMPHOLE**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed a meeting with D.O.T. regarding the proposed bridge (at the Cape). He stated that the bridge has been designed; reporting that at the last Legislative session D.O.T. appropriated \$2 million and will determine whether or not to look at a fifty (50) year life span bridge or continue to put revetment in that area to keep the Gulf out of the Bay. Chief Administrator Butler stated he has never been in a meeting with D.O.T. where County Staff expressed whether they wanted a bridge or not. Commissioner Bryan noted that Dr. Hardman appeared before the Board and stated that at a meeting with D.O.T. it was said that we (the County) didn't want the bridge.

#### **HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

Commissioner Bryan discussed her concerns regarding the comments made by Chief Administrator Butler in reference to the Habitat Conservation Plan. She stated that when the County allows the beach restoration to be used as the mitigation for building in this area, we are passing that cost (born by the user) on the whole County by way of redirecting RESTORE or T.D.C. funds. Commissioner Bryan also stated that she is not in favor of the County using this as mitigation.

#### **PROPOSED BRIDGE – STUMPHOLE**

Chief Administrator Butler stated again that he has never been in a meeting with D.O.T. where County Staff said that we did, or did not want a bridge.

#### **HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

Chief Administrator Butler reported that parts of the beach will be restored and other parts will be renourished. To ensure mitigation compliance, he informed the Board that U. S. Fish and Wildlife is pushing for the County to hire a Compliance Officer; which is estimated to cost of \$4.5 million dollars over the next 30 (thirty) years. Chief Administrator Butler stated if the County could sell to U.S. Fish and Wildlife that the beach we are getting ready to restore and re-nourish will add value to the restored portion, it would hopefully eliminate the need for hiring a compliance officer. This is a way to use this as mitigation, adding more habitat, he noted. Chief Administrator Butler stated if the County will build it

the way U.S. Fish and Wildlife says to build it, then it becomes an asset that can be reimbursed by FEMA in the event it gets destroyed by a hurricane.

### **S.H.I.P. APPLICATIONS – HOMEOWNERS**

S.H.I.P. Administrator Paul appeared before the Board to report that applications for S.H.I.P. (rehabilitation and purchase assistance) will be accepted over the next four (4) weeks and the first workshop will be held on July 18<sup>th</sup> in the board room. He also reported that a notice will be advertised in the newspaper.

### **MONTHLY REPORT – GULF COUNTY E.M.S.**

E.M.S. Director Whitfield appeared before the Board to present the May, 2016 E.M.S. Status Report <copy provided to Clerk for the record>.

### **GRANT AWARD – AMBULANCE**

E.M.S. Director Whitfield reported that the County applied for a grant from the State for two (2) ambulances; stating the County has been awarded a grant for one (1) ambulance. He reported that the match percentage has changed from 90/10 to 75/25, increasing the County's match amount to \$43,333.00. E.M.S. Director Whitfield requested Board approval to move forward with this grant, to advertise to receive sealed bids, and be ready to accept the ambulance by October 1, 2016 when new budget starts. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, E.M.S. Director Whitfield stated that the match funds have been budgeted and is on the Capital Outlay list for next fiscal year's budget. After discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

### **PROPOSED ORDINANCE – WILDLIFE FEEDING**

Commissioner McLemore discussed his concerns regarding the proposed bear ordinance (on the Agenda \* pages 47-54); stating that Florida Wildlife Commission appeared before the Board to discuss a FWC grant that would supply clips/brackets that could be placed on the garbage can lids to help with the bears getting into County residents trash cans. He stated he supports the clips/brackets for garbage cans, but opposes the language in the proposed ordinance that states you cannot feed squirrels or birds in your backyard, nor can you put out any feed on private or public property. Commissioner Bryan stated that she has concerns regarding this proposed ordinance; reporting that it doesn't discuss FWC providing (garbage) cans. She noted the proposed ordinance requires every resident to secure their cans or place them behind a fence. Commissioner Bryan also discussed her concerns regarding the enforcement that is in the proposed ordinance. After discussion, Commissioner McLemore inquired what needed to be done regarding this proposed ordinance. County Attorney Novak advised the Board that when they come to the Public Hearing time on the Agenda, the Board can provide their suggestions or comments and he will submit them to FWC for consideration. He stated there are several steps before we recommend that the Board adopt this proposed ordinance. County Attorney Novak suggested the Board open the Public Hearing, offer their comments to Staff; recommending that the Board table to another Public Hearing after the County hears from FWC regarding the Board's comments. Commissioner McLemore motioned

to table. After discussion, County Attorney Novak stated that a motion is not needed at this time, but will be after public and Board comments.

#### **REJECT BID #1516-19 – GRADING ROADS IN GULF COUNTY**

Commissioner Bryan discussed pages 24-25 (pulled from the Consent Agenda) requesting that Bid #1516-19 be rejected and re-advertised; asking how the bids specs are going to be modified. Public Works Director Cothran appeared before the Board to discuss the original bid specs; reporting there was only one bidder. He stated that he thinks that he may not have bid the specs out correctly and has looked at other specs for motor grading; reporting that with the new bid specs the County may include a lease option of one of the County's machines (motor grader). Upon inquiry by Commissioner Bryan, Public Works Director Cothran stated that the bid received is high for what he thinks it should be. After discussion, Commissioner McLemore discussed being careful bidding out road grading; stating that the number of times listed in the bid specs will not be enough for District I. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan motioned to reject Bid #1516-19 for grading roads in Gulf County and to re-advertise to receive sealed bids. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **POLICY AMENDMENT – COUNTY ADMINISTRATION PURCHASING AUTHORITY**

Commissioner Bryan discussed page 37 that was pulled from the Consent Agenda regarding amending the County Administration Purchasing Authority Budgeted Expenditures for State Contracts and Purchasing Policy; stating that she believes items should be placed in the Consent Agenda for Board to review. She reported there is no maximum amount on these purchases. Chief Administrator Butler reported that in December, 2014 the Board voted to allow him a \$50,000.00 limit to purchases. After discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve the amended policy. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Bryan voting no.

#### **COMMUNITY POOL – FRIENDS OF ST. JOE GOLF CLUB**

Rex Buzzett, with Friends of St. Joe Golf Club appeared before the Board to request financial support from the Board to assist with the renovation of the community pool located at the St. Joe Golf Course. He reported that all the funds have been raised through grants and fundraisers, except \$3,500.00. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Mr. Buzzett reported that the project was \$25,000.00; having raised it all except \$3,500.00. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Mr. Buzzett stated that the City of Port St. Joe put \$1,500.00 toward this project and in-kind service with the drainage. Commissioner Quinn stated, if the County can do it legally, the Board should try to assist with this project. Commissioner McLemore motioned to give \$2,000.00 to the Non-Profit Friends of St. Joe Golf Club for the renovation of the community pool located at the St. Joe Golf Course. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Barnes, County Attorney Novak stated that the County can give funds for non-for-profits; encouraging the Board to specify where the funds will come from for the Clerk's Office and include that as part of the motion. Commissioner McLemore stated that he wants to take it out of BP Funds. Upon inquiry by Chairman McDaniel, Mr. Buzzett reported that



the golf course owns the swimming pool and you do not have to be a member to use the pool, but there is a small nominal fee. Upon inquiry by Chairman McDaniel, Mr. Buzzett stated that rules are in place but there are no lifeguards; you swim at your own risk. Upon inquiry by Chairman McDaniel, Mr. Buzzett reported that the pool is normally open from Memorial Day and past Labor Day, depending on the weather. Building Official Knight appeared before the Board to discuss the permits that will be required to renovate the pool; stating the Board has the option of waiving the permitting fees. Commissioner McLemore amended his motion to include the waiving of the permitting fees for the pool renovation project. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

### **TREE REMOVAL – PSJ COURTHOUSE COMPLEX**

After discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner Quinn motioned to move forward with Public Works Director Cothran's recommendation to remove the trees to protect the radio tower (Port St. Joe Courthouse Complex). Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED WILDLIFE FEEDING ORDINANCE**

Commissioner McLemore motioned to kill it. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. County Attorney Novak recommended that the Board open the Public Hearing and then make the motion afterwards. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. Pursuant to advertisement to consider a proposed ordinance regarding wildlife feeding, County Attorney Novak read the proposed ordinance by title. Chairman McDaniel opened the Public Hearing to the public for comment. Chairman called for public comment. There was no public comment. Commissioner McLemore stated that he has already made a motion to kill it. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. After discussion by members of the Board, the motion passed unanimously.

