

Local RESTORE Council
July 8, 2013
Milton, Florida

Present: Chairman Lane Lynchard, and members Brian Watkins, Shon Owens, Kelley Fuller, Cal Bodenstein, Rob Williamson, Bob Cole, Donna Tucker, Dave Robau, Greg Fountain. Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), County Attorney (Angela Jones), and County Engineer (Roger Blaylock). Council member Edwin "Buz" Eddy was absent. Lynchard called the meeting to order at 3:00.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the May 6, 2013 meeting minutes.

Lynchard introduced Jeff Helms of Atkins North America, Inc as Santa Rosa County's RESTORE consultant. Helms also introduced Cheryl Culleson and Dr. Scott Zengle as members of the consulting team.

Helms gave a power point presentation to the Council (Attachment in file). He gave an overview of the RESTORE Reference Guide handout and the status of the federal trial. Helms said based on Judge Barbier's ruling, BP could be liable for \$4.5 - \$17.6 billion. He said he would like this Council to start thinking about matching funds. Helms said he is not sure when the Department of Treasury will advertise the guidelines on the Federal Register. He said the good news about the delays is that the Gulf Consortium has an opportunity to influence the Department of Treasury guidelines. Helms said direct distribution of money to counties is something the Consortium is very adamant about so that the money does not flow through the State but goes directly to the County. He said he recommends that Santa Rosa County and the Clerk's office start tracking the internal planning and pre-award costs, in case the Department of Treasury decides that pre-award costs are eligible.

Lynchard said the Department of Treasury regulations were due earlier this year. He said the regulations will serve as the guidelines for how the RESTORE Act is implemented. Lynchard said the Department of Treasury has a draft working document of the regulations that have been distributed to four of the five Gulf States. He said the Department of Treasury required each State to sign a confidentiality agreement before releasing the working draft. Lynchard said due to Florida's Public Records Law, Florida was unable to sign the confidentiality agreement.

Helms said there is a copy of the Draft Comprehensive Plan in each of the Council members' packets (Attachment in file). He gave an update on the Gulf Consortium. Helms further discussed the different pots of money and recommended that the Council review the terminology for each of the pots. He said Pot #1 is the money that Santa Rosa County will receive. Helms gave an overview of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Gulf Environmental Fund. He said \$22.12 million has already been put into the Gulf Environmental Fund for the State of Florida. Helms displayed a map showing the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in Florida Waters. He said he feels it is very important for the Council to keep in the forefront, through out the process, that "projects are expected to occur within reasonable proximity to where the impacts occurred as appropriate". Helms said Santa Rosa County will be in great shape to make a real difference if this happens. He discussed the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funds. Helms read a list of NRDA projects (Attachment in file). He said recently, there was a press release regarding retrofit projects for Bay, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa Counties. Helms said he would like to follow up with Blaylock to identify the projects from the press release. He said Santa Rosa County should know the priorities of the FWC and NFWF and gear its projects to fit the criteria of pots 2 and 3. Helms discussed the Watershed Approach and said this is a consistent way to administer funds around the State regarding Pots 2 and 3. He displayed a map of the watershed of the Pensacola Bay System. Helms said over half of the watershed is in Alabama. He said it would be good to have dialogue with Alabama to see if they would be interested in working together. Helms said he would like Santa Rosa County to add a lot more projects to the watershed list. He said now that there is an opportunity to implement watershed projects we need to get projects pulled together. There was further discussion about the Living Shoreline and Estuary Habitat Restoration. Helms discussed project criteria development. He said he would suggest that the Council use the criteria for environmental projects and to be consistent with the state and federal. Helms said he feels public support should be criteria on every project.

Tucker asked if there had been any discussion from the Consortium, about consistencies with project criteria and applications amongst the counties. Lynchard said each county is tasked with coming up with its own local plan. He said Escambia and Santa Rosa County have many common interests, specifically with regard to the watershed project. Lynchard said Santa Rosa County will need to work together with Escambia County in developing that plan. Helms said the eligible projects criteria for Pot 1 and Pot 3 are the same. He said this Council will need to identify grants that are available for the different project categories. Helms said he would suggest, that when the Council is developing the multi year implementation plan, to create a plan for the minimum and a stretch plan in order to be prepared.

Lynchard said this Council's purpose is to invest the Restore Act funds into Santa Rosa County's future. He said reality is that this Council has to be cognizant of all of the different funding sources. Lynchard said the money from Pot 1 will only go so far. He said if this Council is prudent in the plan that it develops, and by leveraging and stretching the funds, Santa Rosa County will be impacted for years to come.

Williamson asked if the Trans Ocean funding will be part of the funding for Santa Rosa County. Lynchard said Trans Ocean has settled their Clean Water Act for \$1.5 billion. He said 80% of this pursuant to the RESTORE Act will go to the RESTORE Act trust fund. Williamson said Santa Rosa County could have money readily available soon. He said feels the Council should have projects that are ready to go if money becomes available.

Robau said he feels it is important, as this Council establishes the criteria, to recognize that every environmental project is also an economical development project. He said he feels the reason this Council has been established is not necessarily because of the oil spill but rather to the addiction to fossil fuels. Robau said he would like to see projects that are proactive in looking at alternative fuels. He said he feels it is important that this Council looks beyond just restoring and to becoming more resilient.

Lynchard said he would like the consultant to develop a list of example criteria for the different categories and distribute it to the Council. He said at the next meeting the Council can discuss the criteria and assign a weight to the respective criteria within each category. Lynchard said when the criteria is developed the Council can start evaluating projects. There was further discussion about the developing of criteria.

Walker said he would like the consultant to submit a plan of action to the Council at the next meeting. Lynchard said in 90 days he feels the Council should be able to start reviewing projects with the criteria in place, the weighting of the criteria and some mechanism for reviewing projects.

Lynchard said he would like to direct the consultant to prepare a 90 day plan that will get the Council to where the project criteria is in place and ready to start reviewing projects.

Tucker asked if there will be time to solicit community input to get ideas on the criteria. Lynchard said Helms will distribute the proposed criteria to the Council. He said the criteria can then be distributed to the Chamber's of Commerce and they can be informed that this will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Helms said he will put together a 90 day plan and meet with staff to start looking into watershed projects. He said the Council should decide whether or not it will invite members of the community to make additional presentations at the next meeting. He said he feels it is very important to meet with the Northwest Florida Water Management District early because they will be involved in the Restore Act.

Cole said on July 20, 2013 there will be a Gulf Counties and Parishes Oil Spill Task Force meeting at NACo.

Public Forum

Robert Boston said he is a resident of Navarre. He said he has been working on Santa Rosa Project 27 as part of the NRDA Phase III submission. Boston said the public is looking to the

Council for the overarching goals and strategic objectives for Santa Rosa County. Lynchard said the public will see this in the criteria.

Next Meeting

August 8, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

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

By: Lane Lynchard, Chairman