

Local Restore Council
December 14, 2015
Milton, Florida

Present: Chairman Lane Lynchard, and members Dave Robau, Brian Watkins, Carole Tebay and Rob Williamson. Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker) and County Attorney (Roy Andrews). Lynchard called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Update on RESTORE, Gulf Consortium, and Triumph Gulf Coast:

Jeff Helms (Atkins, North America) made a power point presentation to the council.

Lynchard said many resources have contributed to the Escribano Point project. He said the Escribano Point project is foundational for the health of local waterways. Lynchard said this is phase I. Helms said this is a generational project.

There was discussion regarding the distribution process of the different pots of funds. Helms said the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council met last week and they approved the funded priorities list. He said three approved projects were in the Pensacola Bay Watershed. Helms said the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council also approved the final funding formula. He said the new split is 18.36%, which will go to the 23 county gulf consortiums. Lynchard said in the August, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council meeting, the vote between the 23 counties resulted in a 50/50 split between the disproportionately impacted 8 counties and the other 15 counties. Helms said at the most recent Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council meeting, the decision was made of a 75/25 split with 75% going to the non-disproportionate counties. Lynchard asked if the governor's appointees weighed in on this issue. R. Williamson said yes. He said the governor's appointee was concerned about this allocation and a lack of specifics for making this change. Helms said the council still needs to move forward in the process.

Tebay asked if the restoration of Milton is being implemented in the master plan. Helms said yes. Robau said he has heard discussion about reversing Triumph Gulf Coast. Helms said this will be a political discussion at the Board level.

Multi Year Implementation Plan (MYIP):

Erica Grancagnolo (Santa Rosa County Grants Department) made a power point presentation to the council regarding the public input received during the 45 day public comment period. She said the next step will be for the council to approve the draft of the MYIP with the current list of projects, sending the draft to the Board for approval. Grancagnolo said the council can also determine whether there are changes needed to the MYIP based on public input, which may trigger another 45 day public comment period. She discussed the timeline of submitting this plan to the Department of Treasury. Lynchard said there should be a quorum at the January meeting to allow the council to take action on this issue.

R. Williamson said he has heard from citizens in the south end of the county that they feel the proposed projects will not provide as much benefit as possible.

Adjournment:

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

Chairman: Lane Lynchard