

Local RESTORE Council
November 10, 2014
Milton, Florida

Present: Chairman Lane Lynchard and members Buzz Eddy, Brian Watkins, Tony Alexander, Carole Tebay, Shon Owens, Cal Bodenstein, Greg Fountain. Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), County Engineer (Roger Blaylock), and County Attorney (Roy Andrews).

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the minutes of the October 21, 2014 meeting.

Update on NRDA, RESTORE, Gulf Consortium, Other

Jeff Helms (Atkins, North America) introduced Traci Goodhart, Regional Planner I for the West Florida Regional Planning Council. Helms gave a power point presentation (Attachment in file). He said the Department of Treasury anticipates publishing a final, comprehensive rule during the first quarter of 2015. He gave the Council a list of frequently asked questions relating to the direct component program (Attachment in file).

Project Application Format

Helms said after review of the application, he feels it is unnecessarily too complicated. He said he recommends, changing the application to more of a proposal format. Helms gave an overview of the draft request for proposal and criteria for eligible projects (Attachment in file). He said he would like staff to review this once more and offer any suggestions or changes. He said staff will need to contact all of the applicants that submitted prior applications and let them know they need to re-submit. Helms said as of now there is no limit to the number of projects that any one applicant can submit. He said the Council may want to think about setting a cap.

Lynchard said he feels the simplified application makes it easier for the applicants to apply. He said he feels the no blackout period is important. Helms said he can provide a sample project application for the Council to review. Lynchard said he feels this will be a good idea to make sure it is a workable format.

Helms said at the December 8th Restore meeting, the Council will need to approve anything outstanding in regards to criteria and scoring. He further discussed a timeline for developing the multi-year implementation plan. Lynchard said during the project review process, he would like to hold a meeting in the southend of the County as well. He said the Council needs as much public input as possible. Lynchard said he feels 60 days is sufficient for accepting proposals for the first round. Helms said the goal is to try to make all the applications as good as possible.

There was further discussion about the mechanics of the blackout period for the application process. Lynchard said he feels the Council will need to develop and approve a policy for this, at the December meeting, when finalizing the application. Helms said there also needs to be a technical review on the way the County intends to notify the public.

Helms said he feels the Council should review the criteria again before the next meeting in December. He discussed a list of edits that need to be made on the RESTORE website.

Helms discussed the workforce development project scoring sheet in regards to leveraging.

Other Business

Lynchard said last week he attended a FWC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) land access management plan meeting for Escribano Point. He gave an overview of the meeting and said Escribano Points is a huge opportunity for ecotourism in Santa Rosa County.

Public Forum

Ralph Agnew asked if entities with financial backing will have a distinct advantage, when it comes to leverage, on submitting projects. Lynchard said leverage is taken into account in the scoring matrix of workforce development.

Jessica Koelsh (National Wildlife Federation) said that Bay County has started accepting and has received 47 pre-proposals. She discussed some of the various types of proposals received by Bay County.

Richard Brown (AMEC Environment and Infrastructure, Operations Manager) said he feels the five page limit is great for an executive summary but does not sound like enough for supporting documentation, cost estimates and figures etc. He asked who will make up the technical team and if there is potential for a conflict of interest if County staff is scoring a County project. Walker said County staff will be the technical team. Lynchard said this will be a public process and the scoring, by the technical staff, is not necessarily indicative of where the project is going to rank when the Council reviews it. He said the Restore Council will review the projects as a whole and rank them according to their relevant merit. Lynchard said staff and the Council should be thinking about the five page limit between now and December. He asked Brown to send any suggestions he may have to Walker.

Lynchard said the next Local Restore Council meeting will be December 8, 2014.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

By: Lane Lynchard, Chairman