

RESUME OF MINUTES

Escambia County Restore Act Advisory Committee Meeting
October 7, 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 McMahon	District 2/Commissioner Gene M. Valentino
Al Coby	District 3/Commissioner Lumon J. May
Tammy Bohannon	District 4/Commissioner Grover C. Robinson, IV
Christian Wagley	Environmental Advocacy Group

Members Absent:

Gregg Beck	District 5/Commissioner Steven L. Barry
Harlan Butler	At-large Citizen
Michelle Inere	At-large Citizen

County Staff in Attendance:

Taylor “Chips” Kirschenfeld, Senior Scientist, Water Quality & Land Management Division
Bill Pearson, Communications Coordinator, Public Information Office (PIO)
Ryan Ross, Assistant County Attorney
Victoria D’Angelo, Student Assistant, Community & Environment Department

Guest Speakers:

Bill Williams, Consultant, SCG Governmental Affairs, Tallahassee

1. October 7, 2013 meeting called to order at 4:07 p.m.
2. The meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on October 5, 2013 and in the Pensacola News Journal Online Event Calendar and WEAR ABC 3 Online Event Calendar.
3. Attendance – See above.
4. Public Comment (limit 3 minutes)

No speakers requested to comment during the public comment period.

5. **Motion was made by Donnie McMahon to approve the September 23, 2013 minutes. Christian Wagley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

6. Presentation – *RESTORE Act Committee Health Update*

Dr. John J. Lanza, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P., Director of the Florida Health Department in Escambia County discussed public health issues which exist within the Escambia County community. Additionally, he explained the status of the Gulf Long Term Follow-Up Study sponsored and led by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) which was conducted on individuals who assisted in Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill clean-up. Dr. Lanza also introduced a similar study conducted by the University Cancer and Diagnostic Centers in Houston, Texas which focuses on blood and liver functions associated with oil exposure.

Christian Wagley inquired as to how the built environment impacts public health. Dr. Lanza responded that built environment does not encourage physical activity and does not benefit public health.

Al Coby inquired as to where the poorest health is found in Escambia County. Dr. Lanza responded that the poorest public health is found within zip codes 32501, 32505 and 32506.

7. State of the Environment

Mr. Chips Kirschenfeld gave a presentation on the state of the environment in Escambia County. He discussed the Report of the Grand Jury on Air and Water Quality (1999) and Ground Water Contamination (2003) which provided historical information on environmental conditions within the County. Additionally, Mr. Kirschenfeld discussed the source and status of current environmental issues pertaining to water quality, loss of habitat and function, sea-level rise, and air quality.

Tammy Bohannon asked Mr. Kirschenfeld which projects he believed would provide the most “bang for the buck” out from RESTORE funds. Mr. Kirschenfeld responded that he believed that water quality and habitat improvement projects would be the least costly and most effective in combating environmental issues in Escambia County.

Donnie McMahon inquired as to how beach renourishment projects are funded in Escambia County. Mr. Kirschenfeld explained that the federal government provides 50% of funds, the state government provides 25% of funds and the local government is expected to provide 25% of funds. Mr. Kirschenfeld explained that Escambia County does not have a dedicated source of funding for beach renourishment projects. Mr. McMahon inquired as to how surrounding counties fund beach renourishment projects. Mr. Kirschenfeld explained that these projects are funded by the tourist development taxes in Walton and Okaloosa counties.

8. Discussion on Committee Vision for RESTORE

Chair Bentina Terry discussed the Committee’s desire for Escambia County’s staff to draft Part One (1) of the Multiyear Plan so that the Committee may provide comments for revisions. Christian Wagley suggested that the Committee mirror the Gulf Council Comprehensive Plan to enable the public to comment on the Committee’s direction. Al Coby expressed his hesitance to draft the plan prior to hearing from future scheduled presentations.

Chairwoman Terry requested that County Staff draft Part One (1) of the Multiyear Plan. However, the Committee agreed that they would wait to finalize Part One (1) until after all schedules presentation had ended.

9. Old Business

a) Revisions to Multiyear Plan Format and Committee Processes

Mr. Kirschenfeld displayed Version Two of the Revisions to the Multiyear Plan Format. He explained that Part I, Item 5, titled “Narrative Description” may need to be moved to Part Two (2) instead of Part One (1) if it pertains specifically to selected projects rather than the Committee’s general process. Mr. Kirschenfeld explained that he would investigate this subject further and update the Committee at the next meeting.

The Committee inquired about the status of Mr. Keith Wilkins' discussion with the Haas Center at the University of West Florida. Mr. Kirschenfeld explained that no decision was available due to the absence of Mr. Wilkins and that this issue would be discussed at the next meeting.

b) Draft Review of Treasury Rule Comments

Mr. Kirschenfeld explained that due to the government shutdown, an extension might be granted for comments to the Draft Treasury Proposed Rule. He explained that comments are still scheduled due to the Gulf Consortium on October 25, 2013.

County Attorney, Mr. Ryan Ross explained that the County anticipated submitting draft comments to the Gulf Consortium as early as Wednesday October 9, 2013. He explained that Escambia County would forward those comments to the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee prior to the next meeting on October 21, 2013.

c) Tentative Schedule

The Committee requested that RESTORE Escambia be added to the tentative schedule. The Committee discussed inviting the Port of Pensacola and Impact 100 to present at future meetings. The Committee agreed that the Port of Pensacola would not be invited to present at this time. However, they agreed that Impact 100 would be invited to present to the Committee to discuss their economic processes at a future meeting.

10. New Business

Mr. Bill Williams discussed the status of the BP court case that is being held in New Orleans, Louisiana. He explained that the volume released into the Gulf of Mexico is being assessed, degree of culpability and negligence is being assessed and that the issue of NRDA money being able to be written off taxes is being assessed as well. He noted that the outcomes of these assessments are likely to influence RESTORE funding amounts. Mr. Williams also noted that there is a website which provides weekly reviews of the court case which would be distributed to the Committee members.

Mr. Williams verified that Trust Funds had been sequestered but will be returned after the sequester has ended.

11. Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Presentation(s) and documents presented at the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee meeting on October 7, 2013 can be found at the following link: <http://myescambia.com/restore/docs>.