

Local RESTORE Council  
October 14, 2013  
Milton, Florida

Present: Chairman Lane Lynchard, members Shon Owens, Brian Watkins, Buzz Eddy, Kelly Fuller, Donna Tucker, Greg Fountain, Cal Bodenstein, and Rob Williamson. Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), and County Engineer (Roger Blaylock). Lynchard called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Fuller said Tony Alexander is the new CEO for the Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and will be taking over her duties this week.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the minutes for the September 9, 2013 Restore Council meeting.

Jeff Helms made a power point presentation to the Council. He said bucket 1 of the funding will flow first to the Counties. Helms said the final guidelines will be released in the February-March timeframe and he will be able to move forward with requesting funds. Helms said NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment) will announce Phase 4 before the end of the year. He said NRDA is requesting a ten year plan. Helms said he submitted 15 treasury guidelines to the Council. He said today the Council will discuss phases of the criteria development.

Economic Development:

Tucker said she wanted to add a notation regarding a business incubator to address small business. She said most of these guidelines are dealing with industry. Lynchard asked if the State has any way to quantify ancillary jobs. Shannon Ogletree (Economic Development Officer) said no. He said there are no incentives at any level. Ogletree said he will need to know how "small business" is defined. He said a shared office space facility has been discussed. Ogletree said this will be useful for foreign investors as well. Lynchard said there are programs like this that can be developed. Tucker said her concern is that these criteria focus on industry. Lynchard said if these criteria focus on business it will run the risk of competing with existing businesses. Helms said what Tucker is suggesting is similar to what the Pensacola Chamber, and UWF (University of West Florida) already have implemented. Helms said this idea falls under workforce development.

Williamson asked Tucker if her understanding is that if something is not listed as part of the criteria will this disqualify the project. Tucker said small business is a large part of the economy. She said she feels these criteria knocks small business out of contention. Williamson said as the criteria is developed he does not want to see projects disqualified because they do not meet criteria. He said he wants the Council to be able to be flexible. Lynchard said most any small business will meet one of the proposed criteria. Fountain asked how the projects will be voted on by the Council. Ogletree said ranking should be a weighted average, and a sliding scale in each category.

Eddy said he felt the criteria should be flexible. Lynchard said incentivizing a particular business is not part of RESTORE. He said the criteria will not be to evaluate individual businesses. Williamson asked if the criteria will determine the award of funds. Helms said there will need to be a rating scale to measure projects.

Walker said there will need to be judgment and discretion used by the Council. Ogletree said he will bring back a weighted average for each category at the next meeting. Helms said the budget for the multi-year plan needs to be specific. Lynchard said this Council will consider projects that have been submitted. He said the businesses that submit for RESTORE funding will be different from the businesses that approach Ogletree for help with development. Ogletree said the timing will be interesting because of the funding from UWF. Helms said these criteria should be able to be amended as needed.

Lynchard said he would like for Ogletree to provide a sample weighting scale at the next meeting. He said Ogletree can make amendments to the criteria, as discussed, and present this at the next meeting.

### Tourism:

Watkins said he is not sure how to define the term “promote” on the first suggested criteria. Fuller said she likes the term “support” rather than “promote”. Lynchard said this wording can be changed.

After further discussion, Lynchard said the criteria requiring the project to be implemented within three years, can be removed from the list.

### Environmental:

Helms said if the projects do not get funded they can be considered for funding under a different category. He said the environmental projects can be partnered with State agencies. Lynchard said he would like to see a reference to “public health effects projects” added to the environmental criteria.

### Infrastructure:

Helms asked if the Council wants a ranking scale for the infrastructure criteria. Lynchard said yes.

### Other business:

Lynchard said the goal for the next meeting will be to approve criteria and discuss the rating scale.

Lynchard said the next meeting will need to be rescheduled because of Veterans Day.

**Lynchard moved approval without objection to reschedule the November RESTORE Council meeting for November 14, 2013.**

Lynchard said he would like to hold the December meeting at the Tiger Point Community Center. He said the ground work for the Council will be set by the first of next year.

### Public Forum:

Jessica Koelsch said she is with the National Wildlife Federation. She said she feels Helms is doing a great job. Koelsch said she would like to remind everyone that the bucket 1 funds will be available first and those funds need to be considered for environmental projects. She said there are going to be local environmental projects that will not be applicable for watershed projects. She asked the Board to not forget about the \$5.4 billion economic claim filed by the Attorney General. She said 75% of that money will come to the eight effected Counties.

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Chairman: Lane Lynchard