### **QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARINGS – REVIEW & CONSIDERATION OF P.D.R.B. RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **VARIANCE REQUEST – STEVEN & VIRGINIA HILE / ST. JOE BEACH**

Planner Lowry introduced a variance request from Steven and Virginia Hile (Parcel ID #03774-050R) requesting a 20 foot variance into the 30 foot roadside building setback at St. Joe Beach/Highway 98. He reported that the P.D.R.B. recommends to the Board to allow, by a 4-0 vote, a request of a 20 foot variance into the 30 foot roadside setback as listed on the site plan and the current survey submitted by the applicant, to allow for F.D.E.P. permitting under Section 34 provision #3. Planner Lowry stated that this is a Quasi-Judicial Hearing; requesting the Chairman go into the Public Hearing and go through the Quasi-Judicial process. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, Chairman McDaniel called for any objection to the waiving of the Quasi-Judicial Hearing. There was no objection. Jack Husband, of Southeastern Consulting Engineers, on behalf of the applicant, appeared before the Board to discuss the project and the variance request. Commissioner Bryan motioned to approve the P.D.R.B. recommendation. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. Chairman

McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously. Upon request by Planner Lowry, Commissioner Bryan motioned to waive the reading and accept the P.D.R.B. findings. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **SMALL SCALE MAP AMENDMENT – DESERET RANCHES OF NORTH FL / OVERSTREET**

Planner Lowry reported that this is the Second Public Hearing; stating that the Board held the Quasi-Judicial Hearing at the last Board meeting. He then introduced a small scale map amendment from Deseret Ranches of North Florida, LLC (Parcel ID #03301-000R & #03302-000R) requesting two (2) acre land use designation changes from Agriculture to Residential. Planner Lowry stated that he will ask for the Board's vote and this will need to be approved by an ordinance; reporting that the County Attorney is drafting the proposed ordinance that will be introduced at the next regular Board meeting. Commissioner Barnes motioned to approve. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **INTRODUCTION & UPDATE – OPPORTUNITY FLORIDA**

Chairman McDaniel called for Antonio Jefferson to appear before the Board to provide an introduction and update regarding Opportunity Florida. Mr. Jefferson was not present. E.D.C. Director Holley appeared before the Board to state that Antonio Jefferson is the new Chair of Opportunity Florida; reporting there is a meeting tomorrow in Freeport that he will be attending and he will send the Board's regards to Mr. Jefferson. E.D.C. Director Holley reported that Opportunity Florida has a new strategic plan and mission.

#### **QUARTERLY REPORT – WEWAHITCHKA MEDICAL CENTER**

Katrina Saunders, with Wewahitchka Medical Center appeared before the Board to present the quarterly report to the Board. She reported that the Wewahitchka Medical Center served 1,337 patients in 2015. Mrs. Saunders stated that in addition to providing medical services, the Center offers free smoking sensation and diabetes classes, and assistance with healthcare coverage. She invited the public to the Center's Annual Health Fair to be held August 11, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., C.T.

#### **PROPOSED ORDINANCE – PROHIBITING E-CIGS/CLEAN AIR INDOOR ACT**

Chairman McDaniel stated that Item #11 on the Agenda (proposed ordinance prohibiting e-cigs/clean air indoor act) has been scratched.

#### **ROAD PAVING – 2015-16 ROAD BOND PROJECT**

Port St. Joe City Mayor Bo Patterson appeared before the Board to inquire about the handout that he was given regarding the 2015-16 Road Bond Project. He stated that Madison Street was on his handout; inquiring if this street was on the City of Port St. Joe or the County's list. Chief Administrator Butler stated that this list is not the Cities portion of the money; reporting that the City of Port St. Joe's portion of the money is \$1,050,000.00. He stated that Commissioners Quinn and Barnes placed six (6) roads on

the list, including the trail that is above and beyond the City of Port St. Joe's allocation of money. Chief Administrator Butler also stated that he is not sure, but probably a portion on Madison Street is in the City limit. Mayor Patterson inquired if the County is going to help with Long Avenue. Chairman McDaniel reported that with Commissioners Quinn and Barnes' contribution, the City of Port St. Joe will receive approximately \$1.050 million from the 2015-16 Road Bond Project. Discussion followed.

**CONTRACT AMENDMENT – MOSQUITO CONTROL**

Assistant Mosquito Control Director Horton appeared before the Board to request the Chairman's signature on an Amended Mosquito Control Contract; reporting that the State is giving the County more money under the State grant. He also reported that the County Attorney has reviewed the amended contract. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Quinn, and unanimous vote, the meeting did then adjourn at 11:45 a.m., E.T.

**WARD MCDANIEL  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK OF COURT**

# **APPENDIX K. Board of County Commissioners MYIP Approval - September 6th, 2016**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**FROM THE DESK OF WARREN J. YEAGER, RESTORE COORDINATOR**  
1000 CECIL G. COSTIN SR. BLVD., ROOM 310 , PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456  
PHONE (850)229-6106/639-6700 • FAX (850) 229-9252 • EMAIL: wyeager@gulfcounty-fl.gov  
DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS • FOURTH TUESDAY AT 9:00 A.M., E.T.

Memorandum

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Warren Yeager, RESTORE Coordinator

CC: County Administrator, Don Butler

Date: 9/6/2016

Re: Gulf County RESTORE MYIP 2016 Application

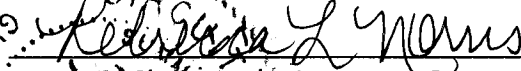
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This Commission amended its MYIP for its 2016 application of funding to the Cape San Blas Beach restoration project. Following the required forty five (45) day comment period, it is the request on behalf of the Gulf County RESTORE department for this Commission's authorization to finalize and accept the 2016 MYIP application of funding. Following this Commission's authorizing vote, our department will work with the County Administration for the timely filing of Gulf County application for funding in accordance with the RESTORE Act and Treasury Guidelines.

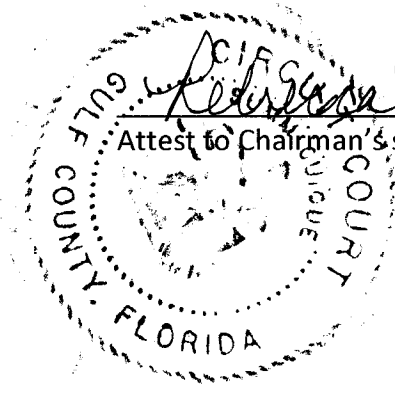
Adopted and authorized in open session this Commission's approval and authorization for submittal of the 2016 Gulf County MYIP application for funding on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.

  
Chairman of the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners

Date 09/06/16

  
Attest to Chairman's signature: Deputy Clerk / Clerk of Court

Date 09/06/16



**BCC APPROVED**

DATE 9/6/16 D.C. 

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

- **Appendix L-1.1** Proof of Publication MYIP Public Notice Comment Period July 21, 2016 through September 6, 2016
- **Appendix L-1.2** Proof of Publication MYIP Public Notice Comment Period April 14, 2016 through May 27, 2016
- **Appendix L-2.1** Gulf County RESTORE MYIP Public Comments Received During 45-Day MYIP Public Comment Period: 7/21/16 - 9/6/16
- **Appendix L-2.2** Gulf County RESTORE MYIP Public Comments Received During 45-Day MYIP Public Comment Period: 4/14/16 - 5/27/16

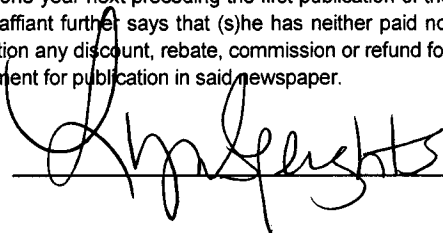
# The Star

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 Lynda Speights, 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 #50159S in the matter of **NOTICE OF 45 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD- Boad of County Commissioners** in the Gulf County Court, was published in said newspaper in the issue of **July 21, 28, 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.

