

RESUME OF MINUTES

District 4 Public Workshop on the RESTORE Act
April 28, 2014 – 6:00 pm
Pensacola Beach Community Church
920 Panferio Drive
Pensacola Beach, FL 32561

Presenters:

Grover C. Robinson, IV
Bentina Terry

Commissioner, Escambia County, FL, District 4
Chair, RESTORE Advisory Committee

RESTORE Advisory Committee Members Present:

Tammy Bohannon
Gregg Beck
Christian Wagley

Commissioner Appointed Member, District 4
Commissioner Appointed Member, District 5
Environmental Advocacy Representative

County Staff in Attendance:

Keith Wilkins, Director, Community & Environment Department
Felicia Knight-Marlow, Directors Aide, Community & Environment Department
Victoria D'Angelo, RESTORE Act Coordinator, Community & Environment Department

1. April 28, 2014 meeting called to order at 6:05 pm.
2. The meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on April 26, 2014.
3. Attendance – See above.
4. Introductions

Grover C. Robinson, IV, Escambia County Commissioner for District 4 introduced himself and welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Commissioner Robinson explained that the Committee is currently undergoing a planning period to develop the MYIP. He announced that he believed that the MYIP will be most effective if it is driven by goals and objectives rather than by projects, stating that the plan should be “plan driven, rather than project-driven.” He stated that he anticipates sending a few test projects through the process at a time to allow for changes in restoration needs over the course of several years.

Bentina Terry introduced herself as the Chairwoman of the RESTORE Advisory Committee, and introduced Committee members and County staff which were in attendance (see above).

5. The RESTORE Act: Structure and Process

Chairwoman Terry stated that due to the complexity of the RESTORE Act structure she has received notification that many individuals are unsure whether or not funds have been dispersed. She announced that no funds have been made available to Escambia County to administer for project funding.

Chairwoman Terry explained that 80% of the civil and administrative fines received by the Federal Government under the Clean Water Act for damages due to Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill would be deposited in the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund under the RESTORE Act. She explained that the five (5) Gulf States (Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas) would receive 35% of the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund, equally divided between the five (5) States- equating to a seven (7) percent allocation for Florida.

Chairwoman Terry explained that the Florida allocation would then be further divided into seventy-five (75) percent for disproportionately impacted counties and twenty-five (25) percent for non-disproportionately counties. She explained that disproportionately impacted counties will receive a percentage of funds based on their degree of impact from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Based on this distribution, Escambia County will receive 25.334% of the disproportionately impacted counties allocation.

Commissioner Robinson stated that if \$1 billion is deposited in the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund, Escambia County is estimated to receive approximately \$10.6 million.

6. Status of Current Litigation

Chairwoman Terry announced current and past litigation related to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. She covered criminal and civil litigation between the federal government, and individual and securities claims against BP, Transocean, and MOEX, as well as, individual and securities claims, and litigation in the state of Florida.

7. Next Steps

Chairwoman Terry announced that Escambia County is in the process of hiring a consultant to develop project selection criteria and the MYIP. The Committee will rank proposed projects and recommend a final ranked project list and MYIP to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for review and approval. Once approved, the MYIP will be submitted to the United States Department of Treasury (Treasury) for approval. Treasury will be responsible for administering funds to Escambia County as a grant program.

8. Public Comment (limit 3 minutes)

Public Comment was taken. The speakers were:

Barbara Albrecht, 1528 E. Brainerd Street

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Presentation(s) and documents presented at the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee meeting on April 28, 2014 can be found at the following web address: <http://myescambia.com/restore/docs>.