

**DRAFT Franklin County Restore Act Committee (RAC)**  
**RESTORE Applicant Workshop**  
**Franklin County Courthouse Annex, Apalachicola, Florida**  
**May 16, 2017, 4:00 p.m. ETZ**

**Attendees:**

\*Rose McCoy-Thomas – Citizen of Apalachicola, Former City Administrator (Retired)  
\*Brenda La Paz – Mayor of Carrabelle  
Bill McCartney – City of Apalachicola  
Robin Rickel Vroegop – Ecotourism Industry  
Greg Kristofferson – Citizen of Carrabelle  
Falan Goff – Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) Cooperative Extension  
Dreamal Worthen – FAMU Cooperative Extension  
Sandra Thompson – FAMU Cooperative Extension  
Elizabeth Wright – Citizen of Apalachicola and Wildlife Biologist  
Steve Turner – Southern Rural Development Center  
Anita Grove – Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Steven Allen – Carrabelle Lighthouse Association  
Russell Large –Inovia Group  
Tamara Allen – Carrabelle Cares  
Susan McConnell - Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.  
Calvin D. Allen – City of Carrabelle  
Ted Mosteller – Apalachicola Regional Airport  
Alan Pierce – Franklin County RESTORE Coordinator  
Cameron Morris – Dewberry, Inc.  
Rick Harter – Ecology and Environment, Inc.

\*Denotes official RAC member

**Minutes:**

- A. Pierce opened the meeting at 4:01 p.m. (ETZ) by welcoming those in attendance and explaining that this meeting was not an official RAC meeting, but rather an “applicant briefing” for individuals who want to apply for Franklin County RESTORE funds.
- A. Pierce indicated that Franklin County staff intend to submit one project: a beach nourishment project at Alligator Point to protect the roadway.
- B. McCartney asked for a summary of the different oil spill funds for the benefit of those who are new to the process.
- A. Pierce explained Pots 1, 2, 3, and 5, as well as the Triumph Fund. A. Pierce did not discuss Pot 4 because it does not apply to Franklin County.
  - Pot 1

Franklin County RESTORE Application Workshop

Apalachicola, Florida

May 16, 2017, 4:00 p.m. ETZ

- Pot 1 of RESTORE funds will provide Franklin County with \$23 million over 15 years. This money goes to the U.S. Treasury Department until Treasury deems projects to be eligible under the RESTORE Act.
- Treasury will only authorize funds which have already been received to date, not those that are anticipated in the future.
- There is currently about \$4 million available, plus about \$1.5 million to be added per year for the duration of the 15 year pay-out period. The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) does not intend to allocate all of the available funds now, but rather will likely only select projects for \$4 million to \$7 million at this time.
- A. Pierce indicated that the County will go through another similar planning process around the year 2019 or 2020 in order to identify future projects based on the needs of the County at that time.
- Pot 2
  - Pot 2 is for the Gulf Council which includes the five Gulf states and six federal agencies. Anyone can propose project ideas, but the state governors or federal agencies must submit applications for funding.
- Pot 3
  - Pot 3 is the Gulf Consortium, which includes 23 counties in Florida that border on the Gulf of Mexico. Under this fund, Franklin County will receive between \$11 and \$13 million over 15 years.
  - Similar to the Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP), a State Expenditure Plan (SEP) will be developed by the Gulf Consortium and needs to be approved by the Governor.
  - The SEP includes a \$10 million oyster restoration project in Franklin County. The County intends for this project to address oyster needs so that Pot 1 funds can be used for non-oyster projects.
- Pot 5
  - Pot 5 is for Centers of Excellence, which addresses research from universities. A. Pierce encouraged the universities in our area to look at this possible funding source.
- Triumph Fund
  - The Triumph Fund was created when the State of Florida sued BP and won a large settlement, which is primarily intended for economic recovery. The goal of Triumph is to diversify the economy to mitigate impacts if there ever is another oil spill. \$300 million has already been paid to date and two more \$300 million payments are due in the future.
  - Franklin County will receive \$12 million of this funding now with the possibility of additional funds in the future.
  - Triumph requires matching funds. This means that Triumph should not be the first money or the only money. The airport would be a primary target for economic development for Franklin County.
- R. Harter provided a brief summary of Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (NFWF) programs that are currently funding projects along the Florida Gulf Coast, including in Franklin County. This includes boat ramp improvements and

oyster cultch placement, as well as other projects like the Island View Park along Highway 98, east of Carrabelle.