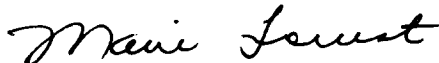


State of Florida

County of Bay

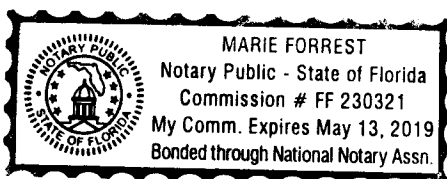
Sworn to and subscribed before me this **28th** day of **July**, A.D., **2016**.

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



Notary Public, State of Florida at Large

(Notary Seal)



50159S

Notice of 45-Day  
Public Comment  
Period for Revised  
Gulf County  
RESTORE Multi-year  
Implementation Plan  
(MYIP)

This is a notice that Gulf County has revised its draft Multi-year Implementation Plan (MYIP) and will be submitting the MYIP to the U.S. Treasury in accordance with the RESTORE Act. The Plan will be made available to the public on July 21, 2016 for a period of 45 days. The Plan will be available on [www.gulfcountystore.com](http://www.gulfcountystore.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 **September 6, 2016**. To submit a comment, email [ewilson@dewberry.com](mailto:ewilson@dewberry.com) and [wyeager@gulfcounty-fl.gov](mailto:wyeager@gulfcounty-fl.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.gulfcountystore.com](http://www.gulfcountystore.com) or call (850) 227-2396.  
Pub: July 21, 28, 2016

16 AUG -1 PM 4:48

FILED FOR RECORD  
REBECCA L. MORRIS  
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT  
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

# 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

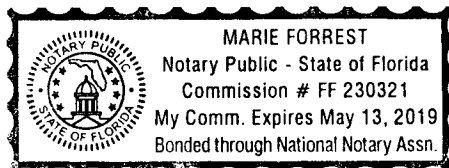
Notary Public, State of Florida at Large

### 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](http://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 [ewilson@dewberry.com](mailto:ewilson@dewberry.com) and [weager@gulfcounty.gov](mailto:weager@gulfcounty.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](http://www.gulfcountrystore.com) or call (850) 227-2396.  
Pub: April 14, 21, 2016



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



**Gulf County RESTORE MYIP**  
**Public Comments Recieved During 45-Day MYIP Public Comment Period: 7/21/16 - 9/6/16**

Date Sent	From	Email Address	Comments	summary
Mon 7/25/2016 5:12 PM	Rick Barnett, AIA Barnett Fronczak Barlowe Architects 225 S. Adams Street Tallahassee, FL 32301 Phone: (850) 224-6301 Cell: (850) 510-5507 E-mail rbarnett@bfbarchitects.com Fax (850) 561-6978	<a href="mailto:rbarnett@bfbarchitects.com">rbarnett@bfbarchitects.com</a>	The Barnett's (Martha and Rick) are strong supporters of the RESTORE ACT plan being considered for Cape San Blas. We have owned our townhouse (469 Haven Road) since 1985 and over the years have seen the dunes in front of us disappear, caused by the excessive erosion along the west face of the Cape. We participated in the first beach restoration project several years ago and are willing to "do it again." Obviously having several hundred feet of additional beach in front of our house is important to us, but it is in the best interest of every County property or business owner to support this plan. We all know that the County runs on the high property taxes imposed on the Cape and if the County loses this revenue because of further erosion, everyone loses.	Supports Beach Restoration project
Sun 7/24/2016 9:39 AM	Diane Wunderlich WW & CC LLC	<a href="mailto:dwunderlich@att.net">dwunderlich@att.net</a>	I am an owner of a home on Cape San Blas Road past the stump hole (rocks). We are in support of restoring the beaches, as a priority, with the RESTORE funds. We have recently had to implement an emergency permit to place foundation protection walls in our area due to beach erosion. The loss of beach in this area will cause contamination of the bay if the area is not maintained. The placement of more rocks to maintain the cape access road has caused greater erosion north and south of the rocks. The road protection was necessary but the exacerbated erosion has been an effect. This erosion can cause beach waters to breach north and south contaminating the bay area; effecting the economy.	Supports Beach Restoration project
Mon 7/25/2016 5:09 PM	Becky and Alan Taylor	<a href="mailto:alanhtaylor@gmail.com">alanhtaylor@gmail.com</a>	The vacation houses on the Cape are very popular and support all of the Gulf county community. Vacation renters have complained about the lack of beach area for enjoyment as well as tree stumps that may cause a hazard. Most of the job income in the county is obtained from these rental homes (construction, cleaning, management, etc.). Port St. Joe also gains from the vacationers in the area, with support of local businesses. These vacation homes also provide much of the tax revenue for the county. It is understandable the demand of RESTORE funds to be used elsewhere, but the beach restoration MUST be the priority, or all else will suffer. The immediacy of the beach restoration is also a factor. Timing is sensitive in order to not impact local wildlife, to obtain any needed permits, and keep vacationers in Spring/Summer of 2017.	Supports Beach Restoration project
Sat 7/23/2016 7:45 PM	Donna Kerce	<a href="mailto:dhkerce@msn.com">dhkerce@msn.com</a>	My wife and I are strong supporters of the RESTORE Act proposed beach restoration project (St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration). We have lived on the Cape for 2 years (vacationed for more that ten years) and know what a special place it is. If we don't restore the beach we will lose one of the most unique and special areas mother nature has to offer. We have learned a lot about Gulf County and understand what a devastating economic impact to business and all tax revenue a loss of the cape will cause.	Supports Beach Restoration project
			My family and I strongly support the RESTORE Act proposed beach restoration project (St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration). My husband and I and our family have been vacationing in the Cape San Blas area for over 40 years and realize what a truly special and pristine place it is and don't ever consider any of the other area beaches for vacationing. We have noticed a tremendous increase in development activity through the years and feel that surely this must have a positive impact on the Gulf County economy.	Supports Beach Restoration project

