

Local RESTORE Council
July 14, 2014
Milton, Florida

Present: Chairman Lane Lynchard and members Brian Watkins, Shon Owens, Dave Robau, Buzz Eddy, Greg Fountain, and Tony Alexander. Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), County Engineer (Roger Blaylock), and County Attorney (Angela Jones). Lynchard called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex, Board Room.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the June 9, 2014 meeting minutes.

Update on NRDA, RESTORE, Gulf Consortium, Other

Jeff Helms (Atkins North America, Inc.) gave a power point presentation to the Council (Attachment in file). He gave an overview of the June 20th Gulf Consortium Meeting.

Helms gave an overview of the results from the grading of sample projects in each category. He said he feels the economic development scoring criteria is not stringent enough. Helms said he would like to present, several modifications to the criteria, at next month's meeting. He said he feels workforce development should be separated into another entity, when measuring economic development projects. Helms said the tourism category graded tough but reasonable. He further discussed sample environmental projects and the grading results of these projects. Helms said he needs to clarify beach projects versus the watershed approach. He said the general infrastructure category grading was tough but fair.

Robau asked if Navarre Beach is listed on the critically eroding beach list. Blaylock said yes.

City of Gulf Breeze

Jim Waite gave a power point presentation to the Council regarding the City of Gulf Breeze (Attachment in file). He said the City of Gulf Breeze supports projects that promote workforce development and job creation as the result of jobs lost due to the deep water horizon incident. Waite further discussed various types of sample projects for the City of Gulf Breeze. He said the City of Gulf Breeze supports fair and proportionate distribution of the RESTORE funds and accountability.

Robau asked how many septic tanks are currently in the city limits of Gulf Breeze. Waite said approximately 800. Robau asked about the anticipated quantities of the reuse capacity for the reclaimed water. Rick Delp said the City of Gulf Breeze has an existing reclaim water system that provides reclaim for irrigation purposes to a number of residential areas in the southern portion of its service area. He said currently using over 300,000 gallons a day in supplemental groundwater to meet the demands. Delp said there is not enough reclaimed water and additional reclaim water coming from the beach would definitely enhance this capability. Eddy said there is a lack of reclaim water supply. He said if the Navarre Beach water was introduced into the City of Gulf Breeze's system, then the city could begin promoting the use of reclaim water, once again. There was further discussion regarding the number of septic tanks in the city limits of Gulf Breeze.

City of Milton

Brian Watkins (City of Milton, Manager) said he feels the RESTORE Council is headed in the right direction. He said he feels this process gives the opportunity to support and expand the County's current base for tourism, environmental and economic development.

Town of Jay

Jane Hayes (Town of Jay, Councilwoman) gave a power point presentation to the Council (Attachment in file). She further discussed a list of sample projects that the Town of Jay would like the Restore Council to consider. Hayes said the Town of Jay wants to be an integral part of Santa Rosa County's growth and development.

Navarre Beach Coalition

Laure Gallup gave a power point presentation to the Council (Attachment in file). She said Navarre Beach was the point of impact of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Gallup said Navarre Beach Coalitions mission is to bring focus to south end projects through a common unified plan and to develop new and existing opportunities for visitor attraction that will provide a quality eco-centered destination experience for tourists and locals alike. She further discussed sample projects needed in Navarre Beach.

Navarre Beach Marine Science Station

Charlene Mauro (Navarre Beach Marine Science Station, Director) gave a power point presentation to the Council (Attachment in file). She said every year the science station sees approximately 4,000 students through the Marine Station's school programs and summer camps. Mauro said she teaches dual enrollment high school students, through Pensacola State College, at the science station. She gave an overview of the Northwest Florida (NWFL) Marine Education and Discovery of Gulf Ecosystems, Inc. (EDGE) program. Mauro said EDGE is a nonprofit, grant funded program that is set up to support the Marine Science Station and provide additional offseason programs. She said NWFL Marine EDGE envisions creating an eco-tourism destination attraction on Navarre Beach, called the Gulf Coast Discovery Center. Mauro said this will allow for the housing of all Navarre Beach Marine Park activities including the Sea Turtle Conservation Center, Marine Sanctuary and EDGE.

Lynchard asked if the Gulf Coast Discovery Center had been submitted through the project portal. She said yes.

Navarre Beach Marine Sanctuary Reefs

Robert Boston said the Navarre Marine Sanctuary has two ongoing projects. He said one is the expansion of the Navarre snorkeling reef and the other is a large offshore reef area. Boston further discussed the details of these two projects.

Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center (NBSTCC)

Cathy Holmes gave a power point presentation to the Council (Attachment in file). She gave an overview of the Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center and its community involvement. Holmes said the NBSTCC will be partnering with the Marine Sanctuary in the next couple of months to provide guided, glass bottom, kayak tours. She said NBSTCC's goal is eco-tourism, economic development, sea turtle conservation and marine resource conservation.

Adjournment

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

By: Lane Lynchard, Chairman