- A. Pierce reminded attendees that July 14<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for uploading projects into the state portal for consideration in the state's restoration strategy under the NFWF Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.
- S. Thompson asked if there is a simple summary that explains all of the various funding associated with the oil spill. R. Harter suggested reviewing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Deepwater Horizon website, which provides a summary of each program and a list of projects funded to date.
- A. Pierce stated that there is a complicated graph that shows all of this (available online from the Environmental Law Institute).
- S. Allen asked for clarification about the budget for the Alligator Point nourishment project. A. Pierce confirmed that the total cost for the project is \$8 million, with \$4 million proposed to come from RESTORE Pot 1 and \$4 million of matching funds to come from the state of Florida. There was then a brief discussion about how much money is currently available for projects and what types of projects are eligible. A. Pierce was very clear in stating that the BOCC makes the final decision on which projects are included in the MYIP.
- Then there was discussion about how the scoring and selection will occur. A. Pierce explained that the Dewberry team will screen out any projects that are not eligible and then the RAC and BOCC will score the projects based on the selection criteria. Ultimately, the BOCC will select which projects will be part of the MYIP.
- R. Rickel-Vroegop asked about the Centers of Excellence and there was some brief discussion about which entities made up the Centers of Excellence, but no one was sure about the specifics.
- Another participant asked about the selection criteria and asked if it was available on the website. C. Morris indicated that it was available on the website.
- C. Morris then explained the application process, first by describing the eligible activities under the RESTORE Act. He then explained how to create an account and log in to Franklin County's RESTORE project portal. After logging in under his username, C. Morris demonstrated how to create a project application by filling in each section of the form on the portal. Applicants can save their work at any time. Some sections have word limits, but additional attachments can be uploaded for information that exceeds the word limits.
- An audience member asked about the monitoring section of the application. There was some discussion about what monitoring might be required. Then there was discussion about indirect costs and leveraging, as well as other questions pertaining to administrative costs and limitations. C. Morris referred applicants to the application form, which explains more clearly what is required.
- C. Morris emphasized that leveraging is a bonus and that more matched funds will give the applicant more points. He also stated that applicants must specify each proposed activity and what the source of funding will be sought for each of those individual activities.
- B. La Paz asked about the 3% limitation on the administrative fee. C. Morris confirmed that there is a cap on how much the County can get reimbursed for administrative costs.
- There was a question about the schedule of events. A. Pierce explained that the application and selection process begins now and the portal will be open for 60 days, ending July 14<sup>th</sup>. Currently, the portal website erroneously indicates the application period will close on June 14<sup>th</sup>, but that date will be updated.

Franklin County RESTORE Application Workshop

Apalachicola, Florida

May 16, 2017, 4:00 p.m. ETZ

- A. Pierce suggested that there would not likely be a RAC meeting in August, but rather that time would be used by the RAC and the County Commissioners to score and review the project applications.
- An attendee asked if the RAC will have an opportunity to discuss the scoring before the final ranking of projects.
- B. McCartney described the process that Okaloosa County used and a discussion followed concerning how other counties have carried out the selection process. A. Pierce indicated that it had not yet been decided how the process will play out, but that he is open to whatever the RAC wants to do.
- S. Thompson stated that she wanted to be sure that a mechanism was in place to ensure that economically disadvantaged folks are involved in this process and asked if it would be better to develop an overall vision for the County that addresses all of the needs of the community.
- B. McCartney and others responded that this has already been done in the context of the RESTORE Act through the development of the Needs Assessment document which was developed by the RAC and approved by the BOCC over the last six months or so.
- C. Morris continued going through the project application online, explaining each section in detail.
- R. Harter offered some practical tips regarding the best way to complete an application using the Microsoft Word document off-line and then copying and pasting into the sections of the web form.
- A. Pierce and other attendees discussed how projects from different applicants with similar goals and activities, or from a single applicant with similar project ideas, may be combined into a single, comprehensive project application. The main point is to have applicants work together whenever possible and to minimize the number of projects submitted, which will streamline the County's contracting process. B. McCartney reminded everyone that once the MYIP is approved, each project will have to go through a more detailed application process to actually receive the funds.
- D. Worthen likened this phase of the process to a pre-proposal, rather than the full proposal, which will be due after the MYIP is approved.
- There were no further questions or comments. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. (ETZ).
- The presentation provided to the RAC has been posted at [www.franklincountyrestore.com](http://www.franklincountyrestore.com), the Franklin County website, and is available to the public.