**Gulf County RESTORE MYIP**  
**Public Comments Recieved During 45-Day MYIP Public Comment Period: 7/21/16 - 9/6/16**

<div> <div>Fri</div> <div>7/22/2016 8:33 AM</div> </div>	<div> <div>Patricia K. Hardman, PhD</div> <div><a href="mailto:gulftobay@fairpoint.net">gulftobay@fairpoint.net</a></div> </div>	<div> <p>I served on the Restore Act Committee from its inception as the representative for Coastal Community Association of South Gulf County. We had involved and active Committee members. From the beginning we made sure that all meetings were public and encouraged our citizens to become involved. I personally read every proposal that was submitted. We went through the process of developing “Priorities” for our County with public input all the way, which were approved by the Board of County Commissioners. We then developed scoring procedures, with points distributed over the areas that were considered important, including the project being able to leverage additional funding so that the County could expand to more projects or larger projects to increase the positive impact from the Restore Act funds. Again approved by the BOCC. We not only had the County workshops and meetings but had presentations by Dewberry at our Coastal Community Association Annual meetings which are some of the largest meetings in Gulf County.</p> <p>The Committee and BOCC then had Dewberry score the many projects that were submitted and to rank them. The Committee choose to do this to maintain impartiality and fairness based on the procedure that had been developed. The Beach Restoration Project scored high or highest in every priority and category because 1. it impacts the environment-the very same environment where the oil spill polluted. The St Joseph Bay Peninsula is the home or nesting site of four endangered species, several turtles, the St Andrews Mouse, the Red Knot, and the Piping Plover. They depend on the beach sand and dunes and without the b dunes become even more endangered. This is the last area that the St. Andrews Mouse is known to exist and its habitat is going away. This Restoration effort restores 98 acres over a 5 mile distance of beach of dunes. That may not sound like a lot, but if you are a two inch mouse with no where to live, it is a significant amount of habitat for a home. 2. Beach Restoration has a major impact on the economy of the entire county and region. Twenty-five percent of all advorlum taxes come from St Joseph Bay Peninsula. Fifty percent of all bed taxes-raised through the tourist trade rentals come from St. Joseph Bay Peninsula.</p> </div>	<div> <div>Supports Beach</div> <div>Restoration project</div> </div>
<div> <div>Patricia K. Hardman, PhD</div> </div>	<div> <div>continued from above</div> </div>	<div> <p>Between the tourist rentals and construction over 35 % of jobs are because of the Cape. 3. In terms of leverage, because the residents on the Peninsula voted a MSTU for \$4 million, Florida DEP has committed \$4 million, and the County through the \$2.8 million from the Settlement funds and another \$1.2 million from other sources, the leverage is almost 5 to 1. There is no other project that came close to that degree of leverage. I could go through each of the priorities and give you how each is impacted positively through the restoration effort and negatively if restoration does not occur, but I believe the point is made. This project has the highest priority with the most impact of any presented for all of Gulf County.</p> <p>However, the major point is the Committee supported the process and the Restoration was the major project of importance. At the last meeting before final presentation to the BOCC, the Committee unanimously agreed to raise the amount to be spent for the Beach Restoration project to the amount required for what we believed would be sufficient to cover the bonding required to match the MSTU and DEP funds, which was approved by the BOCC. After the fact, it was determined that the Treasury may not allow the bonding effort and it was brought back to the BOCC to not change the projects that they had agreed to, but for the first year to commit the entire funding to this effort. Many of the others are not shovel ready nor have they developed leveraging funding. This also gives them time to do that. The beach restoration is time sensitive to save homes and the environment as well as to have access to the DEP funds.</p> <p>I have been at every Restore Act Committee meeting, worked with the staff and attended every BOCC meeting. The process was carried out well. It could not have been more impartial nor more thorough. I fully support the commitment of the first year funds from the settlement to this project by the BOCC. There is no other approved project that will have the impact on Gulf County that this will.</p> </div>	
<div> <div>Sat</div> <div>7/23/2016 5:13 PM</div> </div>	<div> <div>Ed Chambers</div> <div><a href="mailto:edchambers7@gmail.com">edchambers7@gmail.com</a></div> </div>	<div> <p>As a Cape San Blas homeowner I am in support of using RESTORE funds to re-nourish the beaches- immediately before they are gone along with the many jobs and tax revenue the beaches generate.</p> </div>	<div> <div>Supports Beach</div> <div>Restoration project</div> </div>
<div> <div>Sat</div> <div>7/23/2016 5:17 PM</div> </div>	<div> <div>Ed Chambers</div> <div><a href="mailto:edchambers7@gmail.com">edchambers7@gmail.com</a></div> </div>	<div> <p>As a property owner on Indian Pass I am in favor of using RESTORE funds to re-nourish the beaches. The beaches draw tourists who spend dollars in PSJ and the tourist industry provide jobs for local residents.</p> </div>	<div> <div>Supports Beach</div> <div>Restoration project</div> </div>

**Gulf County RESTORE MYIP**  
**Public Comments Recieved During 45-Day MYIP Public Comment Period: 7/21/16 - 9/6/16**

Sat 7/23/2016 5:20 PM	Carole Chambers	<a href="mailto:cwchambers22@gmail.com">cwchambers22@gmail.com</a>	As an Indian Pass property owner I am in favor of the use of RESTIRE funds to renourish he area beaches.The beaches provide jobs! Tourists bring \$ to spend in Port St Joe. Please restore beaches immediately.	Supports Beach Restoration project
Sat 7/23/2016 5:07 PM	Carole Chambers	<a href="mailto:cwchambers22@gmail.com">cwchambers22@gmail.com</a>	Please consider this note, from a Cape San Blas vacation rental homeowner, as supportive of the use of RESTORE funds for for purposes of immediate beach re-nourishment. The taxes, revenue from visitors and jobs provided by the diminishing but beautiful beaches is significant to the County and community.	Supports Beach Restoration project
Fri 7/22/2016 10:19 AM	buddycroft@comcast.net	<a href="mailto:buddycroft@comcast.net">buddycroft@comcast.net</a>	My wife and I are strong supporters of the RESTORE Act proposed beach restoration project (St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration). We have lived on the Cape for 16 years and know what a special place it is, not only for people, but also for the nesting turtles and birds. If we don't restore the beach we will lose one of the most unique and special areas mother nature has to offer. Also, Gulf County will face an economic loss which will have a detrimental impact on all aspects of the County.	Supports Beach Restoration project
Mon 7/25/2016 11:11 AM	Jon & Ali Bradway jon.bradway@gmail.com 404.840.0493	<a href="mailto:jon.bradway@gmail.com">jon.bradway@gmail.com</a>	My wife and I own a property on Cape San Blas and are strong supporters of the RESTORE Act proposed beach restoration project (St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration). Our family has owned property on the Cape since 1985 and appreciate what a special place it is, not only for people, but also for wildlife. If we don't restore the beach we will lose one of the most unique and special areas mother nature has to offer. Also, Gulf County will face an economic loss which will have a detrimental impact on all aspects of the County.  We appreciate your involvement in the local government, and please let us know if we can be of any further assistance as the Restoration is considered and implemented.	Supports Beach Restoration project
Tuesday, July 26, 2016 9:22 AM	WILLIAM C MCGEE	<a href="mailto:wmcmcgee@fairpoint.net">wmcmcgee@fairpoint.net</a>	I have resided here on St. Joseph Penninsuls for over 25 years. I have seen the development and then destruction of beach by storm surge. Beach renourishment is a necessary fact of life every 6 years or so to protect property that provides economic stimulus to the county, that provides continued and consistent ecological support for our natural wildlife habitat, and provides many recreational opportunities for those who come as visitors. The use of restore funds for beach renourishment makes good sense as a first priority.	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 28, 2016 at 7:14:50 PM EDT	Jim Head Port St. Joe, FL 310-569-2765	<a href="mailto:jimheadjr@gmail.com">jimheadjr@gmail.com</a>	I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. This essential project not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and our properties, but it also protects the habitat for our endangered species. Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low. Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality. I encourage you to continue this great work, because it is absolutely imperative. Thank you very much.	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 28, 2016 at 5:44:58 PM EDT	Jean and Jon Moyle - 7148 Leeward St., Cape San Blas	<a href="mailto:jsimajama@aol.com">jsimajama@aol.com</a>	We learned today that there may be an effort underway to divert funds from the 2.8 million first-year funds appropriated for the beach restoration. We are very concerned and strongly oppose such an action by the Commission. It is my hope that the Commission will not reverse its previous approval of such activity and not approve or allow such an effort to be successful.	Supports Beach Restoration project
Wednesday , July 27, 2016 1:33 PM	Jeannie Hayes 404-218-0030	<a href="mailto:invitesgal@yahoo.com">invitesgal@yahoo.com</a>	I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.	Supports Beach Restoration project

