

Local Restore Council
May 6, 2013
Milton, Florida

Present: Commissioner Lane Lynchard, Commissioner Robert “Bob” Cole and members: Kelley Fuller (Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce), Shon Owens (Town of Jay), Brian Watkins (City of Milton), Edwin “Buzz” Eddy (City of Gulf Breeze), and Cal Bodenstein (District 1 Representative), Dave Robau (District 5 Representative). Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), County Attorney (Angela Jones), and County Engineer (Roger Blaylock). Rob Williamson (District 2 Representative), Donna Tucker (District 3 Representative), and Greg Fountain (District 4 Representative) were absent. Lynchard called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Administrative Complex Board Meeting Room.

Minutes - December 10, 2012

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the December 10, 2012 minutes.

RESTORE Act Implementation Update

Lynchard said the Restore Act regulations have not been implemented yet, but are anticipated to be released soon. He said after the release, there will be a period of public comment before the regulations take effect. Lynchard said at that point this board will have more definitive guidance to proceed and at that time will move forward with establishing a regular meeting schedule. He said Transocean entered into a settlement with the Justice Department earlier this year that amounted to approximately \$1.5 billion. Lynchard said 80% of this money will go into the Restore Act Trust Fund and will be paid out in installments.

Walker said there have been 5-6 projects submitted on the County’s Restore Act website. He distributed this list of projects to each member.

Lynchard gave an update on Senate Bill 1024. He said Senate Bill 1024 established an organization, Triumph Gulf Coast, with the stated purpose of administering and controlling any money that the Attorney General recovers for the State of Florida. Lynchard said the problem is that there was a second Triumph Gulf Coast funding source which pointed directly to the funds of the eight disproportionately affected counties. He said after the Counties became aware of this, an amendment was filed to completely strike all reference to the Restore Act from Senate Bill 1024. Lynchard said this is no longer a concern.

Walker gave the board a copy of the Florida Nomenclature (Attachment in file). Lynchard further discussed the Nomenclature and said this is a good reference. He said this board will evaluate and rank a wide range of projects and then develop a multi-year implementation plan for Santa Rosa County. Lynchard said after this board develops the multi-year implementation plan, the plan will go before the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

Lynchard said for any project that comes before this board, there is likely to be several other funding sources possible. He said this will help to maximize the County’s Restore Act funds.

Review of Restore Webpage

Lynchard said the County has established a Restore Act webpage. He displayed the County Restore Act webpage (www.santarosa.fl.gov/bocc/restore) on the screen. Lynchard further discussed the webpage and explained how to submit projects online. He said Sheila Harris (Grants and Special Projects Coordinator) is the primary contact for submitting projects. Lynchard said there have been 6 projects submitted through the webpage so far. Harris said there is an option to upload attachments, when submitting projects on the webpage. She said there is also the option to leave an email address for anyone wishing to receive Restore Act notifications.

Restore Consultant Interviews

Lynchard said the County received 9 proposals from different firms in the region. Walker said the Board will conduct interviews on Tuesday, May 21, 2012. Lynchard said the selected consultant will be on board within the next thirty days. He said he looks forward to getting the needed assistance from the consultant. Robau asked if the selected firm will be under the sunshine law. Lynchard said no. He said any member of this Board will be free to interact with the consultant, just not another board member. Eddy asked if the Board of County Commissioners will make the consultant selection. Lynchard said yes.

Other Business

Lynchard said once the consultant is selected this board will establish a regular meeting schedule. He said he anticipates having meetings/workshops in different areas of the County. Lynchard said the new Tiger Point Community Center will be available in September.

Next Meeting

Not scheduled at this time.

Public

Jim McFarlane, The Reefball Foundation, Reef Innovations, said this is non profit organization that has worked on worldwide marine restoration. He said he has been a volunteer for the organization since 1994. McFarlane gave a brief overview of three proposed projects of the Foundation. Cole said he will give McFarlane the contact information for Santa Rosa County's Economic Director (Shannon Ogletree). Lynchard said McFarlane can submit the projects through the county webpage. Jessica Kelsh said she is working in Florida for the National Wildlife Federation. She said the National Wildlife Federation has been involved in the writing, passage, and implementation of the Restore Act throughout the Gulf region.

Adjournment

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

By: Lane Lynchard, Chairman