

RESUME OF MINUTES

Escambia County Restore Act Advisory Committee Meeting
August 19, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.
Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building
BCC Meeting Room, First Floor
221 Palafox Place
Pensacola, FL 32502

Members Present:

Bentina Terry, Chairperson	City of Pensacola
Alan McMillan, Vice-Chair	District 1/Commissioner Wilson B. Robertson
Donnie McMahan	District 2/Commissioner Gene M. Valentino
Al Coby	District 3/Commissioner Lumon J. May
Tammy Bohannon	District 4/Commissioner Grover C. Robinson, IV
Gregg Beck	District 5/Commissioner Steven L. Barry
Christian Wagley	Environmental Advocacy Group
Harlan Butler	At-large Citizen
Michelle Inere	At-large Citizen

County Staff in Attendance:

Robert Turpin, Manager, CED/Marine Resources Division
Ryan Ross, Assistant County Attorney
Kathleen Dough-Castro, Manager, Public Information Office (PIO)
Pat Chunn, Director's Aide, Community & Environment Department
Victoria D'Angelo, Student Assistant, Community & Environment Department

1. August 19, 2013 meeting called to order at 4:01 p.m.
2. The meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on August 10, 2013 and August 17, 2013.
3. Attendance – See above.
4. **Motion was made by Christian Wagley to approve the August 5, 2013 minutes. Alan McMillian seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**
5. Discussion on Bylaws Revision

Michelle Inere suggested that Section C, paragraphs 1-9, should be eliminated and that language should only reflect the language of the RESTORE Act and the accompanying treasury regulations. Ms. Inere also said that Sections C and D(2) are in conflict with the Act and that is something the BCC needs to address. Chairperson Terry asked Mr. Ross if the committee needs to have bylaws. He said he does not believe the committee needs to have bylaws because the committee is governed by the resolution not bylaws. A resolution change will be made in the future to reflect regulations whenever issued. Chairperson Terry summarized the suggested changes to the bylaws, but it was concluded that the bylaws reflect everything said in the resolutions except the RESTORE Act language and treasury regulations.

Motion was made by Alan McMillan “that we do not need to implement specific bylaws, as we have been contemplating, that the governing language of several resolutions by the County Commissioners are appropriate to guide us.” Al Coby seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion to Amend Resolution

Mr. McMillan summarized the proposed amended resolution as follows: Section 2A eliminate the six month time restriction for developing a plan and taking public input, and Section 2C that the committee establish ranking criteria and the BCC will review and approve.

Chairperson Terry suggested that it be clear that the committee develop a plan in accordance with the RESTORE Act and federal regulations to be inserted in Section 2A after A Plan. Mr. Ross suggested adding "The committee shall develop a plan that insert new language adhering to the federal RESTORE Act and implementing regulations."

Motion was made by Christian Wagley to approve the resolution as amended. Alan McMillan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ross said he will work with the County staff and bring to the BCC as a recommended amendment to the original resolution as advocated by the advisory committee.

Al Coby expressed his concern that the committee has been hearing presentations that don't necessarily fit in the narrow categories of the the BCC but would like to broaden these categories. It was concluded that federal statute will address these issues and that legally the committee must abide by the BCC and the RESTORE Act.

Chairperson Terry said she had met with Keith Wilkins and asked him to keep a tally of federal funds and anticipated language in the treasury regulations.

7. Presentations

Ramie A. Gougeon, Ph.D., Pensacola Archeological Society
Sustainability, Economy, and History

Dr. Gougeon discussed the ways in which cultural resource management applies to tourism, and the local quality of life and noted that projects carried out under RESTORE Act funding would require review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Richard A. Snyder, Ph.D., Professor & Director, Center for Environmental Diagnostics and Bioremediation, University of West Florida
Escambia County RESTORE Act Committee Presentation August 19, 2013

Dr. Snyder offered the Committee suggestions on methods which could be used in the project selection process to improve efficiency and productivity. Dr. Snyder regrettably declared that he would not be available to provide technical support as he previously noted due to a conflict in interest. However, he ascertained that professionals at the University of West Florida would be available to provide technical support to the committee.

Vernon Compton, Project Director, The Longleaf Alliance
Species Protection and Enhancement

Mr. Compton discussed the implications of biodiversity, stormwater management and the watershed approach on the project selection process.

8. Old Business

Progress in Project Selection

Gregg Beck requested that the committee begin work on the project application process.

Christian Wagley reminded the committee of the original process which was adopted which included collecting public input, developing an “overall broad vision” and then writing project selection criteria.

Michelle Inere concluded that the application process had already begun based on an email that the Committee had received from Mr. Wilkins which stated that projects could be submitted through the Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) website.

Chairperson Terry noted that applications could not be applied to proposed projects due to the absence of treasury regulations. She also explained that in order to receive funding through the RESTORE Act, the Committee would be required to establish a Comprehensive Plan. She declared that a consultant would need to be hired to assist in drafting the comprehensive plan and suggested that the Committee begin the process of hiring a consultant.

Vice Chair McMillian, supported both Gregg Beck’s desire to move along in the project selection process and the Chairperson’s reluctance to develop a draft application based on the absence of treasury regulations. Mr. McMillian invited Commissioner Grover Robinson, IV to offer his perspective on the criteria selection process.

Commissioner Robinson suggested that the Escambia County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee refrain from drafting a comprehensive plan until the Gulf Consortium has completed their Draft Comprehensive Plan. He explained that this would ensure that the Committee and hired consultant would be supplied with a framework by which to “tie into.” Commissioner Robinson also expressed his support to continue public input “intern” section until there are state comprehensive plans and treasury regulations.

Chairperson Terry proposed that she carry out a discussion with Mr. Wilkins which would include continuing to receive public input while progressing towards project selection and selecting a consultant to establish a draft comprehensive plan. The Committee agreed.

Future Presentations

Tammy Bohannon reiterated her request for the Port of Pensacola and Impact 100 to provide presentations at future meetings. Donnie McMahon also requested that Regional Planning be invited by either Chairperson Terry or Mr. Wilkins to provide presentations at future meetings due to their ties to federal economic development.

9. New Business - None

10. Public Comment (limit 3 minutes)

Public comments were limited to 3 speakers due to a need to exit the building by 6:00 p.m. Harlan Butler apologized to the speakers who had relinquished their turn to speak at the previous meeting and declared that these speakers would be allowed to speak prior to new speakers at the following meeting. Speakers were:

Mike Kilmer, 2818 W. Jackson Street, Pensacola
George Hawthorne, 1299 W Main St, Pensacola
Jessica Koelsch, National Wildlife Federation

11. Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Presentation(s) and documents presented at the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee meeting on August 19, 2013 can be found at the following link: <http://myescambia.com/restore/docs>.