**Gulf County RESTORE MYIP**  
**Public Comments Recieved During 45-Day MYIP Public Comment Period: 7/21/16 - 9/6/16**

Wednesday , July 27, 2016 1:16 PM	Bill and Beth Wiygul	<a href="mailto:WWiygul@aol.com">WWiygul@aol.com</a>	<p>As property owners at Cape Shoals on Cape San Blas, where beach erosion is very severe, we are very concerned about beach restoration. If the beach is not restored, we could lose our property.</p> <p>We urge the Gulf County Commission to spend the entire \$2.8 million dollars of the Restore Act funds on beach restoration.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
Wednesday , July 27, 2016 9:00 AM	Michael Kay Two Guy's Investments 100 Rudell Rd. Vidalia, GA 30474 912-293-1262 mobile	<a href="mailto:msk_kapalinc@bellsouth.net">msk_kapalinc@bellsouth.net</a>	<p>As supporters of Beach Restoration Project on Cape San Blas we truly appreciate the steps you and the Restore Act Committee have taken to make this project a priority.</p> <p>Beach restoration helps protect our properties, homes, infrastructure, and the habitat for our endangered species. Without restoration of the beach, the tax base will drop and jobs will be lost as tourism is Gulf county's top industry.</p> <p>Please continue to be the champion of this project and help see all money used as originally intended – for the restoration of the beaches on Cape San Blas, Florida</p> <p>I'm a homeowner and prior to that, a 20-year vacationer down at Cape San Blas and Indian Pass.</p> <p>I wanted to add my vote of support to those who believe that beach restoration should be the primary focus of the Restore Act's funding for this year.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
Wednesday , July 27, 2016 8:38 AM	David L. Epps	<a href="mailto:DEpps@cfabowl.com">DEpps@cfabowl.com</a>	<p>The county depends so much on a busy tourism industry, that I fear shrinking beaches will only erode what has become an important economic driver for the area. The direct and indirect tax benefit and economic impact on the area would be sorely missed if we don't act now.</p> <p>The added benefit is the ecological one...providing a habitat for important species native to the area.</p> <p>Thanks to you and the committee for realizing how important beach restoration is. You have mine, and many others, full support. If there's anything we can do to help the effort, we'll be happy to help.</p> <p>I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p> <p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 26, 2016 at 7:24:00 PM EDT	Randall Fuller 110 Clifton Beach	<a href="mailto:tothegymnow@yahoo.com">tothegymnow@yahoo.com</a>	<p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p> <p>Thank you and have a great day.</p> <p>My investment in Gulf County predicated on the knowledge that If County understood the importance of a great old Florida beach. I left Siesta Key for the great wide beaches of the Cape please make sure my decision was not a bad one.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project

**Gulf County RESTORE MYIP**  
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July 26, 2016 at 5:00:54 PM EDT	Ron Garrity 164 Aruba Drive Cape San Blas	<a href="mailto:ron.garrity@gmail.com">ron.garrity@gmail.com</a>	<p>I am writing you to express my support for the the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. As you are no doubt aware, tourism is Gulf County's main industry. and the main source of its tax base. If the beach restoration is put off in favor of other interests and doesn't move forward soon, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will undoubtedly decline to a critical low. Additionally, the restoration not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p> <p>I am grateful to you and the the Restore Act Committee for the work you have already put in to make beach restoration a reality. If I can assist in any way, please let me know.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
Wednesday , July 27, 2016 7:32 AM	Robert Bass	<a href="mailto:bassra@dealerlawyer.com">bassra@dealerlawyer.com</a>	<p>My wife and I own property on the Cape (148 Aruba).</p> <p>We support the Cape San Blas beach restoration project and encourage you to support it as well. Restoration of the Cape will provide significant economic and ecologic benefits. Thank you for your work on the Restore Act Committee and your support of this important project.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 26, 2016 at 5:06:43 PM EDT	Kyle Cunningham	<a href="mailto:kcunningham@lbinsurance.net">kcunningham@lbinsurance.net</a>	<p>I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species. My family is in the process of purchasing a home on Cape San Blas, with hopes that our children and their children will have a place to go, explore, vacation and make memories like I was able to growing up.</p> <p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 26, 2016 at 3:42:31 PM EDT	Susan Garrity	<a href="mailto:susanparker1650@gmail.com">susanparker1650@gmail.com</a>	<p>I am writing you to express my support for the beach restoration project at Cape San Blas.</p> <p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low. I sell real estate in Florida and have visited coastal communities all over the world and I can tell you that, although we are all thrilled about how fast property values are rising at the Cape (along with the tax rolls), we still have some of the least expensive prime beach real estate anywhere in the world. It would be very easy for property values and tax rolls to double on CSB along with the gulf county tax collections over the next five years as long as potential buyers and investors have a sense of support from the county administration / decision makers.</p> <p>Just a few hours over in Seaside 30A area, property values are already double the CSB prices and that area is so overcrowded now that it is not very desirable. People who used to go to Destin and 30A are now coming our way. The county has done a great job keeping high rise condos out of our area and all of us on the Cape thank you for that. Our low density zoning, our pristine beaches and small town feel are what makes the Cape special. Losing out to beach erosion would be a disaster for all of us. We need the county and the county needs the Cape</p> <p>Thank you all for the measures you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project

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July 26, 2016 at 3:38:09 PM EDT	136 Aruba Drive  Derek Mallard, CEO Okefenokee EMS, INC (912) 284-9111 (912) 284-1377 (Fax)	<a href="mailto:derek@okeems.com">derek@okeems.com</a>	<p>I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p> <p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p> <p>Thank you and have a great day."</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 26, 2016 at 2:41:14 PM EDT	Dave Wahler 124 Aruba Dr Port St Joe, FL	<a href="mailto:dave.wahler@verizon.net">dave.wahler@verizon.net</a>	<p>I am writing to express my support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. This project is of the highest priority to me as a homeowner as it helps to protect our infrastructure, our homes and properties. Additionally, the restoration maintains the habitat for our endangered species. Tourism is Gulf County's main industry and without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop significantly. I thank you and the Restore Act Committee for the work you have done to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>Please let me know if I can provide support in any way to ensure that this project receives the funding necessary to make it successful.</p> <p>As President of the HOA for Seacliffs Beach Homes on Cape San Blas, I am writing you today in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 26, 2016 at 1:36:12 PM EDT	Dave Dengos President, Seacliffs HOA	<a href="mailto:ddengos@aol.com">ddengos@aol.com</a>	<p>It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species. Tourism is Gulf County's main industry, and 75% of the units at Seacliffs are rented by the owners. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost, property values will sink and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken thus far to make beach restoration a reality on Cape San Blas. Let's not lose momentum and instead push this to reality, soon!</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know. Thank you again for your past support and have a great day.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 26, 2016 at 2:58:16 PM EDT	Greg Matney	<a href="mailto:matney.greg@gmail.com">matney.greg@gmail.com</a>	<p>As a Cape San Blas property owner, I am asking for your support of the beach restoration project on the Cape. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p> <p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>Please let me know if there's anything further I can do to assist in your efforts.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project

## Gulf County RESTORE MYIP

July 26,  
2016 at  
2:38:46 PM  
EDT

[preston.coastalrealty@gmail.com](mailto:preston.coastalrealty@gmail.com)

In regards to the Restore funds, I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on St. Joseph's Peninsula as a priority project. The beach restoration project is very time sensitive and needs to be done immediately and should take priority. The area of the beach project provides a huge portion of the taxes for the county because of the high property values in that area. The homes in this area are high value and the owners of those properties employ companies and people and pay top rates to maintain those homes. The tourist contribute a huge amount of money to the local economy. The vacation rentals in this area put a lot of people to work. Jobs, jobs, jobs is a big issue. There is a lot of construction jobs in the area.

I am not opposed to other projects in the area getting Restore funds but we do want to get the beach restoration done this year because of the beach erosion and this needs to be done immediately. After this there will be plenty of funds to move into other projects.

Thank you to all those that are serving on the Restore Act Committee for putting in your efforts to spend the funds wisely.

I am a full time resident and homestead my property in the City of Port St. Joe. I also operate a business with three locations in Gulf County including the City of Port St. Joe.

We are writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.

July 26, Stephen & Kathleen Eddy  
2016 at 166 Cape Dunes Drive  
1:27:07 PM Cape San Blas, Florida 32456  
EDT

[seddy@surfglobal.net](mailto:seddy@surfglobal.net)

Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.

Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.

If I can provide support in any way, please let us know.

July 26,  
2016 at 1:11:57 PM EDT John and Sarah Wise

[sarah.wise5553@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.wise5553@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Yeager, I am writing to support the beach restoration project on the Cape. It is an important ecosystem. The taxes that are generated for the county are as you know very important to the economy of Gulf Co. The tourism also brings in a lot of income to the local economy. Thanks for your time and hard work.

A quick email to voice my support of the critically needed beach restoration project on the Cape.

July 26,  
2016 at  
1:08:38 PM  
EDT

[danterankart@gmail.com](mailto:danterankart@gmail.com)

Taxes, tax base, properties, rentals, construction, jobs, turtles, habitat and much more is depending on this project.

Thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for your action to enable the restoration.

I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas. Protecting our beaches is instrumental in ensuring that Gulf County tourism revenue remains a secure and viable economic source well into the future. But you already know that, of course.

July 26,  
2016 at  
12:56:08  
PM EDT

[mmcdowell@arborwealth.net](mailto:mmcdowell@arborwealth.net)

I'm so grateful that we have prudent individuals, such as yourself, to serve in these important roles. Many thanks to you and the other Restore Act Committee members for your hard work in making it possible to shore up our beaches and to serve as visionaries for all of us.

In doing so, you are protecting and preserving our most important asset, our natural beach habitat, which ultimately benefits all of us in so many ways.

**Gulf County RESTORE MYIP**  
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<p>July 26, 2016 at 1:10:40 PM EDT</p>	<p>Ruth Tarantine Seacliffs B-1 412 915 0571</p>	<p><a href="mailto:rtarantine@icloud.com">rtarantine@icloud.com</a></p>	<p>I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p>	<p>Supports Beach Restoration project</p>
<p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p>				
<p>July 26, 2016 at 12:59:31 PM EDT</p>	<p>Susan Burns</p>	<p><a href="mailto:sburns@ptd.net">sburns@ptd.net</a></p>	<p>I am writing to voice my support for the Cape San Blas beach restoration. I understand the concerns of townspeople with other projects they feel are needed but I do wonder if they are at such a critical stage of need. There is a wonderfully diverse ecosystem on the cape which needs protection and is currently in danger. Last but not least I feel all the visitors to the cape contribute to the local economy including Port St Joe. Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>	<p>Supports Beach Restoration project</p>
<p>July 26, 2016 at 12:51:45 PM EDT</p>	<p>Rebecca Quinlan 640 Seacliffs Drive Cape San Blas</p>	<p><a href="mailto:rquinlan@maine.rr.com">rquinlan@maine.rr.com</a></p>	<p>I am writing you to urge that the Restore Act Committee support the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. As a property taxpayer in Gulf county, I am asking that the County move quickly to protect this valuable asset for tourism which provides jobs and taxes. Without the income generation that tourism provides, the entire county will suffer a reduction in the tax base which will negatively impact schools and other important institutions. In addition, restoring the beach is critical to protecting of our infrastructure, our homes and properties and habitat for endangered species.</p> <p>Thanks to you for the hours that you and the committee have spent making the beach restoration a reality.</p>	<p>Supports Beach Restoration project</p>
<p>I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p>				
<p>July 26, 2016 at 12:50:44 PM EDT</p>	<p>Melissa Rankart 190 Antiqua Drive</p>	<p><a href="mailto:mrankart@gmail.com">mrankart@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p>	<p>Supports Beach Restoration project</p>
<p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>My husband and I live down here. We have owned property down here for 20+ years. We were walking on the beach yesterday and we were truly amazed at the devastation. People don't even have room to lay on the beach in some places. It will definitely affect tourism.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p>				
<p>July 26, 2016 at 12:32:25 PM EDT</p>	<p>Jill Meiser 170 Cape Dunes Drive Port St Joe FL 32456 404-863-4242</p>	<p><a href="mailto:jillymize@gmail.com">jillymize@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>As a property owner on Cape San Blas, FL I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project.. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p> <p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p>	<p>Supports Beach Restoration project</p>



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July 26, 2016 at 12:26:08 PM EDT	Sherri Dodsworth, PA Associate Broker Coastal Realty Group 1252 Cape San Blas Road Port St. Joe, FL 32456  Ofc: 850-227-7891 Cell: 850-227-5197	<a href="mailto:sherri@sherridodsworth.com">sherri@sherridodsworth.com</a>	<p>I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p> <p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 26, 2016 at 12:47:43 PM EDT	Carol Hammock (404)234-2690	<a href="mailto:carolhammock@yahoo.com">carolhammock@yahoo.com</a>	<p>I own 2 properties myself on the Cape and I have been waiting desperately to get this project underway and have it completed asap. Our beaches are melting away and we can't get this completed fast enough. Several of the homes' foundations on the Cape are being comprised and I don't want to be the next victim to the dunes being washed away. This effort will protect our investments and the local economy which supports you and the local government there.</p> <p>Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 26, 2016 at 12:29:03 PM EDT	Joshua Paillet 135 Seacliff Drive Cape San Blas, Florida. 32456	<a href="mailto:joshuamann@att.net">joshuamann@att.net</a>	<p>I hope you are on board for the full amount of the Restore Act being used for saving The Cape.</p> <p>Cape San Blas is unique and critical to preserving so that the entire Gulf County will benefit financially.</p> <p>Let me know if there is anything I can do to help.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 26, 2016 at 11:36:50 AM EDT	julia cunningham, Realtor® Coastal Realty Group 1252 Cape San Blas Road Cape San Blas, FL 32456 850-227-7891 Office 850-624-6147 Cell	<a href="mailto:realestate@juliacunningham.com">realestate@juliacunningham.com</a>	<p>I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p> <p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
Tuesday, August 02, 2016 11:15 PM	Gary and Donna Woodall	<a href="mailto:woodalldds@aol.com">woodalldds@aol.com</a>	<p>Thanks for your support of the beach restoration! This is critical to the county economy and property values and the need has reached a near emergency state. Please continue to fight for the county and this restoration.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 29, 2016 at 5:03:24 PM EDT	Cheri Davis	<a href="mailto:c3d@cox.net">c3d@cox.net</a>	<p>My name is Cheri Davis and I live in Niceville Florida. I visit the cape frequently to visit Jill Davis (owns Scallop Cove) with my children. It saddens me to see the deterioration of the beaches since we started visiting in 2003. I feel the first round of restore act money should be used to help beach nourishment. It is one of the most peaceful beautiful places we have seen and hope it stays that way. Thanks for your time.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project

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July 29, 2016 at 8:01:36 PM EDT	Sandi Christy	<a href="mailto:christysandi@hotmail.com">christysandi@hotmail.com</a>	<p>Hi Warren  Hope you are well!  I'm sure you are getting lots of emails about the cape.  I just wanted to write and request that the first round of Restore Act mobey be used for cape beach renourishment</p> <p>We all know how important the cape beaches are to our local economy.  Thank you for the important work you are doing!</p> <p>I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
Tuesday, August 02, 2016 8:48 AM	Steve Langford 763 Secluded Dunes Dr, 214 Park Point Circle 201 Park Point Circle 203 Park Point Circle	<a href="mailto:steve.langford@langfordcc.com">steve.langford@langfordcc.com</a>	<p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p> <p>Thank you and have a great day.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
August 1, 2016 at 9:05:57 PM EDT	Dan Croft ARCO Design/Build, Inc. 380 Interstate North Pkwy   Suite 210   Atlanta, GA 30339 O: 770 541.1700 x4138   F: 770 541.1699   C: 757.813.6952	<a href="mailto:dcroft@arcodb.com">dcroft@arcodb.com</a>	<p>I wanted to send a quick note an let you know how important the Cape restoration is to me and my family. I've been vacationing at the Cape for over 25 years. My parent have been property owners for over 16 years. My two girls, 6 and 8, have spent 2-3 weeks a year on the Cape. I want them to grow up with the experiences I did. The Cape is an amazing place and I plan to own my parent's house in the coming years.</p> <p>Not only is the Cape important to my family, it is a revenue-generating destination for the business owners of Gulf County and Port St Joe. Over the past 5 years I've seen more new businesses and development in PSJ than I have in the past 15. Let's not let their dreams and businesses get washed away with the sand.</p> <p>We own the property at 7761 Cape San Blas Road. I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 29, 2016 at 8:16:49 PM EDT	Eric & Jen Scroggins	<a href="mailto:scroggins@me.com">scroggins@me.com</a>	<p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. The main attraction in the Port St Joe area is the beaches - it's what brings thousands of people and their dollars to the area. Without the beach restoration, there will be no beach and with that many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p> <p>Thank you and have a great day.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project

