

RESUME OF MINUTES

Escambia County Restore Act Advisory Committee Meeting
October 21, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.
Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building
BCC Meeting Room, First Floor
221 Palafox Place
Pensacola, FL 32502

Members Present:

Alan McMillan, Vice-Chair	District 1/Commissioner Wilson B. Robertson
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
Michelle Inere	At-large Citizen

Members Absent:

Bentina Terry, Chairperson	City of Pensacola
Donnie McMahon	District 2/Commissioner Gene M. Valentino
Harlan Butler	At-large Citizen

County Staff in Attendance:

Taylor "Chips" Kirschenfeld, Senior Scientist, Water Quality & Land Management Division
Robert Turpin, Division Manager, Marine Resources
Ryan Ross, Assistant County Attorney
Pat Chunn, Directors Aide, Community & Environment Department
Victoria D'Angelo, Student Assistant, Community & Environment Department
Brandi Ziglar, Communications Coordinator, Public Information Office (PIO)

1. October 21, 2013 meeting called to order at 4:04 p.m.
2. The meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on October 12, 2013 and October 19, 2013.
3. Attendance – See above.
4. Approval of Minutes

Alan McMillan moved the agenda item #6, Approval of Minutes, to agenda item #4.

Motion was made by Christian Wagley to approve the October 7, 2013 minutes. Tammy Bohannon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion on Public Comment

The Committee discussed Senate Bill No. 50, effective October 1, 2013, which states "that a member of the public be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard by a board or commission before it takes official action on a proposition" and how it applies to RESTORE meetings. In order to comply with the law and promote public comment, Mr. McMillan proposed the following order of business as it pertains to agenda items requiring a vote: (1) Motion, (2) Discussion, (3) Public Comment (a one minute limit), and then (4) Vote. In addition to having an opportunity to speak following discussion of an issue, the public will also be allowed to speak a limit of three minutes at the end of the meeting.

Motion was made by Christian Wagley to approve Mr. McMillan's proposal on public comment. Michelle Inure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

In accordance with the newly approved proposal, the public comment period was moved to the end of the meeting.

6. Discussion on Proposed Treasury Rule Comments

Ryan Ross gave a brief update on the Proposed U.S. Treasury Rule comments. Mr. Ross explained that a letter had been written and signed by District 4 County Commissioner, Grover Robinson, containing the County's comments regarding 31 CFR Part 34: Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. He explained that these comments would also be discussed at the upcoming Gulf Consortium meeting on October 25, 2013, and that the Gulf Consortium would discuss requesting an extension of the comment deadline due to the recent government shutdown. Mr. Ross agreed to update the Committee on the Gulf Consortium meeting at the next meeting on November 4, 2013.

7. Presentation – *Gulf Coast Resource Restoration: Needs, Opportunities, and Criteria*

Paul Thorpe, Director of Resource Planning of the Northwest Florida Water Management District, discussed challenges which exist in the Pensacola Bay and Perdido River and Bay watersheds and explained types of projects which would address these challenges. Notable issues included storm water runoff, nonpoint pollution, wastewater pollution, sedimentation, loss of shoreline and littoral habitat, lost and degraded seagrass habitats, degraded bayous and tributaries, and potential for invasive marine species. Additionally, Mr. Thorpe provided the Committee with his suggestions for project selection criteria.

Christian Wadley inquired about the status of the Storm water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plans that were required under the SWIM Act. Mr. Thorpe explained that although the Pensacola Bay plan had been completed, it has not been updated since 1997. Perdido Bay's SWIM plan has not been completed or approved.

Alan McMillan inquired about the feasibility of sediment removal, and inquired as to whether or not contaminated sediment in the waterways poses a health risk for the general public. Mr. Thorpe responded that while sediment removal can sometimes be very successful, that it is a difficult and expensive process. Mr. Thorpe did not reach a conclusion on the health risks of contaminated sediment.

The Committee discussed how water quality conditions have changed since the 1980s. Mr. Thorpe explained that there is not enough historical data to comprehensively declare whether or not water quality conditions have improved and for what reasons. Gregg Beck said he believed water quality conditions had certainly improved from the 1980s citing that dead fish were no longer washing up ashore.

8. Old Business

a. Update on Multiyear Plan Components – Narrative Description

Chips Kirschenfeld updated the Committee on the Narrative Description component on the multiyear plan. He explained that he believed that the Narrative Description component should be moved to Part II of the drafting process since it most likely pertains to selected projects. He explained that the proposed Treasury Rule does not effectively indicate what the narrative description component addresses in regards to the multiyear plan drafting process. He expressed his hope that this information would be included in the second draft of the Treasury Rule.

b. Consultant Selection Process

Alan McMillan explained to the Committee that the County will select a consultant to draft the multiyear plan based on an RFP. The Committee will have the opportunity to review the scope of work written by Escambia County staff.

9. New Business – None

10. Public Comment (limit 3 minutes)

Barbara Albrecht, 1528 E. Brainerd St, Pensacola, FL

11. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Presentation(s) and documents presented at the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee meeting on October 21, 2013 can be found at the following link: <http://myescambia.com/restore/docs>.