

Local RESTORE Council
December 8, 2014
Milton, Florida

Present: Chairman Lane Lynchard and members Cal Bodenstein, Donna Tucker, Brian Watkins, Carol Tebay, Dave Robau, Buzz Eddy, Shon Owens, and Rob Williamson. Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), County Attorney (Roy Andrews), and County Engineer (Roger Blaylock). Lynchard called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the November 10, 2014 meeting minutes.

Update on NRDA, RESTORE, Gulf Consortium, Other

Rob Williamson thanked Greg Fountain for his service to the Council.

Jeff Helms (Atkins, North America) said Greg Fountain was a great addition to the Council and hopefully his health condition will continue to improve. He gave a power point presentation to the Council (Attachment in file). Helms said November 17th, NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation) made their second round grant funding which totaled \$34 million. He said the State of Florida is allocated to receive \$356 million over a six year period. Helms said NFWF funding is separate from Restore funding, in that it is the criminal fines and not the clean water act fines. He said Escribano Point received almost \$1.5 million. Helms said he believes this will complete the purchase of 590 acres associated with the area of Escribano Point. He said the technical team will be meeting with Walker and Blaylock regarding the 2015 cycle. Helms said moving forward, he feels the County should be aggressive in trying to pursue funds from NFWF. He said the State of Florida submitted five projects. Helms said the Northwest Florida Estuaries Restoration Proposal was one of the projects submitted. He said he appreciates this Council and the Board of Commissioners for expressing support of this project. Helms said the Pensacola Bay Watershed Restoration Proposal is another very good project. He said two of the five projects directly impact Santa Rosa County.

Helms said on November 19th there was a Gulf Consortium meeting in Tampa. He said he did not attend this meeting. Lynchard said J. Williamson attended the Gulf Consortium meeting on behalf of the Commission.

Helms said this morning the U. S. Supreme Court rejected BP's challenge to the multi-billion dollar settlement agreement. He said BP will have to continue to pay business economic damage claims. Helms said he is very disappointed that the U. S. Chamber of Commerce supported BP's claim but very happy with the U. S. Supreme Court's rejection.

Helms gave an overview of Pensacola Bay Watershed Restoration proposal.

Project Criteria

Helms discussed modifications made to the environmental, economic development, workforce development, infrastructure, and tourism criteria scoring sheets (Attachment in file). He said he would like the Council to move forward with the criteria, get it on the website and begin testing projects.

Jessica Koelsch said in regards to the workforce development criteria, any jobs less than \$17.00 an hour are not given credit. Lynchard further explained the workforce development project criteria.

Romi White asked who will be serving on the technical team. Helms said the technical team will be similar to the same group that has been involved from day one. He said this is Walker, Blaylock, Sheila Harris, Chris Velinde, Stephen Furman and others. Helms said ultimately the responsibility is on Santa Rosa County to administer, facilitate and to address auditing questions from the Department of Treasury.

Shannon Ogletree (Economic Development Director) discussed the reasoning for points given aimed at jobs requiring customized training. He said this criterion is tailored more towards training centers.

Tucker asked Ogletree if this is to encourage diversity. Ogletree said yes.

Williamson asked if the criteria can be changed after a project is submitted. Lynchard said if the Council should run into any areas where there are flaws with the process, then the criteria can be revisited and everyone within that category will be rescored to make sure it's consistent. Helms said he recommends moving forward and taking this through the system for the Transocean funds. He said the Council will have the opportunity to tweak the criteria after Transocean. Helms said if adjustments are made, the Council will have to give applicants an opportunity to adjust their proposal.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of project criteria.

Project application format

Helms said he is proposing a five page max narrative covering the requested information and five pages for potential exhibits. He discussed having a sixty day proposal period. Helms said he is recommending a proposal workshop as the February 9th Local Restore Council meeting. He said this will give a chance to review the application process with those interested in submitting application and give them a chance to ask questions. Helms said he feels a no black out period is good. He said staff has developed a frequently asked questions list to post along with the solicitation. Helms said staff will contact all those that have already submitted applications.

Sheila Harris (Grants Coordinator) said staff will be setting up a generic RESTORE email for applications.

Robau said in regards to a large scale commercial project, his concern is a local non-profit, civic group that has a great idea may fall from consideration because they may not have met some of the technical guidelines requested. Helms said he does not think so. He said staff will have the ability to contact applicants if clarification is needed.

Tebay asked if the Local Restore Council is not able to fund a project in whole, will there be opportunity to ask those applicants if the project can be done without the full funds requested. Helms said he feels this will be something staff is going to have to do. He said he feels when the Council receives the short list of groups; they will be able to speak to whether they can fulfill the mission of their proposal.

Helms gave an overview of the Santa Rosa County Restore Council's multi-year implementation plan development process. He said staff has pushed back the press release back to the 16th and moved the grant proposal date back to the 12th and added the pre-application workshop.

Tucker asked if the Council should plan for a longer meeting in February since this meeting will be a workshop. Lynchard said the meeting may need to start at about 1:00 p.m. on February 9th. Helms said the Council may want to schedule this meeting after 5:00 p.m. for those that may not be able to make an early meeting. Lynchard said the Council can set the time for the February meeting, at January's meeting.

Romi White asked if the technical team or the Council will be doing the project scoring. Lynchard said the technical team will score the projects according to the criteria, and then the results will come before the Council for review. He said the Council retains the flexibility to rank projects, independent of the scoring criteria.

Harris discussed the technical team's plan for reviewing applications.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the project application format.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the planned development schedule.

Other Business

Lynchard said on November 18th he attended a luncheon for Escribano Point. He said this was a very informative event to kick off the next phase of Escribano Point.

Lynchard said the next meeting will be January 12, 2015.

Adjournment

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

By: Lane Lynchard, Chairman