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July 30, 2016 at 1:43:36 PM EDT	Bruce White 4319 Cape San Blas Road Port Saint Joe, FL 32456 404-931-5454	<a href="mailto:bruce.white@icloud.com">bruce.white@icloud.com</a>	<p>I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p> <p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p> <p>Thank you and have a great day.</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 29, 2016 at 4:27:28 PM EDT	Melissia Buskens	<a href="mailto:buskens.melissia@gmail.com">buskens.melissia@gmail.com</a>	<p>Please save the cape</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
Tue 8/2/2016 12:12 PM	Carla Beal 107 Summer House Ln Cape San Blas	<a href="mailto:cbeal@monticelloassociates.com">cbeal@monticelloassociates.com</a>	<p>I just wanted to voice my support for the RESTORE Act proposed beach restoration project (St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration). My husband and I own a home on Cape San Blas and find it to be a truly unique and special place that should be restored and protected. This area is very important to the ecosystem St Joes Bay and the economic stability of Gulf County. Restoring this beach benefits the entire county. Please consider my support in your decision making process.</p> <p>I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p> <p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p> <p>Thank you and have a great day."</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 30, 2016 at 1:49:26 PM EDT	Andrea White 4319 Cape San Blas Road PSJ. FL Cape resident and Gulf County voter	<a href="mailto:andreawhite2@me.com">andreawhite2@me.com</a>	<p>I am writing you in support of the beach restoration project on Cape San Blas, FL. It not only helps with the protection of our infrastructure, our homes and properties, but it also helps our habitat for our endangered species.</p> <p>Tourism is Gulf County's main industry. Without the beach restoration, many jobs will be lost and the County's tax base will drop to a critical low.</p> <p>Many thanks to you and the Restore Act Committee for the steps you have taken to make this beach restoration a reality.</p> <p>If I can provide support in any way, please let me know.</p> <p>Thank you and have a great day."</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project
July 29, 2016 at 5:17:07 PM EDT	Chris Kissel Muscle Activation Techniques ACSM Personal Trainer Pruver @ www.chriskissel.pruvitnow.com St Louis MO (937)238-1703	<a href="mailto:kisselijcr@icloud.com">kisselijcr@icloud.com</a>	<p>For years my family and I have enjoyed the beach at Cape San Blas. I would hate to see that go away. Please approve the funding for the beach restoration project</p>	Supports Beach Restoration project

Three more comments were received on September 6th (a total of 55), which follow this document.



## NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER  
44 East Avenue, Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Local Office: 5295 Powrie Dr, Pensacola, FL 32504

850.332.0266  
727.424.0057  
[www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)

September 5, 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 REVISED Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP)

Dear Mr. Yeager,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on Gulf County's REVISED Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP). We previously submitted comments (May 20, 2016; attached for reference) on Gulf County's INITIAL draft MYIP.

However, at a June 21, 2016 Board of County Commission (BOCC) meeting, the Board voted to substantially change the actual dollar amounts going to the first project in the plan, another 45 day public comment period. We agree with Gulf County's assessment that the MYIP has changed substantially and appreciate the opportunity to submit additional comments. Many of the comments expressed in our May 20 letter continue to pertain to the current version of the MYIP. However, NWF respectfully submits additional comments related to changes to two main components of the MYIP: **Process and Projects**.

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).

### **Process and Public Engagement:**

In our previous letter, NWF applauded the Gulf County MYIP development and project selection process. Elements such as the Needs Assessment, Scoring Criteria, Project Submission Portal, and use of Local Citizen Committee were all elements that strengthened the process. The initial draft MYIP recognized that projects must be selected based on "meaningful input from the public, including broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations..." Input from the Local Citizen Committee (RAC: RESTORE Advisory Committee) was a critical element of public engagement and the MYIP process in general.

However, on June 21, 2016 the BOCC voted to direct all of the initially and currently available Direct Component Funds (through the Transocean and Anadarko settlements) from the suite of projects supported by the RAC (discussed in NWF's May 20, 2016 Comment Letter) to a single project (St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration). Apparently this potential change to the MYIP was not noticed on a publically available agenda nor was the RAC informed. To my knowledge, the RAC to date has not endorsed – or even specifically been asked to review --- this change. While the decision to change the MYIP was within the purview of the BOCC, it was not reviewed by the RAC – whose role has been highlighted as a key element of Gulf County's public engagement. This action appears to have undermined an otherwise strong public participation process.

The Public Engagement since this June 21 meeting did not meet the same standard as prior to that date. Even Appendix F – the Final MYIP Outreach Report – does not list any meetings of the RAC or other community or public engagement since the release of the Initial Draft MYIP (April 11, 2016). No RAC meetings are listed; no media releases, no outreach of any kind is indicated. In order to maintain the same standard of Public Engagement, additional outreach should have been employed highlighting the changes between the Initial and the Final Draft MYIPs, and involving the RAC.

### **Projects:**

In our May 20 letter, NWF supported several of the projects included in the 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

Whereas these projects are technically still included in the revised MYIP, they will not be initiated through the currently available funds (from Anadarko and Transocean settlements). NWF understands the Gulf County's intention is to implement these projects with funds anticipate to be available in April 4, 2017 through the BP settlement, however, such decisions will also be at the discretion of the BOCC.

The MYIP Section "Outlook – Post MYIP Activities" outlines a plan for how the other seven projects in the Initial MYIP – including the three mentioned above -- will be submitted for funding. Given the unpredictable nature of BOCC decisions, and understanding that priorities may again shift with future BOCC, NWF urges Gulf County to make a firm commitment to adhere to the intent expressed in the " Outlook – Post MYIP Activities" section.

In addition, implementation of projects that were submitted for consideration but not selected (either because they require further evaluation or were recommended for future consideration in Years 2-5 or 6-10) will be further delayed. These projects (also referenced in our May 20 letter) 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

Again, NWF urges Gulf County to follow the recommendations of a RAC – the result of a sound public participation process – when making decisions about future rounds of Direct Component RESTORE Act funding.

As for the project to be funded with the entirety of the Initial Direct Component Funds, St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration, NWF does not support the use of RESTORE Act funds for this project. First and foremost, NWF believes RESTORE Act funds should be used to leave a legacy for the community. Beach nourishment by its nature is ephemeral and a temporary solution to an on-going issue: beach erosion. In 5-10 years (at a maximum), the sand placed by the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration project will likely have been eroded and the RESTORE Act funds would have (literally) been washed out to sea, rather than leaving a lasting impact on the community, as some of the others projects mentioned above would do. Furthermore, at the June 21, 2016 BOCC meeting, Commissioner Bryan and Chief Administrator Butler reported that the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration project would provide mitigation for the County's H.C.P. (Habitat Conservation Plan). When Gulf County allows beach restoration to be used as mitigation for development, they are in essence subsidizing that development, and redirecting funds that should be used to RESTORE the ecology and economy of the region to private interests.

**Conclusion:**

We appreciated Gulf County's efforts to select projects and prepare a Draft MYIP. We were supportive of the Initial Draft MYIP (released April 11, 2016), as indicated in our May 20, 2016 comment letter. However, we have concerns that the public was not fully informed of the changes included in the current draft. We would prefer to see Gulf County submit its Initial Draft MYIP (April 11, 2016) version to Treasury for Direct Component funding, since it was already fully vetted by the RAC and community at large, and includes projects that better align with the spirit and intent of the RESTORE Act.

For future installments of Direct Component funding, we urge Gulf County to fund natural resource restoration projects, and water quality projects not included for funding in the current MYIP. 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.

Sincerely,

Jessica Koelsch  
Florida Policy Specialist  
National Wildlife Federation



**Northwest Florida Office**

1294 Avondale Way | Tallahassee, Florida 32317-8451 | tel 850.528.5261

[www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)

September 6, 2016

Mr. Warren Yeager, Restore Coordinator  
1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd, Room 310,  
Port St. Joe, FL 32456  
Via: [weager@gulfcounty-fl.gov](mailto:weager@gulfcounty-fl.gov)

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

Dear Mr. Yeager,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on Gulf County's Revised Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP). Please consider these comments in addition to those that I submitted on May 20, 2016 on behalf of Defenders of Wildlife and several other organizations on Gulf County's initial draft plan. Founded in 1947, Defenders is a national non-profit conservation organization focused on wildlife and habitat protection, the protection and recovery of endangered species and the conservation of biodiversity. Defenders has over 80,000 members and supporters in Florida including 200 in Gulf County.

The revised MYIP replaces or at least postpones several worthwhile projects in favor of beach renourishment on St. Joseph Peninsula. In our August 25, 2016 letter to the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners concerning the Gulf County Habitat Conservation Plan, we questioned the long-term value of beach renourishment for wildlife. Considering the ephemeral nature of sand along this moving coastline, we do not support Gulf County's use of its limited, Initial Direct Component Funds for beach renourishment. These funds should be used for projects that will have a long-term or at least lasting positive impact to the entire community. Using these funds for beach renourishment will not provide long-term mitigation for future habitat loss under the County's Habitat Conservation Plan and will disproportionately benefit residents and tourists to St. Joseph Peninsula in the short-term at the expense of long-term benefits to the County's other residents and the quality of their water and ecosystems.

Defenders strongly encourages Gulf County to follow the recommendations of its proactive public participation process and its RESTORE Advisory Committee and to select MYIP projects that enhance water quality and environmental protection:

1. Gulf County Stormwater Management Plan - Phase I
2. Cape Sewer Extension - Phase I
3. City of Wewahitchka Sewer Extension
4. Beacon Hill Sewer
5. St Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve Land Acquisition
6. Money Bayou Land Acquisition
7. Long-term sea turtle monitoring program

Thank you very much for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Kent L. Wimmer, AICP

## Wilson, Estelle

---

**From:** Christy Mcelroy <mcelro9@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 06, 2016 3:28 PM  
**To:** Wilson, Estelle  
**Subject:** Fwd: process public comment Gulf County Restore Sept. 6 2016  
**Attachments:** Cape Renourishment or Replenishment.doc

This message originated from outside your organization

---

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

-----Original Message-----

From: Christy Mcelroy <mcelro9@aol.com>  
To: wyeager <wyeager@gulfcountry-fl.gov>  
Sent: Tue, Sep 6, 2016 04:24 PM  
Subject: Fwd: process public comment Gulf County Restore Sept. 6 2016

Please note the attached item.

Due the fact there are no ratings of the 32 projects. I Christy McElroy do not think the rankings were honored.  
Thank you, Christy McElroy

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

-----Original Message-----

From: Christy Mcelroy <[mcelro9@aol.com](mailto:mcelro9@aol.com)>  
To: mcelro9 <[mcelro9@aol.com](mailto:mcelro9@aol.com)>  
Sent: Tue, Sep 6, 2016 02:38 PM  
Subject: process public comment Gulf County Restore Sept. 6 2016



**Cape Renourishment or Replenishment (proper terms) Project Summary / Facts to consider**  
**June 21, 2016 BOCC meeting**

**3 Separate Documents to Review**

***Document 1 Highlights***

***CCA Documents and Letters***

- Monitoring since 1995
- MSTU passed on 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt in 2016
- CCA stated the best “estimate” the replenishment or renourishment would cost \$13.5M total
- There are 60 beach replenishment or renourishment projects in FL, majority are funded locally through MSTUs “Since the Property owners have a vested financial interest.”
- April 14 2015 BOCC voted to limit the amount of funding participation for peninsula property owners to a maximum of \$4M of the \$8M MSTU Bond.
- County commits \$810,000 12/2014 to begin necessary Engineering to obtain permits and DEP involvement
- According to CCA Cape generates 25% of total tax revenue=\$330M out of the \$1.3B total for the County
- 2005 Cape accounted for 24% of tax revenue for the County
- 1,682 or 1,662 properties on the Cape (both were stated in CCA doc.)
- Gulf 439/Interior 837/Bay 386
- 244 or 255 registered voters on the CAPE
- Stated TDC will lose 50% of their revenue to promote the County if the CAPE is compromised

Port St. Joe has 2696 voters and represents about 20% of tax revenue for the County

Several different Learning items from Document 1

- 1) Not many full time residences on based on voting #s compared to Port St. Joe
- 2) Huge % homes are either part time or rental meaning revenue to TDC for BED TAX
- 3) PSJ as well generates BED TAX \$s but, a very small amount goes back into the City Parks which many of our Visitors use as well as other city services and infrastructure utilized by the Tourists but the PSJ Tax payers are accountable for. Still waiting for the \$10k from the TDC to the PSJ to improve lighting on the bike/walking path.
- 4) If TDC will lose 50% of their revenue, maybe the focus needs to be a healthy amount of Bed Tax collected \$s should be spent towards the renourishment or replenishment of the ASSET that brings their clients here in the first place. How much is now in TDC reserves? Stated in 2014 and early 2015 there was \$1M in TDC reserves

Logic would suggest that the ASSET is mainly used by Tourists and Part time residences and those dollars invested in this business model need to be returned through the dollars realized due to the business practice of tourism.

## ***Document 2 Highlights***

***Dewberry Power Point Presentation based on applications/ scoring/ input from committee and/Funds available to be presented to BOCC for a vote on projects***

- The path towards decisions for RESTORE FUNDS was a process driven by rules and recommendations from Staff, Consultants, Coordinator, BOCC, Volunteers and Public Input
- First Slide outlines the process which includes a 45 day Public Comment Period for projects selected for year one.
- The BOCC voted on the projects disclosed in the power point document and the 45 day Public comment period has closed for those recommendations and that vote.
- Slide two outlines the flow of money for year 1 MYIP: Source; Transocean=\$2,889,065
- Anadarko = \$450,000 Subtotal \$3,339,065 MYIP Planning Grant -\$560,400 for a Grand total of \$2,778,665
- Slide three outlines Recommended Year 1 MYIP Funding Breakdown with a total of 6 projects being on that recommendation list = \$2,777,250
- Slide four outlines Year 1 Priority Projects with 6 projects two of those were sewer projects in Wewa and PSJ both, Phase 1 with understanding there would be other Phases to follow in years to follow
- Following slides are all about cost of 32 projects, score of projects applications, Final Rankings, Eligibility of projects, Years those projects will roll-out from year 1-10

Key items for this Document:

- 1) This was a rule and very defined process for decisions
- 2) Many people invested time and effort both paid and unpaid into the rule defined process
- 3) If opened back up then the process as well needs to be reinstituted (which goes back to Slide one).
- 4) If you alter timelines on Phased projects then you alter the path and amounts allocated to all the years 1-10
- 5) Only 255 voters live on the Cape and hence are full time vs. the rest of the County population

## ***Document 3 Highlights***

***Newspaper articles outlining Restore Coordinator Role, the Restore Committee Role and Dewberry Role as well as their purchase of Preble-Rish Engineering firm***

- FIRST Article concerns Restore Coordinator role was to act as “facilitator” with Restore committee and Dewberry, LLC. The article also outlines his past experience in private and public sector
- SECOND Article is all about the process defined, submission of projects, scoring, committee, public comment and BOCC approval
- THIRD Article is all about the projects to be funded what those projects are (Sewer for Wewa and PSJ extension to Cape were two clearly defined for year one)
- Treasury rules are mentioned as is Dewberry’s involvement as a third party consultant to Gulf County
- Article FOUR and FIVE are all about Dewberry LLC now buying Preble-Rish and their involvement as “Third Party” consultant contracted with Gulf County to “craft its multi-year implementation plan for spending fine monies stemming from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill”.

Important take home messages:

- 1) Defined Process of Who, What, When and How the Restore Funds were to be allocated
- 2) Third Party consultant became a business with long term opportunities with a Multi-year implantation plan for Gulf County
- 3) How does this really shape the process we all invested in for the future of Gulf County?



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@gulfcounty-fl.gov](mailto:wyeager@gulfcounty-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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Kent L. Wimmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kent" being more prominent.

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.

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,

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.

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,

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





## NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER  
44 East Avenue, Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Local Office: 5295 Powrie Dr, Pensacola, FL 32504

850.332.0266  
727.424.0057  
[www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)

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 the **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

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